

XIV. — ON A NEW BIRD OF PARADISE FROM CENTRAL NEW GUINEA, *FALCINELLUS MEYERI ALBICANS*.

BY Dr. E. D. VAN OORT.

Among the collection of birdskins brought home by the third expedition to Mount Wilhelmina in the Snow Mountains of New Guinea there are some specimens, males and females, of a bird of paradise, much resembling *Falcinellus meyeri* (Finsch) from South-east New Guinea, but differing in some points. They likely are representatives of a western form of the above-named species, inhabiting the high mountains of the central part of Netherlands' New Guinea. I name this form:

Falcinellus meyeri albicans nov. subsp.

The adult male is similar to that of *meyeri*, the long feathers of the flanks however are white and not pale yellowish brown; the breast is more pure olive, with less brown tinge. The female much resembles that of *meyeri*, but the colour of the back, upper tailcoverts and tailfeathers is olive-brown, without rufous tinge.

Types, ♂ ♀, Treubbivak (2366 m.) on the Treub Mountains, January 30, 1913 and March 8, 1913. G. Versteeg leg., Nos 497 and 630.

The expedition has collected near Bijenkorf bivak, on the southern slope of the Hellwig Mountains at an elevation of ± 1750 m., a fine series of the black form of *Falcinellus striatus* (Boddaert), described by Mr. Rothschild from Mount Goliath (5000 feet) under the name of *Falcinellus striatus atratus* (Ibis, 1912, p. 110). Mr. Rothschild is right in treating this bird as a subspecies of *striatus*, but this is not the case with *meyeri*, as he has done in a paper in the Ibis of 1911, p. 350. The females of *striatus* and *atratus* are easily distinguished from the females of *meyeri* and *albicans* by the coloration of the quills, the rufous colour of the outer webs of the primaries and of the inner webs of the secondaries is wanting in the latter ones; also the undersurface is different, in *striatus* and *atratus* barred black and white, in *meyeri* and *albicans* black and yellowish brown. The bill is, also in the males, of different shape, in *meyeri* and *albicans* longer and thinner, in *striatus* and *atratus* shorter and thicker. I think it more reasonable to treat the four forms as two species and two subspecies:

Falcinellus striatus (Boddaert), N. W. New Guinea.

Falcinellus striatus atratus Rothschild, Central New Guinea.

Falcinellus meyeri (Finsch), S. E. New Guinea.

Falcinellus meyeri albicans Van Oort, Central New Guinea.

Leiden Museum, November 1915.