

others. It is a pity that it is impossible, on humanitarian grounds, to repeat now the experiment of King Psammetichus. It would be interesting to watch the result.

In the case of the King-bird (*Cicinnurus regius*), the other smaller species of Paradise Bird found in the Aru Islands, the males in full plumage seemed as common as the simple brown young males and females. The natives knew these latter well, as forms of the brilliant red bird, though so vastly different, and several times pointed them out to me, as "Gobi, gobi," their name for the "King-bird."

The King-birds were even more abundant at Wanumbai than the larger species. The males, when settled in the trees, constantly uttered a cry which is very like that of the Wryneck or Cuckoo's Mate. I saw most of them in the lower trees of the forest, at about 30 feet from the ground. One which was shot by Mr. Abbott, engineer of the "Challenger," when we were together in Wokan, hovered and hopped for some time about a mass of creepers hanging from a large tree, apparently searching for insects. As it hovered, it showed its bright scarlet back like a flash of fire.

Usually, the bird sitting on the twigs and seen from below shows none of its beauty.

The birds seem very tame, but like the Rifle-bird, and the Great Bird of Paradise, are usually in constant motion. One full-plumage bird sat on a twig, about four feet from the ground, and looked at me for a while at not more than three yards' distance, and then darted away, more out of natural impulse, I imagine, than fear.

I shot five of the birds in one day. One of them had the wonderful spiral green tail feathers, only just growing out. The bright lapis-lazuli blue colour of the bird's legs and feet when fresh, greatly enhances its beauty. Luckily the skin of the Paradise Birds is tough, and I found the King-bird easy to skin. The short red feathers encroach on the base of the bill, on its upper surface, in an unusual manner, the tip of the bill only being free, and this gives the head a curious appearance.

The coral rock of Wokan Island is exposed in section on the shore not far from Dobbo, in a cliff about 11 feet in height. The strata are inclined towards the sea at an angle of about 20°. Inland, the surface is marked by a series of ridges of small elevation, and from the presence of numerous bivalve shells, seems to have been raised above sea level.

There is a fresh-water stream not far from Wanumbai, which flows over the coral rock, overhung by dense vegetation. In the bed of the stream, a constant deposit of carbonate of lime is taking place, and the bed is partitioned into a series of pools,