BIRDS OF PARADISE IN THE REGENTS PARK.

The Zoological Society of London, aided by a large annual income, and the modern facilities for locomotion and transport, have succeeded in bringing alive to their garden in the Regent's-park many striking forms of animal life of which a few years ago the existence was barely known, or which had only been previously seen in a state of nature by the most hardy and
During a subsequent visit to the trading-station of Dorey, situated in the forest, and flying from branch to branch in quest of its food.

Others of the King bird; but gave a very indifferent account of this spot as a Bird of Paradise, in perfect plumage and excellent condition. This Arru islands, lying to the south of New Guinea, between that northern peninsula of the mainland of New Guinea, in the autumn of 1858, was certainly a solitary instance of such an event.

In the Arru islands Mr. Wallace also obtained specimens of the King Bird of Paradise the scientific appellation of *apoda*, though he was quite aware that, like every other bird, it is well provided with these useful appendages. This Paradise-bird, from which the Lesser Bird of Paradise—the species now alive in the Zoological Society's Gardens, and kept in situ, is an inhabitant of this island, has the slight advantage over the other kinds of this bird, which the males of this Paradise-bird resort in troops to exercise, dress, and secure their ornaments of life, and to produce the eggs and young! Dew and vapours were said to be their food, and it was supposed that they never touched the earth till the moment of their death, suspending themselves, when in want of rest, to the branches of trees by the shafts of their elongated tail-feathers.

The illustrious Linnaeus commemorated these fantasies of the olden writers by bestowing on the greater Bird of Paradise the scientific appellation of *apuda*, and he also provided with these useful appendages. This Paradise-bird, from which the Lesser Bird of Paradise—the species now alive in the Zoological Society's Gardens, and kept in situ, is an inhabitant of this island, has the slight advantage over the other kinds of this bird, which the males of this Paradise-bird resort in troops to exercise, dress, and secure their ornaments of life, and to produce the eggs and young! Dew and vapours were said to be their food, and it was supposed that they never touched the earth till the moment of their death, suspending themselves, when in want of rest, to the branches of trees by the shafts of their elongated tail-feathers.

A person cannot be long in the interior of Arru," says Mr. Wallace, to whom science is indebted for all that is really known concerning the habits of this bird in a state of nature, "without hearing a loud, harsh, often-repeated cry, which is the means of informing the whole island of the approach of a companion. "Such is the Arruan style of "sporting for Paradise birds." Hence it is burned that two Paradise-birds had been brought alive to Singapore, he resolved to hasten his departure, and started for that place without delay. On the way to Singapore he found the two Paradise-birds, which had been brought to that entrepot by a native trader, in the hands of a European merchant, who was well aware of their value, and demanded an exorbitant price before he would part with them. Relying, however, on the well-known liberality of the Zoological Society, for which he was acting, Mr. Wallace did not hesitate to advance the requisite sum for the purchase of these birds, and left with them for England by the following mail, arriving in London, with his precious freight in perfect safety, on the 1st instant.

The Paradise-birds seem to do well in the spacious room that has been fitted up for them in the Zoological Society's Gardens. They feed voraciously, consuming rice, bread, and vegetables, and in the shape of cockroaches and meal-worms. In the morning they may be seen to greatest advantage, as they clamber and flit about the branches of the tree in their roony cages, and elevate their half-grown side-plumes, which, when fully developed, form such a conspicuous ornament in this bird. They are believed to be probably in their fourth year, as it appears to be really in the possession of Mr. Wallace, three months before this extraordinary mass of feathers commences to appear. In their native wilds the Paradise-birds begin to show their ornamental side-plumes in April, arriving at full perfection in May and June. In the present instance the change of climate may probably have some effect in retarding their development, but before the close of the summer we trust that the Paradise-birds may be seen in full beauty.

In the meantime, should any one wish to gain more perfect knowledge of the eccentric forms of the feathering in the adult male of this group of birds, they may be recommended to pay a visit to the bird-gallery in the British Museum. They will find there, in the large glass cases standing by them, a perfect series of all the different Paradise-birds obtained by Mr. Wallace during his travels in the East. The specimens are beautifully mounted, and exhibit each of the various stages of the plumage of these birds. Besides the four kinds we have already spoken of there is a fifth, of which Mr. Wallace had the pleasure of being the original discoverer. Wallace's Standard-bird, as the latter bird is called, was quite unknown to science until Mr. Wallace found it in the woods of the island of Batichan in 1855, and it has been appropriately named by Mr. G. R. Gray after its meritorious discoverer.