

differ essentially from the Herons in these particulars. If they do not, the statement proves nothing either one way or the other. And when it is finally said, in the notice, that the skulls of *Scopus* and *Balaniceps* are so entirely different that it is useless to enter upon further details respecting them, the comparison above instituted will, the author thinks, prove not only that there are similarities, but such as are neither few nor insignificant, and that it is Mr. Bartlett's own fault if he did not become aware of them.

The author therefore cannot, by this new plea in the discussion on the affinities of *Balaniceps*, find himself induced to alter the opinion he has endeavoured to substantiate, partly in his former communication to the Zoological Society's 'Proceedings,' and partly in the representation here given.

XX.—*Note on Pipra deliciosa.* By P. L. SCLATER.

(Plate VI.)

IN one of my lists of the birds collected by Mr. Fraser in Ecuador, published in the Zoological Society's 'Proceedings' for 1860, I proposed the name of *Pipra deliciosa* for a new Manakin, of which examples were obtained at Nanegal, and gave some remarks on the abnormal structure of some of the wing-feathers exhibited by the male of this species. I was not then aware that a very similar structure occurs in two other members of the group of *Piprinæ*—namely, in *Pipra regulus*, of Brazil, and *Pipra striolata*, of New Granada,—although the abnormal growth is not carried to such an excess of development in these birds. But the first three secondaries are curved, and the next following thickened at the stems, in the males of these two species, nearly as is the case in *Pipra deliciosa*. I think, therefore, that the latter bird ought to be removed from the typical *Pipræ* to the genus *Machæropterus*. This term, evidently referring to the peculiar structure of the wing, was employed for *Pipra regulus* and its allies by Prince Bonaparte in 1854*, having been taken by the Prince from Dr. Schiff's MS. names in the Frankfort Museum.

* See *Conspectus Volucrum Anisodactylorum*, auctore Carolo L. Bonaparte, in *Ateneo Italiano*, No. 11, August 1854.

The known species of the genus *Machæropterus* will, therefore, stand as follows :—

1. *MACHÆROPTERUS REGULUS*.

Pipra regulus, Hahn, Ausl. Vög. Lief. 4. pl. 4. f. 1, 2. *Pipra strigilata*, Wied, Reis.n.Bras. i. p. 187, et Beitr.iii. p. 430; Temm. Pl. Col. 54. f. 1, 2; Licht. Doubl. p. 29; Sw. Orn. Dr. pl. 25; Bp. Consp. p. 174; Burm. Syst. Ueb. ii. p. 445. *Pipra lineata*, Thunb. Mém. Acad. Pétersb. 1822, p. 284. pl. 8. f. 1. *Machæropterus strigilatus*, Bp. Consp. Vol. Anisodact. p. 6. *Machæropterus regulus*, Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. ii. p. 94.

Hab. S.E. Brazil.

2. *MACHÆROPTERUS STRIOLATUS*.

Pipra striolata, Bp. P. Z. S. 1837, p. 122, et Consp. p. 174; Gray et Mitch. Gen. B. i. p. 274. pl. 67. f. 2; Slater, P. Z. S. 1855, p. 152, 1857, p. 265, et 1858, p. 72. *Pipra strigilata*, Wagl. Isis, 1830, p. 936. *Machæropterus striolatus*, Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. ii. p. 94.

Hab. Venezuela and New Granada.

3. *MACHÆROPTERUS PYROCEPHALUS*.

Pipra pyrocephala, Slater, Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1852, p. 9, et Contr. Orn. 1852, p. 132. *Machæropterus pyrocephalus*, Bp. Consp. Vol. Anisodact. p. 6; Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. ii. p. 94 (note).

Hab. Peruvian Amazon.

Obs. It was supposed at Paris that the typical example of this species (which I described in 1852) was from Bogota, but examples collected by Mr. Hauxwell on the Ucayali and Huallaga show that the wood-region of Eastern Peru is its real home.

4. *MACHÆROPTERUS DELICIOSUS*. (Plate VI.)

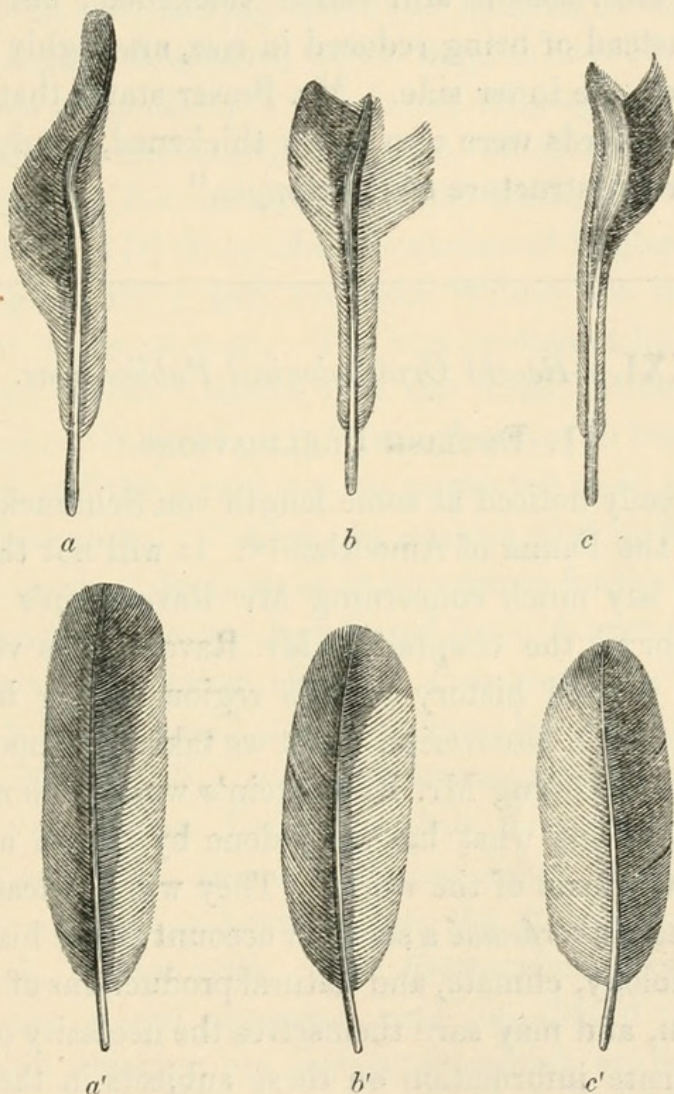
Pipra deliciosa, Slater, P. Z. S. 1860, p. 90.

Hab. Western Ecuador.

To accompany the figure herewith given of this charming species, I extract my remarks on the curious structure of its wings, as given in the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society :—

"This Manakin is one of the most brilliantly coloured birds of the charming group to which it belongs; and the male bird is

further remarkable for the very curious structure of its wings, which merits a detailed description. The ten primaries are of the ordinary formation of birds of this family, the first being shorter than the second, third, and fourth, which are nearly equal and longest, and of about the same length as the sixth.



The first three secondaries are thick-stemmed, and curved towards the body at a distance of about two-thirds of their length from the base. The fourth and fifth show this structure to a greater degree, with some corresponding alteration in the barbs on each side, as may be seen by comparing fig. *a*, representing the upper surface of the fifth secondary of the male bird, with fig. *a'*, which gives a similar view of that of the female. In the sixth and seventh secondaries of the male the terminal half of the *rachis* is thickened to an extraordinary degree, forming a solid horny lump.

The external and internal barbs are also much modified in shape and generally curtailed in size. Fig. *b* gives an upper view of the sixth, and fig. *c* an under view of the seventh secondary. The corresponding feathers of the female, representing the normal structure, are seen in fig. *b'* and fig. *c'*. In the eighth and ninth secondaries the *rachis* is still rather thickened; but the barbs (*pogonia*), instead of being reduced in size, are highly developed, particularly on the inner side. Mr. Fraser states that the wing-bones of these birds were also much thickened, no doubt in aid of this abnormal structure of the *remiges*."

XXI.—Recent Ornithological Publications.

1. ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS.

WE have already noticed at some length von Schrenck's important work on the Fauna of Amoorland*. It will not therefore be necessary to say much concerning Mr. Ravenstein's 'Russians on the Amoor†,' the chapter in Mr. Ravenstein's volume devoted to the natural history of this region having been based upon v. Schrenck's discoveries. But we take this opportunity of cordially recommending Mr. Ravenstein's work to those who are desirous of knowing what has been done by Russia and is now going on in this part of the world. They will be pleased to find in Mr. Ravenstein's *résumé* a succinct account of the history, geography, ethnology, climate, and natural productions of this little-known region, and may save themselves the necessity of hunting for the requisite information on these subjects in the in many cases inaccessible original authorities published in Russia.

Mr. Boner's recent unpretending little work‡ contains some few interesting particulars of the habits of the Capercaillie (*Tetrao*

* Ibis, 1861, p. 203.

† The Russians on the Amoor; its discovery, conquest, and colonization. By E. G. Ravenstein, F.R.G.S. London: Trübner & Co. 1861, 1 vol. 8vo.

‡ Forest Creatures. By Charles Boner, &c. London, 1861 (1 vol. 12mo, pp. 245).