Found only in New Guinea and the islands surrounding it, there are more than three dozen species in the family of birds known as Birds of Paradise. Many are brightly coloured with elaborate and elongated feathers of yellow, blue, scarlet and green.

Birds of Paradise

The Malay tribesmen said that they were "God's birds, the birds of Paradise" and claimed they inhabited the lower realms of heaven .

The plumage of these birds was much sought after in the late 19th and early 20th century. At the time, by weight, only diamonds were more valuable. Today, the birds are protected and hunting is only permitted at a sustainable level to fulfill the ceremonial needs of the local tribal population.