

Herein are described five new species of Central-American birds. Two of them are *Trochilidæ* from Costa Rica :—*Glaucis æneus*, very closely allied to *G. affinis*, Lawr., a species common in Panama and New Granada ; and *Eupherusa nigriventris*, apparently a very distinct form, having a black breast. *Thaumantias lucia* is another member of the same family, but from Honduras, and said to be allied to *T. linnæi*. The fourth bird described as new is *Dromococcyx rufifularis*, which Mr. Salvin tells us he has little doubt is only the young of *D. phasianellus* (Max.) (*D. mexicanus*, Bp.), a species which certainly does occur in the same country (cf. *Ibis*, 1859, p. 133). The last is *Aramides albiventris*, and is the Central-American race of the wide-ranging *A. cayanensis*, which it very closely resembles, but from which it differs in the characters pointed out by Mr. Lawrence. It is the common and indeed the only species of the genus found in Guatemala.

XXXVII.—*Letters, Announcements, &c.*

MR. P. L. SCLATER has kindly put into our hands for publication the following letter :—

H.M.S. 'Nassau,' Ancud, Chiloe,  
May 26th, 1868.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have to thank you for your letter of 16th March, which I had the pleasure of receiving a few days ago. I am very glad to hear that my letters have interested you, and that you and Mr. Salvin have written an article for 'The *Ibis*' on the birds I sent home last year\*, and I am much obliged for your hints as to zoological points to be attended to. I will act upon them, as far as my opportunities will permit, during next season, which I think will probably be my last in the Magellanic province. I fear, however, that I may not be able to gain much precise information as to the *Otariæ*, as they will not be easy to procure, and it is next to impossible to make a thoroughly careful examination of such large animals in the very confined space at my disposal in this vessel, as almost the entire room for

\* [*Vide antea*, pp. 183-189.—ED.]

specimens which I can depend on is limited to my cabin; and you know six feet square will only allow of a very limited amount of stowage. But you may rely upon it that all that I can do I will do.

Your letter was peculiarly welcome, as giving me the first information that Professors Newton and Huxley had received the specimens sent to them. Probably they may have written to me; but I have been so unfortunate as to lose (I trust only temporarily) two mails from England, *i. e.* those despatched on the 17th of last November and December. You can imagine that such mishaps, though not uncommon, are rather unpleasant, as letters become very valuable in the isolated position in which I am at present placed. I shall be anxious to learn what is thought of the Fuegian and Patagonian crania, and in what condition the birds' skins arrived, and whether there are any rarities among them. They were not all in such good condition as I could have wished; but you know there is a certain class of difficulties connected with the preservation of specimens on board ship that one is comparatively free from on shore, and, as I was occupied in the collection of plants, insects, marine animals, &c., as well as ornithological specimens, I could not do the latter as much justice as if they had been my sole object. I am sorry I have not got the 'Zoology of the "Beagle"' with me, as it would have been an excellent guide to the animals, as Dr. Hooker's 'Flora Antarctica' has been an invaluable one to the plants of Fuegia. We have now finished our second season of work down south, and before long, if all is well, shall be at Valparaiso for the winter months; and thence I shall despatch the collections I have made this season, which, I regret to say, are considerably more limited than those I sent home last year. This is peculiarly the case with the animals, and has arisen from our having spent a considerable portion of our time in a region the fauna of which is poor beyond measure, and has disappointed me a good deal. We entered the Strait of Magellan on the afternoon of the 17th of last November, on which day I had my first sight of *Chionis alba*. Several individuals of this species flew about in the neighbourhood of the ship, and were naturally enough mistaken by the uninitiated for Pigeons. At the same

time I saw a fine herd of Sea-Lions reposing on the shelving beach at Dungeness Spit. While at Sandy Point, where we spent some time shortly after, I procured specimens of the eggs of a Swan, the Steamer-Duck, the Upland-Goose, the Bandueria (*Theristicus melanops*), and one or two species of Gulls, all of which had been brought from Elizabeth Island, where many birds breed during the months of October and November. A shooting party, which spent nearly a week at the island while the ship continued at Sandy Point, were very successful, bringing on board on their return upwards of 180 of the Upland-Geese, and three Swans. Two of these were *Cygnus nigricollis* and the third a considerably smaller species, which corresponds with King's description of his *C. anatoides* in the Appendix on Birds in the first volume of the 'Voyages of the "Adventure" and "Beagle."' This latter bird I likewise met with at the Gallegas River, which we visited later in the season to look for a deposit of tertiary mammalian bones. I find that neither in it nor in *C. nigricollis* is the keel of the sternum at all excavated for the reception of a fold of the trachea. At Cape Negro, where we spent a few days at the end of November, I obtained a fine member of the *Falconida*, large enough to merit the title of an Eagle, as well as one of the black Starlings, which I find extend from the Cape westward through the Strait and along the west side of Patagonia to Chiloe; also a curious little rodent with very thick hair. A few days later (December 4th) I visited the small island of Santa Magdalena. On approaching it in the ship it presented a very remarkable appearance, being white with birds in many places, and a large herd of Sea-Lions congregated on the beach. On coming still closer in the boat in which I landed, I found the water populous with the latter animals, which, from being never disturbed by man, were apparently much astonished and very little dismayed by our appearance. A large herd followed the boat at the distance of a few yards, raising themselves out of the water as high as their shoulders, staring fixedly at us, showing their large teeth, and occasionally emitting a cry between a grunt and a roar, while numbers of another Seal swam about in every direction, bending their bodies into a curve and leaping high out of the water. The herd of

Sea-Lions on the beach remained stationary till we landed and they were fired at, when they reared up and plunged along after their peculiar fashion till they reached the sea. The island rises pretty steeply from the water, and in some places displays high cliffs of boulder-clay, on the ledges of which numbers of Cormorants and Gulls of various species were assembled. On climbing one of the steep grassy banks, we witnessed a most amusing sight in the Penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*), which stood erect and looked stupidly at us and then shuffled off, their little wings hanging limp at their sides. When hard pressed they abandoned their erect posture, and, crouching down, scoured along the ground on their stomachs (on all-fours, if one may use the expression, as their wings seemed to be used equally with their legs as means of locomotion) till at last they reached their burrows, in which they ensconced themselves, and turning round, and moving their heads slowly from side to side with a most inquisitive expression of countenance, barked and brayed at their pursuers. They showed a very stout fight on one attempting to drag them out of their holes, biting most vigorously with their stout beaks. I succeeded in raking one out with the crook of a walking-stick, and despatched it; and I also procured a very young one, which, along with the heads of two rather older individuals, I have preserved in spirits, as I thought it might be interesting to examine the development of the cranial bones. I did not manage to find any eggs, the season being too far advanced. But perhaps the most striking sight on the island was furnished by the breeding-places of the Cormorants, of which there were several in large hollows on the summit of the island, in the neighbourhood of small patches of salt water. The birds were congregated on their nests literally in thousands, and when they were disturbed, after running along for a few paces after the fashion of a retreating army, rose into the air *en masse*, winnowing it with their wings so as to produce a sound like that of a strong breeze, and raising a thick cloud of dust. The nests were regularly shaped slightly conical mounds about nine inches high, formed of dried grass and other plants baked into a solid mass with earth and guano, and hollowed out into a shallow depression at the top. They were ranged in regular

series, with almost mathematical precision, about a foot of space intervening between each nest; and the greater number of them contained eggs, varying from one to three. These, of which I shall send home specimens, were of a greenish-white colour, with a rough surface, and about the size of a hen's egg. I obtained a pretty good specimen of one of the birds. Numerous *Sterna* and other Gulls were flying about, giving vent to their discordant cries; and I met with several of their nests. I also saw three specimens of *Chionis*, but did not get any on this occasion. I noticed that those Cormorants that were perched on ledges on the cliffs had nests constructed of sea-weed, and that none of these contained eggs; so I suppose the cliffs are merely employed as resting-places.

I was on shore at Gregory Bay on the 12th of December. It was a bright sunny morning; and as I walked over the ground tunnelled with the burrows of the *Ctenomys*, every now and then I heard the very peculiar cry of the animal, and had a momentary glance at a furry head and shoulders thrust out of a hole for an instant. I noticed several specimens of the largest of the Owls I sent home last year perched on the Barberry-bushes, apparently on the look-out for prey; and they were in general very bold, sitting still and barking at me till I came within six or seven yards, and then flying off to a short distance. I also observed several Geese with their goslings; and on one occasion the parent birds ran off, dragging their wings as if hurt, and hid themselves in the long grass, amongst which I could see their heads thrust up at intervals watching my progress. One of the officers who was on shore was fortunate enough to shoot a beautiful Duck, different from any of those I sent home last year; and one or two examples of the Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus cayanus*) were obtained, also a curious little bird coloured like a Quail or Sand-grouse (I think a *Thinocorus*). After this I had very few opportunities of getting on shore for a long time, as we had almost constantly windy weather, and were lying far out from the shore. On the 22nd we went up the Patagonian shore to the Gallegas River, and I spent a day and night on shore there, but, with the exception of the Swan I have already mentioned, did not obtain anything of any im-

portance. A *Rhea* and a Guanaco were shot, which afforded us a stock of fresh provisions; and a Puma was seen but not shot. The only night I spent there was rather an eventful one to me; for I spent it alone on the plains, having lost my way in a solitary ramble in search of plants, and not being able to find my way back to camp until the following day.

We went over to the Falkland Islands in the middle of January, and remained in Stanley Harbour till the 28th of the month, when we began our return voyage to the Strait. On the way back we passed through Falkland Sound, and spent a day and a half at the Tyssen Islands. The Tussac-grass (*Dactylis cespitosa*), which is rapidly disappearing from the East Falkland Island, flourishes here in great abundance, and the Jackass-Penguin makes its burrows in the base of the clumps. I landed on one of the islands and was greatly impressed by the extraordinary tameness of the birds. A little brownish-black bird was very plentiful, hopping about in the paths between the clumps of grass, more familiar than an English Robin; and the Military Starling was hardly less tame. The Skua Gulls, of which there were numbers, flew about me uttering scolding cries, and several times I was obliged to make them keep their distance by striking at them with my stick. The Upland-Geese allowed our sportsmen to get within a few yards of them, and a Goose and Gander ran along before me for some distance at a leisurely pace; while the common Brown Duck of the Strait, a specimen of which I sent home last year, swam in flocks close to the shore, and the numerous Kelp-Geese did not appear at all disturbed by our presence. A Bittern with a crest of three narrow white feathers was also shot and preserved. We spent the 31st of January at Fox Bay, in the West Falkland; and here the birds were equally tame. It is a curious fact which I cannot well account for, that several species of birds common to the Falklands and the Straits of Magellan are much tamer at the former than at the latter locality. Thus, in addition to the birds I have mentioned, I may remark that the Steamer-Duck, which, though plentiful in the Strait, is difficult of approach on account of its wariness, swims about in Stanley Harbour in the most unconcerned manner, seldom taking the trouble to get up steam.

On our return to the Straits we remained in the eastern part till the 9th of March, when we left Sandy Point for the season, and proceeded first westwards through the Straits, and then north through the channels leading up from the western part of the Straits of Magellan to the Gulf of Peñas, than which it is hardly possible to conceive regions more destitute of animal life, many portions in their utter dreariness an embodiment of the valley of the shadow of death—no living creature to be seen, the land rising high and black on either side, and rain coming down in torrents and as if it would never cease. The northern channels are rather more life-like, and there are evidences in their fauna and flora of an approximation to that of the Chonos archipelago and Chiloe. The Kingfisher, of which I sent home a specimen last year from Port Gallant, is rather plentiful; and a good many Cormorants, Steamer-Ducks, and Gulls are to be seen. Our object at this time was to reach Chiloe, there to provision and coal; and we emerged into the Gulf of Peñas on the evening of the 22nd of March, and very soon after encountered a heavy gale, which we seem to experience now wherever we go. The 27th was a beautifully calm day, and we enjoyed a most remarkable spectacle. The ship was hardly moving through the water, and flocks of Albatroses were peacefully resting on the water in its immediate vicinity. At one time about twenty were close astern, growling hoarsely occasionally as they fought over the garbage which was from time to time thrown out. Several were taken on baited hooks, their radii being in request with smokers as pipe-stems. They had been feeding on Cuttle-fish of the genus *Loligo* or *Ommastreptes*. The largest caught measured 10 feet 9 inches in expanse of wing. In skinning one specimen, when removing the integument from the abdomen and legs, I found on either side a superficial muscle, which seems to act as a tensor of the aponeurosis of the muscles below the knee. Though I have now skinned and partially dissected a considerable number of birds, I do not remember noticing it before; and there is no mention of it in Prof. Owen's 'Anatomy of Vertebrates.' It arises from the cartilage at the tip of the pubis, and from a deep-seated muscle arising from the pubis by an aponeurosis about three-fourths

of an inch broad and rather more than an inch long, and, proceeding upwards and outwards, forms a thin fan-shaped muscular hand, which by degrees assumes a membranaceous character and, spreading out, is attached to the aponeurosis enveloping the muscles of the front and outer side of the leg, extending from the knee-joint about a couple of inches downwards. My friend Dr. Campbell, who examined another Albatros at my request, found the same muscle. I send you an accurate though rough sketch of it, in case you can give me any information about it. I got some large *Anoplura* on the feathers of the bird, and have preserved them. Noticing some beautiful *Acalephæ* in the water, I had a towing-net put over, but was obliged to have it hauled in almost immediately, as the Albatroses pounced upon it and nearly tore it to pieces.

We entered the Bay of Ancud on the forenoon of the 28th ; and I landed in the afternoon (which, for a rarity, was a fine one), and was much delighted with the semitropical character of the vegetation—a large bamboo-like grass forming a conspicuous feature, and *Bromeliaceæ* being rather plentiful. We remained at Ancud rather more than ten days, getting two or three very fine ones, which allowed us to have some pleasant walks and some wonderful views of the peak of Osorno and the distant Cordillera. Humming-birds were very plentiful ; but I think all belonging to one species, which extends from Port Famine westward throughout the Strait and through the entire range of the Channels. They looked exceedingly beautiful flying about the flowers of the fuchsias, which were in full glory during our visit, their heads gleaming with burnished gold in the sunshine. A little greyish bird with a white line on each side of the head was common on the rocks on the beach ; it is also abundant at Sandy Point and throughout the western part of the Strait and the Channels. In its movements it resembles a Wagtail. I often heard the cries of the Cheucau and Barking-bird ; but they were very difficult to see. The Gallinazo Vulture was very plentiful, and so were several of the Strait Hawks. A *Numenius*, which I think is our *N. phaeopus*\*, is common but shy. The Steamer-Duck is to be seen, but not very plentifully ; and Cor-

\* [Probably *N. hudsonicus* or *N. borealis* (cf. P.Z.S. 1867, p. 333).—P. L. S.]



morants and three species of Grebe occur. Two of the latter are small, and I have got specimens of them; the other, which is much larger, and which I have seen at the eastern entrance of the Strait, I have not obtained. I saw two or three specimens of *Rhynchops* flying along the surface of the water, ploughing it with the under mandible; and the Strait Kingfisher was common. A grey Bittern, the same as one of which I subsequently got a specimen in the Messier Channel, was rather numerous; and a small white Heron or Egret, which I afterwards got at Port Otway, likewise was occasionally seen. The marine zoology is rather rich apparently, for I got a considerable number of Mollusks, Crustaceans, and Annelids. That curious fish the *Collo-rhynchus* appears to be rather common, as, though I have only got one small specimen of it, I frequently saw its curious horny egg lying on the sandy beaches. On our way back to the Channel we spent part of a day at Port Otway (Cape Tres Montes). Two Sea-Otters, the white Egret I have mentioned, and some Kelp-Geese were shot there. We re-entered the Messier Channel on the 17th of April, and there remained at one or other of the harbours till the 13th of this month, encountering a great amount of rainy weather. At Halt Bay, one of our anchorages, I got a *Pteroptochus* and a little Grebe which seems to be rather common throughout the Channels and at Chiloe. We saw a good many Sea-Otters and several Seals, but did not succeed in getting any; and I saw the tracks of Deer in one or two places, but never got a sight of the animals themselves. I also procured a Gallinazo\*, which appears to be a rare bird in the Channels, but little else besides. The weather became so hopelessly bad (tremendous and continual rain) that we left the Channel on the 13th on our northward route. On the 16th we reached Port San Pedro, at the southern extremity of Chiloe, and on the 18th Huite, a beautiful little harbour, thirty or forty miles distant from Ancud. Here we remained a couple of days to cut wood, our coal having run short, so that I had an opportunity of landing and collecting what fell in my

\* Apparently a different species from the one common at Chiloe, as the naked head is red instead of black, and the plumage is not so dark. [No doubt *Cathartes aura*.—P. L. S.]

way. One day the wooding-party brought me off a specimen of *Didelphys elegans*, which had been caught in the fork of a tree which was cut down. I ascertained it to be this species by Schinz's 'Synopsis Mammalium;' and he gives the neighbourhood of Valparaiso as its habitat; so I was much interested by its occurrence so much further south and in this rainy climate. Has it ever been procured so far south before? We reached Ancud on the 22nd, and have been there since. The weather has been fearful, rain in torrents; but we hope to leave for Valparaiso, whence I shall despatch this letter, in the course of four or five days. Mr. Darwin truly remarks that the climate of Chiloe is detestable; and that of the Channels between the Strait and the Gulf of Peñas is a good deal worse. To give you an idea of the amount of rain we have had since we left Sandy Point on the 9th of March, I may mention that since then the deck of the ship has not been dry for seven days; and it rains so tremendously that the whole ship's company might be supplied with water two or three times over in the course of a single day. These statements, strange though they may appear, are literally accurate.

To return to your letter, I am sorry to state that I have not met with any species of *Fulica* at all as yet. I hope to be at Port Famine for some little time next season, however, and be more successful there.

And now I shall conclude hoping that I have not utterly exhausted your patience by the length of this letter.

Believe me, very truly yours,

ROBERT O. CUNNINGHAM.

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The following letters, addressed "To the Editor of 'The Ibis,'" have been received:—

SIR,—I obtained three specimens of a Flamingo last week which differ so much from *Phœnicopterus roseus* that I have no doubt that they are a different species.

These birds were shot fifty miles from here a few days ago by Lieut. Feilden of the 21st Fusileers, who last year noticed a flock of the same species on the same water, but was unable to shoot a specimen. This year there were about fifty *P. roseus*, and a flock of eight of the species I now describe, on the lake,

easily distinguished by their much smaller stature and brighter plumage. Lieut. Feilden procured three of these birds (adults) and two of *P. roseus*. Dr. Jerdon (B. Ind. iii. pp. 775, 776) is inclined to believe in the existence of another species of Flamingo in India, under the name of *P. minor*; but if this is intended for the bird I now describe, it seems to be an inappropriate name, as, apart from the variation in size, it has other more characteristic differences, as will be seen by the following description:—

Throughout of a bright pink colour; wing-coverts, tertials, upper tail-coverts, and under the wing dark red-pink; breast mottled with the same. Chin covered with feathers to the base of the lower mandible, and no bare spot between the lower mandible and the neck as in *P. roseus*; the feathers bordering the eye and base of bill scarlet. Bill claret-colour at base, shading off to lake towards the tip, which is black; irides a fine ring of golden-yellow, surrounded by an outer ring of orange-scarlet; tarsus, legs, and feet blood-red. Length 35 inches, wing 13·5, bill 3·125, tarsus 8, middle toe 3.

The great points of difference between this and *P. roseus* would strike the most casual observer, and are—the whole colour a uniform bright pink, instead of rosy-white, and the intense brightness of the wing-coverts, upper tail-coverts, and under the wing, the complete difference in the coloration of the irides, legs, tarsus, and feet, the absence of a bare chin-spot, and the size, which distinguishes this species from *P. roseus* at the distance of a mile.

Taking all these circumstances into consideration, I think that this will be admitted as a different species from *P. minor* or *P. blythi*, which both Dr. Jerdon and Mr. Blyth regard as varieties of *P. roseus*; if so, I would claim for this bird the name of *P. RUBIDUS*, in contradistinction to its paler congener.

H. W. FEILDEN, 18th Hussars.

Secunderabad, 10th July, 1868.

\*.\* Mr. Blyth, to whom we have shown Capt. Feilden's letter above printed, kindly informs us that he has no doubt but the Flamingo therein described is of an entirely new species, of which he has never seen an example.—ED.

22nd July, 1868.

SIR,—I observe that Lord Walden, in describing the birds I

procured in the Tenasserim Provinces, and speaking of the forms of *Buchanga*, says (P. Z. S. 1866, p. 547) "that the Himalayan race of *B. longicaudata* has yet to be described and named." As I happen to have obtained specimens of this bird in the Darjeeling Hills in 1862, and also near Simla in 1866, I beg leave to forward you the following notes.

Herr A. von Pelzeln (J. f. O. 1868, p. 33) [*cf. antea*, p. 316] mentions it under the name of *Dicruratus longicaudus*; but as I believe it to be a distinct species, I wish to propose for it that of

BUCHANGA WALDENI, sp. nov.

The dimensions of two specimens procured by me near Simla are as follows:—

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Bill from front.	Bill from gape.	Tarsus.	Extent.
2 June..	11·75	5·5	6·625	·9375	..	·6875	15·5
18 June..	10·5	5·25	5·375	·9375	1·125	·75	13·75

neither bird coming up to the size of *B. longicaudata* as given by Dr. Jerdon (B. Ind. i. p. 431). The irides were crimson-red. The under wing- and under tail-coverts are tipped with white; but the general colour of the bird is a dark blue-black, similar to that of most other members of this well-known genus. The species frequents the tall pines and other forest-trees bordering the small patches of cleared land in the north-western Himalaya; and from a station of this kind it now and then darts out over the open space and, after catching its prey, returns to its lofty perch until tempted by another passing insect.

Yours, &c., R. C. BEAVAN.

\*.\* Is not this most likely the same species as that recently mentioned by Col. Tytler (*antea*, p. 200) under the name of *Dicrurus himalayanus*?—ED.

Royal Zoological Museum, Turin,  
July 31st, 1868.

SIR,—The 'Magenta' arrived safely at Naples on the 28th March last, after an absence of two years and a half, during which time she successfully performed her various missions. I immediately asked to be attached to this place, where all the collections made during our voyage are accumulated. They

are pretty large considering the want of means and the many difficulties encountered in getting them together. Of course the most favoured part has been our own favourite science of ornithology; and although most of the localities at which the 'Magenta' touched have been pretty well scoured, yet I have succeeded in scraping together some rarities and a few novelties. Dr. Salvadori and I have been working at them since the beginning of June. The worst part is the synonymy, which we are doing our best to make exact and to give in full, being aware of its importance after the labours of so many species-manufacturing ornithologists. On the whole I believe we have got together as many species as Mr. von Pelzeln gives from the expedition of the 'Novara,' if not more. On the death of poor De Filippi at Hongkong, I took his place as head of the scientific mission, and kept all the collections on board with me, thus saving the enormous expense of sending them to Europe by mail-steamers.

At Java I got some good species, and in Australia also. Amongst the last I secured was a specimen of *Nasiterna pusio*, Sclat. (P. Z. S. 1865, p. 620), which Mr. Krefft kindly gave me. It now forms one of the gems of the Turin Ornithological Gallery. At Santiago de Chile, Messrs. Philippi and Landbeck presented me with a nearly complete series of Chilian birds, a most characteristic and interesting group. The 'Magenta' was above a month in the channels which extend along the west coast of Patagonia from Cape Tres Montes to the Straits of Magellan, and I was able to form a choice collection. The most remarkable features of that avifauna are the beautiful *Chloephaga* and the strange *Micropterus cinereus*. On our voyage from Montevideo to Gibraltar we were becalmed near Trinidad Island, and I there collected some very interesting *Procellaria*\*.

The Italian Government intends to publish the voyage of the 'Magenta;' and I have been charged, conjointly with our Captain, with the task of writing it. I mean, of course, the descriptive part; the scientific part (mostly zoological) can only be done in monographs, and will be the work of different naturalists. I

\* [Dr. Giglioli has since forwarded us descriptions (drawn up by Dr. Salvadori and himself) of several new species of this family, which we hope to publish in our next number.—Ed.]

shall undertake the mammals and the pelagic fauna and, jointly with Dr. Salvadori, the birds. These last will be the first out.

I am, &c., HENRY HILLYER GIGLIOLI.

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Museum of Natural History,  
Paris, 5 August, 1868.

SIR,—I have just ascertained that the interesting little bird lately referred with some doubt to the genus *Drymæca*, and described by Mr. Swinhoe (*antèa*, p. 62) under the name of *D. pekinensis*, should have another position. Our museum possesses four examples of it; and on comparing them with the Australian genus *Amytis*, it is impossible not to place them in it, although their tarsi are shorter than in that. The form of the bill, the operculated nostrils, the short wings, the long graduated tail, and, finally, the long bristles at the base of the bill, as well as the texture of the plumage, are sufficient to indicate the place of the species in the series. If Mr. Swinhoe had had under his eyes an *Amytis*, he certainly would not have assigned this bird to *Drymæca*. Our four examples come from the neighbourhood of Pekin, and were sent to us, the first in 1865, by the Père Armand David, and the others this year. As is elsewhere the case in this genus, there is no difference between the sexes of *Amytis pekinensis*.

If you can find a small space in 'The Ibis' for this observation, be good enough to bring it to the notice of ornithologists, and receive, &c.

J. P. VERREAUX.

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Public Library of the University of Cambridge,  
August 1868.

SIR,—Understanding that a knowledge of the precise dates at which the various *Livraisons* of Temminck and Laugier's 'Nouveau Recueil de Planches coloriées d'Oiseaux' appeared would be of interest to ornithologists, as affording them the means of settling various disputed questions of priority of nomenclature, I have been induced to draw up the following list, which will answer that purpose, and may be the more acceptable since it shows that there was much irregularity in the publication of the work.

The dates of *Livraisons* 1 to 92 are extracted from the 'Bibliographie Française,' which consists of weekly official lists of books published in France. After the 92nd *Livraison* no further notice is taken of the work until the appearance of *Livraison* 102; but the intermediate portions are cited in several contemporaneous publications, so that their dates can be obtained with tolerable accuracy. *Livraison* 101 is dated August 30, 1836, and concludes the descriptive part, *Livraison* 102 containing only the titles and indexes.

TEMMINCK, C. J., et LAUGIER, M.—*Nouveau Recueil de Planches coloriées d'Oiseaux*. *Livraisons* 1–102. 4to. Paris: 1820–39.

Livrai- son.	Date of Publication.	Livrai- son.	Date of Publication.	Livrai- son.	Date of Publication.
1	7 Oct. 1820	36	2 Aug. 1823	71	28 Feb. 1827
2		37	30 Aug. "	72	25 Apr. "
3		38	27 Sept. "	73	30 July "
4	18 Dec. 1824	39	25 Oct. "	74	22 Sept. "
5		40	6 Dec. "	75	5 Jan. 1828
6		41	27 Dec. "	76	1 Mar. "
7		42	26 Feb. 1825	77	23 Apr. "
8	26 July 1823	43	28 Feb. 1824	78	5 July "
9		44	27 Mar. "	79	1 Aug. 1829
10		45	1 May "	80	5 Sept. "
11	30 Aug. 1823	46	22 May "	81	17 Oct. "
12	27 Sept. "	47	26 June "	82	2 Jan. 1830
13	25 Oct. "	48	31 July "	83	20 Feb. "
14	6 Dec. "	49	28 Aug. "	84	8 May "
15	28 Feb. 1824	50	2 Oct. "	85	3 July "
16	27 Mar. "	51	23 Oct. "	86	4 Sept. "
17	1 May "	52	27 Nov. "	87	22 Jan. 1831
18	22 May "	53	18 Dec. "	88	14 May "
19		54	12 Feb. 1825	89	4 Feb. 1832
20	26 June "	55	26 Feb. "	90	28 July "
21		56	16 Apr. "	91	29 Dec. "
22	2 Aug. 1823	57	23 Apr. "	92	22 July 1834
23		58	21 May "	93	
24		59	25 June "	94	
25		60	23 July "	95	
26		61	27 Aug. "	96	1835
27		62	24 Sept. "	97	
28		63	12 Nov. "	98	
29	26 July 1823	64	21 Dec. "	99	
30		65	27 May 1826	100	1836
31		66	10 June "	101	
32		67	12 July "	102	29 Jan. 1839
33		68	16 Sept. "		
34		69	25 Oct. "		
35		70	27 Dec. "		

I am, &c., G. R. CROTCH.

SIR,—I beg leave to offer the following notes to the readers of 'The Ibis':—

Ornithologists appear to have overlooked the fact that the Cat-bird of New Holland, commonly called by the specific name adopted in 1827 by Vigors and Horsfield (Trans. Linn. Soc. xv. p. 264), from Latham's MSS., had been long previously described by Paykull in the 'Nova Acta Societatis Scientiarum Upsaliensis' for 1815 (vol. vii. p. 282), under the designation of *Lanius crassirostris*. On referring to Paykull's excellent description and figure, no one can doubt the identity of the two birds. The species, therefore, supposing it to be entitled to generic separation, should stand as *Ælurædus\* crassirostris* (Payk.), and not *Æ. smithi* (V. & H.). Its other synonyms have been given by Mr. Gould (Handb. B. Austral. i. p. 446).

In 'The Ibis' for 1861 (p. 120), I have stated that Mr. E. L. Layard obtained living examples of the Vulturine Guinea-fowl (*Numida vulturina*) in Bojana Bay, in Madagascar. Having subsequently ascertained that the true *patria* of this species is the district of Lamoo, on the east coast of Africa, between 2° and 3° S. lat. (cf. P. Z. S. 1863, p. 126, 1865, p. 677, and 1867, p. 953), I came to the conclusion that Mr. Layard must have made an error. But it would appear from the following passage in a volume of travels, to which Dr. Peters has called my attention, that a second species of *Numida* is found in Madagascar, which Mr. Layard may have mistaken for *N. vulturina*. Captain W. F. W. Owen, in his 'Narrative of a Voyage to explore the Shores of Africa, Arabia, and Madagascar' (London: 1833, vol. ii. p. 36), states that when he arrived at the north-east coast of Madagascar and Diego Suarez Bay, or British Sound, the chief and all the inhabitants came in state to visit him, "bringing with them a species of Guinea-fowl with a long tail, which we had never before met with. It was marked like the Jungle-fowl of India, or the Argus Pheasant, but its downy plumage

\* Dr. Cabanis (Mus. Hein. i. p. 213, note) writes the name incorrectly *Ailurædus*, since *αἴλουρος* becomes *ælurus* in Latin.



was still more beautiful, the bill and head being like the common Guinea-fowl."

The Spurwinged Goose from the Shiré River, lately mentioned by Captain Sperling (*anteà*, p. 292), reached the Zoological Gardens alive, and in good condition, on the 9th of April last, and turned out to be an example of the true *Plectropterus gambensis* (*cf.* P. Z. S. 1868, pp. 261, 262). The very distinct (*non obstante Schlegelio!*) *P. rueppelli* appears to be peculiar to the interior of East Africa. *P. gambensis* has bred this year in the Society's Gardens for the first time. The eggs are white when fresh, smooth and shining, more like those of a Shelldrake than of a Goose.

I am, &c.,

P. L. SCLATER.

11 Hanover Square, Sept. 2, 1868.

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Through the good offices of our friend Mr. E. L. Layard, Mr. C. Fairbridge, of Capetown, has most kindly sent us a complete copy of the 'South African Journal,' the rarity of which we mentioned in our last number (*anteà*, p. 270), as well as of the 'Report' of Sir Andrew Smith's celebrated Expedition. We understand also that the same gentleman, with almost unexampled liberality, has presented another complete copy of the 'Journal' to the Zoological Society, which, as we before stated, possessed only an imperfect one. We are consequently able to add to our bibliographical notes on this periodical. "No. V." of the Original Series, though called that for "October 1831," bears 1832 as the date of publication on its wrapper. Its pagination begins at page 9 and extends to page 140. "No. 2, part 2," of the Second Series extends from pages 129 to 160, and it contains the descriptions of five new species of birds by Sir Andrew. But what very much increases the value of Mr. Fairbridge's handsome gift is the fact that all parts of this copy of the journal are still in their original wrappers, and thus we learn that the Second Series was "published in monthly parts," a piece of information which the work does not otherwise afford.

In further illustration of Sir Andrew Smith's labours upon

South-African zoology, Mr. J. H. Gurney has most obligingly submitted to our inspection a copy of "A Catalogue of the South-African Museum: now exhibiting in the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly. The property of a Society entitled 'The Cape of Good Hope Association for Exploring Central Africa,'" which bears date "1837." This Catalogue contains the names of a good many species of birds which are apparently used for the first time; but no descriptions, fortunately, are appended to them. We have occasionally seen reference to this publication made in some ornithological works; but we never before met with it, and it must be simply regarded as a literary curiosity and not as throwing any light, at least so far as ornithology is concerned, on disputed points of nomenclature. Mr. Gurney's copy was obtained at Temminck's sale, and, as appears from a few lines written on the title, was sent to the Museum at Leyden in anticipation of the disposal of the collection, which was "advertized for sale on the 6th of June, 1838." Most of the important specimens were subsequently transferred to the British Museum.

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A short time since, a friend of ours, who, though no naturalist, was aware of the store set upon old representations of the Dodo, was good enough to inform us that he had lately been making some literary researches in Holland, and had been shown a manuscript copy of an old journal kept during a voyage to Mauritius, which was illustrated by several drawings, apparently contemporary, of Dodos. We immediately communicated this intelligence, with all the additional particulars we could gather, to Professor Schlegel, who, in return, informs us that the book had been already brought to his notice, and that its pictorial contents are of great value, the figures of the Dodo and other birds having been most beautifully drawn from life by a man who knew well what he was about. We understand that the narrative has been printed before, but no account given of the figures with which it is embellished. However, Professor Schlegel tells us he is preparing a short memoir on the subject; we therefore have no desire to anticipate him by mentioning at present the

different points of interest furnished by this discovery, feeling sure that he will neglect none of them in telling the story his own way.

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Our readers will be glad to hear that Mr. Walter Buller intends to bring out a work on the "Birds of New Zealand," for which he has long been making preparations. His 'Essay' on the ornithology of that colony, which we noticed some time ago (*Ibis*, 1867, pp. 132, 133), showed that considerable progress in the knowledge of its interesting avifauna had been made since Mr. G. R. Gray's 'List' appeared in the pages of this Journal (*Ibis*, 1862, pp. 214-252); and the recent labours of Herr Finsch and Dr. Haast (*J. f. O.* 1867, pp. 305-347; 1868, pp. 238-245) prove that the subject is not exhausted. Mr. Buller's work is to be published by Mr. Van Voorst, who will doubtless be happy to receive the names of intending subscribers.

While on this theme we may mention that, through the kindness of a correspondent, we have received a beautiful series of photographs of the skeletons of various species of *Dinornis*, taken by Mr. D. L. Mundy from specimens in the Museum at Christchurch, N. Z.; and we understand that copies may be obtained from Mr. Haskins, of No. 27 The Crescent, Darnley Road, Hackney.

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We regret to find that nothing came of the laudable incubatory attempt on the part of *Apteryx mantelli* which we recorded a short while since (*anteà*, p. 251). We can only wish for better luck next time.

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We have great pleasure in announcing the safe return of Mr. W. Jesse, whose appointment as zoologist to the Abyssinian Expedition we announced some months ago (*anteà*, p. 134). After the departure of the troops, Mr. Jesse set out on a journey into the interior of the Bogos country, where we hear he was very tolerably successful.