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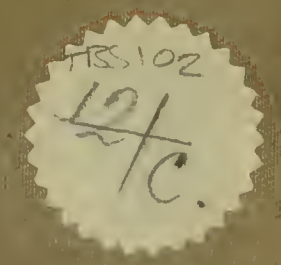

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

EDITED BY

R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D.

VOLUME X.

SESSION 1899–1900.

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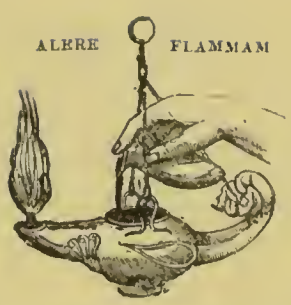

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PREFACE.

The preparation of the Index to the 'Bulletin' is the duty of the (I had nearly written "unfortunate") Editor, because it forms a kind of annual "holiday task" for him. The index to our tenth volume of the 'Bulletin' has certainly proved heavier than any of its predecessors, by reason of the greater number of quotations which the Editor has had to record, but it has, at the same time, been very satisfactory to him to note the increase in the number of contributions to our journal.

The exhibition of specimens illustrating the colour-variations of birds was in every respect a very remarkable one, mainly due to the extraordinary series which our esteemed member, the Hon. Walter Rothschild, M.P., transported from his Museum at Tring; while many other members of the Club contributed from their private collections. The result was one of the most interesting exhibitions ever presented to the notice of a Scientific Society.

The memory of the pleasant evenings which the members of the Club have spent together, and of the solid work which has been a feature of our Eighth Session, is saddened by the decease of several of our friends. The loss of such energetic workers as St. George Mivart, John Cordeaux, and T. J. Monk is not only felt by the Club as a Scientific Institution, but it has taken away from some of the older members some very sincere friends and companions. The fortune of war also has deprived us of two excellent ornithologists, Dr. A. C. Stark and Colonel H. P. Northcott. The former was struck down by a Boer shell in Ladysmith, as he was quietly smoking a cigarette at 12 o'clock at night, and his

death is nothing less than a national misfortune, as the first published volume of his 'Birds of South Africa' proves that whoever shall attempt to complete the work will have no easy task to rival the volume which our friend had written before his death. Colonel Northcott had made but one collection of birds in the Hinterland of the Gold Coast, and was full of enthusiam for future work. He was ordered off to South Africa on the outbreak of the Boer war, and had hardly reached his post on Lord Methuen's Staff, when he was killed at the Modder River.

(Signed) R. BOWDLER SHARPE,
Editor.

October 1*st*, 1900.

RULES

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(*As amended 20th April*, 1898.)

I. This Club was founded for the purpose of facilitating the social intercourse of Members of the British Ornithologists' Union. Any Member of that Union can become a Member of this Club on payment (to the Treasurer) of an entrance fee of *Five Shillings* and a subscription of *Five Shillings* for the current Session. Resignation of the Union involves resignation of the Club.

II. Members who have not paid their subscriptions before the last Meeting of the Session, shall cease, *ipso facto*, to be Members of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears, *and* a new entrance fee.

III. Members of the British Ornithologists' Union may be introduced as Visitors at the Meetings of the Club, but every Member of the Club who introduces a Member of the B. O. U. as a Visitor (to dinner or to the Meeting afterwards) shall pay *One Shilling* to the Treasurer, *on each occasion*.

IV. The Club shall meet, as a rule, on the Third Wednesday in every Month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects shall be read, specimens exhibited, and discussion invited.

V. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the B. O. C. shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and distributed gratis to every Member *who has paid his subscription.* Copies of this Bulletin shall be published and sold at *One Shilling* each.

VI. The affairs of this Club shall be managed by a Committee, to consist of the Editors of 'The Ibis,' the Editor of the 'Bulletin,' and the Secretary and Treasurer, *ex officio*; with three other Members, one of whom shall be changed every year. The Committee shall have power to make and alter Bye-laws.

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[Members are requested to keep the Secretary informed of any changes in their addresses.]

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ERRATA.

Page xlix, line 18, for "*M. batesiana*" read "*M. batesianus*."
Page cvi, note, *add* "T. P."

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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. LXV.

The sixty-fourth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 18th of October, 1899.

Chairman: P. Crowley.

Members present:—B. Alexander, E. Bidwell, J. L. Bonhote, A. F. Crossman, W. E. de Winton (*Treasurer*), Dr. F. D. Drewitt, J. Gerrard, F. H. C. Gould, E. Hartert, Major A. P. Loyd, B. W. Martin, H. Munt, E. Neale, R. Nesham, E. W. Oates, C. E. Pearson, H. J. Pearson, F. Penrose, M.D., A. D. Sapsworth, H. Saunders, H. Scherren, F. C. Selous, F. Sharman, R. Bowdler Sharpe (*Editor*), W. B. Tegetmeier, H. M. Wallis, L. W. Wiglesworth, L. A. Williams, H. F. Witherby, A. F. R. Wollaston.

Visitor: C. B. Horsbrugh.

The Chairman stated that the Committee had suggested the following as Officers of the Club for this Session, and they were elected :—

Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. W. E. de Winton, in place of Mr. H. Saunders, who resigned.

New Members of Committee: Mr. E. Bidwell, in the

place of Dr. F. Penrose, who retired by rotation; and Mr. E. Hartert, in the place of Mr. de Winton.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Vice-Chairmen: H. J. Pearson. H. Saunders.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Howard Saunders for his services as Treasurer since the foundation of the Club was proposed by Mr. E. Bidwell, seconded by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, and carried by acclamation.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild sent for exhibition a pair of *Eclectus westermanni*, Bp., and made the following remarks:—

"Dr. A. B. Meyer and Dr. Bowdler Sharpe have both expressed their opinion that *E. westermanni* is an aberration of *E. riedeli*, Meyer, produced by being kept in captivity; and consequently this idea has been generally adopted as a fact, in spite of the contrary opinion held by Count Salvadori in the 'Catalogue of Birds.'

"A few weeks ago a consignment of ten *Eclectus westermanni* arrived in London alive, of which six were males and four females, the latter sex being hitherto unknown. The discovery of the female disposes at once of the fiction that this excellent species could be an aberration of *E. riedeli*, for it has a blue collar and therefore belongs to the *E. roratus* section.

"The male differs from all the other species in being entirely green on the breast, while the others (including *E. riedeli*) have a large patch of red on the sides of breast. (Specimens of *E. roratus*, *E. pectoralis*, *E. cardinalis*, and *E. cornelia* were exhibited.)

"The female of *E. westermanni* is similar to the female of *E. pectoralis*, but differs in having a blue collar and dull purple lower breast, while *E. pectoralis* has both collar and breast of the same bright blue colour. The under tail-coverts are also of a much darker and duller red. The ring of blue round the eyes of *E. pectoralis* is also absent in *E. westermanni*. Both sexes are likewise much smaller than *E. pectoralis*."

Of the ten specimens mentioned above, Mr. Rothschild has three males and one female alive. The other six died, and a stuffed male and female were exhibited. Mr. Rothschild hoped to secure one more female, which had been mounted, but the remaining two males and one female had been destroyed.

The habitat of the species was still unknown.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild also exhibited specimens of all the species of *Pitta* belonging to the red-bellied section "*g*" of that genus in the 'Catalogue of Birds,' excepting *P. cæruleitorques*, which he did not possess. He observed :—

"Of all these forms, *Pitta rubrinucha* by its red nape, *P. kochi* by its large size, and *P. dohertyi* by its broad black pectoral collar and black ring round the neck, are the most distinct.

"The best known and the most widely distributed is probably *P. mackloti*, which inhabits nearly the whole of New Guinea, Waigiu, Salwatti, Mysol, and—according to Salvadori, Selater, and others—also the Aru Islands, Cape York, New Britain, and the Key Islands. From the latter locality Count Salvadori had no adult specimens when he wrote his great work; but I have now a fine series, and find that the species is not *P. mackloti*, but as different as many of the other forms of this group. In *Pitta kuehni*—as I propose to name the form inhabiting the Key Islands and Koer—the blue of the chest extends over the sides of the chest and breast (where there is a green patch in *P. mackloti*) and is continued in a narrow blue ring round the upper back. The feathers on the sides of the chest appear to be somewhat more elongated than in *P. mackloti*. Adult birds have some blue on the crown—a character which is rather rare in *P. mackloti*.

"*Pitta finschi*, described by Ramsay from the Astrolabe Range, is the *Pitta* of the D'Entrecasteaux Islands; and Elliot is quite wrong in placing *P. finschi* as a synonym of *P. cyanonota* from Ternate. The latter has the head reddish

brown, the throat pale brown, while *P. finschi* is rightly described by Ramsay as having the head dark reddish chocolate-brown and the throat black, and the measurements are much larger. The locality 'Astrolabe Range' is probably wrong.

"*P. loriæ*, Salvad., is another form which has hitherto been very little known. It differs from *P. mackloti* in its uniform dark-brown head, nape, and hind-neck. It occurs near Milne Bay, S.E. New Guinea, where it seems to replace the common *P. mackloti*. The green-backed females of his *P. finschi* mentioned by Ramsay, and considered by Finsch to belong to *P. mackloti*, were most likely specimens of *P. loriæ*.

"*Pitta novæ-hibernicæ* from New Hanover and New Ireland has been wrongly confused with *P. mackloti*.

"*P. palliceps* is certainly very closely allied to *P. celebensis*, and the distinctness of *P. propinqua* from *P. erythrogastra* is very doubtful."

Mr. Rothschild also sent for exhibition a specimen of an Oyster-catcher, which he proposed to call :—

"Hæmatopus reischeki, sp. n.

"♂ *ad.* Differs from *H. longirostris*, Vieill., and *H. finschi*, Martens, at first sight in having the lower back and rump black and not white, and the upper tail-coverts being mixed black and white, not white. The bill is much longer than in a series of twenty-three specimens of *H. longirostris* in the Tring Museum, and appears stouter than in New Zealand specimens.

"Culmen 102 mm., wing 270, tarsus 60.

"*H. longirostris*, ♂ *ad.* Culmen 75–85 mm., wing 245–255, tarsus 55.

"The type was shot in June 1885 at Kaiparu, New Zealand, by A. Reischek.

"*H. finschi* of Martens (Orn. Monatsb. 1897, p. 190) appears from the description to agree with two birds collected by Baron von Hügel at Freshwater Creek, Canterbury, New Zealand, and another from Kaipoi, Canterbury. These birds,

however, vary among themselves in the amount of white on the quills, which is the distinction given by Herr Martens; and this variation in the amount of white leads me to consider that his *H. finschi* and the three birds from Baron von Hügel are only aberrations of *H. longirostris*."

Mr. Ernst Hartert recorded the occurrence of a specimen of *Grallina picata* on the little island of Koer in the Key group.

Mr. Hartert also exhibited the types of three new birds collected near Gambaga, Gold Coast Hinterland, which he named and characterized as follows:—

Cossypha giffardi, sp. n.

Similar to *C. albicapilla* from Senegambia, but differing in having much narrower white tips to the feathers of the crown and occiput, so that these parts do not appear white, but black with white crescentic bars. Wings and tail longer than in *C. albicapilla*. Wing 135–137 mm., tail 145–148. Sexes alike. This form is probably a representative of *C. albicapilla*.

Heliocorys modesta giffardi, sp. n.

Closely allied to *H. modesta*, of which it is evidently only a sub-species, but differs in being altogether paler and more sandy in coloration; the breast is less heavily spotted with black, the underside paler, the wing 2 or 3 mm. shorter.

Bessonornis (? Cossypha) gambagæ, sp. n.

Very similar to *Bessonornis modesta*, Shelley, from Nyasaland, but differing in its rusty rufous flanks and under tail-coverts. The lateral rectrices have not a complete bar across the tips, but only an elongate blackish mark on the outer webs and a small blackish spot on the inner web of the outermost rectrix. The wing-quills and larger wing-coverts have pale rusty-brown edges, and the upper surface is paler. Wing and tail 3 or 4 mm. shorter.

Mr. C. B. Horsbrugh exhibited a series of photographs of nests and eggs taken on the Smölen Islands and in the

Sundal Valley in Northern Norway. An interesting series of the nests of *Fringilla montifringilla* and *F. cælebs* from the latter locality was also shown.

Mr. Scherren exhibited photographs of a young Cuckoo taken at two separate stages of its work of ejecting a young Titlark from a nest. Though the fact of such ejection has been well established, the photographs were of considerable interest as supplying incontrovertible evidence on the subject. The nest was found and watched by Mr. John Craig, a Scotch amateur naturalist, and the photographs were kindly sent by Mr. Peat Millar, of Beith, N.B., for exhibition.

On the proposition of Mr. H. J. Pearson it was unanimously agreed that a "lantern" evening should be held at the meeting in January next.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe read a letter from Dr. J. von Madarász and exhibited a specimen of the Pale Swift, *Apus murinus* (Brehm), which he had shot near Fiume. The specimen was decidedly small, as were all those procured by Dr. von Madarász, but Dr. Sharpe stated that similar small individuals were to be noted from Spain and other portions of the bird's range.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe exhibited some interesting specimens of birds obtained by Colonel Henry P. Northcott at Gambaga and in the Hinterland of the Gold Coast. The following was a list of the species met with by Colonel Northcott, and a reference is given to the page of Prof. Reichenow's well-known paper on the adjoining country of Togo-Land ("Zur Vogelfauna von Togo," J. f. O. 1897, pp. 1–57) :—

From Gambaga :

1. *Turtur semitorquatus* (p. 6) ; 2. *Francolinus albigularis* ; 3. *Ptilopachys fuscus* (p. 9) ; 4. *Pæocephalus versteri* (p. 13) ; 5. *Musophaga violacea* (p. 13) ; 6. *Schizorhis africanus* (p. 14) ; 7. *Centropus senegalensis* (p. 14) ; 8. *Pogonorhynchus*

dubius (p. 17); 9. *Campothera punctata* (p. 18); 10. *Mesopicus goertan* (p. 18); 11. *Halcyon chelicuti* (p. 21); 12. *Halcyon forbesi* (p. 21); 13. *Macrodipteryx macrodipterus* (p. 24); 14. *Irrisor senegalensis* (p. 24); 15. *Melænornis edoloides*; 16. *Elminia longicauda* (p. 27); 17. *Terpsiphone cristata* (*T. viridis*, p. 27); 18. *Prionops plumatus* (p. 30); 19. *Dryoscopus gambensis* (p. 31); 20. *Laniarius poliocephalus* (p. 32); 21. *Telephonus senegalus* (p. 32); 22. *Lanius gubernator*; 23. *Corvinella corvina* (p. 34); 24. *Buchanga assimilis*; 25. *Oriolus auratus* (p. 35); 26. *Lamprocolius purpureus* (p. 35); 27. *Pholidauges leucogaster* (p. 36); 28. *Sitagra brachyptera* (p. 36); 29. *Hyphantornis cucullatus* (p. 37); 30. *Pytelia hypogrammica*; 31. *Estrilda phœnicotis* (*E. bengala*, p. 39); 32. *Pyromelana flammiceps* (p. 40); 33. *Petronia dentata*; 34. *Sevinus icterus* (*S. butyraceus*, p. 41); 35. *Pycnonotus barbatus* (p. 43); 36. *Cinnyris senegalensis* (p. 46); 37. *Parus leucopterus* (p. 47); 38. *Crateropus reinwardti* (p. 48, Taf. ii. fig. 2).

At Walembele, Colonel Northeott obtained *Palæornis docilis* and *Melittophagus pusillus*.

One of the most remarkable speeies exhibited was *Lanius gubernator*, Hartl. J. f. O. 1882, p. 323, Taf. i. fig. 2, whieh was previously known only from Equatorial Afriea.

Mr. J. L. Bonhote exhibited a series of adult skins of the Red-throated Diver (*Colymbus septentrioualis*) showing the various stages of the moult, and pointing out that the speeies had a distinet autumn dress before the moult, whieh was assumed by a regular abrasion during the latter end of the breeding-season. From the immature speeimens Mr. Bonhote pointed out that they moulted straight into their adult dress, probably during their seeond winter.

Mr. Bonhote also exhibited two speeimens in moult of the Great Northern Diver (*Colymbus glacialis*), showing that in this speeies the new feathers which grow at the autumn moult are at first greyish, and assume immediately, by change of eolour, the eharaeteristie dark baekground with white spots.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 22nd of November, 1899, at 8.30, at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street; the dinner at 7 P.M.

(Signed)

PHILIP CROWLEY, *Chairman.* R. BOWDLER SHARPE, *Editor.* W. E. DE WINTON, *Sec. & Treas.*

[N.B.—The Editor would be much obliged if his brother ornithologists who have papers to read or specimens to exhibit at any meeting of the Club would kindly give him notice of the same a few days before the meeting, in order that the communications may appear on the Chairman's "Agenda." *This is the second time of asking.*—R. B. S.]

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. LXVI.

The sixty-fifth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 22nd of November, 1899.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present:—Boyd Alexander, E. Bidwell, A. F. Crossman, F. Curtis, F. D. Drewitt, M.D., E. F. Fenwick, F. H. Carruthers Gould, W. R. Ogilvie Grant, E. Hartert, E. Neale, R. Nesham, Eugene W. Oates, H. J. Pearson, F. Penrose, M.D., T. Digby Pigott, C.B., Robert H. Read, A. D. Sapsworth, Howard Saunders, R. Bowdler Sharpe (*Editor*), H. Scherren, W. L. Sclater, E. Cavendish Taylor, W. B. Tegetmeier, N. F. Ticehurst, C. Whymper, L. A. Williams, W. E. de Winton (*Sec. & Treasurer*), H. F. Witherby, J. Young.

Visitors: C. E. Fagan, T. S. Tait, Hon. E. H. Wittenoom.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe handed round to the Meeting facsimiles of two letters in Gilbert White's handwriting, one addressed to Thomas Pennant and the other to the Hon. Daines Barrington.

The Chairman then gave his Annual Address to the Club:—

Brother Members of the B. O. C.,—I thank you for the honour you have done me by electing me Chairman for the

Eighth Session of this Club, and wish to express my regret at not having been able to attend the first Meeting. I will, however, take the opportunity now afforded me by being occupant of the Chair for the first time this session to offer you a few remarks on ornithological progress during the past twelve months. I will speak first of some of the chief publications that have been issued since our last Meeting, of those that are being planned or are in course of process of publication, and lastly of some of the expeditions to foreign countries that have attained or are likely to attain good ornithological results.

First, as regards publications, I consider that one of the most important of those that have appeared during the past year is Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's 'Hand-list of Birds,' the plan of which was announced to you some time since (see Bull. vol. viii. p. xxiv), and the first volume of which has lately been issued. When finished, there can be no doubt that the new 'Hand-list' will be of the greatest convenience to working ornithologists. Besides giving an index to the twenty-seven volumes of the great 'Catalogue of Birds,' it will contain references to all the additional species described during the progress of that work, and so form a complete guide-book to all species of birds described up to the time of its issue. It will, in fact, do for Birds what Dr. Trouessart, in his lately-issued 'Catalogus Mammalium,' has attempted to do for the Mammals. All that we could have wished, in fact, is that we should not have to wait two more years for its completion; but this delay is, of course, unavoidable.

Another recent event of much ornithological importance is the issue of the final number of the second edition of Mr. Saunders's 'Manual of British Birds.' There can be no greater proof of the increased attention now paid to the study of birds in this country than the great popularity of this excellent 'Manual,' and, we may likewise add, of several other recent works on British ornithology.

A third work, issued this year, which I must not fail to mention, is Mr. Evans's volume upon "Birds" in the series of the 'Cambridge Natural History.' As has been already

observed, Mr. Evans's work contains a "concentrated essence of information" on birds which will be most useful as a book of reference to all students of our favourite science.

I should also like to congratulate Messrs. Wilson and Evans on the completion of their 'Aves Hawaiienses,' which we have long been looking forward to. The strange avifauna of this isolated group of islands was specially worthy of a monograph.

Of equal importance in geographical ornithology are the two admirable quarto volumes, published by Dr. A. B. Meyer and Mr. L. A. Wiglesworth, on the 'Birds of Celebes,' which have reached us since the commencement of our last Session. As doubtful territory between the Oriental and Australian Regions, Celebes is a locality of special importance in the study of zoo-geography, and well worthy of the elaborate care and attention that these authors have devoted to it.

I may also venture to allude to the recent completion of Mr. Oates's handy little volumes on the 'Game-Birds of India,' by the issue of the second part, and to the good progress made by our Editor with Seebohm's 'Monograph of the Thrushes,' the seventh part of which has lately appeared.

Now, turning to the forthcoming works actually in progress, I may mention that our brother member, Dr. A. C. Stark, has nearly passed through the press the first of four volumes on the 'Birds of South Africa,' which will form a part of Mr. W. L. Sclater's series on the fauna of that portion of the Ethiopian Region. Both Mr. Layard's original volume and Dr. Sharpe's new edition of it are, I believe, long since out of print, and it is highly desirable that a new and revised account of the birds of that country, which is now, and is likely to remain, of such interest to us, should be prepared. I believe I may truly say that Dr. Stark is well qualified, from long personal experience with the avifauna in question, to prepare such a work.

Mr. Rothschild's illustrated monograph on the Cassowaries is now also in a forward state, and will shortly be published in the Zoological Society's 'Transactions.' It

will be of great importance as comprising all the available information respecting this little-known and most interesting group of birds, to which the author has devoted particular care and attention. I am also pleased to be able to say that the Trustees of the British Museum have authorized Mr. E. W. Oates to proceed with the printing of his Catalogue of their unrivalled collection of Birds'-eggs, and that the first volume of it will shortly be ready.

As regards the expeditions to foreign countries which have led, or are likely to lead, to good ornithological results, I wish to call special attention to Mr. Boyd Alexander's journey up the Zambesi, which has led to most interesting additions to our knowledge of the avifauna of the district traversed by him. The first portion of Mr. Alexander's account of his collection has already appeared in 'The Ibis,' and the second and final portions will be given in the succeeding numbers of our Journal. Of hardly less importance are the recent contributions of Messrs. Rickett, Styan, and La Touche to the avifauna of the Chinese province of Fohkien, which are now in process of publication in the same periodical. They show how much there is still to be done in the little-known hill-regions of China, when the latter can be safely penetrated by European naturalists.

The expedition made by Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant and Dr. H. O. Forbes to Sokotra and the previously unvisited island of Ab-del-Kuri has resulted in a large increase in our knowledge of the zoology and botany of these localities, where seven new species of birds were discovered. A full account of the collections made, with many coloured plates of the new species, will be shortly issued by the Committee of the Liverpool Museum.

Another imperfectly-known district, which has lately been very successfully traversed, is the interior of the British Protectorate of Aden, into which Messrs. A. Blayney Percival and W. Dodson have lately made an expedition. This has unfortunately cost the life of Mr. Dodson (a most promising collector, and the younger brother of Mr. E. Dodson, the naturalist who accompanied Dr. Donaldson

Smith on his expedition to Lake Rudolph), who, I regret to say, died at Aden on the 20th of October last, after the return of the expedition. The collection of birds, which is in the hands of Mr. Ogilvie Grant, has only just arrived and has not yet been fully examined. There are few new species represented in it, but there are certainly many of considerable interest. Mr. J. S. Budgett has lately returned from a successful visit to our colony on the River Gambia. He also has made a collection of birds, which have not yet been examined, but will certainly prove to be of considerable value. Nor must be omitted mention of the second expedition to Lake Tanganyika, now being conducted by Mr. J. E. S. Moore. Mr. Moore will devote himself principally, of course, to the aquatic products of the Lake, but two of his companions, Mr. Berridge and Mr. Mathews, are ardent ornithologists, and will pay special attention to our branch of natural history. Except from some of the German explorers, we have, as yet, but little information concerning the bird-life of the Tanganyika district, especially of the country northward of it, which Mr. Moore's expedition is planned to pass through on its return journey. Mr. F. J. Jackson, C.B., may have little time for ornithology, owing to his official duties in Uganda; but that he is still able to devote a little leisure to his favourite study is shown by the excellent series of papers now appearing in 'The Ibis.'

This Meeting will presently have before it the descriptions of several new species of birds by Mr. H. Weld Blundell and Lord Lovat, discovered during their late adventurous journey through Southern Abyssinia to Khartum. The travellers landed at Berbera in December 1898, traversed Shoa, Southern Abyssinia, and the North Galla country, struck the Blue Nile, which they followed as far as Roseires, whence they proceeded by steamer to Khartum, and thence by train to Cairo, which was reached in May 1899. Their bird-collection contains 520 specimens representing 299 species, of which 11 are new; examples of many of the species described by Rüppell, and known only by the types

in the Frankfurt Museum, are also among the number. A special point of interest in this collection is the number of birds previously only known from Eastern and Equatorial Africa which have now been found in Southern Abyssinia. This extremely interesting collection is being worked out by Mr. Ogilvie Grant, and a paper on it will appear in the January 'Ibis.'

Turning now to Asia, I have to record that Major Wingate, starting from Shanghai, followed the Yang-tze-kiang as far as Lake Tung-ting, whence he took a south-westerly course along the Yuen-kiang through Hoo-nan, Kwei-chow, and Yun-nan to Bhâmo. A Chinese taxidermist accompanied him through this remarkable journey, and a fine collection of birds has been forwarded to the British Museum, where it is at present under examination. I may add that a melancholy interest attaches to the beautiful series of birds from the island of Hainan which now lies on the table—the last, and one may almost say the dying, contribution to ornithological knowledge made by that sterling English naturalist, the late John Whitehead, whose loss is sincerely mourned by myself and by all his brother ornithologists throughout the world.

On the whole, therefore, I think, gentlemen, that there is no reason that we should be at all dissatisfied with the present progress of ornithological work in the Eastern Hemisphere. As regards the New World, we may now expect renewed exertions on the part of our fellow-workers on the other side of the Atlantic. They have, I think I may say, fairly exploited the northern portion of their continent, and have for some time been extending their energies over Mexico and Central America. In the Antilles they have long been at work, and some fine series of birds from the Neotropical Region have been accumulated by American naturalists. Let us wish them every sort of success in their efforts, as in these days it is more than ever important that the great Anglo-Saxon community should unite together in every branch of work. But at the same time let us here neglect no opportunity of extending our own knowledge of

Birds in the New as well as in the Old World. Even as I write I hear of some important collections lately arrived in this country, which show a renewed interest in Neotropical ornithology.

Dr. Sharpe exhibited, on behalf of Mr. R. J. Ussher, a specimen of the Larger Snow-Goose (*Chen nivalis*), which had been shot near Belmullet in Co. Mayo. It belonged to the collection of the well-known Irish naturalist, Mr. H. Blake-Knox.

Mr. Howard Saunders exhibited a specimen of a Sociable Plover (*Chætusia gregaria*), which had been sent to him for inspection by Mr. E. Williams, of Dublin. The bird in question had been shot near Navan in Co. Meath on the 1st of August, 1899, and constituted the second occurrence of the species within the area of the British Islands.

Mr. Ernst Hartert exhibited a new species of Humming-bird, which he described as follows:—

Agyrtria tenebrosa, sp. n.

Upper surface green; hind-neck and upper back with a steel-blue gloss; crown of head violet-blue, greenish on the forehead; longer upper tail-coverts grecnish bronze. Rectrices deep steel-blue, almost black, the middle pair with a faint bronzy gloss. Under surface of body glittering green, the feathers of the chin and throat white before the metallic-green tips, those of the abdomen blackish before the green tips. Under tail-coverts dark bronzy-green. Feathers on the tibia and metatarsus as well as tufts of fluffy feathers on the sides of the belly dusky with whitish tips. Bill black, the lower mandible flesh-colour (in skin), with the apical third black. Wing 57–58, tail 38, central rectrices 31, bill 21 mm.

Two specimens found in Bogotá collections: the type in Mr. Rothschild's Museum; another in Mr. Dunstall's collection.

Obs. In general coloration this species is very much like *Saucerottea cyanifrons* (Bourc.), but its elongated and slightly-curved bill, somewhat longer and narrower rectrices, and other characters seem to place it in the genus *Agyrtria* as at present accepted.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild sent for exhibition specimens of a new form of Lory, which he described as follows:—

"Eos variegata obiensis, subsp. nov.

"Adult examples of this species from Obi Major differ from adult specimens from Batjan, Halmahéra, and Ternate in the absence of the purple occiput and purple collar round the neck, and in having all the greater wing-coverts and scapulars black. Other, probably younger, individuals from Obi Major exhibit a wide collar and a purple patch on the occiput, the latter, however, not being connected with the collar in any of my specimens. These individuals can only be distinguished from typical *E. variegata* by the greater extent of the black colour on the wings. I have eight examples from Obi, collected by Doherty, Lucas, and Guillemard, and a good series from Ternate and Batjan.

With regard to the specific name of this Lory, I think there can be no doubt that *Psittacus variegatus*, Gm., ex Latham ("Variegated Lory"), must be accepted. The tail and scapulars are, as in *Eos bornea* (=*E. rubra*, auct.), sometimes distinctly greenish, at least in specimens kept in captivity; therefore Latham's description must be regarded as sufficiently exact to refer to this bird."

Mr. Rothschild further sent for exhibition an interesting series of *Scolopax saturata* from New Guinea and a specimen of *Neoscolopax rochusseni* from Obi Major. Of the latter species only two specimens were hitherto on record, one in the British Museum and the type specimen in Leiden.

Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier exhibited some very interesting specimens of Pheasants. One was a specimen of a Kalij

Pheasant said to have been shot in Hertfordshire, and belonging to Mr. Cecil Braithwaite. The second was a very dark-coloured hen bird, supposed to be a hybrid between a Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*) and a female *Phasianus colchicus*. Mr. Tegetmeier regarded it as a dark variety of an ordinary hen Pheasant.

Mr. Boyd Alexander described a new species of *Chlorodyta* from the Zambesi River as follows:—

Chlorodyta neglecta, sp. n.

Similis *C. flavidæ* ex terrâ Damarensi, sed uropygio et interscapulio concoloribus, genis guttureque toto et subalaribus albis, minimè flavis, subcaudalibus albis, nec flavis, et tibiis grisescenti-albis, distinguenda.

Hab. S.E. Africa to Mozambique.

Mr. J. I. S. Whitaker sent the description of a new species of Chat in the British Museum collection. The bird had been wrongly identified as *S. mœsta*, Licht. He therefore proposed to call it

"Saxicola cummingi, sp. n.

"*Adult*. Closely allied to *S. xanthoprymna*, H. & E., but distinguished by having the basal part of the tail-feathers rusty red like the upper tail-coverts, instead of white. From *S. mœsta* to be at once distinguished by having the top of the head and nape brownish grey like the back, the rump and upper tail-coverts rusty and the rufous on the outer tail-feathers extending to within 0·7 inch of the extremity. Total length 6·5 inches, culmen 0·78, wing 3·7, tail 2·45, tarsus 0·95.

"*Hab.* Fao, Persian Gulf (*W. D. Cumming*)."

Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant exhibited some of the more interesting birds obtained by Major Wingate during his recent expedition from the Yang-tze-kiang through Southern China to Bhâmo. One of the most striking of these was a fine adult pair of *Merganser squamatus* (Gould), previously known only from an immature male described in 1864.

Mr. Grant also exhibited and made remarks on some of the more remarkable new birds obtained by the late Mr. John Whitehead on the Five-finger Mountains in the interior of Hainan. Most of these, such as the splendid Silver Pheasant (*Gennæus whiteheadi*) and the new Night-Heron (*Nycticorax magnifica*), had already been described in the October number of 'The Ibis' for this year (pp. 584–587), but in that paper the description of a fine new species of *Urocissa* had been omitted. Mr. Grant now proposed to describe it as

Urocissa whiteheadi, sp. n.

Adult male and female. Head, back, fore-neck, and chest dark earthy brown, darkest on the ear-coverts, and shading into grey on the sides and flanks, and into yellowish buff on the middle of the breast, belly, and under tail-coverts; feathers of the crown rounded at the extremity and edged with whitish brown; rump greyish brown; upper tail-coverts black tipped with white; wings black, except the lesser and median wing-coverts, which are white, save at the base; tips of the primary-quills, margins of terminal half of outer webs of secondaries, and the tips of the greater wing-coverts pure white; middle tail-feathers grey, widely tipped with white, and with a sub-terminal black band, the outer feathers similarly marked, but with the white tips increasing in size and shaded with yellow; axillaries and under wing-coverts clear yellowish white. Iris straw-colour; bill red, shading into brownish yellow at the base; feet dark brown. Total length about 18·0 inches, culmen 1·9, wing 8·2, tail 9·4, tarsus 1·95.

Hab. Five-finger Mountains, interior of Hainan.

Mr. Grant further described a new species of Thick-knee from Southern Arabia, obtained during the recent expedition undertaken by Mr. A. Blayney Percival and the late Mr. W. Dodson:—

Œdicnemus dodsoni, sp. n.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *Œ. affinis* (Rüpp.), but with the ground-colour of the interscapular region largely mixed with greyish buff, while the deep black markings so conspicuous in the latter species are reduced to shaft-stripes. The greater and median wing-coverts are altogether greyer, the chest and breast more heavily streaked with brownish black, and the middle pair of tail-feathers as well as the outer webs of the two following pairs are mostly grey with indistinct blackish vermiculations and cross-bars. Iris lemon-yellow; bill lemon-yellow, black at the tip; legs lemon-yellow. Total length about 14·5 inches, culmen from feathers on forehead to tip 1·4, wing 8·6, tail 4·9, tarsus 3·4.

Hab. Lahej, S. Arabia.

Mr. Grant further exhibited the types of the 11 new species discovered by Mr. H. Weld Blundell and Lord Lovat during their recent expedition through Southern Abyssinia.

Mr. Blundell and Lord Lovat described the new species as follows:—

1. Oriolus meneliki, sp. n.

Adult. Most nearly allied to *O. monachus*, Gm., from which it may be at once distinguished by having the bill jet-black; the secondary wing-coverts and outer row of median coverts margined with yellow; and the third, fourth, and fifth pairs of tail-feathers with a strongly marked black sub-terminal band. "Iris brown; bill black; legs slate." Total length about 10·0 inches, culmen 1·1, wing 5·6, tail 4·0, tarsus 0·95.

Hab. Burka, Abyssinia: 6th January, 1899.

2. Lusciniola abyssinica, sp. n.

Adult male. Allied to *L. thoracica* (Blyth) and *L. mandellii* (Brooks), but having the upper parts of a darker and richer brown tinged with red on the lower back and rump; the *buff-coloured* chest is separated from the white of the throat by a fairly well-marked band of blackish spots; the sides of the body and flanks are dull rusty brown, and the under tail-coverts uniform dull rust-colour. First primary two-thirds

the length of the second, which is about equal to the tenth; fourth, fifth, and sixth sub-equal and longest. Iris brown; upper mandible and extremity of lower blackish horn, rest of under mandible whitish; legs light horn-colour. Total length about 6·0 inches, culmen 0·65, wing 2·1, tail 2·4, tarsus 0·8.

Hab. Chercher, Abyssinia: 12th January, 1899.

3. Orthotomus major, sp. n.

Adult male. Allied to *O. erythropterus* (Jardine), but much larger; the bill is light horn-colour instead of black, the forehead and top of the head vinous red, while the chest and rest of the underparts are much paler, being white, washed with very pale cinnamon, especially on the belly, thighs, and under tail-coverts. Iris light hazel; bill and legs light horn-colour. Total length about 6·4 inches, culmen 0·8, wing 2·5, tail 2 7, tarsus 0·92.

Hab. Getemma, Abyssinia: 14th March, 1899.

4. Psalidoprocne blanfordi, sp. n.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *P. pristoptera* (Rüpp.), but the whole of the upper parts black, glossed with dark green; the underparts darker than the upper surface, and with less green gloss. Iris brown; bill and legs black. Total length about 6·0 inches, exposed part of culmen 0·2, wing 4·3, tail 3·1, tarsus 0·45.

Hab. Bilo, Abyssinia: 4th March, 1899.

5. Sporæginthus margaritæ, sp. n.

Adult male. General colour above, including the top of the head, dull earthy brown; rump and upper tail-coverts dull crimson; lores, sides of the face, and ear-coverts brownish cinnamon; rest of underparts pale cinnamon-buff, inclining to brownish on the sides of the body; tips of the flank-feathers pink; under tail-coverts white; rectrices brownish black, the two outer pairs inclining to whitish on the outer margin and towards the tip. Iris brown; bill red; legs dark brown. Total length about 4·5 inches, culmen 0·4, wing 1·85, tail 1·8, tarsus 0·55.

Hab. Gelongol, Abyssinia: 13th March, 1899.

6. Melanobucco leucogenys, sp. n.

Male (not quite adult). Allied to *M. undatus* (Rüpp.), but easily distinguished by having the hinder parts of the cheeks and sides of the neck pure white; the middle of the throat white, tinged with yellow, some of the feathers being tipped with scarlet, and the outer margins of the quills and rectrices, as well as the tips of the upper tail-coverts, golden yellow, instead of pale whitish yellow (Naples yellow). Iris pale yellow; bill and legs black. Total length about 5·8 inches, culmen 0·75, wing 3·1, tail 1·9, tarsus 0·7.

Hab. Konduro, Abyssinia: 25th March, 1899.

7. Barbatula xanthosticta, sp. n.

Adult male and female. Most nearly allied to *B. extoni* (Layard) from South-east Africa, but distinguished by having the white middles to all the feathers of the interscapular region and back tipped with golden yellow. Iris brown; bill and legs black. Total length about 4·0 inches, culmen 0·54, wing 2·35, tail 1·25, tarsus 0·55.

Hab. Chellia, Abyssinia: 8th March, 1899.

8. Caprimulgus stellatus, sp. n.

A very distinct species, perhaps most nearly allied *C. griseatus*, Gray.

Adult male. General colour of upper parts earthy brown, with very fine vermiculations of black and greyish, most distinct on the head and neck; each feather of the crown and scapulars ornamented near the extremity of the shaft with a star-shaped black spot margined externally with buff, the external buff markings being especially conspicuous on the scapulars; the wing-coverts and innermost secondaries similarly ornamented with buff, edged internally with black; the markings on the rectrices very similar to those of *C. griseatus*, but the white markings on the four outer primaries much narrower and the red bars on the inner quills much wider and more distinct; underparts very similar to those of *C. griseatus*, but the chest and breast darker and more uniform; two outer pairs of tail-feathers black, irregularly barred with rufous and with only the terminal part

(·08 inch) of both webs pure white. Iris brown; bill black; legs brown. Total length about 10·0 inches, exposed part of culmen 0·45, wing 6·1, tail 4·3, tarsus 0·72.

Hab. River Kassim, Abyssinia: 18th January, 1899.

9. Myrmecocichla dubia, sp. n.

Adult. Allied to *M. melanura* (Temm.), but larger, and with the under tail-coverts brownish-black, edged with sandy buff instead of white, and the under wing-coverts dusky instead of whitish. Iris brown; bill and legs black. Total length about 6·5 inches, culmen (imperfect) about 0·7, wing 3·15, tail 2·5, tarsus 0·9.

Hab. Fontaly, Abyssinia: 17th January, 1899.

10. Francolinus tetraoninus, sp. n.

Adult female. Most nearly allied to *F. schuetti*, Cab., but distinguished by having the dark middles to the feathers of the nape, interscapular region, and wing-coverts but faintly indicated and the chest and breast nearly uniform greyish brown. Iris brown; bill dull orange-red; legs and feet orange-red. Total length 12·5 inches, culmen 1·05, wing 6 5, tail 2·65, tarsus 1·65.

Hab. Mendic, Abyssinia: 18th April, 1899.

11. Francolinus harwoodi, sp. n.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *F. natalensis*, Smith, and *F. icterorhynchus*, Heugl. From the former it may be distinguished by having the feathers of the occiput and back of the neck black, narrowly margined with white, producing a strongly squamated appearance; the chest, upper part of the breast, and sides of the body greyish brown, ornamented with narrow concentric black and white bands; the breast, belly, and rest of the underparts pale ochraceous, with a few subconcentric black markings. It resembles *F. icterorhynchus* in having the upper parts indistinctly barred with pale greyish brown, the inner webs of the primary-quills mottled with pale rufous, and the ground-colour of the breast and belly pale ochraceous. Iris brown; bill, naked skin round eye, and

legs red. Total length about 14·5 inches, culmen 1·15, wing 7·1, tail 3·3, tarsus 2·1.

Hab. Aheafeg, Abyssinia : 7th February, 1899.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, December 13th, 1899, at 8.30 P.M., at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street; the Dinner at 7 o'clock.

(Signed)

P. L. SCLATER, *Chairman.* R. BOWDLER SHARPE, *Editor.* W. E. DE WINTON, *Sec. & Treas.*

NOTICE.

THE Meeting in *January* will be held on the 17th. On this occasion it is proposed to hold an exhibition of lantern-slides, portraying various episodes in Bird-life, especially photographs of nests and eggs taken by Members of the Club. The Editor therefore earnestly requests that all Members who have photographs of nests *in situ*, or other objects of ornithological interest for exhibition, will show them by means of the lantern on the 17th of January. The Editor will be glad to receive, as early as possible in January, a list of the slides proposed to be shown by any Member on this occasion.—*R. B. S.*

The Secretary and Treasurer wishes to call the attention of the Members to the necessity of returning the cards signifying their intention to *dine* at the Frascati Restaurant, at least *three* days before any meeting of the Club takes place. At the last meeting *eleven* Members only gave notice to the Secretary of their wish to come to the dinner, while more Members turned up at the last moment, for whom provision had to be made. Attention to the rule that Members who intend to dine should notify the Secretary of the fact, will much oblige him and save a great deal of trouble.—*W. E. de W.*

MUSEUM

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. LXVII.

The sixty-sixth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Fraseati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 13th of December, 1899.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. Bidwell, J. L. Bonhote, Abel Chapman, A. F. Crossman, Philip Crowley, F. H. Carruthers Gould, W. R. Ogilvie Grant, E. Hartert, C. J. Hose, J. Graham Kerr, G. E. Lodge, P. H. Munn, R. Nesham, H. J. Pearson, E. Lort Phillips, Hon. Walter Rothschild, M.P., R. Bowdler Sharpe (*Editor*), E. Cavendish Taylor, N. F. Ticehurst, H. M. Wallis, Johnson Wilkinson, L. A. Williams, L. W. Wiglesworth, W. E. de Winton (*Sec. & Treas.*), H. F. Witherby.

Visitors: J. C. Chapman, C. E. Fagan, E. Moberley, Theed Pearse, Henry Stevens.

The Chairman referred in feeling terms to the loss which ornithological science had sustained by the death of Dr. A. C. Stark, who had been killed by a shell during the recent fighting at Ladysmith in Natal, whither he had repaired to render medical aid to the wounded soldiers.

A vote of condolence to the relatives of the deceased naturalist was unanimously passed by the Meeting.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe also alluded to the untimely death of Colonel Henry P. Northcott, during the first battle on the Modder River. A list of the birds obtained by the deceased officer in the hinterland of the Gold Coast had recently appeared in the 'Bulletin' (*anteà*, pp. vi, vii).

The Hon. Walter Rothschild, M.P., exhibited a pair of the rare *Eupetes geislerorum*, A. B. Meyer.

This species had been described from German New Guinea by Dr. Meyer, and had not before been seen in any English collection, having hitherto been known only from the types in the Dresden Museum. The species was remarkable for the different colour of the sexes; and examples collected by Mr. A. S. Meek at Collingwood Bay, in the northern portion of British New Guinea, were laid on the table.

Mr. E. Hartert described a new species of Weaver-Finch from Equatorial Africa as follows:—

Pytelia ansorgei, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Upper surface yellowish olive, rather greener on the wings; head black; quills blackish, externally olive-green; tail-feathers black, the outer ones rather more greyish black, the central feathers edged with green towards the base; breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts dark grey, the sides of the chest yellowish olive; under wing-coverts and inner margins of quills white.

Hab. Wemo River, Toru, Uganda Protectorate (*Dr. Ansorge*).

Obs. The nearest ally is apparently *Pytelia sharpei*, but the black head and other differences in the plumage easily distinguish this new species.

Mr. Hartert also pointed out that, although Dr. Bowdler Sharpe was undoubtedly right in recognizing three forms of small *Melittophagi* in Africa, in contrast to the opinion of Mr. Dresser with respect to *M. pusillus* and its allies, there could be no doubt that the former author had misapplied the

name of *M. cyanostictus*, Cab., in the 'Catalogue of Birds.' The bird called *M. meridionalis* by Dr. Sharpe was in truth the true *M. cyanostictus* of Cabanis, as Mr. Hartert had ascertained from a careful comparison of the original description and from a personal examination of the type in the Berlin Museum. He therefore proposed for the East African bird, *M. cyanostictus*, Sharpe et auct. (nec Cabanis), the amended name of

Melittophagus sharpei.

Further notes on these species of Bee-eater would be published in an early part of the 'Novitates Zoologicæ.'

Mr. F. D. Godman forwarded the descriptions of two apparently new species of Peruvian birds :—

Xenopipo subalaris, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Similis *X. atronitenti*, sed subalaribus et axillaribus niveis distinguenda. Long. tot. 4·9 poll., culm. 0·5, alæ 3·0, caudæ 1·95, tarsi 0·6.

♀ *ad.* Similis ♀ *X. atronitentis*, sed obscurior, sordidè olivascenti-viridis, abdomine minimè flavicanti, et subalaribus niveis distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·0 poll., culm. 0·55, alæ 2·8, caudæ 1·9, tarsi 0·6.

Hab. Guayabamba, N. Peru (*O. T. Baron*).

Columba vina, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Similis *C. flavirostri*, Wagl., et *C. rufinæ*, Salvin, sed rostro ad basin flavo, ad apicem nigro : ab illo notæo pulchrè vinaceo, ab hoc pileo et gutture vinaceo distinguenda. Long. tot. 14·0 poll., culm. 0·8, alæ 8·1, caudæ 5·0, tarsi 0·95.

Hab. Vina, Huamachuco, N. Peru (*O. T. Baron*).

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe described as new the following species of African birds :—

Andropadus lætissimus, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Colore *Xenocichæ ictericæ* ex Indiâ, sed præpectore paullulum olivascenti-viridi adumbrato : subcaudalibus olivascenti-flavis, hypochondriis concoloribus, nec lætè flavis distinguendus. Long. tot. 9·0 poll., culm. 0·85, alæ 4·4, caudæ 3·8, tarsi 1·0.

Hab. Nandi, Equat. Africa (*F. J. Jackson*).

Parisoma jacksoni, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Similis *P. lugenti*, Rüpp., sed pileo brunneo, dorso concolore distinguendus. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., culm. 0·5, alæ 2·6, caudæ 2·4, tarsi 0·9.

Hab. Mt. Elgon, Equat. Africa (*F. J. Jackson*).

Obs. This specimen was referred ('Ibis,' 1892, p. 302) to *Parisoma lugens* (Rüpp.), but the rediscovery of the true *P. lugens* in Southern Abyssinia showed that the Elgon bird was a distinct species, and the describer was indebted to Mr. Ogilvie Grant for drawing his attention to the differences in the two forms.

Euprinodes hildegardæ, sp. n.

♂. Similis *E. schistaceo*, Cass., sed rectricibus externis tantùm albo marginatis, haud omninò albis, et pectore pallidè cervino distinguenda. Long. tot. 4·0 poll., culm. 0·4, alæ 1·8, caudæ 1·75, tarsi 0·6.

Hab. Athi river, Masai Land (*Dr. S. L. Hinde*).

Bubo mackinderi, sp. n.

♀ *ad.* Similis *B. capensi*, sed subtùs maculis magnis nigris triquetris notatus, hypochondriis sparsiùs nigro fasciatis, et maculis nigris triquetris notatis. Long. tot. 22·5 poll., culm. 1·8, alæ 16·4, caudæ 8·2, tarsi 3·25.

♂ *ad.* Similis fœminæ, sed minor. Long. tot. 21 poll., alæ 14·6.

Hab. Mount Kenia, E. Africa (13,000 feet).

Dr. Sharpe also exhibited a series of specimens from the New Hebrides group of islands, procured by Capt. A. M. Farquhar, of H.M.S. 'Wallaroo,' and recently presented by him to the British Museum. Many rare species, such as *Aplonis rufipennis*, Layard, were in the collection, and the following, which appeared to be new, were described :—

1. Lalage flavotincta, sp. n.

Similis *L. banksianæ*, sed pectore toto, uropygio, secundariis intimis, tectricum et rectricum apicibus pulchrè flavis. Long. tot. 6·2 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 3·0, caudæ 2·3, tarsi 0·85.

Hab. Ins. 'Espiritu Santo' dictâ.

2. Rhipidura sancta, sp. n.

Similis *R. verreauxi* ex Novâ Caledoniâ, sed pileo et facie lateralí nigricantibus, gutture et præpectore griseo-albidis, hoc sparsiùs nigro maculato distinguenda. Long. tot. 7·5 poll., culm. 0·65, alæ 3·1, caudæ 3·5, tarsi 0·9.

Hab. Ins. 'Espiritu Santo' dictâ.

3. Clytorhynchus grisescens, sp. n.

Similis *C. pachycephaloidi*, sed loris, facie laterali, gutture et præpectore grisescentibus distinguendus. Long. tot. 8·8 poll., culm. 0·95, alæ 3·4, caudæ 3·05, tarsi 0·7.

Hab. Ins. 'Espiritu Santo' dictâ.

4. Clytorhynchus vatensis, sp. n.

Similis *C. pachycephaloidi*, sed rostro longiore, loris et facie laterali fuscescentibus, minimè nigris, subcaudalibus albido marginatis distinguendus. Long. tot. 7·5 poll., culm. 1·05, alæ 3·6, caudæ 3·3, tarsi 0·9.

Hab. Ins. 'Vaté' dictâ.

5. Glyciphila notabilis, sp. n.

Staturâ *G. fasciatæ* (Forst.) ex Novâ Caledoniâ, sed gastræo pallidè cinereo, corporis latcribus cineraseentibus, brunneo striatis, distinguenda. Notæo brunneo, concolore, pileo nigricante, supercilio punctatim albo-maculato, facie laterali quoque nigricante, minutè albido punctulatâ insignis. Long. tot. 7·5 poll., culm. 1·3, alæ 3·5, caudæ 2·95, tarsi 1·2.

Hab. in ins. 'Vanua Lava' dictâ.

6. Halcyon farquhari, sp. n.

Similis *H. leucopygio*, sed uropygio ultramarino dorso concolore distinguendus: torque collari albo: pileo nigro, fasciâ superciliari supra-paroticâ ultramarinâ: gutture toto et colli latcribus albis: præpectore et gastræo reliquo aurantiaco-cinnamomcis. Long. tot. 8·2 poll., culm. 1·5, alæ 3·45, caudæ 2·3, tarsi 0·5.

Hab. Ins. 'Malikolo' et 'Espiritu Santo' dictis.

Obs. Ad sectionem Alcedinidarum '*Cyanalcyon*' dictam referendus, et forsan *Cyanalcyon farquhari* dicendus.

Mr. Sclater gave a short account of his recent journey to the Cape of Good Hope, and concluded with the following remarks on some of the birds of the Cape Peninsula:—

"In the suburbs of Capetown and in the immediate vicinity of that city, where I spent the greater part of my short stay in South Africa, birds, it must be confessed, are by no means abundant, either in species or in individuals. Although I was always on the look out for them and made short excursions into the surrounding country nearly every day, mainly for the purpose of observing them, I did not succeed in recognizing positively more than from 20 to 25 species, and of some of these I saw but very few examples.

"The commonest and most all-pervading bird in Capetown and its vicinity at the time of year when I was there (September and October, answering to our March and April) was certainly the Cape Dove (*Turtur capicola*). The somewhat harsh and grating love-call of this species could be heard at all times of the day, both in the city and suburbs, although it was not always easy to discover the exact position of the utterer. The call is something like the three syllables '*kah-kay-whoo*,' with the last note much prolonged. The bird was evidently intending to breed everywhere, like our Wood-Pigeon in the parks of London and Paris. I also occasionally saw and heard a rather smaller Dove with a much softer and quite different call, which I take to have been *Turtur senegalensis*.

"The other birds that I most frequently noticed in the gardens at Capetown were the Cape Sparrow (*Passer arcuatus*), the Cape Wagtail (*Motacilla capensis*), and the Collared Shrike (*Lanius collaris*).

"The Cape Sparrow is certainly not nearly so abundant as its British representative in London, but seems to have nearly similar habits. It was commencing to breed in the gardens, and builds nests similar to those of its European ally. The Cape Wagtail may be seen pursuing insects on the well-kept grass-plots surrounding the Parliament House, and is quite tame and familiar.

"The Collared Shrike, which I saw every day on passing through the Municipal Gardens up to the Museum, shows its pied plumage well amongst the green foliage of the trees. It is a most ferocious little villain, and if care is not taken

will enter the verandahs and kill the pet birds there suspended in their cages. Two instances of the death of canaries in this way occurred during my stay in Capetown. The Olivaceous Thrush (*Turdus olivaceus*), the 'Sprew' Starling (*Amydrus morio*), the so-called Cape 'Robin' (*Cossypha caffra*), and the Bakbakiri Bush-Shrike (*Laniarius bakbakiri*) are four other species that are occasionally seen in the gardens of the town and suburbs, but I should not call any one of them abundant. The Olivaceous Thrush picks about on the ground like our Song-Thrush, and the Bush-Shrike has somewhat similar habits, but attracts attention by a variety of sweet whistling notes and is said to have imitative faculties.

"A loquat-tree (*Photinia japonica*) with ripening fruit is the most likely place to see the Cape Bulbul (*Pycnonotus capensis*). The ridiculous claim of this bird to figure in the British List should be scouted by all sensible persons. It is a strictly local South-African species and does not range far north.

"The pretty Yellow Weaver-bird (*Sitagra capensis*) I was delighted to find busy in constructing its excessively neat hanging nests in many gardens of the city and suburbs. One small community had selected a willow-tree close to the Public Library, near the celebrated Oak-walk, for the purpose. I never failed to stop as I passed by every day to admire the sprightly and active way in which these little birds exercised their craft. In another spot the ill-advised builders had selected a bunch of papyrus-stalks in an ornamental pond for the seat of their operations. So soon as the nest was complete the weight of the structure broke the papyrus down and caused the fall of stalk and nest into the water beneath. But the indefatigable birds would take no heed of this event and only commenced their fruitless work again on an adjoining stalk.

"In a garden at Sea-point, the marine suburb of Capetown, I was much delighted, on an afternoon in September, to witness the proceedings of a small flock of Colies (believed to have been *Colius capensis*). They were creeping about in

a small tree-like shrub, and having searched it thoroughly through proceeded to another. Their curious mouse-like climbing antics and the positions assumed are known to us from captive specimens in the Regent's Park, but this was my only opportunity of witnessing their evolutions in a natural condition. As the eggs of this isolated form—one of the most distinctive Ethiopian types of bird-life—are not well known, I beg leave to exhibit some specimens of them.

"On the margin of the pond on Sea-point Common I also noticed specimens of a Pipit (*Anthus* sp. inc.) and a small Shore-Plover (*Ægialitis*), but could not be certain as to the species.

"Two ascents of the well-known and most picturesque mountain which rises to a height of some 2500 feet above Capetown introduced me to several birds which I had not seen below. The splendid *Protea*-shrubs just coming into flower were the resort of two forms of bird-life which were quite new to me *in naturâ*. These were the long-tailed *Promerops cafer*—another exclusively Ethiopian type—and the Sun-birds (*Anthobaphes* and *Cinnyris*). *Promerops* appears to have been modified specially to feed on the nectar of the Proteaceæ which are so abundant on the hills of Southern Africa, but, no doubt, also avails itself of the insects attracted to the same flowers. On Table Mountain I also observed specimens of a very fine Rock-Thrush—*Monticola explorator*, I believe—and an occasional Crow (*Corvus scapulatus*). Of the latter a single specimen appears to have taken up its abode in the garden of Groot Schuur in the society of the Rooks which Mr. Rhodes has lately imported from Europe.

"On the Cape Flats just outside Capetown the Secretary-bird (*Serpentarius secretarius*) still builds its nest every year, though I did not myself see it in this locality. A pair of young Secretary-birds now in the Museum Grounds at Capetown were obtained here in 1898, and two eggs were taken from the same nest on the 15th October this year. It is curious to mention that our familiar Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) inhabits the 'vleys' in the same district, and that the Great

Crested Grebe (*Podicipes cristatus*) is a regular breeder there.

"Finally, I may mention that enormous flocks of the Dominican Gull (*Larus dominicanus*) and the Cape Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax capensis*) frequent the harbour of Table Bay, and are accompanied by small parties of the Cape Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*). Outside the harbour the ships are likewise attended by numerous Giant Petrels (*Majaqueus æquinoctialis*) and occasional Albatrosses (*Diomedea melanophrys*)."

Mr. E. Bidwell exhibited an egg of the Great Auk (*Plautus impennis*), which had been lent to him by Mr. Henry Stevens, to whom it had that day been consigned for sale. At the moment nothing was known of its history, but particulars would shortly be forthcoming and would be contributed to the 'Ibis.' This egg was undoubtedly the handsomest example of the 'zoned' type in existence. Its discovery brought the number of known eggs of the Great Auk to 72.

Mr. E. Lort Phillips exhibited several interesting species of birds obtained during his expedition to Somali Land in the spring of 1899, among them being four examples of *Francolinus castaneicollis*, Salvad., obtained on Mt. Wagga. The egg of *Spreo superbus* was obtained during the expedition and proved to be perfectly blue, without any spots.

Mr. Charles Hose, whose reappearance, after six years' absence in Borneo, was warmly greeted by the members of the Club, exhibited some rare birds obtained by him. Among them was a specimen of *Botaurus stellaris*, hitherto unrecorded from Borneo; a pair of *Pitta cærulea* with the nestling (showing that the species was indigenous to Northern Borneo); and examples of *Baza borneensis* and *Spizaëtus alboniger*, affording an extraordinary instance of mimetic colouring in the plumage of the two species.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, January 17th, 1900, at 8.30 P.M., at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street; the Dinner at 7 o'clock.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.* W. E. de Winton, *Sec. & Treas.*

NOTICE.

Members are reminded that the feature of the next Meeting of the Club will be the exhibition of lantern-slides. The Editor and the Secretary will be glad to receive the names of Members who desire to take part in this exhibition.

At the last Meeting of the Club it was unanimously decided, on the motion of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, that on an early occasion, to be determined by the Committee, an exhibition of albinistic varieties of birds should be held. The Committee will be glad to hear from any Member who will contribute to this exhibition.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. LXVIII.

The sixty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 17th of January, 1900.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present:—Boyd Alexander, E. Bidwell, J. L. Bonhote, Abel Chapman, A. Cowie, A. F. Crossman, P. Crowley, R. A. Crowley, F. Curtis, Dr. F. D. Drewitt, J. Gerrard, W. R. Ogilvie Grant, F. H. Carruthers Gould, E. Hartert, H. Knight Horsfield, G. E. Lodge, J. G. Millais, H. C. Monro, E. Neale, R. Nesham, E. W. Oates, H. J. Pearson, F. Penrose, M.D., E. Lort Phillips, Robert H. Read, Hon. Walter Rothschild, M.P., A. D. Sapsworth, H. Saunders, H. Scherren, Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, E. Cavendish Taylor, W. B. Tegetmeier, N. F. Ticehurst, Watkin Watkins, L. W. Wiglesworth, H. F. Witherby.

Visitors: F. Althaus, B. Bristowe, J. C. Crowley, W. Doherty, C. E. Fagan, W. Goodfellow, T. A. Hauxwell, C. Kearton, R. Lodge, D. S. Meldrum, Lieut. C. E. Monro, R.N., P. Musters, H. Stevens, H. S. Venables.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe described the following species from the Mackinder expedition to Mt. Kenya:—

1. Hyphantornis camburni, sp. n.

♀. Similis *H. xanthopi*, sed minor, subtùs lætiùs flava;

supercilio flavo paùlulum conspicuo, sed rostro multo minore præcipuè distinguenda. Long. tot. 6·5 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 3·3, caudæ 2·5, tarsi 1·1.

Hab. Mt. Kenya, British East Africa.

2. Pinarochroa ernesti, sp. n.

P. similis *P. hypospodiæ*, Shelley, sed suprà suturatior: subtùs isabellino-brunnea, nec griseseens, gutture tantum cinrascente: subalaribus et axillaribus rufescentibus distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·7 poll., culm. 0·6, alæ 3·1, caudæ 1·85, tarsi 1·2.

Hab. Mt. Kenya.

3. Campothera hausburgi, sp. n.

Similis *C. tæniolæmati*, Reichen. & Neum., sed clarius viridis, et facici gastræique fasciolis tenuissimis et pallidioribus distinguenda. Long. tot. 7·0 poll., culm. 0·85, alæ 4·35, caudæ 2·55, tarsi 0·8.

Hab. Mt. Kenya.

Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant described the following new species from the Five-finger Mountains, in the interior of Hainan, collected by the late Mr. John Whitehead :—

1. Siphia hainana, sp. n.

Adult male. Allied to the male of *S. pallidipes*, Jerd., but much smaller—the blue on the upper parts darker and brighter, the forehead and superciliary stripes bright cobalt-blue, and the flanks and sides of the belly grey, slightly washed with fulvous.

Total length 5·0 inches, culmen 0·6, wing 2·65, tail 2·3, tarsus 0·65.

Adult female. Differs conspicuously from the female of *S. pallidipes*, the general colour of the head and upper parts being darker and more uniform, the upper tail-coverts and outer webs of the tail-feathers olive-brown tinged with rufous instead of chestnut, and the colour of the throat, fore-neck, and chest pale rust-colour instead of deep orange-rust.

Total length 5·0 inches, culmen 0·6, wing 2·6, tail 2·15, tarsus 0·65.

2. Harpactes hainanus, sp. n.

Adult male. Differs from the male of *H. erythrocephalus*, Gould, in having the head and nape uniform dull purplish crimson and the upper parts much browner, especially the mantle and upper back; the lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts only being washed with chestnut, the lower part of the chest next the white band dull crimson instead of scarlet-crimson, and the white tips to the outer tail-feathers shorter, the longest scarcely exceeding 1·1 inch.

Total length 12·0 inches, wing 5·5, tail 6·0.

Adult female. Differs from the female of *H. erythrocephalus* in having the general colour of the upper parts and chest much browner.

Total length 12·0 inches, wing 5·3, tail 5·7.

Mr. Grant also described the following new species from Southern China, collected by Capt. A. M. S. Wingate :—

1. Sitta yunnanensis, sp. n.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *S. montium*, La Touche, from which it is at once distinguished by its much more slender bill and the entire absence of chestnut from the sides, flanks, and under tail-coverts, which are uniform greyish buff, like the rest of the underparts. Iris brown.

Total length in the flesh 4·5 inches, culmen 0·65, wing 2·8, tail 1·5, tarsus 0·65.

Hab. Near Wei-yuan, Southern Yunnan. 12th March, 1899.

2. Phylloscopus subaffinis, sp. n.

Adult male and female. Differ from *P. affinis*, Tickell, in having the terminal half of the lower mandible, as well as the legs and feet, very dark horn-brown; the underparts strongly washed with dull fulvous; the clear yellow of the underparts, so conspicuous in *P. affinis*, being merely indicated on the middle of the breast and belly. The species resembles *P. affinis* in the shape of the wing, the second primary being about equal to the tenth. Iris black.

Total length in the flesh 4·5 inches, culmen 0·5, wing 1·95–2·05, tail 1·8, tarsus 0·75.

Hab. Pu-an-ting, South-west Kwei-chu, 27th January, 1899.

3. Siva wingatei, sp. n.

Adult male. Allied to both *S. cyanuroptera*, Hodgs., and *S. sordida*, Hume. It resembles both in the general colour of the upper parts, the grey of the head and neck, shading into olive-brown on the back and fulvous on the rump and upper tail-coverts. It further resembles *S. cyanuroptera* and differs from *S. sordida* in having the chin, throat, sides, and flanks washed with vinous grey. It differs from *S. cyanuroptera* and resembles *S. sordida* in having no white tips to the bastard wing-feathers. From both it differs in having only the inner webs of the outer pair of tail-feathers white to the tip; moreover, the feathers on the forehead, lores, and chin are strongly washed with rusty pink, though it is just possible that this colour may be due to stain. Iris brown.

Total length 6·0 inches, culmen 0·6, wing 2·5, tail 2·5, tarsus 0·9.

Hab. Near Yunnan city, E. Yunnan, 27th February, 1899.

Mr. Grant further described three additional new species from Southern Abyssinia, collected by Mr. H. Weld-Blundell and Lord Lovat:—

1. Dendropicus simoni, sp. n.

Adult male. Allied to the male of *D. zanzibari*, Malh., but easily distinguished by the following characters:—The forehead and fore part of the crown are darker brown; the cross-bars on the interscapular region and back indistinct and of a dull greenish-white colour; the wing-coverts brownish black, the lesser and median with a white spot at the extremity; the white feathers of the sides of the head and ear-coverts *striped with black on either side*, those of the throat with narrow black shaft-stripes; the chest and breast more strongly marked, and the *upper surface* of the shafts of the primary and secondary quills, except the extreme basal portion, *brown*. Iris brown; bill dark slate; legs slate.

Total length about 5·5 inches, culmen 0·7, wing 3·2, tail 1·6, tarsus 0·6.

Hab. Konduro, Abyssinia, 25th March, 1899.

2. Indicator lovati, sp. n.

Adult female. Resembles *I. minor*, Steph., in the colour of the upper parts, wings, and tail, but differs from that species in having the heavy black moustachial streaks confluent on the chin; the throat dull grey, with a slight greenish tinge, uniform in colour with the breast; and the longer flank-feathers dark smoky brown, edged with white on the sides.

From *I. conirostris* (Cass.), which it approaches in the latter characters, it may be at once distinguished by the greyish-brown colour of the head and neck and the much duller yellow colouring of the back and wing-coverts. Iris brown; bill and legs black.

Total length about 6·0 inches, culmen 0·5, wing 3·5, tail 2·25, tarsus 0·55.

Hab. Gelongol, Abyssinia, 13th March, 1899.

3. Lissotis lovati, sp. n.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *L. melanogaster* (Rüpp.), which it resembles in general appearance, but the middle three-fifths of the outer webs of the secondary quills are pure white to the shaft. In this respect it approaches *L. hartlaubi* (Heugl.), but the differently-marked plumage of the upper parts, as well as the black rump and tail, serve to distinguish the latter species at a glance. Iris pale yellowish brown; bill dark; legs pale yellowish white.

Total length about 23·0 inches, culmen 1·95, wing 13·8, tail 7·6, tarsus 5·1.

Hab. Bilo, Abyssinia, 10th March, 1899.

Mr. Ernst Hartert exhibited two hybrids of Humming-birds. One, obtained in Ecuador by Mr. Simons, combined in a striking way the shape and colours of *Eugenia imperatrix* and *Heliodoxa jacula jamesoni*, both found in that country; another, obtained by Mr. O. T. Baron in California, was intermediate between *Calypte costæ* and *Stellula calliope*.

These specimens are to be described in detail in the 'Novitates Zoologicæ.'

The Hon. Walter Rothschild made some remarks on the *Lalage* of the Samoan Islands, which he proposed to call

Lalage sharpei, sp. n.

Bill yellow, tip brownish, upper surface greyish brown, sides of rump white, remiges deep brown edged with dirty white. Tail deep brown, all the feathers except the central pair tipped with white, the two outer pairs white for the apical third. Underside white, with many pale brown cross-bars on sides of breast and flanks; under tail-coverts white; under wing-coverts creamy white. "Iris white." Wing 77–81 mm., culmen 19–20, tail 55–60, tarsus 21.

Hab. Upolu, Samoa.

Mr. Rothschild observed:—"Dr. Sharpe was the first to draw attention to this bird (Cat. B. iv. p. 98), but he considered it to be the young of the *Lalage pacifica*. However, the young examples of that species now exhibited from the same place prove it to be quite distinct, being dark brown above and heavily barred below. I am convinced that the type of my new species is fully adult, and that the immature plumage will prove to be equally distinct.

"The bill of *Lalage sharpei* is longer, narrower, and more flattened than in *L. pacifica*."

The Hon. Walter Rothschild further exhibited and remarked on some specimens of typical *Cracticus quoyi*, Lesson, from New Guinea, and also on three specimens of what had hitherto been called *C. quoyi* from Queensland. In the birds from New Guinea the young were black, like the adult birds, while in the Queensland bird the young was reddish brown and striped. The latter had been lately described as a new species under the name of *Cracticus rufescens*. It was by no means definitely ascertained whether these rufous birds were the only form of the young on the Australian continent, and therefore Mr. Rothschild did not wish to decide as to the validity or otherwise of Mr. De Vis's *Cracticus rufescens*; but the fact

that, so far as at present known, the young on New Guinea were always black, showed that we had to deal with at least two distinct races. These birds had been sent to Mr. Rothschild by Mr. Herbert C. Robinson, of Liverpool, who wished them to be exhibited to the Club.

Mr. H. J. Pearson exhibited, on behalf of Mr. P. Musters, a pair of Lesser White-fronted Geese (*Anser erythropus*), with the eggs, taken by the latter gentleman in the north of Norway.

Mr. P. Crowley exhibited some photographs of interesting eggs from his collection.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to an exhibition of lantern-slides, in which the following members and their friends took part:—

1. Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe.—Birds and nests from Northern Norway.
2. Hon. Walter Rothschild.—Pictures of Bird-life on the Island of Laysan.
3. Mr. H. J. Pearson.—Pictures illustrative of his memoir on the birds of Russian Lapland (Ibis, 1899, p. 520).
4. Mr. F. Curtis.—Some pictures of Rough-legged Buzzards, taken during Mr. Pearson's expedition to Novaya Zemlya.
5. Mr. Cherry Kearton.—A remarkable set of photographs of bird-life, from the cliffs of the west of Scotland, Ireland, and various localities in Great Britain.
6. Mr. Horace Monro.—Some very interesting pictures of birds and eggs from Holland and various parts of Great Britain.
7. Mr. R. Lodge.—A series of photographs of English bird-life and of scenes from Southern Spain.
8. Mr. N. F. Ticehurst.—Photographs of English bird-life.
9. Mr. Henry Stevens.—Photographs of the newly discovered Great Auk's egg, and of some other biological subjects.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 21st of February, 1900, at 8.30, at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street; the Dinner at 7 P.M.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.* W. E. de Winton, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. LXIX.

The sixty-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 21st of February, 1900.

Chairman : P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present :—E. Bidwell, A. Cowie, A. F. Crossman, W. E. de Winton (*Treasurer*), H. E. Dresser, Dr. F. D. Drewitt, J. Gerrard, F. H. C. Gould, E. Hartert, G. E. Lodge, E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, J. G. Millais, H. C. Monro, E. Neale, R. Nesham, Heatley Noble, E. W. Oates, C. E. Pearson, H. J. Pearson, H. L. Popham, Hon. W. Rothschild, M.P., A. D. Sapsworth, H. Saunders, F. C. Selous, R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D. (*Editor*), N. F. Ticehurst, W. Watkins, C. Whymper, J. Wilkinson, H. F. Witherby, L. A. Williams, A. F. R. Wollaston, J. Young.

Visitors : A. Brooking, W. Goodfellow, C. B. Hill, J. Maltwood, T. A. Hauxwell, J. Harbottle.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild exhibited an example of a new species of Hemipode from North Queensland, sent to him by Mr. Herbert C. Robinson, who had described it as follows :—

Turnix olivii, sp. n.

♀. Most nearly allied to *T. castanonota* (Gould) ♀ and resembling it in general coloration, but differing in its much

larger size, in having the forehead grey without white tips to the frontal feathers, and with the superciliaries and sides of the face not conspicuously marked with white; the feathers of the lower neck and breast with a decided wash of oily greyish green and with slightly indicated bars of dull greyish, without white centres as in *T. castanonota*. "Iris yellow; feet yellow; bill brown" (dull greenish olive in skin).

Total length 183 mm., wing 106, tail 48, culmen 23, tarsus 25.

Hab. North Queensland (Cooktown, June 25th, 1899).

The species was named after its collector, Mr. E. Olive, who is known in Australia as a careful and accurate field-naturalist.

Mr. Rothschild also exhibited a specimen of *Geocichla papuensis* of Sechohm, which he had recently received from the Aroa River, British New Guinea. He pointed out the mature characters of the species, which was originally described from an immature specimen hitherto unique in the British Museum.

Mr. Harry F. Witherby exhibited a specimen of *Limosa lapponica* in down, obtained out of a brood of four from a marsh near the Imandra Lake, in Russian Lapland, on the 16th of July, 1899.

Mr. Ernst Hartert showed some nesting-boxes for the encouragement of birds which breed in holes. Mr. Hartert stated that he had very little faith in the customary methods of bird-protection, which consisted of praising and over-rating the usefulness of birds, and of advocating more and more stringent bird-protection laws.

There was, however, another kind of bird-protection, which might be called "practical" protection. This originated from the understanding that it was not generally the killing of certain birds that made many of our species become scarcer, but the progress of cultivation of the ground, the careful keeping of our gardens, modern forestry, and similar

reasons. All these causes were diminishing the nesting opportunities of many birds and their supply of natural food. Therefore the "practical" bird-protection, which was so warmly advocated on the Continent by Freiherr von Berlepsch, aimed at nothing less than to furnish new breeding-places for useful birds, natural food in hard winter-times, and cover and protection against their enemies. The feeding in winter-time was not so easy, and one might read Berlepsch's book on this subject with advantage. The planting of thick bushes, especially those with thorns and berry-bearing species as were liked by birds, instead of the foreign evergreens and shrubs which only a few birds really loved, was not within the means of every one, and could only be done by landowners who were interested in birds; but the putting up of nesting-boxes could be done almost everywhere, in gardens, parks, and woods, on a large or small scale. In Germany, nesting-boxes were a very old institution, but they had never met with general approval, as they had never been quite successful. Now, however, von Berlepsch had invented nesting-boxes like those exhibited, and they were a most wonderful success. They were imitations of Woodpecker's holes, and were readily accepted by birds, especially by Tits. They must, however, be put up properly, and in Berlepsch's book on bird-protection some good instructions were given. Mr. Charles Rothschild and Mr. Walter Rothschild had introduced them on a small scale in various places, and Mr. Hartert hoped to be able to report concerning their success during the next session of the Club, and he trusted that other ornithologists would advocate them. They were made in great numbers, and could be had for about sixpence each, from a firm in Westphalia, who were making them according to Berlepsch's instruction.

Mr. Ernst Hartert exhibited and explained an instrument invented by Mr. L. Wiglesworth, which he called a "Ratiometer," the object of which was to ascertain the proportions that different-sized specimens (or parts of specimens) bear one to another. Mr. Hartert also announced that

Mr. Wiglesworth was experimenting with some other instruments likely to be of use in measuring animals.

Mr. Hartert also read some notes by Mr. L. Wiglesworth (who was not able to be present) about the question "How a Bird-skin should be measured?" Mr. Wiglesworth's remarks were as follows :—

"The identification or distinction of species and sub-species of birds is often rendered a matter of doubt and uncertainty owing to our ignorance of the manner in which our brother ornithologists apply the tape and rule. I myself, when actively engaged at Dresden, felt this want of knowledge hundreds of times. I have measured many specimens, which had previously been measured by careful ornithologists, and obtained different results; and I have been led into error on some occasions and have observed that men very prominent in our science have sometimes also made mistakes for similar reasons. To give an instance: authors sometimes compare Schlegel's wing-measurements with their own. It is not generally known that Schlegel employed the old French inch (= about 1·18 English inch), and that he measured (as Dr. Büttikofer once told me) across the arc of the wing, with a pair of callipers or compasses, and not over the wing, as some other ornithologists do. There are, of course, many kinds of inches besides the English; in Whitaker's Almanack about twenty will be found, though, for scientific purposes, they have now, I believe, all succumbed to the insidious millimetre, except the hardy native of these islands. But it matters not very much how the rule is graduated, so long as we all apply it in a similar manner.

"The principal parts measured are the wing, tail, bill, and tarsus.

"The text-books tell us that the *wing* is measured from carpus to tip. It is sometimes measured over the convex upperside with a tape or flexible band; or, it is measured with a stiff rule placed under the wing, the remiges being straightened out; or, thirdly, with a pair of compasses or callipers, and the natural curve of the feathers not altered.

The difference of the results obtained is very great in cases of birds with a very hollow wing, such as Game-birds, and in no case are the lengths quite the same.

"Next the *tail*: we measure to the tips of the longest feathers, but sometimes from the point where these enter the skin, sometimes from the oil-gland, sometimes, again, from the ends of the feathers within the skin.

"Then the *bill*: it is sometimes measured from the naso-frontal suture to the tip (culmen), or from where the plumes of the forehead impinge upon the culmen, whether at the middle of the culmen or from more advanced feathers on the sides thereof, or, again, it is measured from the cere, or from the nostril, or from the gape. Usually a pair of compasses is employed (straight measurement), but sometimes a tape (for the curve).

"As to the *tarsus*, a small difference results from measuring it in front or behind.

"It appears obvious that it is high time to take measures concerning our measurements, and make rules for our rules! The B.O.C. could probably bring about this desirable result. I would suggest that the Club should adopt one certain method of measurement as the normal method, and that, if no indication is given that any other method has been adopted, it should be understood that the normal measurement has been made. Any departure from this method should be specially stated. Following the precedent of the Strieklandian Code, some one distinguished ornithologist should be asked to draw up a Code of Rules of Measurement. Those interested in the matter could communicate privately with him. His Code would be submitted to the B.O.C. and finally, in the hope of obtaining international acceptance, to the Ornithological Congress in Paris next June."

Mr. Heatley Noble exhibited a pair of eggs of the Spine-tailed Swift from Nerochinski, and also the nest, eggs, and nestling birds of White's Thrush (*Oreocichla varia*), which had been obtained from Mt. Fuji Yama, in Japan, by Mr. Alan Owston. He considered that these eggs were

undoubtedly authentic, and they closely resembled those of the Himalayan *O. dauma*. The nest and eggs obtained by the late Consul Swinhoe, and supposed by him to have been those of White's Thrush, probably belonged to *Merula mandarina*.

Mr. Walter Goodfellow described a new species of Humming-bird, discovered by himself and Mr. Claud Hamilton during their recent travels in Ecuador:—

Helianthea hamiltoni, sp. n.

H. similis *H. lutetiæ*, sed maculâ frontali aureo-viridi, et gastræi nitore metallico bronzino-viridi, plagâ alari pallidâ cinnamomeâ, nec albicante, distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·0 poll., culm. 1·6, alæ 2·9, caudæ 1·7, tarsi 0·2.

Hab. Papallacta, near Antisana, E. Ecuador.

Of this species Mr. Goodfellow had procured, in February 1899, a series of both male and female specimens, all of which were perfectly constant as regards the characters mentioned above. All the birds from the *western* slope of the Andes of Quito proved to be the true *H. lutetiæ*, of which the travellers had also procured a good series.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe exhibited another British-killed specimen of the Levantine Shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*), which had been sent by Mr. Charles Smoothy, of Little Baddow, near Chelmsford. The specimen had been obtained at Bridlington Quay in October 1898.

Dr. Sharpe exhibited and described a new species of Bee-eater, obtained by Mr. G. L. Bates on the Rio Benito in French Congo:—

Merops batesiana, sp. n.

♂. Similis *M. muelleri*, Cass., sed saturatior, facie laterali, colli lateribus et præpectore toto nigris: notæi colore castaneo ubique saturatiore distinguenda. Long. tot. 8·0 poll., culm. 1·4, alæ 3·2, caudæ 2·95, tarsi 0·35.

The specimen from the Benito River differed so much from the figure of the type of *M. muelleri* given by Cassin

in the 'Transactions' of the Philadelphia Academy, that Dr. Sharpe had written to Mr. Witmer Stone on the subject. The latter gentleman having assured him that the figure was an accurate rendering of *M. muelleri*, it became evident that not only was the Benito bird distinct, but also the so-called *M. muelleri* from the Gold Coast. This Dr. Sharpe proposed to name in honour of Colonel Northcott, who did excellent work in the Hinterland of the Gold Coast, and was killed at the Modder River in November last.

Merops northcotti, sp. n.

M. similis *M. muelleri*, Cass., castaneus, sed præpectore nigro, pectore ultramarino et abdomine cyanescente distinguenda. Long. tot. 7·1 poll., culm. 1·4, alæ 3·3, caudæ 3·05, tarsi 0·4.

Hab. Gold Coast (*Shelley Coll. in Mus. Brit.*).

These species may have to be placed, according to Dr. Sharpe, in the genus *Melittophagus*, in which case they would be called *Melittophagus muelleri*, Cass., *M. batesiana* and *M. northcotti*. The type of the last species, however, has the central tail-feathers elongated, but all the other specimens known have the tail square.

Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant sent the following description of another new species of bird collected by the late Mr. John Whitehead in Hainan:—

Garrulax semitorquata, sp. n.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *G. pectoralis*, Gould, having the ear-coverts similarly striped. It is, however, much smaller and at once distinguished by the following characters:—The black band surrounding the throat is widely interrupted in the middle, the outer webs of the outer primary quills are brownish buff instead of white, and the tips of the tail-feathers are yellowish buff.

Adult female. Differs only from the male in having the white streaks on the ear-coverts more strongly marked.

Iris straw-colour to reddish brown; upper mandible leaden-black; lower mandible and feet leaden-grey.

Total length about 11 inches, culmen 1·25, wing 5·1, tail 4·8, tarsus 1·75.

Hab. Five-finger Mts., interior of Hainan.

Mr. Grant also described a new Shrike from Arabia, obtained by the Percival-Dodson Expedition :—

Telephonus percivali, sp. n.

Adult male. Like *T. blanfordi*, Sharpe, but rather smaller, the bill especially being not nearly so stout; the fore-neck, chest, and rest of underparts much greyer, and the rufescent margin to the inner web of the quills, so conspicuous in *T. blanfordi*, barely indicated. Iris brown; bill black; legs grey.

Total length 7·5 inches, culmen 0·88, wing 3·0, tail 3·4, tarsus 1·2.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 21st of March, 1900, at 8.30, at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street; the dinner at 7 p.m.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater,	R. Bowdler Sharpe,	W. E. de Winton,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

SPECIAL NOTICE.

On the 25th of April an exhibition of albinos and colour-variations of birds will take place. Members are invited to show any specimens they may deem of interest.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. LXX.

The sixty-ninth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 21st of March, 1900.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present:—Boyd Alexander, E. Bidwell, F. E. Blaauw, J. L. Bonhote, W. F. Brockholes, A. F. Crossman, P. Crowley, W. E. de Winton (*Treasurer*), H. E. Dresser, Dr. F. D. Drewitt, H. J. Elwes, F.R.S., E. N. F. Fenwick, H. O. Forbes, LL.D., F. H. Carruthers Gould, W. R. Ogilvie Grant, E. Hartert, J. Graham Kerr, G. E. Lodge, E. Neale, R. Nesham, Heatley Noble, F. Penrose, M.D., T. Digby Pigott, C.B., H. L. Popham, R. H. Read, Hon. W. Rothschild, M.P., F. C. Selous, F. Sharman, R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D. (*Editor*), L. Williams.

Visitors: T. F. Althaus, W. Goodfellow, C. Hamilton, W. E. D. Scott (Princeton, U.S.A., *Guest of the Club*), E. A. Wilson.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild exhibited an adult specimen of the so-called *Aquila fulvescens*, shot by Herr Führer in Albania, together with a young bird obtained about the same time and place. For comparison he placed on the table adult and young birds of the Great Spotted Eagle (*Aquila maculata*) and the Small Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*),

and made the following remarks :—"The name *Aquila fulvescens* has hitherto been bestowed on Indian specimens, and this form has, up to the present time, been admitted by British ornithologists to be a well-marked and distinct species. The late Eugen von Homeyer described a European example under the name of *Aquila boecki*, and since then, including the one exhibited to-night, three more examples have been recorded from Europe. Mr. Hartert, Dr. Otto Reiser (*in litt.*), and several other naturalists have more than once drawn attention to the exactly similar proportions and external characters existing between *Aquila maculata* and *Aquila fulvescens*, the only difference being in the colour of the plumage, and they have suggested that *A. boecki* might be a more or less constant aberration of *Aquila maculata*.

"I think that the young bird exhibited will convince most ornithologists, as it has myself, that *Aquila fulvescens* is really a parallel 'aberration' to the light forms of the Common Buzzard, *Buteo buteo*, and that it is not a good species. This young bird has the upper and under tail-coverts, as well as the feathers of the leg and thigh, of the same pale buff colour, and in these markings it resembles the adult *Aquila fulvescens*; while the rest of its plumage is identical with typical young of *Aquila maculata*. A further proof is that a few examples of the Indian Little Spotted Eagle (*A. hastata*) show a tendency to have large buff areas of plumage. I therefore consider that there are only three species of Spotted Eagles with round nostrils, viz.: 1. *Aquila maculata*, 2. *Aquila pomarina*, 3. *Aquila hastata*. It follows, therefore, that *Aquila fulvescens* must be sunk as a species and must stand as *Aquila maculata*, aberr. *fulvescens*."

Mr. Rothschild exhibited a series of birds from the island of S. Thomé, in the Bight of Benin, and made remarks on some of the species which were peculiar to the island.

He also called the attention of the meeting to some remarkable specimens of *Phalacrocorax chalconotus*, illustrating

the breeding-plumage of the species, with the tufts of white filamentous plumes above the eyes. The young birds had formerly been described as *Phalacrocorax glaucus*, but specimens in intermediate stages of plumage in the Tring Museum showed that *P. glaucus* and *P. chalconotus* were identical.

Mr. Rothschild exhibited specimens of the Balkan Shore-Lark (*Otocorys balcanica*).

He also exhibited a specimen of a young bird of *Urubitinga urubitinga*, which had been captured by Mr. André at a distance of 200 yards inside the great cave of the *Steatornis*, at Caripé in Venezuela.

Mr. Ernst Hartert described a new Spine-tailed Swift as follows :—

Chætura thomensis, sp. n.

This remarkable new species of *Chætura* is smaller than all the other African species, and the wings, though fully as long as those of *Chætura sabinei*, are much narrower, softer, and weaker. It is doubtless the bird mentioned by Mr. Newton, of Lisbon, as *Ch. cassini*, but no specimen appears to have been procured by him. *Ch. cassini* is much larger, and has a much shorter and stiffer tail than *Ch. thomensis*, and *Ch. sabinei* has a much broader wing, and its under and upper tail-coverts are so much elongated as to cover the rectrices above and below, while in *Ch. thomensis* they leave nearly 2 cm. above and about 1 cm. below uncovered.

Ch. thomensis is black above, including the wings and tail, with greenish and steel-blue reflections. Throat and breast dull greyish black, without gloss. Abdomen white, with dull black shaft-lines to the feathers. Upper and under tail-coverts white, with broad black shaft-streaks; the longest upper tail-coverts almost entirely brownish black. Underwing-coverts black. Total length about 105 mm. (from tip of bill

to end of tail), wing 116–117, tail 43, the bare tarso-metatarsus 8·5 mm.

Three adult specimens were procured at Pedroma on the island of San Thomé, W. Africa, by Mr. Albert Mocquerys.

Mr. W. E. D. Scott exhibited a series of interesting photographs of the nests of the Spine-tailed Swift of North America (*Chætura pelasgia*), showing the growth of the nestlings at different periods of their advancement in age. He also gave some interesting details of the habits of the species. The photographs had been rendered possible by the removal of the sides of the chimney in his own house, so as to reveal the nests *in situ*.

Mr. Scott also contributed the following notes on three new species of *Tyrannidæ* from Patagonia, specimens of which he placed before the meeting :—

"The descriptions of these birds, apparently heretofore unknown, are based on material collected in Patagonia by Mr. J. B. Hatcher. Mr. Hatcher was sent on a scientific mission to the above region by the University of Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A. The study of the geology of the country and the collection of palæontological specimens were the chief objects of this expedition, but the collection of about one thousand birds clearly indicates that the existing fauna was in no way neglected. All of this ornithological material is now at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, whither I have brought the specimens by the direction of Princeton University, the British Museum being the only place where adequate comparisons can be made. A monograph in detail will be the ultimate result of this work, and in the meantime diagnoses of such birds as appear to be undescribed will be communicated to the British Ornithologists' Club.

"Muscisaxicola garretti, sp. n.

"♂. Fronte nigro : pileo reliquo castaneo : hypochondriis et subcaudalibus pallide cinnamomeis. Long. tot. circa 6·4 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 4·3, caudæ 2·55, tarsi 1·2.

"♀. Mari similis. Alæ 4·4 poll.

"*Hab.* Near Coy Inlet, Patagonia, October 1896. Princeton University Collection, Nos. 7643, 7644.

"This species is named after Mr. John W. Garrett, of Baltimore, Maryland, in appreciation of the assistance which he has rendered to the expeditions sent to Patagonia.

"MUSCISAXICOLA HATCHERI, sp. n.

"♂. Similis *M. griseæ*, sed magis brunnescens: linea frontali alba, et remigibus albo fasciatim apicatis distinguenda. Long. tot. circa 6·5 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 5·0, caudæ 2·75, tarsi 1·3.

"*Hab.* Cordillera, Upper Rio Chico, Patagonia, 18 February, 1897. Princeton University Collection, No. 7645.

"This species is named after Mr. J. B. Hatcher, whose work in Patagonia has contributed so largely to our knowledge of the past and present fauna of that country.

"AGRIORNIS POLIOSOMA, sp. n.

"♂. Similis *A. maritimæ*, sed plumbescenti-brunneus: gastræo quoque plumbescenti-brunneo: subcaudalibus albis: crisso vix cervino tincto: gutture albo, distincte nigro striolato: fascia superciliari alba distincta: maculâ lorali nigrâ: genis albis, nigro striatis: caudæ pro 1·0 poll. ad apicem albo terminata. Long. tot. 9·3 poll., culm. 1·15, alæ 5·3, caudæ 4·0, tarsi 1·3.

"*Hab.* Arroyo Gio, Patagonia, 20 May, 1898. Princeton University Collection, No. 7927.

"This species is closely allied to *A. maritima*, but is distinguished by its leaden-brown plumage and *white* superciliary streaks, as well as by the increased amount of white on the tail-feathers."

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE exhibited a specimen of the rare *Bubo letti*, Büttik., from the Rio Benito, French Congo, obtained by Mr. G. L. Bates. The species had been originally described by Dr. Büttikofer from Liberia, and was placed by him in the genus *Bubo*. The specimen, however, had been examined by Mr. Pycraft for its pterylography, and Dr. Sharpe, judging by its external characters, concurred with him that it belonged to the genus *Scops*, and should be known as *Scops letti* (Büttik.).

Another interesting bird procured by Mr. Bates was a white-spotted Crake, which did not seem to be quite the same as *Canirallus oculeus* of the Gold Coast. It was identical, however, with the bird from the Cameroons, and Dr. Sharpe had already referred (Cat. B. xxiii. p. 73) to the differences exhibited by the birds of the latter country. He therefore proposed to describe the Crake from the French Congo and the Cameroons as

Canirallus batesi, sp. n.

Ad. Similis *C. oculeo*, sed saturatior, dorso saturatè olivascenti-brunneo, nec virescenti-olivaceo: pileo sordidè brunneo, nec rufescenti-brunneo: fronte et facie laterali, sicut in *C. oculeo*, cinereis, regione auriculari quoque cinereo. Long. tot. 11·0 poll., culm. 1·35, alæ 6·3, caudæ 2·4, tarsi 1·95.

Among other interesting birds obtained on the Rio Benito on the same occasion were examples of *Bubulcus lucidus* and *Calopelia brehmeri*.

Dr. Sharpe likewise exhibited a specimen of a Goshawk from British Guiana, from the collection of Mr. F. V. McConnell. Feeling sure that it was *Astur jardinii* of Gurney (Ibis, 1887, p. 96, pl. iii.), Dr. Sharpe had sent the specimen to Mr. James Reeve, the Director of the Castle Museum at Norwich, for comparison with the type and unique example of the species in that museum. Mr. Reeve stated that the Guiana example was identical with the type of *A. jardinii*, and therefore the habitat of the species, previously unknown, was now identified as Guiana.

Mr. Ogilvie Grant, on behalf of Mr. C. B. Rickett, exhibited a very distinct new species of Scops Owl, for which Mr. Rickett proposed the name of

Scops latouchi, sp. n.

Adult male. This species belongs to the yellow-billed group of the genus *Scops*, and is apparently most nearly allied to *S. icterorhyncha*, Shelley, from the Gold Coast, and more distantly related to *S. rufescens* (Horsf.), from Malacca and the Sunda Islands. The pale frontal band is, however, less

conspicuous than in the above-named species. *Scops latouchii* differs chiefly from *S. icterorhyncha* in having the feathers of the head and mantle distinctly barred with black and rufous buff; but the barring is mostly concealed by the wide reddish-brown tips to the feathers, which are very finely vermiculated with black; the tail is rather strongly marked with irregular bars and mottlings of black on a brownish-red ground; the bars on the outermost primaries are rufous buff instead of white; the underparts are whitish buff, shading into rufous on the upper breast and flanks, entirely devoid of dark shaft-streaks, but very finely vermiculated with brownish black; the feathers covering the basal part of the belly, vent, and the longish flank-plumes are pure white, some of the latter, like the under tail-coverts, having reddish-brown bars.

Total length about 9·0 inches, wing 5·9, tail 3·5, tarsus 1·15.

Hab. Ah Ch'ung, Fohkien, 16th December, 1899.

Mr. Digby Pigott communicated a note from his friend Mr. J. R. Dasent, C.B., who had just returned from his yearly visit to the island of St. Vincent, West Indies.

Mr. Dasent stated that the destruction of bird-life of all kinds by the hurricane of September 1898 had been very great. A small bronze-green Humming-bird, which had before been the commonest and boldest bird in the island, had, it was believed, entirely disappeared. During the seven weeks of Mr. Dasent's stay he had not noticed one of these birds, though on previous visits they were to be seen, sitting on telephone wires &c., and as plentiful as Swallows in summer in England. Mr. Thompson, the Administrator, had told him that since the hurricane he had neither himself, nor had he met with anyone who had, observed one of these birds. Two other Humming-birds, formerly less common than the extinguished species, still exist in the island, but in much reduced numbers.

A Parrot, usually to be found only with difficulty in the mountain forests, and a Pigeon (known locally as "Ramier")—also an exceptionally shy bird—after the hurricane,

came about, and even into, the towns in search of food, in large numbers (the Parrots singly, the Pigeons in small parties), many of them in such an exhausted state as to be easily caught by hand.

Mr. Sclater called attention to the Report of the Society for the Protection of Birds, of which he was one of the Vice-Presidents, as adopted at the Anniversary Meeting on 26th February last. Mr. Sclater was quite in accord with the general objects of this Society as explained in their prospectus, although, as regards protective legislation, he was of opinion that interference in this matter by Acts of Parliament might be sometimes carried too far. He thought, however, that every lover of birds would do well to join the Society.

Mr. Sclater stated that Messrs. Goodfellow and Hamilton (who were present as guests on this occasion) had lately returned from a successful expedition in the Colombian and Equatorian Andes, during which they had made a collection of upwards of 5000 bird-skins, comprising examples of many rare species. The travellers had landed at Buenoventura on the Pacific Coast in April 1898, and had thence crossed the Andes into the valley of the Cauca. This was ascended, and, passing through Popayan, Messrs. Goodfellow and Hamilton had entered the Republic of Ecuador at Tulcan, proceeding thence to Quito, where a lengthened stay was made. From Quito excursions were effected to Pichincha, and to the low country on the Pacific Coast near Santo Domingo. Leaving Quito on March 1st last year, Messrs. Goodfellow and Hamilton crossed the Andes to the upper waters of the Napo, and descended that river in canoes to Yquitos in Peru, whence the journey home was effected by steamer.

Mr. Goodfellow was preparing an account of the birds collected during this remarkable journey for 'The Ibis.' In the meanwhile Mr. Sclater called attention to two noticeable specimens. One of these was an example of a male Fruit-Crow (*Gymnoderus fœtidus*) in fully adult plumage.

Mr. Selater exhibited a coloured drawing, taken from the fresh specimen by Mr. Hamilton, of the head of this bird, showing the extraordinary development of the pale blue wattles of the neck, which had never been correctly represented or described, and were so different in appearance from ordinary specimens of this bird that Mr. Sclater had, at first, been inclined to regard the Ecuador bird as a distinct species. The second bird exhibited was an example of the little-known *Myiadestes coracinus*, Berlepsch, from the forests of the Upper Napo.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 25th of April, 1900, at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, at 8.30 P.M.; the Dinner at 7 o'clock.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.* R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.* W. E. de Winton, *Sec. & Treas.*

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The next Meeting of the Club will be entirely devoted to the exhibition of albino and other colour-variations of Birds. The Hon. Walter Rothschild, who probably possesses the finest collection of "varieties" of birds in this country, will on this occasion exhibit some of the most notable examples from his Museum. Members of the B. O. C. and their friends are also requested to bring every available specimen of colour-variation, so that the exhibition may be rendered as successful as have been the previous ones held under the auspices of the British Ornithologists' Club.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. LXXI.

The seventieth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 25th of April, 1900.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present: — O. V. Aplin, G. E. Barrett-Hamilton, E. Bidwell, J. L. Bonhote, W. Fitzherbert Brockholes, A. F. Crossman, Philip Crowley, W. E. de Winton (*Treasurer*), H. E. Dresser, F. D. Drewitt, M.D., F. W. Frohawk, J. Gerrard, F. H. C. Gould, W. R. Ogilvie Grant, E. Hartert, G. E. Lodge, A. H. Macpherson, E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, J. G. Millais, H. C. Monro, R. Nesham, H. Noble, E. W. Oates, C. E. Pearson, H. J. Pearson, T. Digby Pigott, C.B., W. P. Pycraft, R. H. Read, A. D. Sapsworth, H. Scherren, R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D. (*Editor*), W. B. Tegetmeier, Major H. Terry, N. F. Ticehurst, W. F. Urwick, Watkin Watkins, J. Wilkinson, Charles Whymper, A. F. R. Wollaston, C. A. Wright.

Visitors: R. S. Archbould, H. Rowland Brown, W. R. Collins, C. E. Fagan, A. S. Hargreaves, K. E. Mackenzie, E. S. Mason, L. S. Pawles, Theed Pearse, C. J. Schillings (German Expert in the Conference on the Preservation of Large Game of Africa, *Guest of the Club*), W. E. D. Scott (Princeton, U.S.A.), A. Thorburn, O. Thomas.

Mr. W. E. D. Scott described the following apparently new or hitherto undetected species of birds from South America. Some of these birds had been procured by Mr. J. B. Hatcher in Patagonia, but most of them were previously represented in the collection of the British Museum.

Cinclodes oustaleti, sp. n.

Similis *C. patachonico*, sed multo minor, et abdomine medio albo distinguendus: alâ 3·55 nec 4·1, culmine 0·8 nec 1·0. Suprà chocolatino-brunneus, pileo dorso concolori: subtùs chocolatinus, nec griseseens, et minùs distinctè striatus. Long. tot. 6·5 poll., culm. 0·8, alæ 3·7, caudæ 2·5, tarsi 1·05.

Hab. Chili and Mendoza. [Type *ex* Central Chili: *Berkeley James Coll., Mus. Brit.*]

Cinclodes molitor.

♂. Similis *C. oustaleti*, sed major et subtùs albido sparsim striatus, notæo et hypochondriis chocolatino-brunneis, sed abdomine brunneo nec albo et subcaudalibus albo striatis distinguendus. Long. tot. 7·5 poll., culm. 0·95, alæ 4·0, caudæ 3·0, tarsi 1·1.

Hab. Chili. [Type *ex* Chili (*Leybold*): *Salvin-Godman Coll., Mus. Brit.*]

Cinclodes oreobates, sp. n.

♂. Similis *C. fusco*, sed rufescentior: pectore fusco obscurè marmorato nec albido distinctè striolato: hypochondriis et subcaudalibus et rectricum apicibus rufescentibus nec grisescenti-brunneis: gutture albo, vix fusco fasciatim notato. Long. tot. 6·8 poll., culm. 0·85, alæ 3·9, caudæ 2·7, tarsi 1·2.

Hab. Colombia. [Type *ex* Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, Colombia (*F. A. A. Simons*): *Sclater Coll., Mus. Brit.*]

Cinclodes sparsim-striatus, sp. n.

♂. Similis *C. nigrofumoso*, sed subtùs vix albo striolatus, et gutture fusco, sordidè isabellino striato facile distinguendus. Long. tot. 8·7 poll., culm. 1·0, alæ 4·5, caudæ 3·2, tarsi 1·2.

Hab. Peru. [Type *ex* Islay (*H. Whitely*): *Sclater Coll., Mus. Brit.*]

Upucerthia darwini, sp. n.

♂. Similis *U. dumetoriæ*, sed ubique rufescentior, alis caudaque præcipue rufescentibus : rectricibus medianis rufescentibus nec griseo-brunneis distinguendus. Long. tot. 8·2 poll., culm. 1·35, alæ 3·9, caudæ 3·15, tarsi 1·05.

Hab. Mendoza, Arg. Rep. [*Salvin-Godman Coll., Mus. Brit.*]

Upucerthia saturatior, sp. n.

U. similis *U. dumetoriæ*, sed saturatior, hypochondriis concoloribus minimè striolatim notatis : suprà chocolatino-brunnea, regione parotica cervino nec albido striolata. Long. tot. 7·5, culm. 1·25, alæ 3·8, caudæ 3·0, tarsi 1·0.

Hab. Chile. [Type *ex* Central Chili : *Berkeley James Coll., Mus. Brit.*]

Upucerthia fitzgeraldi, sp. n.

♀. *U.* similis *U. validirostri*, sed caudâ nigricanti-brunneâ nec rufescente, gutture albido, plumis angustè fusco fasciatim marginatis distinguenda. Long. tot. 8·2 poll., culm. 1·5, alæ 3·9, caudæ 2·75, tarsi 1·05.

Hab. Puerte del Inea, Arg. Rep., March 9, 1897 (*E. A. Fitzgerald, Mus. Brit.*).

Geositta brevirostris, sp. n.

♀. Similis *G. cuniculariæ*, sed rostro multo breviore (0·65, minimè 0·8), alâ tamen longiore (4·20 nec 3·75), supracaudalibus laetescenti-albis, alâ minimè extus rufescente distinguenda. Long. tot. 6·0 poll., caudæ 2·25, tarsi 0·85.

Hab. Mt. Tigre, Patagonia, Aug. 14, 1896. [Type in Mus. Princeton, No. 7769.] Central Chili (*Berkeley James Coll., Mus. Brit.*).

Henicornis wallisi, sp. n.

♀. Similis *H. phœnicuræ*, sed major, rostro longiore et alâ breviore, rectricibus medianis brunneis nec basaliter castaneis distinguenda. Long. tot. 7·0 poll., culm. 0·95, alæ 2·9, caudæ 2·65, tarsi 0·9.

Hab. Arroyo Eke, Patagonia, May 24, 1898. [Type in Mus. Princeton, No. 7939.] Chuput (*H. Durnford, Mus. Brit.*).

Named in honour of Harrison P. Wallis, Esq., of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Agriornis leucurus, sp. n.

(*Agriornis leucurus*, Gould, Voy. 'Beagle,' Birds, pl. xiii. *nomen nudum*.)

Similis *A. maritimo*, sed minor, multò saturatior, et rostro longiore distinguendus. Suprà sordidè brunneseens nec eineraseenti-brunneus: eorpore subtùs brunneseentiore, abdomine vix pallidiore. Long. tot. 8·5 poll., eulm. 1·15, alæ 4·65, eaudæ 3·2, tarsi 1·35. [Type in Mus. Brit. *ex* Port Desire (*C. Darwin*).]

Phrygilus princetonianus, sp. n.

♂. Similis *P. melanodero*, sed minor: suprà griseseens, vix viridi lavatus: pileo et facie laterali elarè einereis: palpebrâ, regione post-oeulari, et strigâ latâ mystaeali albis: plagâ lorali et gutture toto nigris: subtùs lætè flavus: alâ totâ eonspieuè lætè flavâ, tectrieibus primariorum nigro terminatis. Long. tot. 5·6 poll., eulm. 0·5, alæ 3·6, eaudæ 2·4, tarsi 0·85.

Hab. Cheike, Patagonia, Jan. 16, 1898. [Type in Mus. Princeton, No. 7698.]

Mr. Sclater exhibited a third set of photographs of rare Australian birds' nests and eggs which had been forwarded to him by Mr. D. Le Souëf, of Melbourne. Amongst these were figures of the nests and eggs of several little-known Honey-eaters, also those of the *Oreœca cristata* and the suspended nest of Kaup's Flycatcher (*Arses kaupi*).

After a few remarks from Mr. Hartert and Mr. J. G. Millais on the exhibition of albinos and colour-variations of birds, a vote of thanks to the Hon. Walter Rothschild and the other gentlemen who had brought together such a fine series of speeimens for the entertainment of the Club was proposed by Mr. W. E. de Winton, and earried with aeclamation.

The Meeting then adjourned to the large banqueting-hall of the Restaurant, and the rest of the evening was spent in examining the speeimens, most of which had been brought by Mr. Rothschild from his Museum at Tring.

A full account of this exhibition will be given in a supplementary number of the Bulletin. The Editor will feel

obliged to any members who showed specimens if they will kindly send him a few notes on the history of the birds exhibited.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 16th of May, 1900, at 8.30, at the Restaurant Fraseati, 32 Oxford Street; the Dinner at 7 P.M.

(Signed)

P. L. SCLATER, *Chairman.* R. BOWDLER SHARPE, *Editor.* W. E. DE WINTON, *Sec. & Treas.*

NOTICE.

THE Annual Meeting of the B. O. U. having been fixed this year for MAY 16th, the same day as the monthly meeting of the B. O. C., it has been arranged by the Committees of the two associations that the usual annual dinner of the B. O. U. shall not take place, but that those members of the B. O. U. who are not members of the B. O. C. shall be invited to dine at the dinner of the B. O. C. at the Restaurant Fraseati on that day (at 7 P.M.) as Honorary Members and attend the subsequent meeting of the Club at 8.30 P.M. Those members of the B. O. U. who wish to do this are requested to send in their names to Mr. W. E. DE WINTON, the Sec. and Treasurer of the B. O. C. (Address: 7, Southampton Row, W.C.)

[The following is a brief abstract of the exhibits at the Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club on April 25, 1900.—*R. B. S.*]

Mr. Ernst Hartert exhibited, on behalf of the Hon. Walter Rothschild (who was, to his great regret, unable to be present at the Meeting), a very large selection of the numerous albinos, melanisms, and other colour-variations in the Tring Museum. He explained that he had tried to exhibit as many species as possible, but of nearly all the common European birds, especially of the Passeres, there were many more examples of colour-variation in Mr. Rothschild's Museum. The most interesting and the most different types of varieties were, however, exhibited on the present occasion. Mr. Rothschild wished to call attention to the fact that nearly all, if not all, green birds showed yellow varieties; for example, all the green Parrots. The grey Parrot, on the other hand, had white varieties. In the *Chlorodrepanis* of the Sandwich Islands, and even in the green portions of the plumage of other birds, yellow varieties predominated, instead of white, in albinistic individuals, as shown by various specimens on view. This seemed to suggest that the yellow pigment was extremely strong, and the same might be said of the red colouring, inasmuch as it often remained quite normal or only became paler in otherwise quite albinistic specimens (*cf.* the albino grey Parrot with a red tail, the white Bullfinches with red under surface, the Texan Cardinal, *Rhamphocœlus brasilius*, and others). There were, of course, also exceptions, as exhibited by the grey Parrot now deposited by Mr. Rothschild in the Zoological Gardens, which had its normal grey plumage, but had a white tail.

Mr. Hartert further called attention to the vital difference between true albinos, which were born white, and in

which the total absence of pigment extended also to the iris, which thus became pink, and often to the beak and feet as well, and "pied" or partially white-plumaged birds, which had in many cases been at first clothed with a perfectly normal plumage, and in which the partial absence of pigment sometimes appeared after several moults, and was not always quite constant. Such pied aberrations frequently occurred among cage-birds. It was not quite correct to call such pied birds albinos, as was often done by collectors—partial albinos or "leucocisms" would be better determination for such individuals, unless the term "pied" could be restricted to such "freaks."

Mounted Specimens.

Apteryx oweni. S. I., New Zealand. Nearly all white.

Apteryx australis. S. I., New Zealand. Head and neck white.

English Pheasants. One silvery-grey, one steel-blue, one whitish variety.

Gennæus albocristatus. ♂. Nepal. Brownish white.

Tetrao urogallus. ♂ ad. Russia. Body and wings white, with black spots.

♀ ad. Akmolinsk. White, with black bars to the feathers; chest uniform white.

Tetrao tetrix. ♂ ad. Orenburg. Remiges and rectrices mostly pure white.

♂ ad. Olanitz. Almost the entire underside white.

♂ ad. Russia. (Leadenhall Market.) Pied; the wings with a great deal of white.

♂ ad. Perm. Silvery grey.

♀ ad. Twer, Russia. Greyish white.

♀ ad. Russia. Pure white.

♀ ad. Russia. Grey, buff, and black in curious mixture.

Lagopus scoticus. ♂. Scotland. Buff and white variety.

Tetrastes bonasia. ♀ ad. Perm. With a great amount of white.

♂ ad. Orenburg. Black and white.

♂. Archangel. Perfectly white.

♂ ad. Russia. Mostly white.

Perdix perdix. ♂. Germany (Wiebke coll.), 8.10.72. White; only the wings, the greater part of the head, and some patches on the back of normal colour.

♂ ♀. Russia. White, with small patches of normal feathers.

2 ♂ ♂. With nearly the whole under surface chestnut (so-called "var. *montana*"); upperside whitish, with large dark brown spots in one, and narrow deep brown bars in the other specimen.

2. Russia. Silvery grey.

1. Nearly all chestnut ("var. *montana*"). Eastbourne, England.

1. Mostly chestnut, with the neck and head pale rusty buff.

1. Entirely white.

Coturnix coturnix. ♂. Italy. Peculiar dark brown variety.

♂. Italy. Below white, above somewhat pale generally, and variegated with white.

Ortyx virginianus. N. America. Primaries white; general coloration pale, with all the marks visible.

Tympanuchus americanus. N. America. ♂. Breast chestnut in the centre, the dark markings very bold and blackish.

♀. N. America. Cream-coloured variety.

Columba palumbus. Cambridge, 1888. 1. Pure white.

1. White, with patches and single feathers of ordinary colour here and there.

Gallinago gallinago. 1. Wales: Aberystwith. Breast and abdomen pure white; remiges white; upperside buff and chestnut.

Gallinago gallinago. 1. Russia. Below almost entirely white, above with large patches of white.

1. England. Cream-coloured variety, with pale chestnut markings.

1. England. Pale chestnut and white; head and neck of regular colour.

1. England. Dark brown. An example of "Sabine's Snipe."

Gallinago major. Chosco, Russia. Remarkable variety, with upperside of a rusty-buff colour, with round spots and markings of black.

Vanellus vanellus. Kildare, Ireland. White, with dark chest, and the dark markings on the tail, head, and wings regularly developed.

1. England. Like the preceding one, but with some irregular patches of ordinary coloration.

1. England. Like the specimen from Kildare, but the tail entirely white, and the pectoral band grey instead of black.

Ocydromus australis. New Zealand. White, with a deep-brown rump and some brown patches on the head.

1. New Zealand. White, with some brown patches and spots irregularly distributed.

Gallinula chloropus. White, with black spots on the wing-coverts and some of the remiges black.

Crex crex. 1. Ireland. White, with irregular brown patches above and on the sides.

1. Ireland. Chick, pure white with one brown patch on the back.

Rallus aquaticus. 1. Tipperary, Ireland. Pure white all over.

2. Ireland. Pale everywhere, as if the colour had faded away.

Limosa melanura. ♂ ad. Holland. White, with tail, quills, and part of the upperside cream-coloured.

Numenius arquatus. 1. Co. Down, Ireland. Pure white, with red edges.

2. Wermland, Sweden. Buffy white.

3. Ireland. White, with regularly marked wings and tail.

Somateria mollissima. Norway. Pure white, with five or six brown feathers below and three on the upper surface.

Fuligula fuligula. ♀. England. All the dark portions of the plumage buff.

Spatula clypeata. Ireland. Buffy white, with all the darker markings grey.

Anas querquedula. Russia. Pale buffy white.

Pygoscelis papua. South Georgia. Nearly pure white.

Phalacrocorax punctatus. New Zealand. White, with pale grey markings.

Uria troile. ♀ ad. Speeton, Yorkshire. Dull slaty blackish all over.

1. ♂ ad. Heligoland. Almost entirely white.

1. Scarborough. (Rather small.) Almost entirely white.

1. ♀ ad. Greenland. Upperside pale brown.

Alca torda. Tenby. Black all over, with a few small white spots on the under surface.

Buteo borealis. N. America. White, with only the head and neck and tips of secondaries partly brown and with nearly the whole tail rufous.

Astur palumbarius. Archangel. Buffy white, with dark longitudinal lines; tail and back pure white.

Cerchneis tinnunculus. England. Quills freckled with white.

Accipiter nisus. Near Perth, Scotland. White; wings and mantle pale brownish grey.

Athene noctua. 1. Cremona, Italy. Perfect albino.

Psittacus erithacus. 1. Perfectly white, with red tail.

1. Mostly red; quills black; head and neck only with a few red spots, on the rump a few white feathers, and a few grey feathers on the back.

1. Grey, with a good many red feathers all over. (So-called "King-Parrots.")

Palæornis torquatus. India. Canary-yellow, with the rosy-red collar as in typical examples.

Palæornis cyanocephalus. India. Canary-yellow, with a very pale red head and a little green on the tail.

Trichoglossus novæ-hollandiæ. ♀. Beneath red; head red, with white longitudinal lines; an irregular red collar: upperside yellow, with red patches: tail mixed yellow, green, and red.

Gecinus canus. Moscow. Dull white.

Apus apus. 1. Pale grey.

1. Sussex. Black, with numerous white feathers.

Glaucopis wilsoni. New Zealand. Pure white.

Garrulus glandarius. 2. England. Pure white.

Pica pica. 1. France (Riocour coll.). White; the feathers of the head with narrow black fringes; primaries as usual; tail with some black tips to the rectrices.

1. With part of the tail white and more white in the wing than usual.

Sturnus vulgaris. 1. Quite white.

1. Pale cream-colour.

1. With the body-plumage mostly white and a few white feathers in the wings and tail.

Ampelis garrulus. 1. Russia. Crest and back of the head white; also two white feathers in the tail.

1. Body-plumage and wings white; breast washed with chestnut; forehead deep chestnut, neck rather paler; throat pure white as far as it is black in regularly coloured individuals; tips of tail and yellow edges of wings of the usual yellow colour; the red wax-like tips to the secondaries also present.

Hirundo rustica. England. Upperside pale grey; the tail with the usual pure white round spots; throat pale rufous, pectoral band of the palest grey.

1. Pure white.

Hirundo urbica. 1. Above pale grey, with white rump.

1. Entirely white.

1. With three outer primaries on the right, and seven (with primary-coverts) on the left, wing pure white.

Clivicola riparia. 1. Creamy white.

Lanius excubitor. England. Pure white, with the forehead and patch behind each eye pale brown.

Sylvia hortensis. White.

Phylloscopus trochilus. Worthing. White.

Sylvia cinerea. England. White.

Accentor modularis. 1. Hampshire. Entirely white.

1. Yorkshire. Entirely white.

1. England. White, with mantle and tail partially brown.

Erithacus rubecula. 1. England. Very pale; above pale brownish-grey; throat and chest of the palest crimson-red.

1. England. Most of the feathers of the throat, breast, and neck white.

1. England. Above very pale brown; remiges white; throat not much paler than usual.

1. England. Above pale cinnamon; remiges white; throat quite as deep rufous as usual.

Saxicola œnanthe. 1. Hampshire, September 1892. Entirely white.

1. England. Quite white, with only a few lines on the quills deep brown and with three feathers on the left side pale brownish buff.

1. Suffolk, July 1894 (juv.). Feathers of head and mantle mostly white, with very fine dark brown spots.

Pratincola rubetra. ♂. Göttingen. Dirty white and pale cinnamon; tail-feathers and primaries white.

Anorthura troglodytes. Mürren, Switzerland. Two perfect albinos.

Motacilla alba. Head and body nearly all white.

Anthus obscurus. English coast. With a good many white feathers scattered here and there. Head almost entirely white.

Anthus pratensis. 1. England. Body-plumage yellowish white, with a few brown spots.

1. Body-plumage mostly yellowish white, with a few deep-brown spots, but the whole rump and lower back, upper tail- and wing-coverts, wings, and tail brown as usual.

Lullula arborea. Pisa, Italy. White, intermixed with brown feathers all over.

Alauda arvensis. 1. England. White, with the head and neck, back, and tail marked with deep brown.

2. Brighton. Buffy brown.

1. Germany (Wiebke coll.). With some white feathers all over and white quills.

Parus cæruleus. Mürren, Switzerland. White with red eyes, but mantle and chest (which are greenish in ordinary Blue Tits) pale sulphur-yellow.

Merula merula. 1 ♂. Germany. Head and neck white; rest of plumage pied black and white.

1. England. Pied all over; primaries and head almost entirely white.

1. Brownish buff; wings almost white.

1 ♂. Aylesbury. Mealy grey, with faint white cross-markings and mottlings; head darker, wings paler.

1. Pure white.

Turdus musicus. 1. Germany (Wiebke coll.). Pure white.

1. Head white, neck pied.

Turdus iliacus. 1. Buff, with all the markings still apparent.

1. Wales. Buff, with the markings well visible; underside not so pale as in the other specimen.

Turdus viscivorus. 1. Co. Galway. White; the roundish spots on the breast faintly indicated in grey.

1. Bristol. Buffy white; the round spots on the breast well developed.

Turdus pilaris. 1. Pale; head, abdomen, and under tail-coverts pure white.

1. Pied; head and neck chiefly white.

Trypanocorax frugilegus. 1. England. Face, parts of wings, and a few patches on the back white.

Corvus corone. 1. Pale brown; the old worn feathers almost whitish buff, the incoming ones pale brown.

1. Quite white.

Colœus monedula. 1. Sarepta. Pied all over, also some of the quills white.

1. Moscow. Pied above and below, but the quills of ordinary colour; hind-neck almost entirely white.

Passer domesticus. 1. Russia. Pied; head and neck almost white.

1. England. Buffy brown, wings and tail paler.

1. Germany. Buffy brown, also paler on the wings and tail.

1. Perfectly white.

1. Dunedin, New Zealand. White, but tail and wings with some brown.

Passer montanus. Germany (Wiebke coll.). Below quite white; head and chin dark cinnamon; upperside pale cinnamon; quills white, with cinnamon edges; tail white, with pale rufous edges.

Ligurinus chloris. Rottingdean, Sussex. Very pale; shaft of quills white.

Fringilla cœlebs. 1 ♂. Head and neck white, the green portion of the back sulphur-yellow; wings and tail variegated with white; under surface white, with cinnamon-rufous patches.

Fringilla cœlebs. 2 ♂. White, with the portions of the mantle and rump (green in regularly coloured birds) pale sulphur-yellow.

1 ♂. Arezzo, Italy. Almost entirely like the first-mentiond ♂, but with some brown on the back.

1. Buff; quills and tail almost entirely white, the greenish edges on the secondaries replaced by pale yellow.

1 ♂ ad. Near Cheltenham, 8.4.96. Everywhere of a curious cinnamon-rufous colour, which is darkest on the dark portions, lightest on the white parts of the plumage.

Linota cannabina. Three pale varieties. Brighton.

Pyrrhula europæa. 1. White; crown, sides of head and neck, throat, chest, breast, and abdomen bright rosy red.

1. Similar, but with a faint rosy tinge on the back and the red portions very much paler.

1. Pure white. N. Gloucester, Aug. 1895.

Coccothraustes coccothraustes. Brighton. Pied all over, white predominating; underside and head and neck almost universally white.

Loxia curvirostra. ♀. Head and neck, greater part of underside, and a few feathers here and there white.

Pyrrhuloxia sinuata. Texas. Lores and throat faintly red; nearly the whole crest and bases of quills and tail red.

Emberiza citrinella. ♂. Cheltenham. Below rather light yellow; above pied with a great deal of sulphur-yellow.

1. Head and throat mostly light yellow.

1. All over brownish black; some of the quills white.

Emberiza miliaria. 2. England. Principally white, with brown spots and other markings.

Emberiza schœniclus. 1. White, with a few brown feathers on the back and abdomen, and with some brown markings in the tail.

1. Hereford. White, with pale reddish-brown markings.

Skins.

Apteryx oweni. S. I., New Zealand. White, with buffy-brown tips to the feathers and some dark brown mottling.

Apteryx mantelli. Young. Waitara, N. I., New Zealand. Head partially white.

Rhea americana. White. Reared in British Guiana in captivity.

Catarrhactes schlegeli. 1. Macquarie Is. All over slaty black; small yellow patches above the supereiliaries. (See Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxvi. p. 643.)

1 ♂. Macquarie Is. With slaty-black patches on the abdomen.

1. Maequarie Is. Upperside buff; flippers creamy white; yellow forehead and suprasupereiliary tufts well developed and quite golden yellow.

1. Maequarie Is. Below with about four dozen black feathers scattered about.

2. With flippers and from the middle of the back white.

1 young. Above creamy white.

1 adult. Above pale brown.

Catarrhactes pachyrhynchus. Upperside with a great number of white feathers, arranged singly; none in patches.

Catarrhactes chrysolophus. Prince Edward Is. White, but the forehead and tufts golden yellow.

Eudyptula minor. Pure albino: even the feet quite pale, but the beak black.

Phalacrocorax carbo. Holland. Above pale brown, with whitish edges to the feathers; below white, with pale rufous-brown tips to most of the feathers.

Fratercula arctica. 1. St. Kilda. Upper surface and neck white, spotted with black.

1. St. Kilda. Entirely white; only wings and tail partially black.

♂ ad. Faroe Islands. Above white, with black spots; crown black, with a few white spots.

♂. Faroe Islands. Entirely white; only wings and tail with a few black feathers.

♂. Faroe Islands. Pale buffy brown.

Uria grylle. Greenland. Above mostly white.

Uria lomvia. ♂ ad. Greenland. Above slaty grey.

♂ ad. Greenland. Above very pale silvery grey.

Alle alle. Above white and black.

Anas boschas. ♀. Elbe, near Hamburg (Wiebke coll.). Tail with much white; neck and under surface creamy buff; bill rather narrow. (Supposed by Messrs. Wiebke to be a hybrid of a *Mergus* and *Anas boschas*, for which belief, however, there is no foundation.)

Mareca penelope. ♀. Scotland. Upperside, neck, and breast pale grey, with white edges to the feathers.

Nettion crecca. Germany. Of a very pale brown; wings mostly white.

Fulica atra. 1. Lenkoran. Pale buffy grey; tips of wings and tail, and edges to the feathers of the back, creamy white.

2 juv. England. Fore-neck and chest white.

Porphyrio melanonotus. 1. New Zealand. Wings and tail with broad white ante-apical cross-bands; bases of upper wing-coverts, under tail-coverts, and a few feathers on the sides of the chest white.

1 ♀. Nelson, New Zealand. Similar to the former, but with the white bands on the wings and tail much narrower, and the feathers of the mantle, as well as some more on the sides of the chest, white.

1. New Zealand. Broad tips to some of the feathers above and below, and tips to quills, buffy white.

Ocydromus earli. 1. Nelson, New Zealand. Under surfaee white, with a large patch of feathers in the middle of the chest and some feathers on the sides of the abdomen brown. Primaries white.

1. Westport, New Zealand. Under surfaee white, with three feathers on the ehest and some on the abdomen brown; forehead and crown with some white feathers; primaries white.

1. Nelson West, New Zealand. Like the former specimen, but with a large patch in the middle of the ehest brown.

Ocydromus australis. ♀. Otago. Perfect albino.

Rallus aquaticus. England. Two outer primaries on left, one on right wing, under and lesser upper wing-coverts, a few feathers on the nape, middle of fore-neck, nearly the whole abdomen, and under tail-coverts, white.

Tetrao tetrix. ♀. Kasan. Underside from the fore-neck to the tail-coverts white, with some blackish markings; wing-coverts with very broad white edgings.

♀ (from an old collection). White, only head and neek with brown markings; reetriees pale brown towards base, and some of the body-feathers with faint brown shades.

♀. Oloneck, Russia. Underside pied.

Lophophorus refulgens. 2. With the otherwise reddish-coppery hind-neck and the shining golden-green mantle of a purple-violet colour—these being the birds called "*Lophophorus impeyanus* var. *mantoui*" by Oustalet.

1. With about half the plumage white—the white feathers being spread all over the bird, the tail exeepted.

1. With the hind-neck and mantle velvety black with a metallie green lustre; the white of the lower baek replaeed by blue-blaek feathers; the tail black, with golden-green edges; the wing-coverts darker than usual and not so glossy. (This is the "black Monaul" mentioned in Bull. B. O. Club, viii. p. xliii.)

English Pheasant. ♂. Plumage glossy buff, with all the dark markings as usual. (So-called "Bohemian Pheasant.")

♂. Silvery white, some feathers of the chest and breast with tiny narrow longitudinal markings of brownish black.

2 ♀ ♀. Sussex. General colour buff.

♀. Tring. Upperside with numerous white feathers, underside with a few only.

Lagopus scoticus. (Leadenhall Market.) Pale chestnut, with lavender-grey and some yellowish-rusty mottlings and bars; feathers of abdomen with white tips. Quills and tail pale brownish buff, above deep or very light brown, the old feathers faded to yellowish buff.

♀. (Leadenhall Market.) Pale yellowish rust-colour and black; breast with some slaty-brown feathers.

♂. Yorkshire. Chest and breast with patches of white feathers; first two primaries and primary-coverts on left wing pure white.

♂. (Leadenhall Market.) Outermost primary on left, four outer primaries and primary-coverts on right wing, white.

4. (Leadenhall Market.) Richly mottled and shaded with light grey all over.

♀. (Leadenhall Market.) Nearly the whole abdomen white.

Lagopus mutus. (Leadenhall Market.) Perfectly white, *also the shafts of the primaries*; lores pale grey; rectrices pale grey, with white tips.

Tetrastes bonasia. 4. E. Russia. Everywhere very pale greyish.

1. Nishni Novgorod; 1. Moscow. Generally pale; upperside with much chestnut-rufous.

5. E. Russia. Underside mostly pure white.

1 juv. Nishni Novgorod. Perfectly white.

Tetrao tetrix. ♀. Archangel. Above rusty brown; quills whitish; breast and abdomen pale greyish.

♀. Finland. All the feathers from the neck downwards white, with black centres. (This and the following variety are often, on the Continent, considered to be hybrids between *Tetrao tetrix* and *Lagopus*; but there is no foundation for this belief.)

♀. Novgorod. White from the neck downwards, with black centres to the feathers above, and with black edges to most of those on the abdomen.

Perdix perdix. ♂. (Leadenhall Market.) Above pale grey; all markings well developed; forehead, superciliary stripe, and throat pale rufous; breast whitish grey; abdomen white; horseshoe and cross-bars on flank-feathers very pale rufous.

♂. Brighton. Everywhere very dark, the dark markings on the upperside almost pure black.

♂. Devonshire, 1860. Dark brown variety. Round the bill a black mask; throat earthy brown; below grey-brown, vermiculated with blackish brown; no indication of a "horseshoe."

♂. Devonshire, 1860. Like the preceding one, but more rufous above and with much broader rufous bars on the sides.

♀. (Leadenhall Market.) Very dark variety. Markings above nearly pure black; rufous cross-markings on sides rather broad.

♂. (Leadenhall Market.) Head and neck buff, more rufous on the crown; breast deep chestnut; middle of abdomen buffy white; feathers of upperside mixed white, deep chestnut, and light grey, in beautiful contrast.

3. (Leadenhall Market.) Generally pale; above with much yellowish brown.

♂. (Leadenhall Market.) Above very light; chest and flanks of a most delicate light grey; horseshoe and cross-bars on sides rich chestnut.

Perdix perdix. 3. (Leadenhall Market.) Generally pale; upperside with much rufous chestnut.

2 (from an old collection). Perfect albinos.

2. (Leadenhall Market.) With a great amount of white feathers above and below.

1. (Leadenhall Market.) Breast and abdomen with many white feathers.

3 ♀ ♀ ♀. Schadrinsk, Russia, December 1890 (evidently from one covey). Very light; chest greyish white, with very fine brown vermiculations; abdomen and flanks white, with bright chestnut cross-bars and an irregular indication of a "horseshoe" of the same colour. Above rather bright rufous brown, with broad white longitudinal lines most handsomely marked.

3 ♀ ♀ ♀. Tobolsk and Orenburg. Very pale above; abdomen white, with "horseshoe" barely indicated.

♀. Orenburg. Above and below very pale yellowish grey; cross-bars on flanks and horseshoe-mark very pale.

♀. Nishni Novgorod. Throat very pale yellowish buff; crown and hind-neck as usual; rest of upper surface pale silvery grey with white shaft-lines; rectrices very pale rufous; lateral cross-bars pale chestnut; horseshoe-mark small but very conspicuous, being of a dark chestnut-brown.

♀. (England.) Forehead, superciliary stripe, and throat pale cream-colour; upperside very light grey, with brownish-black cross-markings; wing-coverts with white shaft-lines; lateral cross-bars pale buff; under surface generally pale; horseshoe-mark greyish brown, with some fine black-and-white mottlings.

Caccabis rufa. 2. (Leadenhall Market.) Large white area across the breast.

Phasianus colchicus. ♂ ad. Germany (Brehm coll.). Tail and wings partly white, and some white feathers among the wing-coverts, on the head, neck, back, and abdomen.

Phasianus colchicus. 2. Russia. Tails completely, wings mostly white ; above more white than brown ; underside with a good many white feathers.

Chrysolophus amherstiæ. (Reared.) ♀ assuming male's plumage. Feathers of neck-cape of a delicate bluish grey with irregular pale red markings, with narrow blue-black cross-lines and narrowly fringed with blue-black and a broader sub-terminal bar of *red*.

Numida meleagris. (England.) 1. Perfect albino.

1. With back and mantle shaded with pale brown and outermost primaries white.

Goura coronata. New Guinea. 1. Crown buffy ; tail and wings buffy lavender-grey ; underside pale buffy grey.

1. Back slightly freckled with white; middle rectrices and secondaries edged with white.

Goura victoriæ. New Guinea. Whole upper surface richly freckled with white.

Hemiphaga novæ-zealandiæ. New Zealand. Wings and entire upper surface mixed with white.

2. Buffy grey, with mantle and upper wing-coverts mostly deep chestnut and with a few white feathers.

1. With some pale buff, and a few white feathers.

1. Perfectly white.

1. White, with some of the feathers of the mantle and upper wing-coverts rusty buff towards the tips.

1. Buffy white, with the feathers of the mantle and upper wing-coverts edged with deep chestnut.

1. White, with only the sides of the neck, some of the wing-coverts and secondaries, one rectrix, and some upper tail-coverts of the normal colour.

Calœnas nicobarica. New Guinea. Head and tail uniform white, the rest of the plumage consisting about half of white and half of normally-coloured feathers.

Turtur senegalensis cambayensis. (India.) Head, neck, wing-coverts, wings, rump, and upper tail-coverts partially white.

Nesopelia galapagoensis. 2 ♀. Hood Island. One with the tail partially greyish white; one with the tail partially greyish white and the outer primaries white.

Œstrelata cooki. ♂. Solomon Island, off Stewart's Island, New Zealand. Perfect albino, even the bill and feet being white.

Thinornis novæ-zealandiæ. Chatham Islands (Palmer coll.). Perfect albino.

Hæmatopus unicolor. Bradshaw I., New Zealand. Pied above and below.

Glareola pratincola. Sarepta. All the dark portions of the plumage brownish cream-colour, with brown markings; under wing-coverts and axillaries pale greyish brown.

Himantopus melas. New Zealand. Dirty white, with a few black feathers on the upper surface.

Pavoncella pugnax. ♀. Tunis. Head, neck, and under surface white; secondaries of right wing partially white.

Gallinago gallinago. Four dark-brown varieties, more or less typical "Sabine's Snipes." (England.)

1. Eight outer primaries and primary-coverts on left wing and anterior half of toes white.

3. Showing pale buffy-brown aberrations of different shades.

1. Very light sandy buff above, with a few white and some black feathers in beautiful contrast.

Scolopax rusticola. ♂. Russia. Third to seventh primary and one of the wing-coverts on the left wing; first to fourth and seventh to eighth quills and the majority of the primary-coverts on the right wing, white.

♀. (Hamburg Market.) Rather pale above and on the breast.

♀. (Leadenhall Market.) Above rufous buff, with

light grey markings of great beauty. Quills whitish grey, with reddish-brown markings.

Scolopax rusticola. ♀. (Leadenhall Market.) All the lighter parts of the plumage bright chestnut-rufous, the dark markings black, so that by this contrast a beautiful effect is produced. Head and neck black, each feather with a chestnut-rufous, mostly concealed, cross-bar.

Nestor meridionalis. Collingwood, New Zealand. With a broad yellow band across the breast. (This is the aberration erroneously recognized by Gould, Finsch, and Salvadori as a species, under the name of *N. esslingi*.)

2. Like the former: one with the yellow pectoral band incomplete and irregular.

2. White; sides of head, throat, collar on back, abdomen, and tail-coverts with yellow and red edges; tail partly red.

1. Light yellow; collar, tail-coverts, under wing-coverts, and abdomen red.

1. With the feathers of the head and neck broadly tipped with orange-yellow; rest of upper surface red, with blackish edges; wing with a large creamy-white speculum; tail rosy red, with wide blackish tips; feathers of breast with yellow spots, those of the abdomen and under tail-coverts red.

1. With the feathers of the crown broadly edged with dull yellow; rest of upperside red, feathers of back with orange-yellow edges; tail, wing, and underside as in the former specimen.

Palæornis cyanocephala. India. Head canary-yellow, with a few typically-coloured feathers; black mandibular stripes and collar absent. General coloration rather pale; primaries canary-yellow; under bill brown, not blackish.

Trichoglossus novæ-hollandiæ. Cage-bird, bred with two normally-coloured ones. Breast-feathers yellow, with bluish-green tips and orange-red sub-terminal

margins; head washed with blue only; abdomen green, yellow, and red.

Trichoglossus novæ-hollandiæ. 1. Cage-bird. Like the former, but feathers on the breast without orange-red ante-apical bands; primaries and rectrices partly yellow; head even less washed with blue than in the foregoing example.

Coracopsis nigra. Madagascar. All primaries (except one), two of the rectrices, some of the wing- and tail-coverts, and patches on throat and abdomen, white.

Cyanorhamphus auriceps. New Zealand. Bright canary-yellow; frontal band and lores, and patch on lower flanks, scarlet; primaries whitish; primary-coverts partially blue; secondaries partly green.

Melopsittacus undulatus. 4. Pale yellowish varieties.

Ceryle alcyon. N. America. White, the cross-markings on tail and wings faintly indicated in a more snowy white; pectoral band, flanks, and axillaries faintly tinged with rusty buff.

Eulampis jugularis. Martinique, W. I. A patch of white feathers across the chest, and a small one on the bend of the right wing.

Chlorostilbon gibsoni. Bogota, U.S. Colombia. Head, neck, mantle, underside, and outer primaries mostly white.

Chrysolampis mosquitus. 2 ♂ ♂. Brazil. Tail and wings partially white.

Centropus viridis. 2. Luzon. Perfect albinos.

Crotophaga sulcirostris. Mexico. White, with a few black spots on the back and flanks and in the tail.

Falco peregrinus. England. Upper surface creamy white, with some pale brown feathers; quills white, outer ones pale milky-chocolate-brown; under surface delicate buff; moustachial patch and cross-bars on breast, abdomen, flanks, and thighs pale brownish; under wing-coverts very distinctly barred.

Diphyllodes magnifica. New Guinea. A few of the remiges and upper wing-coverts white; feathers of crown mostly buff.

Corvus corax. 3. Faroe Islands. With a great amount of white on the head, throat, abdomen, wings, and tail, and with the claws partially white. Killed in 1867, 1869, and 1872. (From the Wiebke collection.)

1. Russia. Dark grey, head and neck darkest.

1. Russia. Light hoary brown, with a silvery-white gloss.

Trypanocorax frugilegus. 1. Tring. Two of the upper wing-coverts in each wing white.

1. Sussex. Chin and claw of middle toe white.

1. England. Chin and a few of the primaries white.

1. Pale chocolate-brown.

Corvus corone. 1. Pure white.

Colœus monedula. 2. Perfectly white; eyes pink, bill and feet partially white.

Pica pica. 2. Perfect albinos. With all the black parts of the plumage chocolate-brown.

Motacilla lugubris. England. Head, neck, and outermost primaries white.

Motacilla alba. Renthendorf (Brehm coll.). Entirely white; only the quills, except the innermost ones, and part of tail black; upperside with a faint yellow tinge.

Hirundo rustica. 4. Aylesbury, 1893 to 1895, as recorded in Nov. Zool. vols. i., ii. Perfect albinos with pink iris, whitish bill and feet. Although these birds are true albinos, there is a very faint brownish-grey tinge on the back, and the white round markings on the rectrices are perfectly visible, being of a more snowy white.

1. Southampton. White, with a very faint greyish tinge above; throat and under tail-coverts rusty-red;

pectoral band indicated in grey; rest of under surface tinged with buff.

Hirundo rustica. 2. Saxony (Brehm coll.). Entirely white.

1. Braunsdorf (Brehm coll.). White; throat brownish-red; flanks, under tail-coverts, and bases of rectrices tinged with rufous.

2. Roda (Brehm coll.). ♂ & ♀ from same nest. White (not albinos), with part of tail and all the primaries black.

Saxicola œnanthe. ♀. Rottingdean, Sussex. Upper surface intermixed with delicate greyish white.

♂. Lakenheath, Suffolk. Head, mantle, and breast pied.

♂. Norfolk. Head, mantle, and back with numerous white feathers.

♀. Rottingdean, Sussex. Above very pale lavender-grey; below white.

Pratincola rubetra. ♀. Rottingdean, Sussex. Extremely pale everywhere.

Sturnus vulgaris. 1. Ascot, Berkshire. ♀. White with a silvery gloss; the spangled tips of a more snowy, but not silvery glossy white.

1. Juv. Sussex. Perfectly white, including bill.

1. Canterbury. White, the bill also pale.

1 (from an old collection). White, bill brown.

1. Sussex. Middle rectrices and some of the upper tail-coverts white.

1. Sussex. White, with a few normal feathers on the back, wings, tail, and underside.

1. Canterbury. Pale; wings and tail buffy brown.

1. Canterbury. Dirty whitish brown, with a few normal feathers.

Lamprotornis æneus. Senegambia. Glossy brown all over.

Prosthemadera novæ-zealandiæ. ♂. Stewart's Island. Perfect albino.

Prosthemadera novæ-zealandiæ. ♀. Wellington. Mantle, wings, tail, and lower abdomen mostly buffy white; tufts on fore-neck pure white, as usual; rest of plumage pale brown.

Merula merula. 1 ♂. England. Pied.
1 ♂. Sussex. Pied.
1 ♂. Tring. With a few white feathers on the head.
1 ♂. England. Head and neck almost quite white.
1 ♀. Tring. Head and neck white; wing-coverts, back, and flanks with a few white feathers.
♂. Reigate. Mostly white.
♀. England. Mostly white.
1 (? ♀). South of Rome. All over greyish white.

Turdus migratorius. ♂. North America. Buffy white; chest, breast, and abdomen rufous.

Turdus viscivorus. England. Perfect albino.

Turdus pilaris. Head and neck white; wings and upper surface pied.

Turdus musicus. 3. England. Buff varieties.
1. Tring. With some white feathers on the head.

Anthus novæ-zealandiæ. 1. Canterbury, New Zealand. Back, wings, tail, and flanks mostly white.
1. New Zealand. White and pale rusty brown.

Miro australis. Canterbury, New Zealand. Pied all over.

Petroica toitoi. 2. New Zealand. Head and neck wholly, rest of plumage chiefly, white.

Zosterops cærulescens. New Zealand. Normal, except for a canary-yellow nape-band.

Anorthura troglodytes. ♂. Near Cambridge. Entirely white.

Locustella nævia. Moscow. White, with a yellow tinge on head, neck, and upper surface.

Setophaga ruticilla. Hastings, New York. White, sides of breast, edges to quills, and base of tail yellow; mantle, back, and rump shaded with black.

Empidias fuscus. N. America. Whitish buff; below with a more conspicuous lemon-yellow shade; crown and nape pale grey-brown.

Parus cæruleus. ♀. Altenburg (Brehm coll.). Very pale everywhere.

Chlorodrepanis wilsoni. Maui, Sandwich Islands. All over bright canary-yellow; wings and tail white with yellow edges.

Erithacus rubecula. 1. Cage-bird. Wesel. Quills partially white.

1. Canterbury district. Body-plumage mostly white.

1 ♀. Sussex. Body-plumage and tail mostly white.

Alauda arvensis. England. Three pale greyish-brown aberrations of different shades.

♀. Naples. Pale grey and brown above; wings and tail partially white.

♂. Rome. Pale buff; wings and tail palest, almost white.

♂. Brighton. Sandy reddish brown, tips of wings and tail whitish.

2 ♂♂, 1 ♀. England. Upperside most delicately black and greyish white, not at all suggesting a variation of plumage.

♂. Near Tring. Some of the quills, wing-coverts, and rectrices white.

♀. Brighton. Tail partially white.

♂. Rottingdean. Wings and tail partially white.

1. Sussex. Upperside, wings, and tails mostly white.

Galerida cristata. Pomerania. Sandy buff, recalling some of the desert-forms of Crested Larks, but yet quite different from them.

Passer domesticus. 20 buff, pied, or pure white varieties.

2 ♂ ♂. Bevendean, Sussex. Of different years, but probably brothers, being generally pale; crown light brownish grey; back and wing-coverts rufous and buff; wings and tail delicate whitish-grey with rufous edges; both alike.

Passer montanus. Pomerania. Perfect albino: eyes pink.

1 ♂. Renthendorf (Brehm coll.). Perfect albino.

1 ♀. Merv. White, with rufous-brown edges to the secondaries, some of the rectrices, and feathers of the head.

1 ♀. Renthendorf. Head as usual, rest of plumage white; back, flanks, and edges to remiges rusty-red colour.

Pyrrhula europæa. ♂. (Cage-bird.) Wings, tail, and upper surface partially white.

♂. Black cage-variety, with partially white wings and tail.

Acanthis cannabina. 8 pied aberrations.

2 generally pale ones.

1 perfect albino.

Acanthis rufescens. ♂ ad. (Lived for several years in a cage at Tring; was received in similar plumage.) White; forehead yellow; back and abdomen with a few brown feathers; wings and tail partially normal.

Carduelis carduelis. 1 juv. Co. Wicklow. White, head and back spotted with brown; chest shaded with brown and yellow; wings and tail normal.

Ligurinus chloris. ♂. Sussex. Of a very pale brown; back shaded with yellow; rump and breast yellow.

♀. Sussex. Pied with pale brown and white.

1. England. Crown white, somewhat more extended to the left than to the right.

Fringilla cœlebs. White, with some brown patches; back, rump, and edges to quills yellow.

♂ ad. With a white mask.

♂ ad. With numerous white feathers on the head and wings and a few pale yellow ones on the mantle.

♂ ad. With numerous white feathers throughout, and some yellow ones on the back and rump; head and neck almost uniform white.

♂. Near Tring. Very pale brown; tail and wings partially white; rump brownish yellow.

♀. Renthendorf (Brehm coll.). Like the former, but a little darker.

Miliaria miliaria. 2. England. Buffy white, with some brown feathers all over.

1. England. Yellowish white; primaries normal; tail quite white; only the second feather from the left side brown; under tail-coverts pale brown; abdomen washed with buff and with a few dark brown narrow splashes.

1 pull. Sussex. Wings partially white.

1 pull. Sussex. White; tips of wings and wing-coverts and spots on crown of a very pale brown; quills with very pale-yellow edges.

1. Brighton. Upper surface pied.

1. Rottingdean, Sussex. Head pied.

1. Rottingdean, Sussex. Altogether of a very dark brown above, and with black patches on the underside. This specimen has the appearance of one of those dark aberrations which are produced in ill-lighted cages by continual hemp-seed-feeding, so frequent in Bullfinches and Hawks, but it has not a sign otherwise of being a cage-bird and was caught in a wild state.

Emberiza citrinella. 1. Lincolnshire. Very pale rufous-brown and yellow; wings and tail almost white.

♂. Sarepta, S. Russia. Above pale; below golden yellow, spotted with patches of normal feathers here and there; wings and tail normal.

Emberiza hortulana. ♂. Some of the secondaries white; tail white with blackish-brown tips.

Spermophila minuta. White, with wings and tail partly normal.

Geospiza fuliginosa. ♀. Albemarle I., Galapagos Is. White with brown patches; wings entirely white.

Chondestes grammica. N. America. Under surface pure white, only flanks and under tail-coverts with some brown patches; upperside white, with numerous brown feathers; outermost rectrix on the left side showing the normal deep brown base to the feather.

Paroaria larvata. Brazil. Head and neck as red as usual; rest of plumage white, mixed with pale and dark brown feathers.

Melospiza fasciata. 1 ♀. Massachusetts. Fifth primary on each side with a white patch near the tip.

♀. Charlestown, New Hampshire. All the dark markings pale rusty rufous; tail very pale rufous-brown; wings almost white.

Rhamphocœlus brasilius. ♀. Brazil. Owing to the absence of dark brown pigment, the bird is quite pale, while the red pigment remains. Upper surface white, with brown shades and patches; forehead rosy red; rump and upper tail-coverts dark red; underside brownish red; throat paler.

Calliste vitriolina. U.S. Colombia. Above buffy yellow; wings white, with yellow edges; tail pale brownish-greenish; underside of the palest yellow; flanks and under tail-coverts rusty brown.

Uroloncha striata. 10 varieties, bred in Japan. Pure white, fawn-colour and white, deep brown and white. [These are the well-known "Bengalees." They are

evidently *Ur. striata*, and the belief of Messrs. Abrahams and Butler ('Foreign Finches,' p. 222) that they are hybrids between "*Aidemosyne malabarica*" and "*Uroloncha striata*" seems to be erroneous, at least with regard to those Bengalees known to us.]

Padda oryzivora. 8 pure white, grey and white, black, grey, and white varieties of Japanese breeding.

Exhibited by Robert H. Read.

Blackbird (*Merula merula*), juv. This was hatched in a nest in the garden of Mr. R. J. G. Read at Cadbyrie House, Castlebar, Ealing, in 1898. Two other young birds in the same nest were normally coloured. The eggs were all three of the normal type. The specimen is of a pale brown colour, but had pink eyes. It was put in a cage and fed by its parents, but died through excessive feeding.

Robin (*Erythacus rubecula*). In this specimen all the rufous tinge has disappeared from the upper parts, and on the underparts the red breast has been replaced by pale grey. It was not an albino. It was seen for some days about the farm-buildings of Mr. Herbert Davis, of Doulting, Somerset, and was found dead one morning during the winter of 1889.

House-Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). Parti-coloured, white and brown. Doulting, Somerset, Sept. 1894.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla cœlebs*). Parti-coloured, but chiefly white. The yellow on the back and parts of the buff on the breast remained unchanged, illustrating Mr. Hartert's general rule in this respect. The Robin referred to above, however, is an illustration of the contrary fact.

Exhibited by W. Fitzherbert-Brockholes.

Corn-Crake (*Crex crex*). Plumage perfectly white, except for three or four feathers near the tail. It was caught by a labourer when mowing in a meadow, about the end of July, in 1856 or 1857, at Claughton, near Garstang, Lancashire, and was brought alive to the late T. F. Brockholes, who had it killed and set up; it has been at Claughton Hall ever since. Another white bird was seen at the same time, but the men were unsuccessful in their efforts to catch it. The bird was evidently a young one of the year and unable to fly.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*). "Hairy" variety. Caught by a little boy against some rabbit wire-netting at Claughton in October 1884, and brought alive to the exhibitor, who killed it and had it set up. It was unable to fly owing to the absence of barbules to the feathers, and the ends of the quill-feathers were worn away through striking the ground in its efforts to fly. The plumage was curiously brindled and the frontal shield was absent.

Exhibited by J. G. Millais.

Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*). Albinistic female assuming the plumage of the male. (The only example of such partial albinism known to the exhibitor.)

Grouse (*Lagopus scoticus*). Eight varieties.

Capercailzie (*Tetrao urogallus*). Albino, ♂ ad. One of the only two white varieties ever killed in Scotland.

Partridge (*Perdix perdix*). Eight varieties.

Oyster-catcher (*Hæmatopus ostralegus*). One specimen.

Guillemot (*Uria troile*). One specimen.

Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). Three specimens.

Rook (*Trypanocorax frugilegus*). Three specimens. One of these had four legs, and had progressed so far to maturity that it was able to fly.

Swift (*Cypselus apus*). White variety; very uncommon.

Mistle-Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*). Two specimens.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*). One specimen.

Blackbird (*Merula merula*). Two specimens.

Wood-Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*). One specimen.

Rock-Dove (*Columba livia*). One specimen.

Sky-Lark (*Alauda arvensis*). Three specimens.

Yellow Bunting (*Emberiza citrinella*). One specimen.

Reed-Bunting (*Emberiza schœniclus*). One specimen.

Common Bunting (*Miliaria miliaria*). Two specimens.

House-Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). Three specimens.

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula europæa*). A melanistic female, shot in a wild state.

Hedge-Accentor (*Tharrhaleus modularis*). One specimen.

Exhibited by C. A. Wright.

Two specimens from his collection of Maltese birds, viz.:—A cream-coloured variety of the Common Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europæus*, ♀) and a Turtle-Dove (*Turtur isabellinus*, Bp.). This latter bird had not been taken before in the Maltese Islands, and should now be added to the list of occasional visitors. It was obtained in the market on the 2nd May, 1885, and had hitherto been considered to be a pale variety of the Common Turtle-Dove (*Turtur turtur*). *Cf.* P. Z. S. 1886, p. 81.

Exhibited by Philip Crowley.

A white Sand-Martin (*Clivicola riparia*).

A white Partridge (*Perdix perdix*).

An olive- and cream-coloured Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*).

Exhibited by O. V. Aplin.

A male Partridge (*Perdix perdix*), shot at Bloxham, Oxon, in September 1899. The bright rufous colour of the vent extended over the abdomen and breast, recalling the coloration of *P. daurica*.

Exhibited by Johnson Wilkinson.

Black Grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix*). An adult male in female plumage, and an adult female in male plumage. From Perm.

A female Mongolian Pheasant (*Phasianus mongolicus*) in the plumage of the male. From Fort Perovskie, Syr-Darya.

A white Partridge (*Perdix perdix*). From England.

Mr. Sclater exhibited, on behalf of Dr. Julius von Madarász, of the Hungarian National Museum, the following mounted specimens of birds from the collection under his charge:—

(1) Dendrocopus major. ♀ albino. Shot in the county of Nograd, Hungary, in January 1864.

(2) Dendrocopus major. ♂. Shot in Hungary, 1822, showing very interesting variations in colour.

(3) Dendrocopus major × D. medius. Shot by Dr. J. v. Madarász in May 1892 in Ogradina, South Hungary. There were three specimens, all alike. The head resembles that of *D. major*, but the rest of plumage, especially the underparts, are those of *D. medius*.

Dr. J. v. Madarász also sent for exhibition four specimens of *Ptilocorys senegalensis*, which replaces the Common Crested Lark (*P. cristatus*) on the Hungarian littoral and breeds in the rocks of the Karst Mountains; and two examples of *P. nigricans*, Brehm, of Egypt (Damietta, 1887), which he considered a distinct species, not to be confounded with *P. cristatus*.

Mr. Hartert, who examined these Crested Larks, said that these supposed *Galerita nigricans* of Brehm were the same as his *Galerita cristata deltæ*. As the type of *G. nigricans* was in the Tring Museum, Mr. Hartert would shortly give his conclusions with respect to the identity of these two forms. The type of *G. c. deltæ* was also from Damietta, collected by Schrader.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. LXXII.

[In accordance with the resolution of the Committees of the B. O. Union and the B. O. Club, as announced at the last meeting, the Annual Dinner of the British Ornithologists' Union took place at the Restaurant Frascati on Wednesday, the 16th of May, 1900, coincidently with the Meeting of the Club.]

Chairman: F. D. Godman, D.C.L., F.R.S.

Members present:—E. Bidwell, W. Fitzherbert-Brockholes, A. Cowie, Philip Crowley, W. E. de Winton (*Treasurer*), H. E. Dresser, A. H. Evans, Earl of Gainsborough, W. R. Ogilvie Grant, E. Hartert, J. E. Harting, Major H. Jones, Hon. Gerald Lascelles, G. E. Lodge, E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, H. C. Monro, E. Neale, R. Nesham, F. Nicholson, E. W. Oates, T. Parkin, H. J. Pearson, A. Blayney Percival, F. G. Penrose, M.D., E. Lort Phillips, T. M. Pike, A. E. Price, R. H. Read, Hon. N. C. Rothschild, Hon. Walter Rothschild, D.Sc., M.P., A. D. Sapsworth, Howard Saunders, R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D. (*Editor*), Capt. G. E. Shelley, A. J. Simey, E. Cavendish Taylor, W. B. Tegetmeier, N. F. Ticehurst, Canon H. B. Tristram, F.R.S., H. M. Upcher, H. M. Wallis, Johnson Wilkinson, A. F. R. Wollaston.

Visitors: C. E. Fagan, J. K. Fowler, C. C. Lloyd Jones, E. Wilkinson, Prof. E. Ray Lankester, LL.D., F.R.S. (*Guest of the Club*).

The Hon. Walter Rothschild exhibited a specimen of *Burnesia gracilis* shot by his brother at Luxor, in Egypt, which was remarkable for its pronounced ashy-grey colour, and stated that when flying this species frequently carried its tail erect over the back like the Lyre-bird (*Menura*).

The Hon. Charles Rothschild exhibited a number of birds collected by him and Mr. Francis Gaynor on their journey from Cairo to Khartoum, among which were four species of Wheatear (*Saxicola*), two of *Merops*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus swainsoni*, and a young *Coccystes glandarius* from the nest of *Corvus cornix*. He also exhibited a very old male of *Anastomus lamellifer*, procured twenty miles to the south of Khartoum on the White Nile; this was believed to be the most northern locality recorded for the species.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild exhibited a new Bird of Paradise, which he described as follows:—

"Parotia duivenbodei, sp. nov.

"♂ *adult*. Pectoral shield more extended and of a different shape, structure, and colour to that of either *P. sefilata*, *P. lawesi*, or *P. helenæ*. The shield, in fact, consists of a much larger number of rows of small and narrow feathers, which are also not so smooth. The ruff on the sides of the neck does not extend so far across the throat, and in consequence the metallic feathers of the pectoral shield itself reach further up on the throat, gradually diminishing in size and number. The black central shaft-patches on the lateral feathers of the shield are narrower and much less numerous. The colour of the pectoral shield is glittering metallic green, with a few feathers on the edges of the shield margined with blue, whereas in the three allied species the shield is of a brilliant coppery greenish-golden colour. There is no long erect tuft on the forehead, and the crest of feathers on the head is scarcely developed. The glittering occipital band of the other allied species of *Parotia* is replaced by a large

triangular and rather wedge-shaped shield of metallic bluish-green feathers extending from between the eyes to the occiput.

"There is no white anywhere on the head, and the colour of the latter is of the same deep glossy purple as on the rest of the upper surface, *not* glossed with oily brown as in the three allied species. The first and second primaries are less abruptly emarginate than in the allied forms.

"In the specimen described there is only one head-plume on each side instead of three, and although Mr. Ernst Hartert and I have both examined most carefully the feathers of the head we have been unable to find traces of any more; but until a large series arrives, or we find a specimen with more of these ornamental plumes, it cannot be definitely determined that this is a good and real character of the species. Wing 150 mm., tail 115 mm., tarsus 38 mm., culmen 34 mm.

"*Hab.* Dutch New Guinea (Van Renesse van Duivenbode)."

Mr. Rothschild also exhibited two rare birds from the Ambernoh River, in Dutch New Guinea: *Nasiterna bruijni*, one of the smallest of Parrots, and *Chenorhamphus grayi*, a very rare Flycatcher, of which Wallace obtained a single specimen (the type) at Sorong.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe described three apparently new species of birds obtained by Lord Delamere in British East Africa:—

Spizocorys athensis, sp. n.

♂. *S. conirostri* affinis, sed valdè diversa: suprà alaudina, haud arcnicolor: rostro corneo: subtus isabellino-alba, maculis præpectoralibus nigris notata: plagâ nigrâ ad latera colli conspicuâ, sed subalaribus et primariis intus cinerascentibus, illis obscurè arcnario marginatis præcipuè distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., culm. 0·55, alæ 3·5, caudæ 2·0, tarsi 0·8.

Hab. Athi River, Nov. 14, 1899.

A further interesting discovery is a second species of the genus *Pseudalæmon* of Lort Phillips (Ibis, 1898, p. 400):—

Pseudalæmon delamerei, sp. n.

Similis *P. fremantlii* et eodem modo figurata, sed grisescens nec arenaria : corpore subtùs isabellino, hypochondriis brunnescentibus nigro angustè striolatis, et pectore evidenter nigro striolatim maculato distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 3·5, caudæ 1·75, tarsi 0·8.

Hab. Athi River, Nov. 17, 1899.

Estrilda delamerei, sp. n.

E. similis *E. erythronotæ*, et subcaudalibus abdomineque nigris, sed omninò pallidior, et fasciis alæ clarè margaritaceis nec eineraceis ; notæo pallidè cinereo-vinaceo : gutture imo et præpectore pallidè roseis : hypochondriis rosaceis, nec coccineis, distinguenda. Long. tot. 4·7 poll., culm. 0·4, alæ 2·1, caudæ 2·25, tarsi 0·6.

Hab. Athi River, Nov. 8, 1899.

Dr. Sharpe gave a short account of the history of the B. O. C. and the work performed by the members since the foundation of the Club eight years ago.

Mr. Meade-Waldo called the attention of the Union to the way in which rare species of birds were still being persecuted or destroyed in Great Britain. He felt sure that no member of the Union would willingly assist in bringing about this lamentable occurrence, but that in consideration of the persistency with which all our rare breeding birds were annually harried by British egg-collectors, and on that account the great difficulty, if not impossibility, experienced by landed proprietors in preserving them, he considered that the time had come to make a supreme effort. He proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. H. M. Upcher, and carried unanimously :—

> "That any member of the Union, directly or indirectly responsible for the destruction of nest, eggs, young, or parent-birds of any of the species mentioned below —Osprey, Kite, White-tailed Eagle, Honey-Buzzard, Common Buzzard, Hoopoe, Golden Oriole, Ruff, Bittern, and Chough—should be visited with the severest censure of the Union."

A discussion ensued, in which the President and other members took part.

The Hon. G. Lascelles gave an interesting account of the efforts made by the Crown for the preservation of the birds in the New Forest. He lamented that, in spite of the strenuous efforts made, the keepers were only partially successful, although men were specially told off to guard the nesting-place of some rare species. He was pleased to say, however, that on some occasions their efforts had been rewarded with success.

Mr. Fitzherbert-Brockholes exhibited a remarkable nest, jointly constructed and inhabited by a Blackbird (*Merula merula*) and a Hedge-Accentor (*Tharrhaleus modularis*). He gave the following account of the circumstance :—

"The nest was found by my daughter on April 13th in an unfinished condition. It was looked at by her every day, and on the 19th was found finished and containing 1 egg—a Hedge-Sparrow's. On the 20th it contained 2 Hedge-Sparrow's and 1 Blackbird's; on the 21st the score was 3—2, and on the 22nd 4—3. On the 23rd there was no addition to the 4 Hedge-Sparrow's eggs, but the Blackbird had laid a fourth and was found sitting. On the 24th the Blackbird was again found sitting, one of the Hedge-Sparrow's eggs being crushed in the nest and another cracked. The nest was then taken. The latter bears most self-evident proofs of the joint work of the two pairs of birds during the entire process of building, and is therefore totally different from an appropriation of the nest of one pair of birds by another pair, or from two hen birds of one species laying in the same nest, in the way that Partridges occasionally do. The nest was in a thick mass of rhododendrons in my grounds.

"It was unfortunate that my curiosity had not been sufficiently aroused when my daughter first told me of her discovery, but even if I had gone to look at it before the

20th, when it contained its first egg, the bed of rhododendron was so thick and large and the nest was situated so much in the heart of it, that I might have found it impossible to see the Hedge-Sparrow, with its customary skulking habits, actually at work. The whole appearance, however, of the construction of the nest, and the way the eggs were laid, renders this additional proof unnecessary."

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 20th of June, 1900, at 8.30, at the Restaurant Fraseati, 32 Oxford Street; the dinner at 7 P.M.

(Signed)

F. D. Godman, *Chairman.* R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.* W. E. de Winton, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. LXXIII.

The seventy-second Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 20th of June, 1900.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. Bidwell, J. L. Bonhote, F. Curtis, W. E. de Winton (*Treasurer*), Earl of Gainsborough, F. H. C. Gould, G. E. Lodge, J. G. Millais, R. Nesham, T. Parkin, H. L. Patterson, H. J. Pearson, W. P. Pycraft, Hon. W. Rothschild, M.P., A. D. Sapsworth, F. C. Selous, F. Sharman, R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D. (*Editor*), E. Cavendish Taylor, N. F. Ticehurst, C. Whymper, H. F. Witherby.

Guests: R. W. E. Parker, H. Stevens, G. C. Trench.

Guests of the Club: Dr. L. von Lorenz (Vienna), Dr. P. Sushkin (Moscow).

Mr. H. F. Witherby exhibited a male specimen of *Caprimulgus eximius* procured by him on the White Nile near Khartoum, in May 1900. As far as was known this was the fifth example of this bird that had been procured. Three examples were obtained in 1823 or 1824 by Hey, Rüppell's collector, probably near the White Nile. Two of these were at Frankfurt and one at Leyden (see Hartert, Ibis, 1892,

p. 279). A fourth was in Mr. Rothschild's collection at Tring. It was collected by Schimper and Baron von Müller and was labelled "Nubia" (see Hartert, 'Novitates Zoologicæ,' vol. i. p. 3).

Mr. T. Parkin made some observations on the abundance of bird-life noticed by him in the Southern Oceans.

The following is the list of birds obtained during a day's shooting in a calm on December 2nd, 1890, in the Cape Seas, when on a voyage to Australia in the clipper ship 'Sobraon,' South Atlantic Ocean, lat. 39° 51′ S., long. 8° 49′ E.

*7 Wandering Albatrosses (*Diomedea exulans*).
2 Black-eyebrowed Albatrosses (*D. melanophrys*).
6 Culminated Albatrosses (*Thalassogeron culminatus*).
1 Yellow-nosed Albatross (*T. chlororhynchus*).
1 Great Grey Petrel (*Priofinus cinereus*).
1 Silver-grey Petrel (*Priocella glacialoides*).
1 Great Black Petrel (*Majaqueus æquinoctialis*).
1 Brown Petrel? (*Œstrelata incerta*).
2 Soft-plumaged Petrels (*Œstrelata mollis*).
2 Yellow-webbed Storm-Petrels (Wilson's) (*Oceanites oceanicus*).
2 Black-billed Storm-Petrels (*Cymodroma melanogaster*).
1 White-billed Storm-Petrel (*C. grallaria*).
6 Dove-like Prions (*Prion desolatus*).

Mr. W. P. Pycraft gave a brief summary of the results of his recent investigations in the Morphology of the Ratitæ, and suggested a new basis of classification for this group. Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe and the Hon. Walter Rothschild took part in the discussion which followed.

Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant sent a description of a new species of Stone-Pheasant collected by Lord Delamere in

* The Wandering Albatrosses were all *D. exulans*, and, so far as my memory goes, none of them could come under the head of *D. regia*.

British East Africa. The species was named after Lady Delamere :—

PTILOPACHYS FLORENTIÆ, sp. n.

Closely allied to *P. fuscus*, but distinguished by having the plumage altogether darker, the black markings, especially on the underparts of the body, being much coarser. The mantle and upper back are devoid of the broad chestnut shaft-streaks characteristic of *P. fuscus*; on the sides of the breast, belly, and flanks the wide chestnut middles to the feathers are much reduced, and the sides of the feathers are strongly barred with black and white. Iris brown; bill and legs dull red. Total length about 10 inches, wing 4·7, tail 3·6, tarsus 1·15.

Hab. Gessema, British East Africa.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 17th of October, 1900, at 8.30, at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street; the Dinner at 7 P.M.

(Signed)

P. L. SCLATER, *Chairman.* R. BOWDLER SHARPE, *Editor.* W. E. DE WINTON, *Sec. & Treas.*