

November 12, 1833.

Richard Owen, Esq., in the Chair.

A letter was read, addressed to the Secretary by M. Julien Desjardins, Corr. Memb. Z. S., and dated Mauritius, June 20, 1833. It was accompanied by an "Extrait du Troisième Rapport sur les Travaux de la Société d'Histoire Naturelle de l'Ile Maurice," of which Society M. J. Desjardins is the Secretary. This extract, containing an account of the Zoological Proceedings of the Mauritius Natural History Society, was read.

In Ornithology only one paper has been read. It is a description, by M. J. Desjardins, of the *Greenshanks*, *Totanus Glottis*, Cuv., taken from a specimen killed in Mauritius: the bird not being known to have previously occurred in the island.

In *Ichthyology* the contributions have been numerous. M. Liénard, sen., has described a new species of *Grammistes*, Cuv., distinguishable from the two previously known by its compressed form, on which account it has been designated *Gramm. compressus*: its first dorsal fin has nine rays. He has also described a new species of *Cirrhit*es, Cuv., remarkable for a vertical *septum* formed in the middle of its palate by a prolongation of the lining membrane of the mouth: and an *Aphareus*, Cuv., which to some differences in the number of the rays from *Aph. cærulescens*, Cuv., adds others in colouring, and particularly a yellow spot on the forehead, and another near the angle of the *præoperculum*. He has given a particular account of *Epibulus Insidiator*, Cuv., and of its anatomy; and has noticed a fish, which he regards as a variety of this species, distinguished principally by its colour being pale yellow instead of reddish green. He has also described *Trichiurus lepturus*, Linn.; and *Zanclus cornutus*, Cuv., adverting, as regards the latter, to some particulars of the anatomy of this scaleless *Chætodon*. M. E. Liénard has described two new species of *Holacanthus*, La Cép., one of which is marked with numerous transverse bands, of which the anterior are interrupted; the other having also numerous bands similarly directed, but curved. M. J. Liénard has given a detailed description of a fish, which he regards as constituting a new subgenus between *Anampses*, Cuv., and *Odax*, Ej.: it has six incisor teeth, and these, instead of being directed outwards like the two incisors of *Anampses*, are curved inwards. And lastly, M. J. Desjardins has described two new species of *Chætodon*, Cuv.: one of them, *Chæt. festivus*, has a large eye-like spot on the soft rays of the dorsal fin, and a black spot on those of the anal; its form is orbicular, and the spinous rays of its dorsal fin are twelve: the other, *Chæt. chrysurus*, is of a rather elongated form, and has thirteen spinous rays in its dorsal fin; its principal markings are eight transverse bands, angular in the middle, succeeded by a white zone, which is followed by a region of orange yellow occupying the soft part of the dorsal and anal fins and the whole of the tail, and becoming paler at its hinder part.

M. J. Desjardins has also described a new species of the *Crustaceous* genus *Ranina*, Desm., to which he has given the name of *Ran. cristata*.

In Entomology M. W. Bojer has described a new species of the *Prionidous* genus *Dorysthenes*, Vig.; and M. J. Desjardins has given an account of three new species of *Libellula*, Linn., under the respective names of *Lib. limbata*, *Lib. semihyalina*, and *Lib. bimaculata*, all being indigenous to Mauritius.

The Secretary called the attention of the Society to several animals which had recently been added to the Menagerie. They included an *ursine Opossum*, *Dasyurus ursinus*, Geoff., an animal known to the colonists of Van Diemen's Land by the appellation of the *Native Devil*; a *Secretary Vulture*, *Gypogeranus serpentarius*, Ill., presented to the Society by Lieutenant-General Sir Lowry Cole; and two *crowned Cranes*, presented by the same distinguished officer, on his return from the government of the Cape of Good Hope.

Referring more particularly to the latter, he brought under the notice of the Meeting specimens from the Society's Museum of *crowned Cranes* from Northern and from Southern Africa, with the view of illustrating the characters which distinguish as species the birds from these several localities. Their specific distinction, he stated, on the authority of Professor Lichtenstein, had been pointed out, nearly thirty years since, by the Professor's father, who gave to the Cape bird the name of *Grus Regulorum*: this distinction has, however, not been generally known among ornithologists, although to those connected with the Society it has for some time been familiar, from observation both of numerous skins and of living individuals. In the bird of North Africa, for which the specific name of *pavoninus* will be retained, the wattle is small, and there is much red occupying the lower two thirds of the naked cheeks: in that of South Africa the wattle is large, and the cheeks are white, except in a small space at their upper part; the neck also is of a much paler slate colour than that of the North African species. He added that the latter characters had been observed to be permanent in an individual presented to the Society, in April 1829, from the collection of the late Marchioness of Londonderry, and which is still living at the Gardens: they exist also in both the individuals presented by Sir Lowry Cole.

The two species may be thus distinguished:

Genus ANTHROPOÏDES, Vieill.

* *Occipite cristato, cristâ erectâ, effusâ, e plumis setaceis constante.*

ANTHROPOÏDES PAVONINUS, Vieill. *Anth. genis nudis, supernè albis infernè latè roseis; paleari minimo; gutturis plumis elongatis nigrescentibus.*

Ardea pavonina, Linn. et Auct.

Hab. in Africâ Septentrionali et Occidentali.

ANTHROPOÏDES REGULORUM. *Anth. genis nudis, albis supernè roseis; paleari magno; gutturis plumis elongatis pendulis cærulescenti-cinereis.*

Grus Regulatorum, Licht.

Hab. in Africâ Meridionali.

It is probable that this latter species has been figured by Petiver and by Kolbe; but their representations are by no means sufficiently defined to authorize a positive reference to them.

Mr. Gray took occasion to remark that the oval form of the nostrils in the *crowned Cranes*, added to other distinguishing characters which have frequently been pointed out, might be regarded as indicating a generic difference between them and the *Demoiselle* and *Stanley Cranes*, in which the nostrils have the lengthened form usual in the genus *Grus*, a genus from which they scarcely differ except in the comparative shortness of their bill. For the group including the *crowned Cranes* the name of *Balearica* might, he thought, be retained; and that of *Anthropoides* be appropriated to the one comprehending *Anth. Virgo*, Vieill., and *Anth. paradiseus*, Bechst.

A collection of *crania* and skins of *Mammalia* from Nepâl, presented to the Society by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., Corr. Memb. Z. S., was exhibited. It contained skulls of the *Buansu*, *Canis primævus*, Hodgs., remarkable for the absence of a second tubercular molar tooth in the lower jaw, as described in a communication by the donor read at the Meeting on September 24th, (see page 111); of the *Thibetan Mastiff*, and of the *Pariah Dog*: of the *Indian Jackal* and of the *Indian Fox*, both of which are regarded by Mr. Hodgson as belonging to species hitherto undescribed, the molar teeth of the latter having in their acute tubercles much of an insectivorous character: and of the *Felis Nepalensis*, Vig. & Horsf.

Among the skins were those of a *Sciuropterus*, F. Cuv., as large as *Sci. nitidus*, Ej., and apparently new to science: of a *Sciurus*, Linn., also apparently new: and of a *Herpestes*, Ill., which Mr. Hodgson at present regards as a small variety of the common *Indian Ichneumon*, *Herpestes griseus*, Desm.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Gould exhibited a specimen of a *Toucan*, hitherto undescribed, and which he had recently acquired. It is nearly related to *Pteroglossus Aracari*, Ill., and to *Pter. regalis*, Licht.; and Mr. Gould pointed out the characters which distinguish it from those and other species. He proposed for it the name of

PTEROGLOSSUS CASTANOTIS. *Pter. suprâ olivaceo-viridis, subtus sulphureus; capite guttureque nigris; regione parotica femoribusque saturatè castaneis; uropygio, interscapulio, abdominisque fasciâ latâ coccineis; tectricibus caudæ inferioribus sordidè flavis; remigibus brunneis.*

Long. tot. $17\frac{1}{2}$ unc; rostri, a rictu ad apicem, 5; alæ, $6\frac{1}{4}$; caudæ, $7\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $1\frac{3}{8}$.

Hab. in Brasiiliâ.

The beak is depressed, of a deep straw yellow, with a broad triangular mark of black along its *culmen* for two thirds of its length, and a nearly similar mark of black on each side; its edges are

strongly dentated, the intervals between the notches being black: the under mandible is black throughout: an abrupt line of yellow surrounds the base of the beak. The *tarsi* are of a dark lead colour.

Mr. Gould also exhibited a *Woodpecker*, which he regarded as new to science. He described it as

PICUS FLAVINUCHA. *Pic. suprâ viridis, subtùs fuscescens; vertice olivaceo; occipite nuchâque flavo cristatis; fronte, facie, colli lateribus, juguloque saturatè brunneis, hoc albo maculato; gulâ sulphurèâ; caudâ nigrâ.*

Fœm. gulâ saturatè brunneâ.

Long. tot., 13 unc.; *alæ*, $6\frac{1}{4}$; *tarsi*, 1; *rostri*, a rictu ad apicem, $1\frac{3}{4}$.

The beak is somewhat feeble, slightly arched, pointed, and broad at the base. The feathers of the *occiput* and back of the neck are of a silky texture, and constitute a golden yellow crest, which is drawn out to a point, and is edged abruptly by the dark brown of the face, the sides of the neck and the ear-coverts.

It inhabits the Himalayan mountains and also the lower regions of India.

Captain Belcher laid on the table several specimens of a *Barnacle*, the *Pentalasmis striata*, Leach, remarkable for the great length of their peduncles, which exceeded two feet.

The following notes by Mr. Martin of a dissection of a *Puma*, *Felis concolor*, Linn., which recently died at the Society's Gardens, were read.

"Among animals of the feline genus so few points of anatomical difference are found to exist, that the notes of the dissection of one species (allowance being made for relative magnitude,) are closely applicable to that of almost any other. We can therefore only expect to trace out minor differences in structure; and these not among organs essentially connected with the habits and general characteristics of the genus, but with habits peculiar and specific. Hence perhaps we find in this group the greatest difference to obtain in the organs of voice; a circumstance which might naturally be expected, as some according modification must necessarily produce the deep-toned roar of the *Lion*, the snarl of the *Jaguar*, and the hissing cry of the *Puma*.

"The distance between the base of the tongue and the *larynx* in the *Lion*, has been brought more than once under the notice of the Society; in the *Jaguar*, this distance, comparatively speaking, is nearly as great; but in the *Puma*, an animal equal, or nearly so, in size to the *Jaguar*, the distance is reduced to an inconsiderable space, 1 inch or $1\frac{1}{2}$, according as the tongue is more or less protruded. In addition to this, it is worthy of observation, that the circumference of the *larynx* in the *Puma* is also very inconsiderable: compare, for example, the *larynx* of the *Jaguar* with that of the present animal, both natives of the wilds of the American continent. In the *Jaguar*



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