the eggs, I found that the majority averaged 0·24 inch in diameter. The cause of the failure in this instance may probably have been more due to the young age of the male (a rising two-year-old) than to its being a hybrid. Next winter, however, ought to set this question at rest.

November 12, 1884.—A female rising two-year-old hybrid Char of the Struan [1] race gave 146 eggs, out of which only six hatched on February 3, 1885.

November 12, 1884.—4500 eggs of Lochleven Trout were milted from a hybrid rising two-year-old of the Struan race; they hatched on February 2, 1885. Among them are many deformities, a few dropsies; while about half the ova hatched.

Respecting the rising Struan two-year-old hybrids [2], they have suffered from the winter more than any other form. Kept in plank-pond no. 4, as December set in they began to be languid; and one or two having died, they were shifted into the old *fario* pond, no. 5, on Dec. 24, when 74 fish were transferred. The next day 15 died, and two on the 26th. Since then a few have succumbed; and one on Feb. 12. These fish seem, in their shallow pond, to have felt atmospheric changes very severely, requiring deeper water into which to descend, while it is very remarkable that the hybrid crosses between the American Char and the Lochleven Trout (9 leopards and 146 zebras) were not so affected, although kept under precisely similar surroundings.

In continuation of the table of measurements of the eggs [3] of Grilse, Lochleven Trout, American Char, and those of the Struan hybrids which I gave in my last paper, I have the following additional ones to record:—

Salmo salar, 16 lb. weight:	diameter of each egg 0·24 of an inch.
,, ,, Howietoun Grilse:	,, ,, 0·20 to 0·22 of an inch.
,, *trutta*, small:	,, ,, 0·175 to 0·18 of an inch.
,, *levenensis*, 8 years old:	,, a few 0·20, 0·22, most 0·24 inch.
,, ,, 2 ,,	,, each egg 0·17 of an inch.
,, *fontinalis*, 3 ,,	,, ,, 0·17 of an inch.
,, ,, 2 ,,	,, ,, 0·14 to 0·16 of an inch.
Hybrid Char, Struan race	,, ,, 0·15 of an inch.

9. Note on a supposed Melanotic Variety of the Leopard, from South Africa. By Dr. A. Günther, F.Z.S.

[Received March 3, 1885.]

(Plate XVI.)

A few days ago Mr. F. Bowker brought to me the flat skin of a "rare Leopard" which he had obtained at Grahamstown. The animal had been killed in a hilly district covered with dense scrub and situated at a distance of about forty miles from the town. On further inquiry I learned that a second specimen had been obtained in

[1] Proc. Zool. Soc. 1884, p. 587. [2] *L. c.* p. 586. [3] *L. c.* p. 588.

the same district, and is at present preserved in the Museum of Grahamstown [1]; that the ordinary kind of Leopard is common in the locality, that the Cheetah is very scarce, and that the Lion has been entirely exterminated for a considerable period.

The points in which the skin differs from the ordinary type are the following:—

The ground-colour is tawny with a rich orange gloss about the shoulders. Of the rosettes only a few indications are preserved, namely on the haunches, where two are visible on the right side, whilst they form an irregular confluent pattern on the left. Remains of rosettes are also visible, one on each shoulder close to the verticelli of hairs which are usually developed in this place in the Leopard, Lion, &c. Two pairs of similar rudimentary rosettes succeed these at intervals of about 10 inches. The remainder of the rosettes are broken up into, or replaced by, innumerable small separate spots, which are most distinct in and behind the region of the shoulder, and on the outer sides of the legs. They are more diffuse on the flanks, where they mix with the ground-colour, producing a brownish tinge. Finally on the back, from the forehead to the sacral region, they are more or less confluent, so that the whole of the back appears to be of black colour, which is most intense above the lumbar region. A few black spots on the upper lip, a conspicuous black spot above each eye surrounded by a light yellowish ring, and a large black spot on the back of the ear are present as in Leopards with typical coloration. On the other hand, the tail differs in a remarkable manner, it being fulvous for its first two thirds, which colour gradually changes into pale grey; the whole tail is sprinkled with numerous very small and clearly defined spots, the extreme tip being black. Chin, chest, belly, and inside of the legs white with large black spots as in the ordinary Leopard. Whiskers and claws white, hair between the foot-pads black. The hairs are of about the ordinary length, with a very thick underfur on the sides of the body.

The measurements of the flat skin are as follows:—Head and body 4 feet 1 inch, tail 2 feet 6 inches; distance of central line of back from the fore toes 2 feet 6 inches.

In endeavouring to throw some light on this extraordinary deviation from the ordinary type, we are almost entirely limited to the evidence to be gleaned from the specimen before us. The possibility of its being a hybrid between the Leopard and one of the other large feline animals of South Africa is to be considered. There is a very evident mixture of two patterns of coloration, viz. of that in which the ornamental colour appears in the form of rosettes, and that of simple black spots as in the Cheetah. Yet the whole build of the animal and the structure of the typically feline claws prevent us from assuming that the Cheetah might be one of the parents. It would be more within the bounds of possibility that our specimen is the offspring of a Leopard with a Lioness which had

[1] This is evidently the same specimen which was described by Mr. Trimen in Proc. Zool. Soc. 1883, p. 535.

strayed so far southwards, the African Lion being frequently found with a very dark dorsal region and with the long hairs of a more or less intense black; also the bright tawny ground-colour of the shoulder in our specimen is very Lion-like. But it would be extremely hazardous to found an opinion on such slight grounds, the more so as we cannot find any trace of structural leonine characters.

The hairs consist of a soft underfur of fine wool-hairs, mixed with stouter hairs; the latter cannot be distinguished microscopically from those of the ordinary Leopard; and both are almost identical with, perhaps a little more slender than, those of the Lion.

It is a well-known fact that the Asiatic Leopard exhibits a decided tendency to melanism; and it is stated that the black Leopards are found chiefly in forest-districts of considerable elevation. So far the conditions under which melanism appears in the Asiatic Leopard seem to be similar to those under which our specimen was reared. On the other hand, the abnormal coloration affects the ornamental pattern of the Asiatic Leopard in a different fashion from that observable in our specimen. In the former the black colour is equally diffused over the whole body, the rosettes retaining their shape and number, and shining with a more intense black through the ground-colour. This is a very different pattern from that of our specimen. Nevertheless, considering all circumstances, I have no better opinion to offer than this, that the specimen is an instance of incipient melanism—the first appearance of the melanotic tendency which is so strongly developed in Asiatic individuals of this widely spread species.

March 17, 1885.

Prof. Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of February 1885:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of February was 48, of which 20 were by presentation, 14 by purchase, 7 by birth, 2 were received in exchange, and 5 on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 105.

The most noticeable additions during the month of February were as follows:—

1. A Viverrine Phalanger (*Phalangista viverrina*) from Australia, purchased February 10th, being of a species new to the Society's Menagerie.

2. An Isabelline Lynx (*Felis isabellina*), received in exchange from the Zoological Gardens, Calcutta, February 27th. This animal has been placed in company with the example of the same species presented in 1882 by Capt. Baldock (see P. Z. S. 1882, p. 720), with which it seems to agree in every respect.

3. Two young examples of the American Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus*

fuscus), purchased February 28th. The acquisition of these birds renders the Society's series of Pelicans very nearly complete, as we now have specimens of seven species living in the Gardens, as will be seen by the subjoined list.

List of Pelicans now living in the Gardens.

4 White Pelicans (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*).
- *a*. Presented by E. T. Rogers, Esq., C.M.Z.S., Feb. 3, 1868. From Syria.
- *b*. Presented by A. C. Henderson, Esq., April 25, 1877.
- *c*. Presented by J. Simonds, Esq., June 6, 1880.
- *d*. Presented by C. J. Bolau, Esq., June 2, 1882.

1 Mitred Pelican (*Pelecanus mitratus*).
- *a*. Presented by Dr. Holub, Sept. 18, 1879. From S. Africa.

1 Crested Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*).
- *a*. Presented by Dr. Dagle, April 10, 1873.

1 Red-backed Pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*).
- *a*. Purchased, July 21, 1880.

2 Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus fuscus*).
- *a*, *b*. Purchased, Feb. 28, 1885.

1 Rough-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus trachyrhynchus*).
- *a*. Purchased, July 3, 1884.

1 Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*).
- *a*. Purchased, May 14, 1868.

I may remark that most of these birds are now in fine breeding-plumage, and that the Rough-billed Pelican (to the shedding of the upstanding plate on the culmen of which I called attention on a former occasion [1]) has now developed a new knob on its beak.

I have also to call your attention to a fine example of a species of Bird-Spider which has been for some time in the Society's Insect-House, and has within these few days been presented to the Society by Mr. H. R. P. Carter, of Madras. It was found in a teak-log, and is believed to have come from Burmah. Mr. O. P. Cambridge, who has examined the drawing of it (which I now exhibit), believes it to be referable to *Mygale fasciata*, Latr., Koch, 'Die Arachniden,' Band ix. p. 41, Plate ccci. fig. 717.

Mr. Sclater exhibited and made remarks on a curious Duck shot on Lord Bolton's estate in Yorkshire in January 1885, which was apparently referable to the Common Scaup (*Fuligula marila*), but was remarkable for having the broad and clear white front of the female, and the black head of the ordinary male of this species.

Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier exhibited and made remarks on a pair of abnormal antlers obtained in India, said to be those of the Sambur (*Cervus aristotelis*).

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[1] See P. Z. S. 1884, p. 410.