together around the eggs, weaving and incorporating at the same time all the rubbish that is lying or floating around the nucleus.

For the safety of its nest and spawn, the fish is apparently very anxious for a time. Some individuals were watched, by Mr. Duncan and the Rev. Mr. Turnbull, for some weeks, and it was observed that the same fish was always in attendance upon its own nest. During the time of hope and expectation, they become fearless, and will allow themselves to be taken up by the hand repeatedly. There can be no doubt that their object in remaining near the nest is to guard it against the attacks of such animals as might feel inclined to prey upon its contents.

NOTE.—Since the preceding notice was read to the Club, the second volume of Mr. Swainson's 'Natural History of Fishes,' &c. has been published; and I find that in it these nests are said to be constructed by the *Gobies*, on the authority of Olivi. The question is worth further inquiry; but on mentioning this statement of Olivi's to Mr. Maclaren of Coldingham, he assured me that he had seen and watched the stickleback in the act of making the nests we have just described. G. J.—*From the Transactions of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club.*

ON *VESPERTILIO ÆDILIS*, JENYNS.

In Wiegmann's Archiv, Part I. for 1840, we find, in a valuable paper by MM. Keyserling and Blasius "On the generic and specific character of the European Bats," the following notice on the above animal lately described by Mr. Jenyns as probably forming a new species:

"*Vespertilio ædilis*, Jenyns (Annals of Nat. Hist. No. XV. p. 73, Plate XIII.), is brought forward as a new species, and carefully described by Mr. Jenyns from a white-coloured stuffed specimen; it is compared with *V. Daubentonii*, from which it is said to be distinguished:

"1. *by its more acute snout.*—In dried specimens the snout is generally more acute than in fresh ones, and this affords therefore no ground for comparison.

"2. *by the form of the tragus.*—The incision at the apex is probably accidental and individual; we have found such incisions even to vary on both ears of one and the same individual. The tooth at the base exists in all, although in most cases overlooked, and affords no distinction.

"3. *by the hairy covering of the interfemoral membrane.*—The granules mentioned by Jenyns, upon which the hairs originate, are also to be seen on fresh, and less distinctly on dried, specimens of *V. Daubentonii*.

“The admeasurements agree very closely with *V. Daubentonii*, to which we believe it must in every respect be referred.”

A NEW MARSUPIAL ANIMAL.

Perameles Tuckeri, n. s. Head short, conical; ears large, hairy, coloured like the back, with a blackish edge; fur soft, brown, varied with gray hairs, and black tips; sides yellow-brown, beneath yellowish gray, under fur of back lead-coloured; tail as long as the body, tapering, hairy, and coloured like the body at the base, blackish and with rather adpressed hairs for two-thirds of its length. Length of the head $2\frac{1}{4}$, of the body $5\frac{3}{4}$, of tail $5\frac{3}{4}$, of hind foot $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Inhab. Australia. In the collection of Mr. Tucker, the naturalist dealer, after whom I have named it.—JOHN E. GRAY.

A NEW SPECIES OF FOSSIL DOLPHIN.

M. Von Olfers laid before the meeting of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Berlin (Dec. 19, 1839), the fragments of some fossil remains of *Cetaceæ* found in the Prussian states. The most important are the clearly distinguishable remains of the skull of a Dolphin (*Delphis Karstenii*) converted into sandstone, which differs from all hitherto found, and appears to form the transition between *D. globiceps* and the allied species and the fossil genus *Ziphius*. It occurred near Bünde in Westphalia. Vertebrae of *Balenoptera* were also communicated by Prof. Becks; they occurred in a clay bed [Thonlager] between Bocholt and Oeding.

ON THE MINERAL CALLED *DYSODIL* AS A PRODUCT FROM THE SHELLS OF INFUSORIA. BY C. G. EHRENBURG.

In 1808 M. Cordier in Paris gave this substance the name of Dysodil, as a peculiar species of mineral; it had, however, previously been placed by mineralogists amongst the bituminous substances, and called *foliated mineral pitch* (*blättriges Erdpech*). As is well known, it is combustible, and in Sicily, where it was first discovered, it is used as peat.

As early as the 16th of April of this year, I made a communication to the Society of the Friends of Natural History in Berlin (see the *Staatszeitung* of the 29th of April), in which I stated that this mineral occurring in Sicily, resembling yellow wax, and composed of densely matted together siliceous shells (*Kieselschalen*) of the *Naviculæ* penetrated and cemented by a kind of resin, consists of a species of mail-covered infusoria. I also stated that there existed in the collections of the mineral-dealer, M. Krantz of Berlin, a lignite from Westerwalde, the colour of which is quite black, and in which may be recognised all the microscopic characters of the yellow

1840. "On Vespertilio ædilis, Jenyns." *Annals of natural history* 5, 149–150.
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