APTERYX AUSTRALIS.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Rostrum longum, gracile, rectiusculum, basi
cera tectum, sulco tubulato laterali utrin-
que exaratum, apice subtumido subin-
curvo.

Nares? lineares, inconspicuæ, prope apicem
rostri, ad finem sulci tubulati.

Alæ rudimenta tantum, monodactyla, subun-
cialia, unguiculo terminali.

Pedes compedes, breves, validi, gallinacei, te-
tradactyli, digito postico subinteriore, bre-
vissimo.

Cauda nulla.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

Apteryx griseo-ferruginea, rostro pedibusque
fusco-flavescentibus.

Novum omnino genus in tabula depingitur, nec ad
ordinem aliquem ornithologicum, quem novimus,
facile referendum. Nullis certe similis est quam
Struthionibus et *Gallinis*; rostrum tamen ab iis diver-
sum alium vivendi modum indicat. Prope accedit
hæc avis ad anseris magnitudinem; longaue est ab
apice rostri ad extremum corporis quasi duos pedes
cum semisse. Rostrum ipsum, si ab angulis oris me-
tis ad extremitatem mandibulæ superioris, sex uncias

et tres quadrantes æquat : si ab initio frontis fiat mensura, quinque uncias et tres quadrantes. Habitu seu facie generali ad *Pinguinarias* quodammodo accedit, vestitu *Casuarium australem* magnopere refert. Caput parvum. Collum modicum. Crura, non aliter quam in *Pinguinariis* sita, brevia et valida, sex uncias a genu ad extremum unguis medii sunt longa. Pedes digitis tribus anticis instruuntur, unicoque brevissimo subinferiore postico ; quorum omnes ungue muniuntur valido et acuto, fere unciali illo qui digiti est medii. Tota pedum conformatio gallinacea est. Nullum est caudæ vestigium ; et alarum loco (si fraus absit, nullam enim detegere possum) parvulus utrinque est articulus quasi uncialis, subtus plumis rarissimis marginatus, cujus apex unguem gerit parvulum et subacutum vix quadrante unciae longiorem. Tota avis ferrugineo-pallet, pennarum omnium marginibus obscurioribus, quo fit ut fusco commistæ videantur ; quæque elongatæ sunt et acuminatæ. Rostrum pedesque fusco-flavescent ; rostrum tamen pallidius.

In Nova Zelandia generatur hæc avis, cujus ab australi ora specimen quod depiximus in Angliam intulit Dominus Barclay, navis *Providentiæ* dux, et suadente amicissimo Domino Evans, mihi ipsi perhumaniter donavit.

In tabula secunda depinguntur rostrum, ala, pes, penna, juxta naturalem magnitudinem.

THE
SOUTHERN APTERYX.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill long, slender, nearly strait, covered at the base by a cere, marked on each side by a tubular furrow, slightly swelled and bent at the tip.

Nostrils? linear, inconspicuous, near the tip of the bill, at the end of the tubular furrow.

Wings rudiments only, consisting of a single joint or finger, about an inch in length, and terminated by a small claw or spur.

Feet comped, short, strong, gallinaceous, and tetradactyle; the hinder or subinterior toe very short.

Tail none.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Ferruginous - grey Apteryx, with yellowish brown bill and legs.

The bird represented on the present plate constitutes a perfectly new genus, which it is not easy to refer to any of the established ornithological orders. It seems however to approach more nearly to the Struthious and the Gallinaceous tribes than to any other, though the very different form of the beak implies a

different manner of life. The size of this bird is nearly that of a goose, and its length, from the tip of the bill to the extremity of the body, about two feet and a half. The bill, if measured from the corners of the mouth to the tip of the upper mandible, is about six inches and three quarters in length; but if measured from the beginning of the forehead to the tip, about five inches and three quarters. The general habit or appearance of the bird approaches to that of the Penguins; while the plumage bears a strong alliance to that of the brown or New Holland Cassowary. The head is rather small, and the neck of moderate length: the legs, which are situated as in the Penguins, are short and strong, measuring about six inches from the knee to the extremity of the middle claw: the feet have three toes in front, and a very short hind or sub-interior toe; and all are furnished with very strong and sharp claws; that of the middle toe measuring nearly an inch in length. The whole structure of the feet is gallinaceous. There is no appearance of a tail, and in place of wings (unless any art of deception has been practised, of which I cannot discover the least appearance), can only be perceived a small single joint on each side, measuring about an inch in length, slightly fringed on its lower edge by a few straggling plumes, and terminated by a small and sharpish claw or spur, scarcely a quarter of an inch in length. The colour of the whole bird is pale ferruginous, the edges of the feathers, which on all parts are of a lengthened and pointed shape, being of a more dusky cast, and thus giving the appearance of a mixture of brown in the

plumage. The bill and legs are of a yellowish-brown colour, the bill rather paler than the legs.

This curious bird is a native of New Zealand, from the south coast of which it was brought by Captain Barclay of the *Providence*, by whom, through the kind interposition of my friend W. Evans, Esq. it was presented to myself. The second plate represents, in their natural size, the bill, wing, leg, and a feather of this bird.

Shaw, George. 1813. "Apteryx australis, The Southern Apteryx [Pl. 1057-1058]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 24(CCLXXXVI), -. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322337>.

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