and these cases appear in many instances to make up vast masses by mere accumulation without any change. Whole rocks are composed of these minute cuirasses of crystal heaped together. Prof. Ehrenberg himself has examined the microscopic products of fifteen localities, and is still employed in extending his researches; and we already see researches of the same kind undertaken by others, to such an extent, as to show us that this new path of investigation will exercise a powerful influence upon the pursuits of geologists. We are sure therefore that we have acted in a manner suitable to the wishes of the honoured Donor of the medal, and to the interests of the science which we all in common seek to promote, in assigning the Wollaston medal to Prof. Ehrenberg for these discoveries.

Although it is not necessary as a ground for this adjudication, it is only justice to Prof. Ehrenberg to remark, that his services to geology are not confined to the researches which I have mentioned. His observations, made in the Red Sea, upon the growth of corals, are of great value and interest; and he was one of the distinguished band of scientific explorers who accompanied Baron von Humboldt in his expedition to the Ural Mountains. And I may further add, that even since the Council adjudged this medal, Prof. Ehrenberg has announced to the Royal Academy of Sciences of Berlin new discoveries; particularly his observations on the organic structure of chalk; on the freshwater Infusoria found near Newcastle and Edinburgh, and on the marine animalcules observed near Dublin and Gravesend; and, what cannot but give rise to curious reflections, an account of *meteoric paper* which fell from the sky in Courland in 1686, and was found to be composed of *Confervæ* and *Infusoria**.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A FEW PARTICULARS RESPECTING SOME RARE BIRDS WHICH HAVE
LATELY OCCURRED IN THE VICINITY OF YARMOUTH.

Many varieties in ornithology having occurred in this neighbourhood since Messrs. Paget gave a list of them in their 'Sketch of the Natural History of Yarmouth,' it has been thought that the following notices respecting them might not be unacceptable.

A specimen of the honey buzzard was shot at Caistor, a village about two miles from hence, in the month of November 1837. From its size and the appearance of its plumage it was judged to be an immature female. This was not the only instance of its occurrence on our eastern coast during that season. A male bird was procured at

* An account of this curious substance will appear in our next Number.
—EDIT.

Southwold, and Mr. Hoy had recorded the capture of one in his neighbourhood not long before.

An adult male bird of the rose ouzel (*Pastor roseus*) was obtained in the same locality as the first-mentioned honey buzzard in the month of June 1836. This bird is now in the possession of J. H. Gurney, Esq. The Bohemian waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula*), and the crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) have both been shot three or four times in as many years. The hoopoe has been once, at least, taken here in that period.

Two specimens of the white-tailed eagle (*Haliætos albicilla*) were procured last December—the one at Hasborough, the other at Ormesby.

I cannot avoid what may be deemed going out of my district to notice the occurrence of one of those birds whose loss every ornithologist must deplore. A fine female specimen of the great bustard (*Otis tarda*) was procured in the early part of May 1837, and was set up by Mr. King, of London Street, Norwich, in whose shop I saw it in the month of June. In size it was not more than a common turkey. The markings on the back and scapulars were exceedingly handsome. This bird, I believe, is now in the possession of the Hon. F. W. Keppel.

The occurrence of the *Tringa pectoralis* and *Tr. platyrhyncha* has already been noticed by Mr. Hoy in the 'Magazine of Natural History,' New Series, vol. i. in which place he has also mentioned the peculiar form of the bill of the latter bird, by which it may at once be distinguished.

The brown snipe (*Scolopax grisea*) was shot on Yarmouth Beach in October 1836. This bird had not completely obtained its winter plumage when procured. The bill is rugose and punctured at the tip in a similar manner to that of the common snipe. Why Dr. Leach should have given to it the name of *Macroramphus* is perhaps not easily accounted for. Its bill is certainly of a considerable length, but not so long in proportion as that of the common snipe. I was kindly favoured with the sight of this bird by Leonard Rudd, Esq. in whose collection it now is. The same gentleman has also specimens of the Kentish plover (*Charadrius Cantianus*) and one of the little gull (*Larus minutus*) which he shot at this place.

Mr. Stephen Miller of this town, the possessor of a very numerous collection of British birds, has an adult specimen of the ivory gull (*Larus eburneus*). Nothing could more aptly describe the colour of this bird than its name. It is intermediate in size between the herring and black-headed gulls.

By way of conclusion I may be allowed to notice that albino varieties of the stormy petrel sometimes occur. Mr. Miller has one which is altogether of a dirty white, except those parts which are white in the common variety, and which are here clearly distinguishable by their brightness. Mr. J. Smith of this place has also an albino variety ? of the furze chat (*Saxicola Rubetra*), and I have seen specimens of the common grey linnet nearly white.—THOS. PAINE, JUN.

ON THE INSTRUMENTS OF PERFORATION IN THE *CICADA*.

M. Doyère has published some remarks on the ovipositor of the *Cicada*, 'Ann. Sc. Nat.' t. vii. p. 193. tending to show that Reaumur's notion, according to which the perforation is effected by the up and down motion of the two lateral parts which are serrated at their apex, and that the middle piece serves merely to hold together the side pieces, cannot be correct; as in the first place, the serratures of the lateral pieces are too blunt, and on the other hand, the whole instrument would want a point of support, as the whole weight would fall on the anterior portion of the body only. He therefore brings forward the view that the lateral pieces are employed rather as pincers and serve as a point of support to the borer, and that the process might perhaps be the following: the pincers are at each time inserted into the small aperture made by the middle piece, and these are then extended in such a manner that the middle piece, again advancing, forces them, after the manner of a wedge, one from the other. As the *Cicada*, according to Reaumur, only use withered twigs for piercing holes for their eggs, would the strength of the ovipositor be sufficient for this process?—ERICHSON'S *Report on Entomology in Wiegmann's Archiv*, Part V. 1838.

OCCURRENCE OF *CAREX RUPESTRIS*, WAHL.

I was so fortunate as to discover this very rare plant on the edges of rocks at Inchnadamff, Sutherlandshire, in the early part of September 1838, growing with *C. capillaris* and *Dryas octopetala* at an inconsiderable elevation.—CHARLES CHURCHILL BABINGTON.

BLACK VARIETY OF THE COMMON HARE.

At a recent meeting of the Cambridge Ray Club a specimen of the alpine swift, *Cypselus alpinus*, Temm., which had been killed between Cambridge and Granchester in September 1838, was exhibited by its possessor Mr. C. Sawle; and at another meeting the Rev. J. J. Smith exhibited a totally black variety of the common hare lately shot at Shortgrove in Cambridgeshire.—C. C. B.

The death of Mr. Hunneman, who has for a very great number of years transacted, in the most prompt and liberal manner, the business concerns connected with the purchase and transmission of books and parcels of so large a portion of naturalists both of this country and the continent, will be long and severely felt. But it is with great pleasure we can announce, that Mr. Wm. Pamplin, Jun., botanical bookseller of Wandsworth Road, London, (and now also of No. 9, Queen Street, Soho,) has succeeded Mr. Hunneman in this department. We have the pleasure to know Mr. Pamplin personally, and are well acquainted with his punctual business habits, his great steadiness of character, his obliging manners, and his ardent attachment to natural history in general and to botany in particular; and we can with confidence recommend him as a worthy successor to our lamented friend. We have reason to believe that circulars, containing further particulars, will at once be issued by Mr. Pamplin, and we know that he will have the advice and assistance of Mr. Hunneman's family in the first outset of his transactions.—W. J. H.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR FEBRUARY, 1839.

Chiswick.—Feb. 1. Overcast: fine: frosty at night. 2. Sharp frost. 3. Thawing: hazy. 4. Fine: cloudy. 5. Hazy: heavy rain at night. 6. Foggy. 7. Drizzly. 8. Hazy: cloudy and windy at night. 9. Overcast. 10. Very fine. 11. Dense fog. 12. Fine: overcast: rain. 13. Fine. 14. Boisterous. 15. Clear. 16. Stormy and wet: fine. 17. Clear. 18. Snowing: sleet: clear. 19. Sharp frost. 20. Bleak and cold. 21. Cloudy and cold: dry haze: rain at night. 22. Hazy: rain. 23. Rain: very fine. 24. Very fine. 25. Clear: showery: fine. 26. Clear and frosty: fine. 27. Fine. 28. Very fine.

Boston.—Feb. 1. Fine. 2. Cloudy. 3. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 4, 5. Fine: rain P.M. 6. Cloudy. 7, 8. Fine. 9. Fine: rain P.M. 10. Fine. 11. Cloudy. 12, 13. Fine. 14. Stormy. 15. Fine. 16. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 17—19. Fine. 20, 21. Cloudy. 22. Cloudy: snow early A.M. 23. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 24. Fine. 25. Fine: hail and snow P.M. 26. Fine. 27. Cloudy. 28. Fine.

Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.—Feb. 1. Clear day: ground covered with snow. 2. Cloudy: gentle thaw. 3. Moderate thaw: snow melting slowly. 4. Moderate thaw: small rain evening. 5. Thaw continuing: snow melting. 6. The same: very temperate: rain P.M. 7. Stormy day: snow gone: very wet. 8. Quiet A.M.: wind rose P.M.: wet. 9. Rain: dark and cloudy: mild. 10. Fair and mild: threatening P.M. 11. Raw cold: cloudy. 12. Fine day: flying hail showers. 13. Mild A.M.: rain and wind P.M. 14. Boisterous day: frequent hail and sleet. 15. Tolerable spring day: wet P.M. 16. Showers of snow: high wind. 17. Snow half an inch deep: frosty. 18. Moderate day: snow melting: freezing. 19. Fine frosty day: getting cloudy P.M. 20. Favourable day: slight snow. 21. Hard frost: cloudy: slight snow P.M. 22. Thaw: snow preceding night: snow melts. 23. Very fine day: temperate and spring-like. 24. On the whole mild: occasional showers. 25. Moderately temperate: slight frost A.M. 26. Fine day though rather chill. 27. Severe showers of sleet: cleared up P.M. 28. Occasional slight showers.

Days of Month. 1839. Feb.	Barometer.				Thermometer.						Wind.				Rain.		Dew-point. London: Roy. Soc. 9 a.m.		
	London: Roy. Soc. 9 a.m.	Chiswick.		Boston. 8½ a.m.	Dumfries-shire.		London: Roy. Soc.		Chiswick.		London: Roy. Soc. 9 a.m.	Chiswick	Bost.	Dumfries-shire.	London: Roy. Soc. 9 a.m.	Chiswick.		Boston.	Dumfries-shire.
		Max.	Min.		9 a.m.	8½ p.m.	Fahr. 9 a.m.	Max.	Min.	Self-register. Max.									
1.	30.008	30.121	30.067	29.73	30.17	30.13	29.7	33.8	26.8	36	20	NW.	N.	calm	NW.	.050	...	25	
2.	30.076	30.130	30.101	29.70	30.05	29.90	32.5	35.3	30.0	41	29	NW.	NW.	calm	NW.	.038	...	26	
3.	29.868	29.910	29.875	29.50	29.82	29.78	37.4	38.3	32.7	45	29	S.	SW.	w.	S.	.038	.09	30	
4.	29.822	29.866	29.850	29.44	29.70	29.58	38.7	39.3	36.6	49	33	SE.	S.	calm	SE.	...	...	32	
5.	30.104	30.165	29.974	29.69	29.97	29.98	41.8	48.8	38.3	46	36	W.	S.	calm	W.	.088	.10	34	
6.	30.122	30.232	30.119	29.81	30.12	29.84	39.3	45.3	40.0	50	42	SSE.	SE.	calm	SE.	.377	.12	35	
7.	30.288	30.336	30.298	29.80	30.11	29.86	47.8	48.7	39.9	53	48	S.	SW.	calm	S.	...	...	38	
8.	30.360	30.373	30.304	29.82	30.15	29.90	48.6	49.4	47.9	53	49	SW.	SW.	calm	SW.	...	...	46	
9.	30.342	30.351	30.327	29.69	29.84	29.90	50.7	51.8	47.9	53	39	NW.	NE.	calm	NW.	.091	.05	44	
10.	30.476	30.559	30.280	29.92	30.36	30.36	43.8	44.0	43.9	53	28	SW.	SW.	calm	SSW.	...	...	40	
11.	30.462	30.485	30.371	29.92	30.24	30.08	41.4	42.0	37.9	49	41	S.	SW.	w.	SSW.	...	...	40	
12.	30.300	30.326	30.261	29.75	30.10	30.18	45.9	48.8	41.2	48	31	S.	SW.	w.	NW.	.04	...	41	
13.	30.488	30.385	30.315	29.97	30.25	29.91	40.7	48.8	38.2	51	38	SW.	W.	calm	SW.	.061	...	40	
14.	29.910	30.083	29.934	29.29	29.50	29.80	48.0	48.7	40.6	53	31	S.	W.	w.	W.	...	...	40	
15.	30.104	30.109	29.873	29.54	29.81	29.50	39.3	52.3	36.4	51	40	SW var.	W.	calm	SW.	.14	.12	37	
16.	29.520	29.554	29.553	29.08	29.27	29.28	43.3	49.2	39.3	47	32	NW.	W.	calm	SW.	.055	...	41	
17.	29.494	29.504	29.467	29.05	29.30	29.32	35.8	45.0	34.2	46	26	S.	W.	calm	NW.	...	...	32	
18.	29.464	29.686	29.474	29.15	29.65	29.70	37.3	37.8	34.2	38	23	S.	W.	calm	E.	.055	...	35	
19.	29.590	29.639	29.452	29.25	28.66	28.58	32.8	38.3	30.5	40	30	NW.	SE.	calm	N.	.033	...	29	
20.	29.374	29.944	29.394	29.20	28.86	30.25	38.3	39.6	32.4	39	34	NE.	NE.	calm	SW.	.14	...	33	
21.	30.238	30.274	30.214	29.90	30.24	29.82	35.9	39.8	35.0	42	32	NE.	NE.	E.	SW.	.20	...	23	
22.	29.836	29.875	29.728	29.43	29.60	29.55	42.4	43.3	34.9	51	41	S.	W.	W.	W.	.24	...	36	
23.	29.544	29.822	29.559	29.09	29.51	29.64	49.8	50.9	43.0	52	31	S var.	NW.	calm	W.	.116	...	40	
24.	29.810	29.828	29.657	29.34	29.70	29.60	38.6	51.3	35.4	51	34	W.	W.	calm	W.	.283	.51	36	
25.	29.672	29.961	29.682	29.21	29.60	29.50	38.8	47.6	36.3	51	29	W.	NW.	calm	W.	...	.02	35	
26.	30.028	30.052	29.966	29.49	29.95	29.80	35.2	44.8	33.7	43	26	W.	W.	NW.	W.	.052	.09	35	
27.	29.866	30.000	29.863	29.40	29.64	29.82	41.2	42.4	35.2	51	31	S.	W.	NW.	SW.	...	...	32	
28.	30.176	30.196	30.159	29.70	29.98	29.95	39.3	46.5	35.7	52	40	SW.	W.	calm	SW.	...	...	33	
Mean.	29.977	30.070	29.932	29.53	29.81	29.79	40.5	44.7	37.1	47.64	33.67	38				1.10	1.57	Mean.

1839. "Miscellaneous." *Annals of natural history* 3, 140–144.

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