

Upon the head the yellow colour is most prevalent. The under fur is thick and of a pale brown colour. The hair is about the same length or rather shorter than in the domestic cat, and much harsher to the touch. The hind feet are black beneath from the heel to the toes, and there is a streak of black about an inch and a half in length, passing upwards from the front paw on the outer side. The hair of the tail is long and bushy; the legs thick and moderately long; the general form is slender; the head small in proportion to the body, and considerably arched above. The region of the anterior angle of the eye is black, with a yellowish white spot immediately above it. The eyes are very small; the ears short, broad, and obtusely pointed, thickly covered with hair, which on the outside is of a similar colour to that on the top of the head, excepting at the tip, where it is margined with black. Inside the ears the hair is of a paler hue. The under parts of the body are of the same general hue as the sides. The tail is of the same general colour as the body, but the hairs become gradually less annulated towards the tip, their basal portions being brown and the apices black; the under side is of a somewhat paler hue than the upper. The lips and nose are black.

Mr. Martin remarked, that there was some reason for supposing two species were confounded under the same name, for he was aware of the existence of a cat with a shorter tail, agreeing very closely with Azara's description of the Yagourondi. Without, however, being in possession of more ample materials he did not like to characterize the present specimen as a new species, but in the event of its ultimately being considered distinct, he proposed that it should be called *Felis Darwinii*.

Mr. James Reid read some notes on several quadrupeds, also from the collection of Mr. Darwin, including a new species of *Opossum*, which he characterized as *Didelphis hortensis*\*. He also noticed a very young specimen of the *Viscacha*, *Lagostomus trichodactylus* of Brooks. This example, not much larger than our common *Rat*, differs from the adult in wanting the ridge of stiff black hairs over the eyes so conspicuous in old specimens, and in wanting also the grooves on the teeth.

Mr. Gould exhibited from Mr. Darwin's collection of *Birds*, a series of *Ground Finches*, so peculiar in form that he was induced to regard them as constituting an entirely new group, containing 14 species, and appearing to be strictly confined to the Galapagos Islands. Mr. Gould believed the whole of these *Birds* to be undescribed, and remarked that their principal peculiarity consisted in the bill presenting several distinct modifications of form, while the general contour of the species closely assimilated. He proposed to characterize them under the separate generic appellations of *Geospiza*, *Camarhynchus*, *Cactornis*, and *Certhidea*.

\* The characters of species newly described which have not yet been furnished by the respective authors, and are therefore necessarily omitted, will be inserted, if subsequently sent in, at the termination of the volume.

## GEOSPIZA.

*Corporis* figura brevissima et robusta.

*Rostrum* magnum, robustum, validum, altitudine longitudinem præstante; *culmine* arcuato et *capitis* verticem superante, apice sine denticulo, lateribus tumidis.

*Naribus* basalibus et semitectis plumis frontilibus.

*Mandibulâ superiori* tomis medium versus sinum exhibentibus, ad *mandibulâ inferioris* processum recipiendum. *Mandibula inferior* ad basin lata, hoc infra oculos tendente. *Alæ* mediocres *remige primo* paulo brevior secundo, hoc longissimo.

*Cauda* brevissima et æqualis.

*Tarsi* magni et validi, *digito postico*, cum *ungue* robusto et *digito intermedio* brevior; *digitis* externis inter se æqualibus ad *digito postico* brevioribus. Color in maribus niger, in fœm. fuscus.

GEOSPIZA MAGNIROSTRIS. (Spec. typ.) *Geos. fuliginosa, crisso cinerascenti-albo; rostro nigro brunnescente lavato; pedibus nigris.*  
Long. tot. 6 unc.; *alæ*,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; *caudæ*, 2; *tarsi*, 1; *rostri*,  $\frac{7}{8}$ ; alt. *rost.*, 1.

Fœm., vel Mas jun.; *corpore intensè fusco singulis plumis olivaceo cinctis; abdomine pallidiore; crisso cinerascenti-albo; pedibus et rostro, ut in mare adulto.*

GEOSPIZA STRENUA. *Geos. fuliginosa, crisso albo, rostro fusco et nigro tincto; pedibus nigris.*  
Long. tot.  $5\frac{1}{2}$  unc.; *alæ*, 3; *caudæ*,  $1\frac{5}{8}$ ; *tarsi*,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; *rostri*,  $\frac{5}{8}$ ; alt. *rost.*,  $\frac{3}{8}$ .

Fœm. *Summo corpore fusco singulis plumis nec non illis alarum caudæque, pallidè cinerascenti-olivaceo cinctis; gula et pectore fuscis; abdomine lateribus et crisso pallidè cinerascenti-fuscis; rostro brunnescente.*

GEOSPIZA FORTIS. *Geos. intense fuliginosa, crisso albo; rostro rufescenti-brunneo, tincto nigro; pedibus nigris.*  
Fœm. (vel Mas jun.) *Corpore suprâ pectore et gutture intensè fuscis, singulis plumis cinerascenti-olivaceo marginatis; abdomine crissoque pallidè cinerascenti-brunneis; rostro rufescenti-fusco flavescente ad apicem; pedibus ut in mare.*

GEOSPIZA NEBULOSA. *Geos. summo capite et corpore nigrescenti-fuscis; singulis plumis cinerascenti-olivaceo marginatis; corpore subtus pallidiore, abdomine imo crissoque cinerascensibus; rostro et pedibus intensè fuscis.*  
Long. tot. 5 unc.; *alæ*,  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ; *caudæ*,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ; *tarsi*,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; *rostri*,  $\frac{5}{8}$ ; alt. *rost.*,  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

GEOSPIZA FULIGINOSA. *Geos. intensè fuliginosa, crisso albo, rostro fusco; pedibus nigrescenti-fuscis.*  
Long. tot.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  unc.; *alæ*,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ; *caudæ*,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ; *tarsi*,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; *rostri*,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ; alt. *rostri*,  $\frac{3}{8}$ .

Fœm. *Summo corpore, alis, caudæque intensè fuscis; singulis plumis cinerascenti-ferrugineo marginatis; corpore infra cinereo, singulis plumis medium versus obscurioribus; rostro brunneo; pedibus nigrescenti-brunneis.*

**GEOSPIZA DENTIROSTRIS.** (Fœm. Mas ignotus.) *Mandibulæ superioris margine in dentem producto; vertice corporeque supra fuscis; singulis plumis medium versus obscurioribus; secundariis tectricibusque alarum ad marginem stramineis; gutture et pectore pallidè brunneis, singulis plumis medium versus obscurioribus, imo abdomine crissoque cinerascenti-albis; rostro rufo-fusco; pedibus obscurè plumbeis.*

Long. tot.  $4\frac{3}{4}$ ; alæ,  $2\frac{3}{8}$ ; caudæ,  $1\frac{5}{8}$ ; rostri,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; alt. rostr.  $\frac{3}{8}$ .

**GEOSPIZA PARVULA.** (Mas.) *Geos. capite, gutture, et dorso fuliginosis; uropygio cinerascenti-olivaceo; caudæ et alis nigrescenti-brunneis; singulis plumis caudæ et alarum cinereo-marginatis; lateribus olivaceis fusco guttatis; abdomine et crisso albis, rostro et pedibus nigrescenti-brunneis.*

Long. tot. 4 unc.; alæ,  $2\frac{3}{8}$ ; caudæ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ; tarsi,  $\frac{5}{8}$ ; rostri,  $\frac{3}{8}$ ; alt. rostr.,  $\frac{1}{8}$ .

Fœm. *Summo capite et dorso cinerascenti-brunneis, gutture, pectore, abdomine crissoque pallidè cinereis, stramineo tinctis.*

**GEOSPIZA DUBIA.** (Fœm. Mas ignot.) *Geos. summo capite et corpore suprâ fuscis, singulis plumis cinerascenti-olivaceo marginatis; strigâ superciliari, genis, gutture corpore infrâ cinerascenti-olivaceis, singulis plumis notâ centrali fusâ; alis caudæque brunneis singulis plumis olivaceo-cinereo marginatis; rostro sordidè albo, pedibus obscurè fuscis.*

Long. tot.  $3\frac{3}{8}$  unc.; alæ,  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ; caudæ,  $1\frac{5}{8}$ ; tarsi,  $\frac{7}{8}$ ; rostri,  $\frac{5}{8}$ ; altitud. rostri,  $\frac{3}{8}$ .

#### CAMARHYNCHUS (subgenus).

**CAMARHYNCHUS** differt a genere *Geospiza*, rostro debiliore, margine mandibulæ superioris minùs indentato; culmine minùs elevato in frontem et plus arcuato; lateribus tumidioribus; mandibulâ inferiore minùs in genas tendente.

**CAMARHYNCHUS PSITTACULA.** (Spec. typ.) *Cam. summo capite corporeque superiore fuscis; alis caudæque obscurioribus; gutture corporeque inferiore, cinerascenti-albis, stramineo tinctis; rostro pallidè flavescenti-fusco; pedibus fuscis.*

Long. tot.  $4\frac{3}{4}$  unc.; alæ,  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ; caudæ,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ; tarsi,  $\frac{7}{8}$ ; rostri,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; alt. rostri,  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

**CAMARHYNCHUS CRASSIROSTRIS.** (Fœm.) *Cam. corpore superiore intusè brunneo, singulis plumis cinerascenti-olivaceo marginatis; gutture pectoreque cinerascenti-olivaceis, singulis in medio plumis obscurioribus; abdomine, lateribus crissoque cinereis tinctis stramineo.*

Long. tot.  $5\frac{1}{2}$  unc.; alæ,  $3\frac{3}{4}$ ; caudæ, 2; tarsi,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ; rostri,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; alt. rostri,  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

#### CACTORNIS (subgenus.)

**CACTORNIS** differt a genere *Geospiza* rostro elongato, acuto, compresso, longitudine altitudinem eccellente; mandibulæ superio-

ris margine vix indentato; naribus basalibus et vix tectis; tarsis brevioribus, unguibus majoribus et plus curvatis.

**CACTORNIS SCANDENS.** (Spec. typ.) *Cact. intensè fuliginosa, crisso albo; rostro et pedibus nigrescenti-brunneis.*

Long. tot. 5 unc.; rostri,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; alæ,  $2\frac{3}{8}$ ; caudæ,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ; tarsi,  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

Form., vel Mas jun. *Corpore superiore, gutture pectoreque intensè brunneis, singulis plumis pallidiore marginatis; abdomine crissoque cinereis, stramineo tinctis; rostro pallidè fusco; pedibus nigrescenti-fuscis.*

**CACTORNIS ASSIMILIS.** (Mas jun.?) *Cact. corpore suprâ fuliginoso, nec non gutture abdomineque, illorum plumis, cinereo marginatis; rostro pallidè rufescenti-brunneo; pedibus nigrescenti-brunneis.*

Long. tot.  $5\frac{1}{2}$  unc.; rostri,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; alæ,  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ; caudæ,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ; tarsi,  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

#### CERTHIDEA (subgenus).

CERTHIDEA differt a genere *Geospiza* rostro graciliore et acutiore; naribus basalibus et non tectis; mandibula superioris margine recto; tarsis longioribus et gracilioribus.

**CERTHIDEA OLIVACEA.** *Cert. summo capite, corpore superiore, alis caudæque olivaceo-brunneis; gutture et corpore infra cinereis; rostro pedibusque pallidè brunneis.*

Long. tot. 4 unc.; rostri,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; alæ, 2; caudæ  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ; tarsi,  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

Of the groups here characterized, *Geospiza*, *Camarhynchus*, and *Cactornis*, belong to one type; but with regard to *Certhidea*, Mr. Gould remarked that although he confidently believed that it should also be referred to the same group with the three former, yet in its slighter form and weaker bill it has so much the appearance of a member of the *Sylviada*, that he would by no means insist upon the above view being adopted until the matter shall have been more fully investigated.

Mr. Gould deferred entering into any further details respecting the species under consideration until Mr. Darwin had furnished him with some information relating to their habits and manners.

Mr. Gould then resumed the exhibition of a portion of his own collection of *Birds* from Australia, and characterized the following new species:

#### HEMIPODIUS MELANOGASTER.

*Hem. capite, auriculis, gula abdomineque nigris; lineâ super oculum oriente et ad nucham excurrente, plumis singulis maculâ ad apicem albâ; nuchæ plumis nigris et castaneis, maculis pluribus albis; dorso superiore castaneo-fusco, plumis singulis maculâ albâ, lineis duabus nigris cum fasciâ unâ nigrâ apicali; scapulis, tectricibus primariis secundariisque rufo-brunneis, plumis singulis maculâ albâ nigro circumdatâ; remigibus primariis saturatè brunneis; femoribus et tectricibus superioribus et inferioribus caudæ brunneis nigro fasciatis et irroratis; rostro pallidè brunneo; pedibus carneis.*