

*Report of Curator, Zoological Department, for September, 1859.*

1. From Major H. B. Lumsden, 59th N. I., late in charge of the Kandahar Mission.

The skin and skull of a *Ghur-khur* (*ASINUS ONAGER*), as noticed in p. 237; horns of the *Ahu*, or Afghán and Persian Gazelle (*GAZELLA SUBGUTTUROSA*); and skins of *TADORNA VULPANSER* and *FULIGULA FERINA* from Kandahar: with specimens of a Lizard sent as the *Reg Máhi* from the same locality.

The species is *SPHENOCEPHALUS TRIDACTYLUS*, nobis, *J. A. S.* XXII, 654; but finer than those previously described, which latter were blanched in spirit. Those now sent are of a light brown colour above, paler below; with a darker reticulation of the upper parts, indicating the scutation. Head pale, with three dark lines, more or less broken into spots, one of them mesial, and the lateral passing through the minute eyes. Tail a third longer in what appear to be the males, than in what appear to be the females. Length from snout to vent of a presumed male,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in., the tail  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in.; of a presumed female,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  and  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in.

Major Tytler has a pair of true *SCINCUS OFFICINALIS*, Laurenti, also from Kandahar, and bearing the same Persian name, which he spells *Raig Mahie* (meaning 'Sand-fish'); and both this and the preceding species, it appears, are sold in a dry state for medicine throughout India, as the true Scinque was formerly and is even now sold over a great part of Europe! The latter has not previously been recorded from so eastern a locality.

2. From Capt. Eales, commanding the 'Fire Queen' S. V. A specimen of the rare *HAMADRYAS VITTATUS* (*Naia vittata*, Elliot, *H. hannah et ophiophagus*, Cantor); from Port Blair!

3. From Babu Rájendra Mállíka. A dead Orang-utan.

4. Major S. R. Tickell, Maulmein. A collection of specimens obtained in the mountainous interior of the Tenasserim provinces.

Of mammalia, only a fine skin of *RHIZOMYS SUMATRENSIS*, (Raffles), v. *cinereus*, McClelland.

Of birds, a highly interesting series, supplying fine examples of *BULACA SELOPUTO*, (Horsfield, *Strix pagodarum*, Tem.), *BUCEROS TICKELLI*, nobis (*J. A. S.* XXIV, 266, 285), and *PODICA PERSONATA*, Gray; with a few species hitherto undescribed, and numerous specimens of others excellently prepared.

*HUHUA ORIENTALIS*; *Strix orientalis*, Horsfield: *Str. sumatrana*, Raffles, (juv.); *Str. strepitans*, Temminck; *Huhua nipalensis*, Hodgson; *H. pectoralis*, Jerdon. A nestling specimen, corresponding to the descrip-



tion of *Str. sumatrana*, Raffles (*Lin. Tr.* XIII, 279). Both old and young are figured by Temminck, *p. c.* 174, 229.

BUCEROS TICKELLI, nobis, *J. A. S.* XXIV, 266, 285; being a second species of the genus ANORRHINUS of Reichenbach. The specimen originally described was an incompletely mature female, with the casque not fully developed. Two mature males resemble it in plumage, except that the rufescent hue of the lower parts is brighter, and that the wing-feathers are more conspicuously pale-edged, as in the nearly affined *B. GALERITUS*, Tem. The casque resembles in shape that of *B. GALERITUS*, but with the bill is wholly yellowish-white, weakly infuscated on the fore-part of the casque, and shewing a coral-red spot at the base of the lower mandible. The frontal feathers behind the nostrils radiate forwards, so as to conceal the hind-part of the casque, and in one specimen these are much tinged with pale fulvous. Tips of the coverts of the primaries white, to a greater or less extent, forming a small spot on the wing. Length of wing exactly 12 in.; of middle tail-feathers the same; bill from gape  $4\frac{3}{4}$  in., and its total height, including casque, 2 or  $2\frac{1}{8}$  in. "Irides grey within brown."

PICUS ATRATUS, nobis, *J. A. S.* XVIII, 803. Originally described from a tail-less and otherwise much injured female. A fine perfect specimen of a female is now sent, but the male is still a desideratum. The six medial tail-feathers are wholly black, and the penultimate has only one subterminal white bar on its inner web, and three on its outer web, besides the white extreme tip. Chin whitish; the throat with medial black streaks: on the rest of the lower parts these are narrower and more confused, and the flanks are as indistinctly barred; while the pale portion of the feathers is deeply tinged with golden yellow. Total length 8 in., of which tail 3 in., and closed wing  $4\frac{3}{4}$  in.: beak to forehead  $1\frac{1}{8}$  in. "Irides carmine."\*

\* Another new Woodpecker of the same group we have lately received from Port Blair, being as yet only the second new species of bird from the Andaman islands,—the other being the fine *Shama* (*KITTACINCLA ALBIVENTRIS*, nobis, *J. A. S.* XXVII, 269); of which more specimens have since been received,—unless the Oriole (*J. A. S.* XXVIII, 272,) should prove to differ from *O. CORONATUS*, which I still think probable.

PICUS ANDAMANENSIS, nobis, *n. s.* Nearly affined to *P. ANALIS*, Tem., of Java, which it resembles in size and proportions,—as also *P. PECTORALIS*, nobis (*J. A. S.* XV, 15),—all three differing from the common *P. MACEI* of Bengal by their smaller size and white-spotted middle tail-feathers: in *P. MACEI*, as also in the affined Himalayan *P. BRUNNIFRONS*, the four medial *rectrices*, and in *P. ATRATUS* the six medial *rectrices*, are spotless black; the last named being also the largest species of this particular group: in *P. ANDAMANENSIS* the middle tail-feathers have three distinct pairs of white spots, while in *P. PECTORALIS* they have four pairs of white spots of larger size: but the Andamanese bird is specially characterized by the large round black spots upon its breast, each margined with whitish; the ear-coverts, also, are longitudinally streaked with black, and the flanks are more conspicuously rayed than in the others. In other



UROCISSA MAGNIROSTRIS, nobis, *J. A. S.* XV, 27. As usual in Burmese specimens, the bill is larger and the blue of the plumage is distinctly more intense than in the Himalayan *U. OCCIPITALIS*.\* “Male. Irides orange.”

PARUS SUBVIRIDIS, Tickell, nobis, *J. A. S.* XXIV, 267. Much injured specimen, but in finer and fresher plumage than the one previously obtained, and satisfactorily confirming the species. “Female. Irides sepia.”

SIBIA MELANOLEUCA, Tickell, *n. s.* A fourth species of this genus,† akin to *S. CAPISTRATA* and *S. GRACILIS*; of a sooty-black hue above, the crown intense black, and a faint green shine on the wings: lower parts white, slightly sullied, but a small black space on the chin. Wings white at base internally, save on the first two primaries. Outermost and penultimate tail-feathers broadly tipped with white, the rest successively less so, and merely the extreme tips of the middle pair. Length about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in., of which the tail is half; closed wing  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in.; bill to gape  $\frac{7}{8}$  in.; and tarse 1 in. “Male. Irides sanguine.”

IXULUS STRIATUS, nobis, *n. s.* A fourth species of this genus, affined to *I. CASTANICEPS*, Moore, *P. Z. S.* 1854, p. 141,‡ and like that species with

respects this bird resembles *P. MACEI* (and I believe *P. ANALIS*). The lower tail-coverts are bright crimson; and the crimson tips of the coronal feathers of the male are less developed than in *P. MACEI*, especially towards the forehead. Length of beak to gape 1 in.; of closed wing  $3\frac{7}{8}$  in.; and of middle tail-feathers  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Our list of Andamánese birds, examined and positively determined, is still scanty. To the few noticed in *J. A. S.* XXVII, *et seq.*, and in XXVIII, 271 *et seq.*, may be added *PALÆORNIS ALEXANDRI*, *P. ERYTHROGENYS*, nobis (*nicobaricus*, Gould, heretofore only known from the neighbouring Nicobar group), *TODIRHAMPHUS COLLARIS*, *GRACULA INTERMEDIA*, and *ANOUS STOLIDA*; but in other classes (that of fishes especially) we have received largely. Here I shall only remark, concerning the Parrakeet, that three distinct species of *PALÆORNIS* have received the name *erythrogenys*; which was first bestowed by M. Lesson on the common *P. LONGICAUDA*, (Boddäert; *Ps. malaccensis*, Gm., *nec* Latham, of which *P. viridimystax*, nobis, proves to be the young),—secondly, by myself on the species inhabiting the Andamán and Nicobar islands (since designated *nicobaricus* by Gould),—and thirdly, by Mr. L. Fraser to what appears to be the original *BARBATUS*, Gmelin (identical with *Luciani*, Verreaux, and *Fraseri*, Moore): the *habitat* of the last is still uncertain.

\* At a Meeting of the Zoological Society, held on May 10th. of this year, “Mr. Gould exhibited specimens of the four known species of the genus *UROCISSA*,—*U. SINENSIS*, from China,—*U. OCCIPITALIS* of the Eastern Himalaya,—*U. MAGNIROSTRIS*,—and *U. FLAVIROSTRIS*; and pointed out their distinctive characters.” *Athenæum*, May 14th, p. 651. The last three were named by myself in the Society’s Journal. *U. OCCIPITALIS*, however, is not from the eastern, but from the western Himalaya; *U. FLAVIROSTRIS* is the only species which I have seen from the eastern Himalaya, and this also inhabits Kashmir, according to Lord Arthur Hay.

† Vide *J. A. S.* XXIV, 271.

‡ Here I may remark that I doubt exceedingly the *habitat* assigned to this species—“Afghánistân.” The late Mr. Griffith’s specimens, in various classes, from Afghánistân and the Khásya hills, got mixed up together, and in this way several Khásya species have come to be described as inhabiting the widely dif-



graduated outer tail-feathers. Bill moderately stout, as in *I. OCCIPITALIS*, nobis. Length about 5 in., of closed wing  $2\frac{3}{8}$  in., and of tail the same: bill to gape  $\frac{1}{2}$  in.; and tarse  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. Colour greyish-brown above, each feather with a white mesial streak; below albescent throughout: outermost tail-feather  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. shorter than the middle pair, and largely tipped with white, as is also the next, and the ante-penultimate and next within gradually less so, the outer four feathers successively graduating.

*ABRORNIS SUPERCILIARIS*, Tickell, *n. s.* Another of this numerous group, yellowish-green above, pure yellow below: the cap light ashy, with a well defined white supercilium, and also a white throat: rictal vibrissæ unusually developed: tail uniform yellowish-brown without markings; its upper coverts yellow; bill dusky; and the legs pale and probably yellowish. Length 4 in., of wing 2 in., and tail  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in.; bill to gape  $\frac{1}{16}$  in.; and tarse  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. The short first primary is half as long as the second, and two-fifths as long as the fourth and fifth which are longest. "Irides sepia."

*PELLORNIUM TICKELLI*, nobis, *n. s.\** Smaller than *P. RUFICEPS*, but absolutely typical in structure. Colour uniform brown above, much paler and tinged with rufous below, the middle of the belly pure white; frontal and loreal feathers pale-centred, more or less. Upper mandible pale dusky, the lower whitish or probably pale carneous, as are also the legs. "Irides sepia." Length  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in., of wing  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in., and tail 2 in.; bill to gape  $\frac{3}{4}$  in., and tarse 1 in.

To this genus I now refer *P. FUSCOCAPILLUS* (*Dryocataphus* apud nos, *J. A. S.* XVIII, 815), from Ceylon; and the *DUMETIÆ* are barely separable. An example of *P. RUFICEPS* is with Major Tickell's specimens.

*TURDINUS GUTTATUS*, Tickell, *n. s.* This deviates a little from the three species previously described,† in not having the feathers dark-margined (as in most *OREOCINCLÆ*), while the speckling of the sides of the neck is peculiar. Colour a rich deep ruddy-brown, more rufescent on the tail-coverts and tail; the throat pure white, bordered on either side with a black moustache, above which is a white spot: rest of the lower-parts deep rufo-ferruginous, tinged with fuscous on the flanks and lower tail-coverts, and shewing a slight medial whitish line: loreal feathers black with greyish-white lateral edges; the frontal feathers stiff as usual: ear-coverts brown: behind the eye an ill-defined streak, and behind the ear-coverts a great

ferent climatal region of Afghánistán. *Vide J. A. S.* XXII, 413. The *URVA CANCRIVORA*, Hodgson, among mammalia, is another instance, assigned to Afghánistán on the supposed authority of Griffith.

\* As the specific name suggested by Major Tickell is a one of the synonymes of *P. RUFICEPS*, I therefore name the specimens as above.

† *Vide J. A. S.* XXIV. 269 *et seq.*



patch of feathers, each having an oval white mark set off with black, and other feathers thus marked across the nape. Bill plumbeous; and legs plumbeous-brown. "Female. Irides sepia." Length 6 in., of wing  $2\frac{3}{4}$  in., and tail  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in.; the plumage extremely copious over the rump; bill to gape 1 in.; and tarse 1 in.

TROPICOPERDIX (nobis) CHLOROPUS, Tickell, *n. s.* A third species of this group, which is founded on PERDIX PERSONATA, Horsfield, of Java, and P. CHARLTONI, Eyton, of Penang and Province Wellesley, which latter the present bird exactly resembles in size and structure. The form comes near to ARBORICOLA, but the straight claws are much less developed, and there is a characteristic difference of plumage. The present species differs from TR. CHARLTONI, in having the interscapularies unmottled olive-brown, crossed with numerous black rays on each feather; the supercilium is more delicately pencilled, and the ear-coverts are not ferruginous, but white with black spots like the throat, and below the throat there is a broad ferruginous band also with round black spots; breast similar to the back, olive-brown with numerous blackish cross-rays, below which the under-parts are ferruginous, paling at the vent and interior of thighs: the flanks have no well defined broad black bands, as in T. CHARLTONI, but are prettily mottled with dusky in a manner difficult to describe; and the same remark applies to the wing-coverts: tail freckled and marked with zig-zag dusky bands. Bill wax-yellow, crimson towards gape in both mandibles; and the legs yellowish-green. Length of wing 6 in., of tail 3 in., of bill to gape 1 in., and of tarse  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. "Irides brown."

PODICA PERSONATA, G. R. Gray. Two specimens, male and female: the former having a black chin and throat; ending in a point half-way down the neck, and narrowly margined throughout with white which commences behind the eyes; the forehead also black, continued into a supercilium: the latter having the chin and throat white, bordered throughout with black indicating the periphery of the black patch of the male, and beyond this the same external white border; supercilia black as in the male, but not the forehead. In both, and in a third specimen formerly sent by the late Major Berdmore, there is a triangular naked space at base of the upper mandible, the base of which is even with the forehead, and the adjacent feathers behind it being white. Length of male  $1\frac{3}{4}$  ft., of wing 10 in., and tail 5 in.; beak to forehead 2 in., tarse  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in., and middle toe and claw 3 in. "Irides of male sepia; of female pale yellow." The difference, however, has more the appearance of summer and winter plumage, than of sexual diversity.

Various Himalayan (and, more especially, S. E. Himalayan) species form part of this collection; of which may be enumerated, as shewing the geogra-



phic range, *HIERAX EUTOLMOS*, *ATHENE BRODIEI*, *VIVIA INNOMINATA*, *CISSA SINENSIS*, *LEIOTHRIX ARGENTAURIS*, *MINLA CASTANICEPS*, *ALCIPPE NIPALENSIS*, *MUNIA ACUTICAUDA*, *GAMPSORHYNCHUS RUFULUS*, *PRATINCOLA FERREA*, *RUTICILLA LEUCURA*,\* *ANTHIPES GULARIS*, *ENICURUS SCHISTACEUS*, *NILTAVA GRANDIS*, *CRINIGER FLAVEOLUS*, *ARACHNOTHERA MAGNA*, and *DUCULA INSIGNIS*; also the *PSARISOMUS DALHOUSIÆ*, accompanied by *CORYDON SUMATRANUS*, *EURLAIMUS JAVANICUS*, and the beautiful *SERILOPHUS LUNATUS*, which is replaced in the S. E. Himalaya by *S. ERYTHROPYGIUS*. Two of the foregoing species I have also seen in Malacca collections, viz.: *HIERAX EUTOLMOS* and *MUNIA ACUTICAUDA*. A superb male of *SERILOPHUS LUNATUS* has the silky-white crescent not confined to the side of the neck, but passing completely across in front. *ZOSTEROPS FLAVUS* (*Dicæum flavum*, Horsfield,) is also sent, being previously known to inhabit only Java and the Philippines.

The specimens of *DUCULA INSIGNIS* in the Society's museum, from Sikhim and Arakan, were considered by Dr. Jerdon to be distinct from his *D. CUPREA* of S. India, which latter perhaps is the true *BADIA* of Raffles. The Tenasserim specimen now received (a female) is pure pearl-grey on the crown and cheeks, and more distinctly ashy on the lower parts, than in a Sikhim female; which latter has the crown, cheeks, and lower parts much tinged with ruddy; whilst an Arakan specimen (also *probably* a female) is intermediate.

Two packages have since been received from Major Tickell. The first containing an Arctic bird, most remarkable for occurring within the torrid zone, "in Lat. 16° 22' North!"

*CATARRACTA POMARINA*, (Tem). In adult plumage. "It was picked up," remarks Major Tickell, "or rather I should say knocked down, by some village boys in a swampy meadow about five or six miles south of Moulmein. There had been very heavy weather in the Bay for some days past; but the singular thing is, that this bird should have ranged so wide from its usual haunts as to come within the influence of our tropical monsoon.

"The fact is more curious even than that of the *EMBERIZA AUREOLA*, a Siberian bird, being found in such vast flocks here every cold weather. It supplies with us, in fact, the place of the 'Baghairi' (*CALANDRELLA BRACHYDACTYLA*) in Bengal.

"Another singular occurrence is the breeding of the 'Gargany' (*ANAS QUERQUERDULA*) in this part of the country. I have a young one now

\* *Muscisylvia* and since *Myiomela leucura*, Hodgson. I agree with Major Tickell that this species can hardly be separated from *RUTICILLA*.



alive which was brought to me, when just fledged, from a pond or small lake about twelve miles off.”\*

To the foregoing notices may be added the fact that I procured a specimen of *PHALAROPUS FULICARIUS* in the Calcutta provision bazar, on May 11th, 1846. Though so late in the season, it had not begun to assume the summer colouring; and it was miserably lean, though the plumage was in good order for stuffing. The late Prince of Canino records the occurrence of this species so far south in America as the lake of Nicaragua (the *Cocibolca* of the aborigines), in lat. 12° north!

Still more remarkable, Dr. L. C. Stewart obtained a specimen of *LOPIPES HYPERBOREUS*, an arctic species very rare even in North Britain, in the vicinity of Madras!† It is now, together with the last, in excellent preservation in our museum.

The delicate *CALLIOPE CAMTSCKATKENSIS* is common in the neighbourhood of Calcutta during the cold season; but I have never seen it from any part of the Himalaya. Von Wrangell, however, tells us that this particular species (which cannot well be confounded with any other) arrives “early in April, with the Snowfleck, in the Lower Kolyma district” in Northern Siberia!‡

The ‘Pomarine Skua’ sent from Burma by Major Tickell is in adult plumage! In general, the young of migratory birds proceed further equatorially than the adults; and, as instanced by the present species, various arctic birds that have occurred in the British islands or surrounding seas

\* In *Tom. XLIII*, p. 644, of the *Comptes Rendus*, the late Prince of Canino remarks—“*Mon Lestris Hardyi* n’ est admis comme espèce ni à Leyde où on le nomme *Lestris parasiticus*? ex Malasia, Boïè; ni à Berlin où le seul qu’on possède a été pris en pleine mer entre les Philippines et les îles Sandwich. M. Cabanis l’a étiqueté *Lestris crepidata*.”

The Gargany and the Pintail are the two commonest species of Ducks in Lower Bengal during the cold season, at least they are brought in by far the greatest numbers to the provision-bazars, and are, pre-eminently, the ‘wild Duck’ and ‘Teal’ of our tables. Our most common Pochard is the ‘White-eye’ (*FULIGULA NYROCA*). The Gadwall, Shoveller, Widgeon, and true Teal, are tolerably common, as also the Red-crested, the Tufted, and the Dun Pochards: the Shieldrake is not rare: but the Mallard I have never seen yet, though assured that it has been shot so near as at Ránigánj. *CASARCA RUTILA* is common, of course; and the non-European species I here pass over.

It may be remarked, however, that a Duck from Abyssinia which Dr. Rüppell sent us for *A. PÆCILORHYNCHA*, and which is described as *A. Ruppelli* in *J. A. S. XXIV*, 265, proves to be *A. FLAVIROSTRIS*, A. Smith, figured in the *Zoology of S. Africa*. The only difference is, that the neck in the figure is represented to be minutely speckled, instead of being streaked with a dark median line on each feather; and there is no discernible dusky mark through the eye in the Society’s Abyssinian specimen. The description, however, demonstrates their identity.

† Vide *J. A. S. XXIII*, 214.

‡ ‘Narrative of Expedition to the Polar Sea,’ Sabine’s translation, p. 52.



have visited them only in the garb of immaturity. The Pomarine Skua is there an exceedingly rare winter visitant in its adult dress; and a recent instance of such a specimen occurring, at the Land's-End, is made the subject of a paper appended to 'the Fortieth Annual Report of the Royal Institution of Cornwall' (1858), which I have just received.

Major Tickell's subsequent package contains the skin of a Squirrel, which is only our second specimen of—

SCIURUS BERDMOREI, nobis, *J. A. S.* XVIII, 603. This species, according to Major Tickell, "infests paddy fields. It is in fact more terrestrial than arborial, or at least fully as much so. You will remark its long muzzle and flat head—strongly resembling that of the TUPAIA." Nevertheless, though approximating—it cannot range in the peculiar group designated RHINOSCIURUS by Dr. J. E. Gray; undescribed by him, but a species from Singapore noticed by the name of RH. TUPAIOIDES, Gray, in p. 195 of his 'Catalogue of the Specimens of Mammalia in the British Museum.' It is also doubtfully referred by him to SC. LATICAUDATUS, Müller, figured and described by Dr. S. Müller and Prof. Temminck. We also possess what must doubtless be Dr. Gray's species, from Singapore; and it can hardly be other than that noticed by Dr. Cantor in *J. A. S.* XV, 251. Dr. Cantor, however, describes the fur to be "soft and delicate." In our specimen (and I selected it from others like it) the fur is somewhat coarse, and the piles do not lie straight and smooth, but have a harsh and rough appearance. He also describes his Pinang species to "differ from the diagnosis of SC. LATICAUDATUS, from the west coast of Borneo, in having neither the first nor the fifth molar of the upper jaw very large. Both are of nearly equal size, and much smaller than the rest." In our Singapore specimen, the first upper molar is unusually large for a SCIURUS, but not more than half so large as the last of the series, which latter is of equal size (or very nearly so) with the fourth. The skull exactly agrees with that of SC. LATICAUDATUS, as figured by Dr. S. Müller, as does also the size of the first upper molar; and there is the same remarkable elongation and reduced vertical depth of the maxillaries, with their inferior outline exhibiting a straight line from the rodential tusks to the molars; the upper rodent teeth are also singularly small, and the lower elongated and almost straight,—their enamel being of a pale orpiment-yellow colour: the ear-conch is remarkably short, bearing a great resemblance to that of TUPAIA; and, as viewed from a little distance, it is curious that there is even the same pale line on the side of the neck as in the TUPAIAE, but broader and less defined or more diffuse. In this specimen the tips of the caudal hairs are white, imparting a grizzled hoary appearance; and the fur of the upper parts, head and limbs, is much more mixed with black than in Dr. S.



Müller's coloured figure of *Sc. LATICAUDATUS*, and of the lower parts dull white without any rufescent tinge. The two are probably affined species rather than identical.

In *Sc. BERDMOREI* the skull is that of an ordinary *SCIURUS* of the 'Palmist' group, to which the species strictly appertains, as indeed is further evidenced by the markings of its coat; it being the largest of the Palmists with which I am acquainted; and moreover the habits (as described by Major Tickell) are just those of other Palmists. Neither in the form of its ear-conch, nor in the attenuation of the maxillaries and reduced size of its gnawing teeth, does it approximate the *RHINOSCIURUS* type; and the enamel of the tusks is of the usual dark brownish-orange colour. The fur, however, is very like that of a *TUPAIA*, but for the usual longitudinal stripes that distinguish the Palmist Squirrels.\* The specimen formerly presented by the late Major Berdmore from Mergui was a fine male, of a brighter colour than Major Tickell's female now sent, having in fact a newer or less worn *pelage*; but the species is obviously one and the same. It has three dorsal black stripes from the shoulder to the croup, the lateral bordered externally by a yellowish-white stripe, and there is another yellowish-white stripe on each side below, separated and set off above and below with blackish; lower parts white with a strong rufous tinge, and in the Mergui specimen more especially this rufous is rather deep on the internal border of the thighs and at the base of tail underneath; the head is very rufescent in both specimens; and the tail in that from Mergui is deep rufous underneath along its middle, with first a narrow and then a broad longitudinal band, the latter set off with yellowish-white tips, which grizzle also the upper surface of the tail. In the other specimen, which appears to have been younger, in addition to having more worn and abraded fur, the colouring of the tail is the same, but much duller. Length of head and body about 8 in., with tail of the usual proportions: skull just 2 in. long.

*HALCYON LEUCOCEPHALUS*, (L.); *H. gural*, Pearson. Variety, with albescent cap, sufficiently so quite to explain the specific name, if founded upon a specimen thus coloured.

Since this Report was drawn up, Major Tickell has favored the Society with more elaborate descriptions of his specimens, which are awaiting publication. We have also received from him a fine specimen of a fish from Port Blair, the *SYNANCEIA BRACHIO*, C. V., of the *Histoire des Poissons*.

E. BLYTH.

\* 'Palm Squirrel' is a misnomer; these animals shewing no particular partiality for palms, that ever I could perceive.

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