

colouring *Trachyphonus margaritatus*, but is distinguishable by its plumage, particularly of the head, in which the elastic horn-like structure of the feathers is still more developed. The face is fiery yellow, and, with the exception of the chin, on the point of each feather is a shining steel-black metallic spot. The roots of the entire *pileus* and the centre of the throat are of the same colour; the neck is whitish, having in general before the point of each feather a broad black speck. The scapularies and wings are speckled with white on a smoky-brown ground; but these specks are not quite at the edge of the feathers, as in *T. margaritatus*; they exist on the wings and greater wing-coverts, but are never found on the inner barbs; the wings are spotted with bright yellow; the back and tail-coverts are greyish green, with indistinct smoky-grey marks and small lanceolate spots. The under wing-coverts are whitish towards the roots, like the inner surface of the *remiges*. The under-side is bright greenish yellow, with little lanceolate black points to each feather; the lower tail-coverts deep red. The tail is exactly like that of *T. margaritatus*, only the spots here are yellow. Also in this new species the cross-band which *T. margaritatus* has on its breast is missing.

Length 6 in.; beak from gape 10 lin.; wings 2 in. 8 lin.; tail 2 in. 10 lin.; tarsus 106 lin.

The breeding and food of this bird are the same as those of *P. diadematus*. In its habits it is as sociable as *T. margaritatus*.

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XII.—On some additional Species of Birds received in Collections from Natal. By JOHN HENRY GURNEY, M.P., F.Z.S.

I BEG leave to communicate for insertion in 'The Ibis' a short additional list of Natal birds, numbered consecutively to those published in my last paper on this subject ('Ibis,' 1860, pp. 203–221).

The birds and the notes included in the present list were received by me from Mr. Thomas Ayres, of D'Urban, except where I have specified the contrary. The specimens not sent by Mr. Ayres have been selected from two collections received from Natal by Mr. S. Stevens, of Bloomsbury Street, London.



One of these was transmitted to Mr. Stevens by Mr. Gueinzus, the other by Mr. Hilliard.

128. *AQUILA BELLICOSA* (Daud.). Martial Eagle.

*Male.* This Eagle was received from Mr. Gueinzus with the following ticket attached to it:—"Iris pale brownish (pale-ale colour); cere and toes lead-colour. Shot with a young goat in his talons."

129. *SPIZAËTUS CORONATUS* (Linn.). Crowned Eagle.

*Female.* Immature. Eye greyish brown; bill black. This noble bird was shot in a very dense bush: it had killed a monkey considerably larger than itself, and when discovered did not appear at all shy, but on being disturbed merely flew up on to the branches of a tree just above the monkey it had killed, and there remained.

Another Crowned Eagle subsequently visited our neighbourhood, which from its size must also have been a female. This bird carried off with ease one of my largest Cochin fowls, and attempted to take away a small pig; but failing in the effort, proceeded to kill it on the spot, and would have done so in a few minutes, had not the cries of the pig brought a lad to its assistance, who with difficulty frightened the Eagle away.

1868

139

[This species is well figured in plates 40 and 41 of the volume "Aves" of Sir A. Smith's 'Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa;' but plate no. 40, which is there stated to represent an adult bird, does, in fact, give the figure of an immature specimen, while plate no. 41, which is described as representing an immature bird, is, in reality, a correct delineation of the adult plumage. The sexes, which differ greatly in size, are alike in plumage, both when immature and when adult. The change from the earlier to the later state of plumage is accompanied by a contemporaneous change of colour in the iris, which passes from a pale brown to a clear yellow. I am able to speak with certainty as to these changes, having carefully observed them in two specimens in confinement. One of these was a male bird from Senegal, which is still living in my own collection; the other a female from Sierra Leone, which died recently in the gardens of the Zoological Society of London.] ✓



The latter specimen was presented to the Zoological Society by an officer who had been quartered at Sierra Leone, and by whom this Eagle had been captured in a singular manner, which it may be worth while here to mention :—

This gentleman, whilst in a canoe upon one of the rivers (by which the colony is intersected), observed this bird struggling on the surface of the water, and succeeded in approaching it sufficiently close to throw a blanket over it, and thus to secure it. The breast and bill of the Eagle bore traces of the blood and hair of some animal which it appeared to have recently captured, and to have endeavoured unsuccessfully to carry across the river, falling itself into the water in its attempt to retain its booty. The circumstance of the specimen procured by Mr. Ayres having killed a monkey “larger than itself” tends to give increased probability to the idea of such having been the cause which led to the capture of the living example in the manner just related. —J. H. G.]

1862 130. *CIRCAËTUS FASCIOLATUS*, G. R. Gray, in Mus. Brit.  
35 Banded Harrier-Eagle.

[Sent to Mr. Stevens by Mr. Gueinzus: ticket attached as follows :—“♀. Iris pale yellow. Stuffed full with flying ants (*Termites*).—October, 1858.”

1868 139 The typical specimen of this bird in the British Museum (which was also sent from Natal) and the present example are the only two individuals of this species which have come under my notice. Both these specimens agree closely with each other, and the species appears to me to be a well-defined and good one, although (as stated in ‘The Ibis,’ vol. ii. p. 414, foot-note) it is very nearly allied to the *Circaëtus zonurus*, which Dr. Heuglin has so well described and figured (see ‘Ibis,’ 1860, pl. 15).

✓ The *Circaëtus fasciolatus* is, however, readily distinguished from *Circaëtus zonurus* by the greater length of its tail, and by the five dark bands with which the tail is transversely marked, as well as by the anterior part of the inside of the wing adjacent to the carpal joint being transversely marked with brownish-grey bars, instead of being white as in *Circaëtus zonurus*.  
1878 149

I may take this opportunity of mentioning that, of the two



specimens of *Circaëtus zonurus* from Bissao, preserved in the Norwich Museum, and referred to in the foot-note already quoted, one agrees very accurately with Dr. Heuglin's plate; but the other, though apparently not specifically distinct, differs in colour,—the throat and chest being white, the abdomen and thighs whitish brown, with no appearance of transverse bars, and the tail also of a pale dingy brown, showing no trace of the transverse bar across the middle, but only of that across the lower part. The plumage in this specimen is much faded and worn, apparently by the action of the sun and air.

The Norwich Museum also contains two other *Circaëti* from Bissao, which appear to me to be examples of *Circaëtus gallicus*, though they differ from any other specimens of that species which I have seen in having the whole of the under parts of a rusty-brown colour, resembling, in that respect, some of the immature specimens of *Circaëtus thoracicus*.—J. H. G.]

131. *FALCO PEREGRINUS*, Linn. Peregrine Falcon.

[Sent to Mr. Stevens by Mr. Gueinzius: no ticket attached; but apparently a female bird in nearly adult plumage. This is the only specimen of the true Peregrine Falcon which has come into my hands from any locality south of the Equator.—J. H. G.]

132. *FALCO MINOR*, Bp. Rev. de Zool. 1850, p. 484. South African Peregrinoid Falcon.

[This specimen was also sent to Mr. Stevens by Mr. Gueinzius. The following ticket was attached to it:—"♀. Irides dark." 1864 298]

The plumage of this specimen bears considerable resemblance to that of the *Falco melanogenys*, Gould, of Australia, especially in the narrowness of the spaces between the transverse abdominal bars. Its size is about that of the male Peregrine. As this Falcon is but little known to naturalists, I may, perhaps, be permitted to refer the readers of 'The Ibis' to some interesting remarks respecting it, and especially as to the differences between this species and the small Falcon of North Africa (*Falco tunetanus* of Aldrovandus, *F. peregrinoides* of Temminck, Pl. Col. 479, and *F. barbarus* of Mr. Salvin, in 'The Ibis,' 1859, pl. 6), which are contained in pp. 29 and 30 of the 'Traité de Fauconnerie' by Professor Schlegel, who has there called this bird *Falco communis minor*.—J. H. G.]



133. *MEROPS SAVIGNII*, Swains. ex LeVaill. Savigny's Bee-eater.

*Male*. Eye bright crimson; legs and feet dark brown; bill black. Its stomach was full of a small kind of wasp. These birds take their food on the wing, and their flight somewhat resembles that of the Swallows; they frequently alight on the trees and bushes to rest; during flight they utter a harsh grating note. I believe they only inhabit the coast-lands, and are migratory, appearing only in the summer months.

134. *BUCORAX ABYSSINICUS* (Gmelin). Abyssinian Hornbill.

1868  
162 Eye very light brown; legs, feet, and bill black; skin of the neck and round the eye bright red. In the stomach of the male were snakes, beetles and other insects. These birds are gregarious, and to be found here all the year round, but are not very plentiful, generally three or four, sometimes more together. They are very fond of hunting for their food on ground from which the grass has been burnt; with their strong bills they peck up the hard ground, and turn over lumps in search of insects, making the dust fly again; having found an insect or other food, they take it up, and giving their head a toss, the bill pointing upward, appear to let the food roll down their throat. They also kill large snakes in the following manner\*. On discovering a snake, three or four of the birds advance sideways towards it, with their wings stretched out, and with their quills flap at and irritate the snake till he seizes them by the wing-feathers, when they immediately all close round and give him violent pecks with their long and sharp bills, quickly withdrawing again when the snake leaves his hold. This they repeat till the snake is dead. If the reptile advances on them, they place both wings in front of them, completely covering their heads and most vulnerable parts. Their call, which consists of but one note repeated, a deep and sonorous *coo-coo*, may be heard at a great

\* The manner in which the Abyssinian Hornbill attacks the large snakes was first communicated to me by Mr. Ayres in 1858, and appeared in the 'Zoologist' for that year. Mr. Ayres having confirmed the statement in his present paper, I have thought it worth while here to include it, although not now published for the first time.—J. H. G.



distance ; I have myself heard it, under favourable circumstances, at a distance of nearly two miles. The call of the female is exactly the same *coo-coo*, only pitched one note higher than that of the male. The male invariably calls first, the female immediately answers, and they continue this for perhaps five or ten minutes, every now and then, as they are feeding. Their flight is heavy, and when disturbed, although very shy, they seldom fly more than half a mile before they alight again. At a distance they would be easily mistaken for turkeys, their body being deep and rather compressed, similarly to those birds, with the wings carried well on the back. The little pouch on the throat they are able to fill with air at pleasure—the male bird now sent doing this before he died.

I think their principal range of country is on the coast, and from twenty to thirty miles inland. They roost on trees at night, but always feed on the ground.

[Neither of the specimens sent by Mr. Ayres exhibited the full development of the remarkable elevation on the upper part of the bill which distinguishes the old males of this species.—J. H. G.]

135. *BUCEROS BUCCINATOR*, Temm. Trumpeter Hornbill.

x 136. *TOCCUS CORONATUS* (Bodd.). Crowned Hornbill. = of Shaw

[This species and the preceding one were both sent to Mr. Stevens by Mr. Gueinzus. The latter was ticketed, “♀. Irides yellow.”—J. H. G.] *not Bodd*  
96 in 1862  
p 157

137. *CHERA PROGNE* (Bodd.). Progne Widow-bird.

*Male.* Eye nearly black. These beautiful birds are very plentiful in the inland parts of the colony and in the Free State and Trans-Vaal, but are seldom found within eight or ten miles of the coast. They are gregarious, there being perhaps one or two males to twenty or thirty females. In the months of December and January (the breeding season) the males assume their gaudy plumage (when their flight is in consequence heavy, but still, with or across the wind, they are able to sustain it a considerable distance), again shedding their tails in March. The females are brown, as are also the males, excepting in the months previously mentioned, the only distinguishing mark

1868  
465

x properly *L. melanoleucus* Licht. in 1862 157



then being the red patch on the wing. They build in the reeds and long grass; their food consists entirely of grass seeds, and I have heard they do considerable damage to the Boers' crops of wheat and oats in the interior.

138. *CURSORIUS CHALCOPTRUS* (Temm.). Bronze-winged Courser.

*Male.* Eye dark brown; legs pale. The stomach of this specimen was perfectly empty. Of the habits of this bird I know nothing, this being the only one I have seen. It is excessively rare in this part of the country, though I believe plentiful in the interior.

1868  
469 139. *TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCUS* (Linn.). British Common Sandpiper.

[Sent to Mr. Stevens by Mr. Hilliard.—J. H. G.]

140. *GALLINAGO MAJOR* (Gmelin.). British Great Snipe.

1868  
261 *Male.* Eye very dark; legs very light slate-colour; bill brown. I know but little of the habits of these birds; but they are migratory, appearing here in September and October, and leaving again in January or February. They are generally dispersed over the country, preferring the swamps on the flats to the hilly streams. They are usually found singly, but sometimes, when plentiful, may be put up in flights.

141. *PLATALEA TENUIROSTRIS*, Temm. Slender-billed Spoon-bill.

*Male and female.* The eye of a light bluish grey; legs dark pink; bill bluish pink; skin round the eye red. The stomachs of these birds were crammed with shrimps. Of their habits I know but little; they are gregarious, and are frequently to be found with the White Ibis and other waders. They are extremely shy; I have not had an opportunity of seeing them feed. They generally fly in lines, or form the letter V.

× 142. *PÆCILONETTA ERYTHORHYNCHA* (Gmel.). Red-billed Marbled Duck. × also included in 1859 p 251 no 62

143. *THALASSORNIS LEUCONOTUS* (Smith). Fasciated Duck.



144. PELECANUS MITRATUS, Licht. Mitred Pelican.

[This species and the two preceding were sent to Mr. Stevens by Mr. Gueinzius.—J. H. G.]

1868 264

145. PELECANUS RUFESCENS (Gmel.). Pink-backed Pelican.

*Male.* Bill pale; tip of the bill bright orange; pouch, legs and feet greenish yellow. These birds frequent the bay and the mouths of the rivers on the coast; their food, I believe, consists entirely of fish. They appear to feed in the evening and early in the morning, basking in the sun during the day. They are gregarious, and may be seen in flights of from three to thirty, which occasionally come inland. In such cases, although I have seen them wheeling round and round close to the ground, I have not seen them alight, but have watched them until out of sight. In their flight they generally form the letter V, similarly to the Geese, &c. They are to be found here all the year round more or less, frequenting the most retired parts of the bay, and are exceedingly shy and wary. The bird now sent, when shot, was only pinioned, and falling into the water, gave me a long chase. It swam with such swiftness, that by the time I got into my boat it had three hundred yards' start. There being a strong head wind blowing at the time, I had the greatest difficulty in overtaking it, and rowed more than a mile before I was near enough to give the bird a second shot, which put an end to its existence. These Pelicans soar to an immense height, wheeling round and round, especially when coming from a distance. They appear to examine the waters well before they alight, and settle far out of gunshot of any cover there may be.

I may, in conclusion, here insert the following additional note, which I have received from Mr. Ayres, on

ASTUR MELANOLEUCUS (Smith). Black and White Goshawk.

"A few days since, I shot a very fine immature specimen of *Astur melanoleucus*, which had carried away successively three of my full-grown hens, of the ordinary size, seven ducklings about one-third grown, four or five good-sized chickens, and one gosling as large as a full-grown fowl. Yet so cunning was this bird, that it committed all this havoc before I could get a single



chance of killing it. It would suddenly appear from amongst the trees, close to the ground, and seizing its victim, retire to the bush, where the sportsman stands but a very poor chance of seeing the bird before being seen by it.

*Contd 1862 p 25*

XIII.—*Notes on a living specimen of a singular Grallatorial Bird from New Caledonia.* By Dr. GEORGE BENNETT, F.Z.S.\*

1862  
90  
I REACHED Sydney on the 12th of November, having left Southampton on the 20th of September. A few days after my arrival, I observed a bird in the aviary at the Botanic Gardens here, which appears to me to be new. This living specimen and another, now set up in the Sydney Museum, were received as presents from M. Des Planches, Surgeon of H.I.M.S. "Sibylle," who brought them from New Caledonia. This bird is said to be plentiful there near the sea-coast, and is named by the natives *Kagu*. It has a large and handsome crest, which is always carried depressed, and which we could only get it to elevate by frightening it on placing a Hawk in the same compartment with it. Upon this being done, after running about, the bird elevated its crest; but I could not observe that it spread it out to any extent, although, on examining the stuffed specimen, the crest appears capable of being spread out as well as of being simply raised, as may be seen in the drawing sent herewith. The second drawing represents the crest in repose. The head and crest are of a light greyish colour, the longer feathers of the crest being of a lighter tint. The back, neck, and wing-coverts are of a dark penciled grey with brown markings, the latter varying according to age, and the long pinion feathers when spread are elegantly barred with reddish brown. On being chased the bird runs with great rapidity, never attempting to fly. On being caught it uttered a loud screaming noise, and it was only on such an occasion that it was ever heard to utter any sound. The form of the bird, together with the peculiar beak and Rail-like feet, are well displayed in the sketches, which have been kindly made for me by Mr. G. Krefft, the Assistant Curator

\* From a letter addressed by Dr. Bennett to the Editor, dated Sydney, November 21st, 1860.