

fresh, which the following extract from my MS. Journal, written when the animal was caught, will, I hope, afford:—

“Ground cinereous, six pairs of white spots between the back of the head and root of the tail, symmetrically placed; six to eight lines of red spots on each side, broken and terminating in small points towards the belly; buff-coloured irregular spots on the sides among the red lines; belly bright yellow, passing into cinereous towards the roots of the posterior and anterior extremities; legs and tail spotted with red towards their proximal ends, with white spots towards their extremities; head irregularly marked with red and white spots having a transverse direction. Iris light cinereous, tympanum sunken and covered with loose skin.’

“This is a homely description, but I give it to you *verbatim* as it is in my Journal, and am sorry that I had not the latter to refer to in London when I left you the specimen.

“Lastly, I notice, p. 250, in the fifth paragraph from the top, *l. c.*, that an error has crept into my statement, in the word ‘Anthropophagi,’ which ought to have been ‘Chelonophagi’ (Turtle-eaters). It will not do to make mistakes of this kind; and these poor people, degraded as they are, I trust will never come to this.”

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*The Gare-Fowl, or Great Auk (Alca impennis).*

*To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—The September Number of your valuable Journal contains a list, communicated by Mr. Robert Champley, of the specimens of *Alca impennis* preserved in the various museums. To render this list more complete, I beg to inform you that a specimen of this rare bird is also contained in the Imperial Museum of Vienna.

Requesting the insertion of this note in your pages,

I remain, respectfully yours,

A. VON PELZELN,

Vienna, Oct. 3, 1864.

Assistant Keeper in the Imperial  
Zoological Museum.

[We omitted to remark, on publishing Mr. Champley's list of specimens of this species in our September Number (p. 235), that it seems to be very defective. Mr. Alfred Newton, in his communication to the Zoological Society, reprinted in our August Number (p. 140), states that “sixty-three or sixty-four stuffed skins” (*more than double the estimate* of Mr. Champley) are known by him to exist. Again, in the Appendix to Mr. S. Baring-Gould's ‘Iceland’ (p. 406), which was noticed in our pages (*Annals*, vol. xii. p. 396), Mr. Newton says he can enumerate fifty-nine eggs of this bird, adding, “there must be several besides, of which I have as yet no knowledge.”—Eds.]





1864. "The Gare-Fowl, or Great Auk (*Alca impennis*).*" The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 14, 393–393.

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