

“Winchester, May 26th.

“DEAR LORD LILFORD,—

“Yours received this afternoon. I found no nests of the Flamingo when with Rudolf; this was on May 29th, 1879. We rode many miles over the Guadalquivir marshes, and saw a flock of about 2000 birds. I found three eggs lying in the slob land about a mile from the river. The Spaniards swore that a few weeks before a man from San Lucar de Barrameda had taken about a thousand eggs. This, I am pretty sure, was a lie. From my own observations they appeared not to have begun to nest when we were there. They were in one immense flock, and flew bang out of the country after being disturbed a few times. I will look up my notes when I go to my room after mess and give any dates.

“I *heard* on pretty good authority, *i. e.* from one of the Jerez sherry-growers, that in June 1879 the Flamingos were just beginning to nest, and that some fellow had taken a lot of eggs. You see my direct evidence is very small.”

From the above it would appear that the Flamingo is a more or less permanent resident in the Marisma, and that its stay therein and departure thence are regulated by the amount of rainfall and the persecution it meets with. The question that naturally rises is, whither do the immense numbers of Flamingos which frequent the Marisma in the winter retire to breed when that district is too dry for them? This question I am unable to answer, and I should be most happy to receive any information on the subject. On the disputed question of the position of the bird on the nest, I am unable to say any thing from personal experience; but I confess that I can see no reason why the Flamingo should not sit in the same way as any other bird¹; and I must add that the story of the legs stretched out behind, appears to me unnecessary, improbable, uncomfortable, and, as far as I am at present aware, quite unsupported by trustworthy evidence.

June 15, 1880.

Professor W. H. Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary made the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during May 1880:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of May was 199, of which 24 were by birth, 94 by presentation, 68 by purchase, 1 received in exchange, and 12 received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 106.

The most noticeable additions during the month were:—

1. Two side-striped Jackals (*Canis lateralis*), from Western Africa.

¹ Mr. Saunders has also expressed his disbelief in the current “leg-story” in print and privately.

This little-known species was established by me in 1870¹ (upon a specimen living in the Society's Gardens). Mr. Van Bemmelin, of the Zoological Gardens of Rotterdam, having two pairs of it, has kindly parted with one pair in our favour.

2. A young male Lühdorf's Deer (*Cervus luehdorfi*), received May 30th.

Of the discovery of this Deer I spoke at the last meeting of the Society (see p. 420). The authorities of the Gardens at Hamburg have kindly allowed us to acquire one of the young males born in their garden for this Society's collection.

I take this opportunity of offering some remarks upon two species previously received, which (as must be often the case with living animals) seem to have been wrongly determined.

A male Black Lemur, purchased Nov. 25th, 1878, was entered on the list of additions² as *Lemur macaco*, that being the only known species of Black Lemur. In June last we received of Mr. Badger a fine pair of the true *Lemur macaco* (male black, female = *L. leucomystax*), and our Superintendent's excellent eye immediately told him that we had here to do with two distinct species.

Fig. 1.

Head of *Lemur macaco*.

Fig. 2.

Head of *L. nigerrimus*.

The first arrival is a larger and more intensely black animal, with a raised crest of short upstanding hair on its head. Moreover the ear-conch is naked, and not furnished with tufts of hair as in *Lemur macaco*, from which it is certainly distinct (see woodcut). I propose to name it for the present *Lemur nigerrimus*, although it may possibly turn out to be a black variety of some known species, with the following characters:—

LEMUR NIGERRIMUS, sp. nov.

Ater unicolor; pilei cristati pilis extantibus; auriculis nudis.

Long. tota corp. 16, caudæ 20 poll. Angl.

In August last year we purchased of a London dealer 18 examples of a Duck from Australia, which we supposed to be *Anas punctata* (sive *castanea*) in winter costume, as they nearly resembled the figure of the female given by Mr. Gould (Birds of Australia, vol. vii. pl. xi.). They were accordingly thus entered in our

¹ P. Z. S. 1870, p. 279, t. xviii.

² See P. Z. S. 1878, p. 1016.

register¹. Having examples of both sexes we naturally expected that the male would put on in the spring the chestnut breast and full breeding-plumage portrayed by Mr. Gould in his figure of that sex. Such, however, has not been the case; little change has occurred except the brightening of the colour; and, as far as I can make out, the birds do not belong to *A. punctata* at all, but to *A. gibberifrons*, Müller, a species closely resembling the female of *A. punctata*, which has lately been ascertained to occur in Australia².

Mr. Sclater exhibited the skin of an Antelope received from the Gaboon, of which Mr. Wolf has prepared a coloured drawing, and remarked that it appeared to belong to the female of an undescribed species of *Tragelaphus* allied to *Tragelaphus spekii*, which he proposes to name

TRAGELAPHUS GRATUS, sp. nov. (Plate XLIV.)

Fur long and coarse, as in *T. spekii*, of a deep rich chestnut, paler on belly; dorsal line dark; chin, three spots on the sides of the head, throat, wide band across the neck, inside of limbs, under surface of tail, and three or four longitudinal series of spots on each side of the body (sometimes running into lines) white; feet with a dark line in front; hoofs much elongated, as in *T. spekii*.

Length of skin from the tip of nose to base of tail 6 inches, tail 6, tarsus 8, ear 4.

Obs. This fine Antelope is obviously nearly allied to *T. spekii*, and belongs to the same division of the genus, characterized by the long coarse hair and long tarsus and toes, which indicate aquatic and marsh-loving habits. The generic term *Hydrotragus*, Gray (Cat. Rum. 1872, p. 49), should be perhaps employed for these two species. The skin, which I now exhibit, was sent to Mr. R. W. Roulston, the Society's agent at Liverpool, by one of his correspondents at Gaboon, who asked whether such an Antelope would be required for the Menagerie. I have requested Mr. Roulston to procure a skin and horns of the male animal, and hope to receive them shortly.

Dr. Günther exhibited a series of horns of *Cervus equinus* (S. Müller), collected by H. Brooke Low, Esq., in Sarawak. He pointed out the variation in the spread of the horns and in the direction and comparative length of the snags, and expressed his entire agreement with the view held by Blyth (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1869, p. 659), viz. that the Bornean Sambur was but a small race of the Indian *Cervus aristotelis*, at least as far as he was enabled to judge from the horns and skulls. He also exhibited for comparison a pair of horns with frontlet of an adult Sambur killed in Bengal, which, as regards size, were even inferior to those of the Bornean Deer.

¹ See P. Z. S. 1879, p. 827.

² See Dr. Buller's 'Birds of New Zealand,' p. 251.



JWolf del. J.Smit lith.

TRAGELAPHUS GRATUS.

Hanhart imp.





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