

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS
OF THE
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

January 4, 1876.

Prof. Newton, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of December 1875 :—

The registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of December were 86 in number. Of these, 17 were acquired by presentation, 54 by purchase, 1 by exchange, 1 by birth, and 13 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 113.

The most noticeable additions during the month of December were as follows :—

A Haast's Apteryx (*Apteryx haasti*) from New Zealand, presented by Baron F. von Mueller, C.M.Z.S., 18th December, 1875. Two examples of this Apteryx were despatched by our esteemed correspondent from Melbourne; but only one reached us alive—the first living individual of this recently determined species (assuming that its distinctness from *A. oweni* is fairly established) that has arrived in this country.

A Night-Parrot (*Stringops habroptilus*) from New Zealand, presented by Mr. T. E. Featherston, 23rd December, 1875.

Three male Moose (*Alces machlis*) from North America, deposited 28th December, 1875.

A letter was read, addressed to the Secretary by Mr. George Brown, Corresponding Member, dated Port Hunter, Duke-of-York Island (lat. $4^{\circ} 7' S.$, long. $152^{\circ} 22' E.$), Sept. 5, 1875, stating that he had shipped by the 'John Wesley,' for the Society, to the care of Dr. George Bennett at Sydney two Cassowaries, and a Cockatoo from the adjoining island of New Britain, and two Pigeons and two Parrots from Duke-of-York Island, and some other birds, which he trusted would arrive safely. Mr. Brown stated that he had a collector at work along with him, and hoped shortly to have made a good series of specimens of the hitherto almost unknown fauna of this and the neighbouring islands.

The Secretary had received intelligence from Dr. Bennett of the safe arrival of the two Cassowaries (*Casuarus bennetti*) and of four of the other birds at Sydney, and that they would be forwarded to the Society by the 'Paramatta' on her next return voyage.

The following extract was read from a letter addressed to the Secretary by Mr. R. Trimen, Curator of the South-African Museum, Cape-town, dated 24th Nov. 1875.

"Your note (P. Z. S. 1875, pp. 81, 82) on *Canis chama*, Smith, leads me to think that you may be interested in hearing that there are two specimens of that species in this Museum.

"They have hitherto been labelled *C. variegatoides*, Smith (South Afr. Qu. Journ. ii. p. 87), the example first received having been so determined by the late Curator; but on comparison of them with the characteristic plate (xviii.) in the 'Proceedings,' and with Dr. Smith's descriptions of the two species, it is clear that they are *C. chama* and not *C. variegatoides*.

"I should be glad to hear if you know any thing about the latter species.

"The late Dr. J. E. Gray referred it (List Mamm. Brit. Mus. 1843, p. 58) to *C. mesomelas*, Schreb.; but as Dr. Smith was well acquainted with *U. mesomelas*, it seems improbable that he would have founded a new species on any thing less than a well-marked variety.

"*C. chama* is more widely spread than Dr. Smith's account would lead one to suppose, one of our two examples being from the neighbourhood of Beaufort (about the centre of this colony) and the other from near Caledon, a town about 70 miles east (and a little to the south) of Cape-town."

Dr. Hector, F.R.S., sent for exhibition three feather mats, made by the Maoris of New Zealand:—

No. 1. An ancient mat, obtained by Dr. Buller from a chief belonging to the Upper Wanganui river. Centre of pigeon's feathers (*Carpophaga novæ-zeelandiæ*) trimmed with feathers from the Kaka (*Nestor meridionalis*) and North-Island Kiwi (*Apteryx mantelli*), and also tufts of hair of the ancient Maori dog, now extinct.

No. 2. A mat of Kiwi feathers (*Apteryx mantelli*) from Tampo Lake, North Island. The harsh feel, from the prolonged shafts



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