

August 9, 1836.

Richard Owen, Esq., in the Chair.

A specimen was exhibited of an *Ortyx* which Mr. Gould regarded as hitherto undescribed.

At the request of the Chairman he pointed out the distinguishing peculiarities of the new species, which he named and characterized as follows :

ORTYX OCELLATUS. *Ortyx nigro-brunneus, dorso punctis rufo-brunneis adperso, lateribus ocellis albi-flavidis notatis, femoribus nigris.*

Long. corp.  $6\frac{1}{2}$  unc. ; alæ,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ; tarsi,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ .

Hæc species ad *Ort. Montezumæ* in affinitate proxima.

“ Bill black, strong, and arched ; top of the head, which is slightly crested, blackish brown ; a large white mark extends over each eye and passes on to the back part of the neck ; beneath the eye is an oval mark of blueish black ; from the base of the lower mandible extends another white mark which spreads upon the front of the neck and is bounded by an abrupt margin of black ; a large patch of the latter colour occupies the chin and throat ; the general colour of the whole of the upper surface is brownish olive, each feather having a decided central line of chestnut following the direction of the shaft and becoming spatulate at the tip ; the web of each feather is transversely barred and blotched with black ; the chest and abdomen is sandy chestnut, becoming more intense on the under tail-coverts ; sides of the chest and flanks transversely spotted with yellowish white on a blueish grey ground ; thighs black ; tail very short and partly hidden ; tarsi brown.

This bird differs from *Ortyx Montezuma* in several particulars, but to that species it is most nearly allied.

Mr. Gould also brought before the notice of the Meeting two new species of *Birds* from New South Wales, where they had been collected, and subsequently presented to the Society by Captain Sturt. They are referrible to the genus *Zosterops* of Messrs. Vigors and Horsfield ; a group among the *Sylviadæ*, and of which but two species were known at the time those gentlemen instituted the genus. Mr. Gould placed on the table six additional species, a portion of which was from the Society's collection, and the remainder from his own. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Gould adverted to the surprising augmentation of species which has now taken place in nearly every group in ornithology ; and characterized the new species mentioned above as

ZOSTEROPS ALBOGULARIS, Gould.

*Zost. corpore supernè, alis, caudæque, olivaceis ; dorso, tectricibus alarum, caudæque, castaneo-brunneis ; oculo plumulis albis circum-*



*dato ; genis maculá nigrá notatis ; auricularibus griseis ; gulá, ventre, crissoque albis ; lateribus castaneis ; rostro pedibusque purpurascenti-griseis.*

Long. corp.  $5\frac{1}{2}$  unc. ; rostri,  $\frac{7}{8}$  ; alæ, 3 ; caudæ,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ; tarsi, 1.

*Hab.* in Australiâ, apud flumen Murrumbidgee dictum.

*ZOSTEROPS TENUIROSTRIS, Gould.*

*Zost. vertice capitis, nuchá, gulá, thoraceque viridi-flavis ; oculo plumulis albis circumdato ; dorso, scapulis, olivaceo-griseis ; primariis rectricibusque viridi latè marginatis ; ventre, crissoque brunneo-flavis ; rostro pedibusque brunneis.*

Long. corp.  $5\frac{3}{8}$  unc. ; rostri,  $\frac{3}{4}$  ; alæ,  $2\frac{5}{8}$  ; caudæ,  $2\frac{1}{8}$  ; tarsi,  $\frac{7}{8}$ .

*Hab.* in Australiâ apud flumen Murrumbidgee dictum.

They are the two largest known species of the genus.

Notes by W. C. Williamson, Esq., Curator to the Natural History Society, Manchester, on the appearance of rare Birds in the vicinity of Scarborough were then read, of which the following is an abstract.

"The prominent position of Scarborough with its projecting headlands separated by deep bays and its high hills covered with wood, render the neighbourhood a favourite retreat for various tribes of birds. Among the spring visitors the *Siskin* may be enumerated, which appears in April, remaining only a few days apparently on its route to breeding-places farther north. It is never seen at any other period of the year, though considered by authors as a winter visitor. Several examples of the *Hoopoe*, and one specimen of the *Roller*, have been shot in the neighbourhood. The stomach of the latter was filled with the *elytra* and other remains of a species of *Curculio*. Of the *Water Ouzel* or *Dipper* it is stated that, when flying down a stream it drops into the water and dives under any rails laid across from bank to bank, rather than fly over them, rising on the opposite side and pursuing its course. The nest of this bird is occasionally seen so placed under a projecting ledge that a fall of water was constantly rolling over it, thus rendering it secure from any attacks: the birds entering by the sides of the fall.

"The *Redwing* has been seen as late as May; these birds are remarkable for a peculiar cry uttered when disturbed and about to take flight.

"The *Hooded Crow* has been known to breed near Scarborough on two or three occasions. In one instance, a female *Hooded Crow* was observed to pair with a *Carrion Crow* on a large tree at Hackness, where they succeeded in rearing their young. The *Carrion Crow* was shot by the gamekeeper, but the following year the *Hooded Crow* returned with a new mate of the same sable hue as the former one to her old nest. The carrion and young crows were again all shot; the old female by her vigilance escaped all the efforts of the keepers to destroy her, and a third time returned with a fresh mate; she was not however again so successful, but was shot, and is now preserved in the Scarborough Museum. The young



birds varied, some resembling the *Hooded* and others the *Carrion Crow* in their plumage.

"The *Great* or *Thick-kneed Plovers* breed on the fallows, and often startle the midnight traveller by their shrill and ominous whistle. This is supposed to be the note so beautifully alluded to by Sir Walter Scott in his poem of *The Lady of the Lake*,

'And in the Plover's shrilly strain  
The signal whistle's heard again.'

for it certainly sounds more like a human note than that of a bird.

"The *Rough-legged Buzzard* breeds occasionally in a precipitous dell near Hackness. A marked female returned the following year with a new mate to her former favourite haunt.

"Three species of the genus *Lestris*, the *Glaucous Gull*, *Little Gull*, *Great Northern Diver*, *Little Auk*, and *Long-tailed Duck* are obtained generally during the prevalence of strong north-easterly winds. Temminck's *Tringa* and the *Olivaceous Gallinule* have been killed near Scarborough. The *Sanderling* visits the shore in May and September. Good sport is sometimes gained at *Woodcock*-shooting in March, when from any cause these birds are prevented continuing their journey northward. In one or two instances a *Woodcock* has been seen there as late as June."

August 23, 1836.

Thomas Bell, Esq., in the Chair.

In consequence of the lamented decease of the Secretary, E. T. Bennett, Esq., the usual routine of scientific business was suspended.



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