

2. Linnean Society of London.

3^d February, 1887. — Brigade Surgeon J. E. T. Aitchison read a paper on the Fauna and Flora of the Afghan Boundary based on the collections made by him in the recent Afghan Delimitation Commission. Of the Zoology of the region transversed the following is a summary. There were obtained 19 species of mammals, belonging to 15 genera, besides 4 other species were seen belonging to 3 genera. Probably the most interesting as least known, is the mole-like Rat *Ellobius fuscicapillus*, the type of which was originally got near Quetta, many years ago. The geographical range of the Tiger (*Felis tigris*) has been fixed as far east and north as Bala Morghab and that of the Cheetah (*Felis jubata*) to the Valley of the Hari-rūd; while the Egyptian Fox (*Vulpes famelica*) has been obtained as far north and east as Kushk-rūd and Kin in the basin of the Harūt river. There were collected in all 123 species of Birds belonging to some 84 genera, while 14 other species were identified though not preserved. There are only 2 new species viz. *Phasianus principalis* and *Gecinus Gorii*. The birds are chiefly migratory. Exceptions occur in the above new pheasant, Raven, Rook, Carrion Crow, Jackdaw, Sparrow, Starling, Sky Lark (*Alauda arvensis*) Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*), Bokhara Lark (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*), Wall Creeper (*Tichodroma muraria*), Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), an owl, several Raptores, Sandgrouse (*Pterocles arenarius*), and Red legged partridge (*Caccabis chukar*). As Spring advances birds are seen to arrive, following each other very rapidly — such as *Aedon familiaris*, *Sylvia*, *Saxicolae*, *Lanius*, *Motacilla*, *Pastor*, *Merops* and *Coracias*. Various Ducks leave, but the Brahmini duck (*Casarca rutila*) nests and remains throughout the year. The largest number of species occur in the genera: *Saxicola* (8), *Lanius* (6), *Sylvia* (5), *Motacilla* (5) and *Emberiza* (4). 35 species of Reptiles were collected, these consisting of 1 Tortoise (*Testudo*), 21 species of Lizards of which 3 are new, and of Ophidians 13 species whereof 1 is new, viz. an adult fine example of *Naja oxiana* which heretofore has only been recognized from young undeveloped specimens. Of Batrachia 2 species were got, viz. *Rana esculenta* and *Bufo viridis*, and on the latter the Leech *Aulostoma gulo* was found. Circumstances prevented more than 7 species of fish from being procured, these belong to 6 genera, two of which prove to be new. *Schizothorax intermedius* is interesting as it was found by Griffith in the Cabul river an affluent of the Indus. In the great eastern drainage of E. Turkestan it was found at Youngsi-Lissar by the second Yarkand mission. The new species of *Schizothorax* was only met with in the Hari-rūd and its tributaries. Over 100 species of Insects were collected, of which 20 are new to science. The mass of the insects seem to be types of Arabian, North African and Mediterranean fauna; a few only seem Indian, and Central Asian in character. It was observed that the Lepidoptera generally appeared when at irregular intervals there was perfect stillness in the air, and only then in small groups.

3. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

29th December, 1886. — 1) On new or rare Vertebrates from the Herbert River, North Queensland. By C. W. De Vis, M.A. The following

Vertebrates are here treated of: — *Halmaturus*, sp. resembling *H. Wilcoxi*, McCoy; *Phalangista vulpina* (perhaps a variety — larger and of a more rufous tint than ordinary Queensland specimens of this species); the »Brill« or Flying Phalanger resembling *Petaurista taguanoides* in its superficial characters, but presenting some differences, as in the length of the ears and in certain cranial characters; *Dromicia frontalis*, n. sp.; *Pseudochirus Mongan*, n. sp.; *Ninox boobook* var. *lurida*; *Ninox rufa*, Gould; and *Varanus* sp., possibly a variety of *V. prasimus*. Mr. De Vis also points out that inhabiting the mountain-top scrubs of the Herbert Gorge, there are two species of *Pseudochirus* to each of which indifferently the local blacks apply the name »Mongan«; and that Mr. Collett (P. Z. S., 1884, p. 384) has described the female of *P. Mongan* as that of *P. Herbertensis*. — 2) Notes on the Egg of the Regent-bird *Sericulus melinus*. By Dr. Ramsay, F.R.S.E. The egg, taken from the oviduct of a bird shot on the Richmond River, is described and figured. — 3) Notes on the Nesting of *Pycnoptilus floccosus* in N. S. Wales. By Dr. Ramsay, F.R.S.E. The nest and eggs are described and figured, and remarks made on its occurrence in the Cambewarra district. — 4) Descriptions of the Eggs of certain Australian Birds. By Dr. Ramsay, F.R.S.E. Some eggs of doubtful authenticity are redescribed from authentic specimens, and several others are described for the first time. — 5) Description of a new species of *Hapalotis*, (*H. Boweri*) from North West Australia. By Dr. E. P. Ramsay, F.R.S.E. This species comes near *H. apicalis* and *H. hemileucura* of Gould — and has been dedicated to its discoverer W. H. Boyer-Bower, Esq. Figures of the fore and hind feet are given. — 6) Notes on the Bower birds (*Scenopæidæ*) of Australia. By A. J. North. All the known species found in Australia are enumerated, with references to, and descriptions of, the eggs of five species. — 7) List of references to authentic descriptions of Australian Birds' Eggs. By A. J. North. References are given to a large number of descriptions and figures. — 8) On a Labyrinthodont fossil, *Platycephalus Wilkinsonii*, from Gosford. By Professor Stephens, M.A., F.G.S. The specimen here described is evidently in a very early stage of development, but shows its essential character distinctly enough. The head, thoracic plates, and the spinal column as far as the pelvic girdle are fairly preserved, and the branchial arches are unmistakably present. As it does not seem referable to any described type, it has been provisionally named as above. A description is also given of two other Labyrinthodont remains from Bowral. All belong to the Hawkesbury-Wianamatta formation. — Dr. Ramsay exhibited eggs of *Ptilonorhynchus holosericeus*, *Chlamydodera maculata*, *C. cerviniventris*, *Sericulus melinus*, *Ailuraedus crassirostris* in illustration of Mr. North's Paper; also of *Puffinus brevicaudis*, the Mutton Bird of South Australia. Dr. Ramsay also exhibited a very remarkable Helix-shaped case, probably of a Trichopterous Insect, from Japan. — Mr. Deane exhibited a Spider of the genus *Gastracantha*, and a specimen of *Melaleuca Deanei* from Lane Cove, a species described by Baron von Mueller in a paper read at last month's Meeting of the Society. — Mr. Masters exhibited a specimen of *Ornithoptera Victoriae* (female) from Guadalcanar, Solomon Islands. He stated that one specimen was taken by Mr. McGillivray thirty years ago, and until very lately it was the only specimen known.

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1887

Band/Volume: [10](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Murie J.

Artikel/Article: [2. Linnean Society of London 127-128](#)