

III. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

4th December, 1883. — Mr. Philip Crowley, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on an egg of a Bower-bird from Southern New Guinea, supposed to be that of *Chlamydodera cerviniventris*. — Sir Joseph Fayrer, F.Z.S., exhibited a shed Deer-horn, apparently gnawed by other Deer, and made remarks on this subject. — Mr. Sclater exhibited, on the part of Dr. George Bennett, F.Z.S., four skins of a species of Paradise-bird of the genus *Drepanornis*, obtained in the vicinity of Port Moresby in Southern New Guinea. Mr. Sclater considered this form to be only subspecifically different from *D. Albertisi* of North-eastern New Guinea. — Mr. W. Burton, F.Z.S., exhibited a supposed hybrid between a male Blackcock and a hen Pheasant. — Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe gave descriptions of some new species of Flower-peckers, viz.: — *Dicaeum sulaense*, from the Sula Islands; *D. pulchrius*, from S.E. New Guinea; and *D. Tristrami*, from the Solomon Islands. The author added some critical notes on other species of *Dicaeum* and *Prionochilus*. — Mr. J. B. Sutton read a paper on the diseases of Monkeys dying in the Society's Gardens, on which he gave many interesting details. Mr. Sutton called special attention to the prevalence of the belief that Monkeys in confinement generally die of tuberculosis, and showed that such is not really the case. — Mr. H. O. Forbes, F.Z.S., read a paper describing the peculiar habits of a Spider (*Thomisus decipiens*) as observed by him in Sumatra. — A second paper by Mr. Forbes gave an account of some rare birds from the Moluccas and from Timor Laut. To this the author added the description of a new species of Ground-Thrush from Timor Laut, which he proposed to call *Geocichla Machiki*, in acknowledgment of services rendered to him by Dr. Julius Machik in Sumatra. — A communication was read from Prof. J. von Haast, F.R.S., C.M.Z.S., containing notes on *Ziphius (Epidon) novae-zealandiae*, in continuation of a former paper read before the Society on the same subject. — A second communication from Prof. Haast gave a description of a large Southern Rorqual (*Physalus [Balaenoptera] australis*) which had been washed ashore dead on the New Brighton beach about 5 miles from Christchurch, New Zealand. Prof. Haast was doubtful as to the distinctness of this animal from *Balaenoptera musculus* of the Northern Atlantic. — Mr. G. French Angas, C.M.Z.S., read some notes on the terrestrial Mollusca of Dominica collected during a recent visit to that island. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of London.

6th December, 1883. — A large number of Lepidoptera from the district of Georgetown, Colorado, and a few from Missouri were exhibited by Mr. Ernest Jacob who had collected there while engaged in the U. S. A. Geological Survey in the above mentioned districts 1880—81. — Mr. Charles Darwin's Essay »On Instinct« was then read by the Zoological Secretary and an important discussion followed in which Mr. Wallace, Professors Huxley, Allman, Mivart, Foster, Lankester, Mr. Seebohm, Mr. McLachlan and others took part. After detailing sundry facts with reference to the migratory instincts of different animals, Mr. Darwin proceeds to suggest a theory to account for them. This theory is precisely the same

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