

November 12, 1868.

Professor Alfred Newton, F.Z.S., in the Chair.

Mr. P. L. Sclater read notices of the more important additions made to the Society's Menagerie during the months of June, July, August, September, and October, amongst which were:—

1. A pair of the beautiful Green Hunting-Crow of Northern India (*Cissa venatoria*), purchased June 2nd, and believed to be the first two examples of this form received alive in Europe.

2. An Australian Fruit-Bat (*Pteropus poliocephalus*, Temminck), from New South Wales, presented by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, July 4th.

3. A young male Koodoo Antelope (*Strepsiceros kudu*), purchased July 16th out of a large collection of living animals made by M. Casanova in the vicinity of Casala, Lower Nubia.

4. A young female of the Spanish Ibez (*Capra pyrenaica*, Schimper), presented by Major Howard Irby, August 10th, being the specimen alluded to *anteà*, p. 403. Another correspondent of the Society had promised to supply a male of this interesting species.

5. A very fine young female of the Hoolock Gibbon (*Hylobates hoolock*), presented by Mr. A. Grote, F.Z.S., August 14th, who had communicated the following note respecting this animal:—

“This Hoolock was sent to me early in 1867, by Mrs. Driver, of Gowalpara, a civil station on the western border of the Assam province. The animal is common in the jungles of the Gowalpara district, on the left bank of the Barhampooter; and its young are frequently captured by the natives and brought into the station, though, being impatient of confinement, they are not usually, so far as I can learn, kept alive for any time. Those which are sent down to Calcutta seem very sensitive to the change of climate, and are generally carried off by pulmonary disease. The individual which I brought home was attacked within a week of her reaching me at Alipore, and would probably have succumbed but for the unremitting attention of Dr. John Anderson, the Society's agent in Calcutta, to whom I had made her over. She was for more than a year in the Botanic Gardens, and, being allowed a good deal of liberty there, kept her health very well. She has grown considerably since she was first sent down to me.

“Both this species and the *Hylobates lar* of Tenasserim are exceedingly gentle, and rarely, if ever, bite in anger. There is a good account of an individual of the latter species by Mr. H. Blanford in a recent number of the ‘Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.’ It differs in external appearance from the Gibbon in having a whitish-grey fringe round the face, and is incapable of shouting. The Hoolock owes its native name to its loud and peculiar voice.”

6. A specimen of the Large White Crane of Upper India (*Grus leucogeranos*), presented by the Babu Rajendra Mullick, of Calcutta, C.M.Z.S., August 14th.

7. A young female Sea-Lion (*Otaria jubata*), from the Falkland Islands, received August 24th.

This individual was the only survivor of eight examples of this animal captured in various spots on the coast of the Falklands by Adolphe Alexandre Lecomte, the Society's keeper, who had been sent out there by the Council of the Society for the purpose of obtaining living specimens of it.

Lecomte left Swansea on the 1st of June, 1867, in the coal-ship 'Epsilon' (Capt. Williams), and arrived at Port Stanley on the 11th of August. The first fortnight after his arrival he devoted to excursions along the shores in the vicinity of Port Stanley, but found little of interest here except Upland Geese (*Chloëphaga magellanica*), Kelp Geese (*C. antarctica*), and other birds, and a single Sea-Leopard (*Stenorhynchus leptonyx*) shot in a remote part of Stanley Harbour, being the only specimen of this animal met with during his stay in the Falklands. In the middle of September Lecomte went to Capt. Packe's establishment at Island Harbour, and stayed there a month, searching the creeks and shores diligently in that vicinity. "Elephant Island," in this neighbourhood, so called from the former abundance there of the Sea-Elephant (*Morunga proboscidea*), was found to be quite deserted by this animal, which is said to be now entirely extinct in the Falklands, though its former abundance in certain spots is well known, and is further testified by remains of its bones and teeth met with on the shores, specimens of which were obtained and brought home. In December Lecomte returned to Port Stanley, where Governor Robinson most kindly gave him a room in Government House whilst engaged in preparing specimens and prosecuting researches for the Society. His Excellency likewise allowed him the use of a schooner of eight tons burden, in which he made several voyages to Volunteer Lagoon and the adjoining shores of East Falkland. This was in the month of December, when the various species of Penguins are most easily captured. On the north shore of East Falkland, to which he crossed from Volunteer Lagoon, Lecomte found a large "rookery" of Gentoo Penguins (*Pygosceles wagleri*); amongst them were about twenty King-Penguins (*Apterydytes pennantii*). Lecomte captured about a dozen individuals of each of these species, and about the same number of the Rock-hopper Penguin (*Eudyptes nigrivestis*, Gould), Macaroni-Penguin (*E. chrysolophus*), and Jackass Penguin (*Spheniscus magellanicus*), all of which were assembled together at Port Stanley at the end of December 1867. Lecomte remarked that the Macaroni-Penguin does not constitute rookeries of its own, but is found sparingly mixed up among the Rock-hoppers in certain localities. But at Eagle Point, where there is a large rookery of Rock-hoppers (consisting of, perhaps, 40,000 birds), not a single Macaroni was found. He likewise noted that the Jackass Penguin differs entirely from the other species in its method of breeding, as it lays its egg at the end of a deep burrow (sometimes 20 feet from the orifice) which it excavates near the sea-shore*.

* Cf. Capt. Abbott's notes in 'The Ibis,' 1860, p. 336, et 1861, p. 163.

About the 9th of January last, Lecomte again left Port Stanley in the Governor's schooner for Port Salvador, at the northern extremity of East Falkland. On this as on other occasions, on passing the "Volunteer Rocks," the Fur-Seal of the Falklands (*Otaria falklandica*) was seen in considerable numbers. On a fine day, by the aid of a glass, some 100 or 150 of this Seal may be distinguished lying on these rocks; but the violence of the surf renders it impossible to approach them in a small schooner. On reaching Port Salvador the numerous inlets were diligently searched for Sea-Lions, but here, where these animals were formerly so abundant, not one was met with. Lecomte next tried the vicinity of Island Harbour, on the east coast, but was again unsuccessful, only meeting with a single example of this species. Returning to Port Stanley he found the stock of Penguins required replenishing, and made another visit to Volunteer Lagoon for this purpose.

About the beginning of March, Lecomte left Port Stanley again in the Governor's schooner for "Sea-Lion Island," off the south shore of East Falkland, with the expectation of here, at least, meeting with the animal whence the island has received its name. But he was again disappointed, not a single Sea-Lion having been found in this locality. But on the southernmost of the Kelp Islands, lying further north, which were visited on the return voyage, a herd of about thirty individuals of this animal was discovered; an old male (of which the skull was preserved) was shot, and four young ones (two males and two females) were captured. The female Sea-Lion produces her young (rarely more than one at a birth) about Christmas-day; so that these animals were between three and four months old when captured. Lecomte returned at once to Port Stanley with his captives, but found much difficulty in rearing them. The supply of milk was limited; and small fishes, such as they could eat, were with difficulty to be had. The last of the four died upon Good Friday (April 10th), whereupon he immediately determined to set about getting a fresh supply.

The Governor's schooner being now employed upon other service, Lecomte hired for this purpose the schooner 'Felis' (Capt. Hansen), a vessel of about 20 tons, usually engaged in the Penguin and Seal fishery*, and left Port Stanley on May 23rd. At Kelp Island, the first spot visited, they could not land, from bad weather, but Sea-Lions were observed with the glass. On the 30th of May they were on Great Island in Adventure Bay, and here succeeded in capturing the only two Sea-Lions met with, both of which were young females. On the 8th of June two others (one male and one female) were taken at North Point Island, off the same coast, the female being that which is now in the Society's Gardens; and Lecomte immediately returned with all four of them to Port Stanley.

From Port Stanley Lecomte proceeded home by the packet 'Fawn,'

* Four vessels engaged in this trade at Port Stanley last year are stated to have made altogether 50,700 gallons of Penguin oil. The destruction thus caused amongst these birds may be realized when it is considered that eight Penguins are estimated to make one gallon of oil.



J Smit lith

M & N Hanhart imp.

which meets the mail-steamer at Monte Video, with the following living animals :—

- 4 Sea-Lions (*Otaria jubata*).
- 1 Gentoo Penguin (*Pygosceles wagleri*).
- 4 Rock-hopper Penguins (*Eudyptes nigrivestis*).
- 6 Kelp Geese (*Chloëphaga magellanica* and *C. antarctica*).
- 9 Logger-headed Geese (*Micropterus cinereus*).
- 8 Johnny Rooks (*Milvago australis*).
- 7 Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax magellanicus* and *P. carunculatus*).
- 12 Gulls (*Larus dominicanus*, *L. scoresbii*, &c.).
- 6 Starlings (*Sturnella militaris*).
- 22 Finches (*Phrygilus melanoderus*).
- 2 Sea-hens (*Hæmatopus niger*).
- 2 Foxes (*Canis antarcticus*).

But the weather was very unfavourable between Port Stanley and Monte Video, and seventy-one of the animals died *en route*. For some time longer the four Sea-Lions remained in good health and condition; but a passenger having died of yellow fever, the stock of fish shipped for feeding them was condemned on account of its smell and ordered to be thrown overboard. The consequence was the loss of three out of the four Sea-Lions—the survivor having been kept alive as far as Lisbon, when a fresh supply was obtained, mainly by the Flying-fishes (*Exoceti*), which fell on the deck at night and were purchased from the sailors who picked them up.

Besides the Sea-Lion, Lecomte succeeded in bringing to the Gardens only the following animals :—

- 1 Antarctic Wolf (*Canis antarcticus*).
- 2 Forster's Milvago (*Milvago leucurus*).
- 1 Kelp Goose (*Chloëphaga antarctica*).
- 2 Upland Geese (*Chloëphaga magellanica*).
- 1 Dominican Gull (*Larus dominicanus*).

8. A young male African Two-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros bicornis*), purchased September 11th (see Plate XLI.). This animal, which was believed to be the first individual of the species which had reached Europe alive since the days of the Romans, was purchased for the Society of Mr. Carl Hagenbeck, the well-known dealer of Hamburgh. It had been originally captured, on the 12th of February 1868, by the Arabs of the Beni-Ammer tribe, in the vicinity of Casalá, in Upper Nubia, and sold by them to Herr Casanova, an enterprising traveller of Vienna. Pending the completion of the new house for Rhinoceros and Elephants, now in process of erection, this Rhinoceros had been temporarily lodged in the Giraffe House.

9. Two specimens of the Dotted-jawed Cayman (*Jacare punctulata*), obtained in the Island of Tobago and presented to the Society by Capt. Spicer, of the ship 'Mary,' on the 18th of September.

10. On the 14th of October, a selection had been obtained from a series of Chilian and La-Platan animals sent to Europe by the newly established Zoological Society of Santiago, to be disposed of

for the augmentation of their living collection. Amongst these were a Pampas Cat (*Felis pajeros*) from La Plata, four specimens of Cuming's Octodon (*Octodon cumingii*), a Patagonian Parrot (*Conurus patagonicus*), and a young Darwin's Rhea (*Rhea darwini*) from Chili. The three first-mentioned species were novelties to the Society's collection. Of the Darwin's Rhea only one specimen had been previously exhibited in the Society's Menagerie.

11. Two Black-billed Sheath-bills (*Chionis minor*, Hartl.) from the Crozette Islands, presented by E. L. Layard, Esq., F.Z.S., on the 26th of October.

12. A fine specimen of the Aard-Wolf of the Cape of Good Hope (*Proteles lalandii*), purchased by the Society, October 26th, of Capt. W. R. Dixon, of the Cape Mail Company's service, and believed to be the first example of this rare mammal ever brought to Europe alive.

13. An example of the Tuatera Lizard of New Zealand (*Hatteria punctata*), deposited in the Gardens by Sir George Grey, K.C.B., F.Z.S., October 28th. Two living specimens of this most singular of existing Saurians, which had been believed to be nearly extinct*, had been obtained in the province of Wellington by Dr. Hector, F.R.S., C.M.Z.S., and delivered to Sir George Grey for transmission to this country. One of these had arrived alive, and appeared to be doing well, feeding readily on meal-worms and insect food.

Letters were read, addressed to the Secretary by H.E. Sir Rutherford Alcock, C.M.Z.S., H.B.M. Minister at Peking, giving an account of the progress made in his endeavours to obtain for the Society living specimens of *Elaphurus davidianus*. Two pairs of young ones had been obtained from one of the ministers of Yamên, who was the chief custodian of the parks; but, in spite of the care lavished upon them by Mr. R. Swinhoe, three of these had been already lost. Sir Rutherford was now endeavouring to get older animals to replace them.

Letters were also read, addressed to the Secretary by Mr. R. Swinhoe, now temporarily attached to the embassy at Peking, upon the same subject. Mr. Swinhoe stated:—

“The *Elaphurus* is known only from the Nan-hai-tsze, a large hunting-park belonging to the Emperor about two miles south of Peking. They run wild there, and are said to be numerous. No one is allowed to enter the park. The Chinese call this animal the *Sze-poo-seang*, i. e. ‘like none of the four’—to wit, the Horse, the Cow, the Deer, and the Goat.”

Mr. Swinhoe likewise spoke of a journey he had recently made to the little-known island of Hainan, where he had got together a considerable zoological collection. No Pheasant was met with in the island, but only a Jungle-fowl, which, however, was quite new to him. He had also seen there in confinement the Black-winged Pea-

* Cf. Günther, Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc. vol. clvii. p. 595.