

September 13, 1836.

William Yarrell, Esq., in the Chair.

A communication was read from J. B. Harvey, Esq., of Teignmouth, a Corresponding Member of the Society, on the occurrence of four specimens of the *Velella limbosa* of Lamarck, which were found on the beach at Teignmouth after a continuation of southerly winds and smooth water.

A specimen was forwarded for the Society, and representations of it in four different points of view accompanied the communication.

Mr. Vigors called the attention of the meeting to a *Bird*, presenting a singular form among the *Tinamous*, which he had exhibited at one of the evening meetings in the year 1832, but which, from accidental circumstances, had not been characterized in the Proceedings. The birds of this group, which forms an immediate connecting link between the *Tinamous* and the *Bustards*, were first observed by Mr. Pentland on a high elevation in the Andes, and the specimen before the meeting was brought by that gentleman to this country and presented to the Society. Mr. Vigors described in detail the characters of the genus, to which he assigned the name of *Tinamotis*, and also pointed out the specific characters of the bird, to which he had on a former occasion given the name of *Pentlandii*, in honour of the distinguished traveller who first discovered the group.

TINAMOTIS.

Rostrum forte, subrectum, *Otidis* rostra persimile; culmine plano.

Alæ mediocres, rotundatæ; *remigibus* primâ et septimâ ferè æqualibus, brevissimis, tertiâ et quartâ longissimis.

Pedes tridactyli; *tarsis* sublongis fortibus; *acrotarsiis* reticulatis squamis inferioribus grandibus; *digitis* longitudine mediocribus, medio cæteris, quæ sunt ferè æquales, longiore, omnibus membranâ utrinque marginatis; *ucropodiis* scutellatis, squamis maximis; *unguibus* grandibus, planis, dispansis.

Cauda brevis, subrotundata.

TINAMOTIS PENTLANDII. *Tin. corpore cinereo-brunneo sordidoque fulvo fasciato, capite colloque similiter striatis; crisso femoribusque rufis; mento albescente.*

Plumulæ *capitis colli ventrisque* magis albido, *dorsi caudæque* magis fulvo notatæ; *narum* notis maculis simulantibus. Longitudo *corporis*, 15; *alæ*, a carpo ad apicem remigis 3tiæ, 10; *rostri* ad frontem, $1\frac{3}{8}$, ad rictum, $1\frac{3}{8}$; *tarsi*, 2; *digitorum*, unguibus inclusis, mediis, $1\frac{3}{8}$, externorum, $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Mr. Vigors took the same opportunity of describing and naming No. XLV.—PROCEEDINGS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

two *Parrots* in the Society's Collection, one of which, now alive in the Menagerie, distinguished by a brilliant purple plumage over the head, nape, and breast, and which came from South America, he characterized under the name of *Psittacus augustus*; the second, of which two specimens had been procured from the late Rev. Lansdown Guilding's collection, received from the Island of St. Vincent, but the precise locality of which was not known, he described by the name of *Psittacus Guildingii*.

PSITTACUS AUGUSTUS. *Psitt. viridis, capite, collâ corporeque subtùs splendide purpureis, sincipite viridi tincto, torque nuchali saturatiore; humeris reetricibusque coccineo notatis, his ad apices purpurascenti-fusco tinctis.*

Plumulæ *nuchæ corporisque infra nigro ad apices marginatæ; interscapulii tectricumque femoris azureo leviter ad apices tinctæ. Magnitudo Platycerci Vasæ.*

PSITTACUS GUILDINGII. *Psitt. capitis fronte albescente, sincipite genisque flavis, occipite mentoque azureis, nuchâ viridi; alis viridibus in medio fasciâ aurantiaco-flavâ notatis, ad apices nigris; caudâ ad basin aurantiacâ, deinde fasciâ viridi in medio lazulinâ notatâ, ad apicem flavâ.*

Plumulæ *occipitis ad basin flavescentes, deinde azureæ, fasciâ gracili nigro-brunnæ; nuchæ virides fasciâ latiore notatæ. Remigis primaria ad basin flavæ, secundaria aurantiacæ; ad apices nigræ; interiorum plumis externis lazulino tinctis, rhachibus nigris. Rectricis suprâ ad basin flavæ, deinde aurantiaco viride marginato notatæ, postea externè lazulinæ, externè nigræ, ad apices aurantiaco-flavæ, rhachibus nigris; subtùs ad basin aurantiacæ, in medio virides, ad apices flavæ. Rostrum album. Long. corp. 17½ unc.; alæ a carpo ad apicem remigis 4tæ, 12; tarsi, 7/8; caudæ, 8; mandibulæ superioris, 1½; inferioris, 1¼.*

Mr. Gould, at the request of the Chairman, exhibited to the Meeting two tribes of *Birds*, viz. the *Tamatias*, from the warmer parts of America, and the *Coursers*, from the arid regions of Africa and India. Mr. Gould observed, that of the first group, only five species appear to have been known to Linnæus; eleven others had since been added, making sixteen: the Society's collection contained thirteen species. Mr. Gould exhibited a series of drawings in illustration of the group, and characterized one new species under the name of *Tamatia bicincta*, as follows:

TAMATIA BICINCTA. *Tam. guld et corpore infernè subtùs ochraceo-fulvis; pectore duabus fasciis nigris transversim striato; lateribus flavido-albis nigro maculatis; plumis auricularibus griseis, marginalibus subtùs brunneâ fuscâ tinctis; fasciâ nuchali griseâ; corpore summo caudâque supernè brunneis; tectricibus alarum secundariis ad apicem ochraceo-albis hoc colore dorso guttato; reetricibusque externis marginalibus.*

Long. tot. 8 unc.; rostri, 1½; alæ, 3¼; caudæ, 3; tarsi, ¾.

Hab. Cayenne?

Mr. Gould stated in conclusion, that this formerly limited group now constitutes a considerable family, or subfamily, whose members appear naturally to form themselves into at least three or four genera: thus divided, the genus *Tamatia*, Cuv. (*Capito*, Vieill.) contains 9 species, that of *Lypornix*, Wagl., 3 species; that of *Monasa*, Vieill., 3 species; and that of *Chelidoptera*, Gould, 1; the latter being a generic title provisionally instituted by Mr. Gould for the *Lypornix tenebrosa*, Wagl., a species which differs in many essential characters from all the other members of the group, possessing as it does a very lengthened wing, and being in every way adapted for powerful flight. He observed, that he had consulted with M. Natterer on the propriety of separating this bird from the other members of the group, in which opinion that eminent naturalist had coincided, and at the same time stated, that it usually resorted to the topmost branches of the trees, whence it sallied forth over the forest in search after its insect food, while, on the other hand, all the other members of the group kept to low thickets and the neighbourhood of the ground. In their general economy they offer a striking resemblance to the *Shrikes* and *Fly-catchers*; they are, however, more indolent in their disposition, and sit motionless on a dead branch for hours together, until their attention is drawn to some passing insect, when they sally forth, capture it, and return to the same branch, which they are known to frequent for months together. With the exception of three or four species all the members of this group are confined to the Brazils.

Mr. Gould exhibited six species of the genus *Cursorius*, one of which was described as new by the appellation of *Cursorius rufus*.

CURSORIUS RUFUS. *Cur. fronte castaneo-rufo; occipite griseo, fasciâ albd cincto hac suprâ et infrâ lined angustâ nigrâ marginatâ; nucha rufescente; corpore summo rufescente brunneo; guld albid; pectore pallido fulvo hoc colore in faciam ventralem nigram mergente; abdomine posteriore, crissoque albis; remigibus primariis nigris; secundariis albis; prynno? rectricibusque caudæ ad basin brunneo-griseis harum duabus intermediis notâ nigrâ apicali externis ferè albis reliquis plus minusve ad apicem albis nec non nigra macula griseum colorem singente; rostro nigro; digitis nigrescentibus; tarsi? albido flavis.*

Long. tot., 9 unc.; rostri, $1\frac{1}{4}$; alæ, $5\frac{1}{4}$; caudæ, 2; tarsi, 3.

Hab. in insulis Oceani Indici.

The new species of *Cursorius* was from the islands of the Indian Ocean, but from what particular locality Mr. Gould had not been able to ascertain. It differs from *Curs. Asiaticus*, by being smaller in all its proportions, by having the whole of the upper surface of a rich rufous brown, and by not possessing a white band across the rump. In its affinities it is closely allied to both *Curs. Asiaticus* and *Curs. Temminckii*.

Mr. Martin placed on the table two examples of the *Potto* or *Kinkajou* from the Society's Museum, and, at the request of the Chairman, read some notes describing the differences in colour, size,

and comparative measurements of parts in the two specimens, of which the following is an abstract.

“The differences which exist in two specimens of the *Kinkajou* in the Society’s Museum have led me to introduce them to the attention of the Meeting, as it is not improbable that they may ultimately prove to be distinct species. The *Kinkajou*, however, is so rare an animal both in the museums and menageries of our country, that we want the means of ascertaining whether or not, like that allied animal the *Coati*, its colour be subject to variations of tint and marking. But independently of the great difference in colour which obtains in the two specimens before the meeting, and on which, taken as a solitary character, we should hesitate to ground a specific distinction, at least until we had compared several specimens, it appears that the ears of the rufous specimen (which was lately presented by George Vaughan, Esq.) are more elongated than those of the other, which died in the Society’s Menagerie, where it had lived for many years. It is on this difference, rather than on that of colour, that I have suspected a specific distinction; though I confess my suspicions are strengthened by the latter as a concomitant. A knowledge of the precise localities from which each specimen was obtained would be of great use, but on this point, unfortunately, I have not been able to gain any information.

“In distinguishing between the two species of *Kinkajou*, I consider it best to drop entirely the specific title *caudivolvulus*, (which is applicable to both, and is descriptive rather of a generic than a specific character,) the only mode in fact by which to avoid all possibility of confusion.

“Our first species will stand as *Cercoleptes megalotus*. It is distinguished by the form of the ears, which are elongated, narrow, rounded at the tip, and somewhat flapping; their length is 1 inch 3 lines, their breadth 7 lines.

“Internally they are sparsely covered with thinly set soft hairs; externally they are fully clothed with hairs of a pale yellowish white.

“The fur is close, short, thick, and rigid; the general colour is deep reddish yellow, or fulvous, with an obscure band of a darker colour, down the top of the head, the back, and upper surface of the tail, approaching to chestnut. The sides of the body and the insides of the limbs are pale fulvous; the abdomen and throat are nearly as dark as the back, and a stripe of deep chestnut commences about the end of the sternum, and is continued to the inguinal region. The tail is slender, and the hairs of this part are very rigid.

“To our second species we propose to give the name of *Cercoleptes brachyotus*.

“The fur is full, soft, and moderately long; of a universally glossy yellowish grey clouded with brown, especially over the nose, on the top of the head, and down the back; and indeed little less so on the sides of the body and outer surface of the limbs. The abdomen, the insides of the limbs, and the throat are dusky straw colour. The ears are broad, short, and rounded; covered, but somewhat sparingly, on

the outside with fur of the same colour as that of the body: their length and breadth are equal, namely, 1 inch.

“The tail is moderately thick, being covered with fur of the same character as that of the body.”

Sp. 1. CERCOLEPTES MEGALOTUS. *Cercolept. latè rufus, strigá saturatiore, per totam longitudinem capitis, dorsi medii, caudæque suprâ excurrente; lateribus pallidioribus; abdomine gulâque rufis, strigá castaneâ abdominuli; auriculis longis, angustis, rotundatis subpendentibus et externè pilis pallidè flavis, indutis cauda gracili; vellere denso brevi, atque rigido.*

Sp. 2. CERCOLEPTES BRACHYOTUS. *Cercol. vellere denso, molli, et longiusculo, griseo flavescenti, at brunneo, undato, hoc colore in capite, summoque dorso, saturatiore: abdomine et gula stramineis auriculis latis, mediocribus, et erectis, pilis rarioribus fuscis externè indutis.*