

Count Salvadori's Catalogue of Parrots (see 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum,' vol. xx. p. 581) there was but a single specimen of this Parakeet in the British Museum. The recent voyage of the Earl of Glasgow, Governor of New Zealand, in the 'Hinemoa,' to the outlying islands of New Zealand, has resulted in the acquisition of several specimens of this rare species.

I take this opportunity also of calling attention to the specimens of the Pacific Rat (*Mus earulans*) obtained by the Governor of New Zealand during his recent visit to Sunday Island, Kermadec group, and received March 14, 1895, and presented by the Countess of Glasgow. I exhibit a living pair of this interesting Rat, concerning which Mr. O. Thomas has favoured me with the following note:—

"PACIFIC RAT (*Mus earulans*).

"The Rats from Sunday Island, Kermadec group, apparently belong to a species widely spread over the Pacific, the earliest name of which seems to be *Mus earulans*, Peale¹, based on Fijian examples. It is possible that examples from the different groups of islands may hereafter show certain differences from each other, but, so far as we can see at present, all should be united under one heading. Indeed the fine Maori Rat of New Zealand (*Mus maorium*, Hutton²) seems to be very doubtfully separable from the same form, which has probably travelled from island to island in native canoes, or on floating logs &c., long before European ships began to bring over the ubiquitous Grey and Black Rats, which now threaten to exterminate the native species throughout the world."

The following extract from a letter addressed to the Secretary by Dr. Jentink, dated Leiden, April 30th, 1895, was read:—
"There is in the 'Zoologische Garten,' 1890, pp. 266-269, a paper written by Dr. Oudemans, concerning a living Monkey that Dr. Oudemans described as a new species under the specific title *Cercopithecus aterrimus*. In this paper Dr. Oudemans states that 'ausgemacht wurde der Affe sei wirklich eine neue Art.' I feel obliged to state that the story is not quite correctly told by Dr. Oudemans, for, when he showed me his Monkey, and after I had compared it with the large series in our Museum, I informed him that if the animal was an adult specimen it might belong to an undescribed species; however, if it was a young one I thought it would belong to *Cercocebus albigena*. We could not make out whether all the molars were present or not, as the animal would not allow us to examine its dentition.
"Shortly afterwards it died, and I purchased the cadaver. It

¹ Peale, U.S. Exploring Exped., Mamm. p. 47 (1848).

² Trans. N. Z. Inst. x. p. 288 (1878).

was then manifest that it was indeed a young specimen, having the molars still undeveloped, and that it was really a young *Cercocebus albigena*. And under that name I have registered it in my 'Catalogue systématique des Mammifères,' 1892, p. 26.

"The reason why I write you the above is that I read (P. Z. S. 1894, p. 594) that you were unable to say whether a living Monkey in your Gardens from British Central Africa should be referred to *C. albigena*, to *C. aterrimus*, Oudemans, or to a new species. I think that your specimen is either a new species or (as *C. albigena* = *C. aterrimus*) perhaps a young *C. albigena*"¹.

Mr. J. H. Gurney, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on an example of *Alcedo beavani* obtained in Ceylon by Mr. A. L. Butler.

Mr. G. F. Scott Elliot, M.A., F.L.S., F.R.G.S., gave an account of some of the principal animals that he had collected and noticed during his recent expedition to Mount Ruwenzori, in British Central Africa. Mr. Scott Elliot's remarks were as follows:—

The object of my expedition was almost wholly botanical, and I must begin by stating frankly that I have no right whatever to call myself either a zoologist or a sportsman. During my whole expedition I was entirely alone, and I had neither sufficient alcohol nor traps to make extensive collections. Therefore I hope that you will pardon the crudeness and insufficiency of what I have to say.

The most important animal on Ruwenzori is, of course, the Elephant (*Elephas africanus*). On Ruwenzori itself the Elephant is almost always to be seen between a spot called Chukarongo on the eastern side and a few miles south of Kasagamas. On one occasion I saw a hundred together, but usually they go about in small herds of from three to seven or eight in number. They ascend the Nyamwamba and Mubuka valley to about 5600 feet, but not higher, more, I think, on account of the steepness of the mountain-sides above this level than for any other reason. They also occur on the Nyamgassu River, which enters the Albert Edward beyond the Salt Lake, but not, so far as I could tell, on the west side of Ruwenzori; though they are said to be in great abundance on the other side of the Semliki River—which is part of the rich ivory country belonging to the Wanyuema which seems to extend down to at least 5° S. lat.

A short time before my arrival a party of Wanyuema had called at the Salt Lake to ask if they might settle and send their ivory to the coast, *via* Uganda. Unfortunately, no European was there, and before any reply could be sent from Uganda the trader, Mr. Stokes, with an enormous caravan, passed up the west bank of the Semliki and probably carried off all the ivory there. It will

¹ [Our specimen of this rare Monkey is since dead, and the skin and skull have been deposited in the British Museum. I agree with Dr. Jentink that it is probably not different from *C. albigena*.—P. L. S.]

be thus seen that there are two sources of supply about the Albert Edward Nyanza, namely the Wanyuema country and that about the east side of Ruwenzori. An organized transport to the Victoria Nyanza and by boat across the lake would enable the Government to obtain the ivory from both these districts.

It may perhaps interest you to hear what is the present distribution of Elephants in East Central Africa.

I first came across their traces in the Mau Forest, where they seemed to ascend to at least 6000 feet. I understand they still exist within two days' journey of Kikuyu to the North-west, and probably from there to Kenia and by Elgon and the Somerset Nile to the Albert Nyanza and Unyoro generally. There are probably considerable numbers in Sotik to the east of my route. They seem to be absent from Buddu and Uganda proper, though in Chagwe, four days from Kampala, some are said to exist. They are probably quite extinct in Ankole, Karagwe, and Mpororo, though there are a few east of Albert Edward Nyanza. There are, however, plenty in Kivari and on the east of Ruwenzori.

There are none along the eastern shore of Tanganyika, and I very much doubt if any are left in the whole of the German sphere of influence, except perhaps about Kilima-njaro.

There are still some herds about the Lake Moero and the western border of British Central Africa, but I fancy they will very soon be exterminated in the Elephant Marsh and Milanje districts.

Hence when the accumulated stores of generations of native chiefs have been exhausted, the supply will enormously diminish.

The Hippopotamus (*H. amphibius*) seems to be rare on the Albert Edward, though it undoubtedly does exist about Kuliafiris. I have also seen the skull of one a long way up the Mubuku valley, where it may have been carried. On the Kagera River their abundance is almost incredible. I do not think I have ever seen 200 yards of the river without hearing or seeing one. The natives call this animal 'ufufu,' which exactly represents its sound. The river flows through strips of papyrus, and the alluvial banks, which are usually 30 feet higher than the level of the river, seem to support plenty of a kind of *Andropogon* grass, of which they are very fond.

The Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros bicornis*) is more abundant about the marshy lakes of Karagwe than on any other part of my journey. On one day I came across them five times, but, unfortunately, failed to get one.

The Antelopes about Ruwenzori are not very numerous. There are first the ubiquitous Hartebeest (*Bubalis jacksoni*?), two species of *Kobus*, and at least two Gazelles, one of which appeared to be very like *Gazella thomsoni* of the Masai plains. These Antelopes occur on the wide grassy alluvial plains and low hills under 5000 feet along the eastern side: they are, I think, very rare on the west. They seem to shift their position constantly, owing to the condition of the grass. In April I found quantities of all sorts near

Butanuka, where the grass was about 4 or 5 inches long, and just growing. Passing back over this country in June, when the grass was two feet high and in a dry and withered condition, I saw scarcely any except on places where there had been a fire and young grass was springing up. They probably had gone off to the immediate neighbourhood of the lake. I thought this important, in view of the possibility of cattle-ranching at this point. The Hartebeest, I fancy, is the same which I saw in Buddu and on the Nandi range, probably Jackson's. The Kob (*Cobus kob*), of which I obtained horns, seems pretty common near the Albert Edward. Another Waterbuck, which may have been the Sing Sing (*Cobus unctuosus*), is not uncommon. It has the hair and reddish colour of the Sing Sing, but seemed to me a larger animal and with much larger and broader hoofs than the Sing Sing. Unfortunately, I did not think it worth while to bring home a skin.

In the forest on the Wimi valley, at about 8000 feet, I saw a Bushbuck which I failed to get. This was not the *Cephalophus equatorialis* (of which I brought the skin and skull from the Victoria Nyanza), nor could it have been the Abyssinian species. It was a very distinctly reddish or bright bay, very much like *Cephalophus natalensis* according to the description.

There are several species of Monkey about Ruwenzori. One of these is a *Colobus*, but I have not been able to identify it. It has the long white and black fur of the *Colobus guereza*, but it is not that species. It might be either *C. cardatus* of Kilima-njaro, or *C. angolensis*, but it seems to me different from the figures of both of them. It is most common in the Yeria and Msonje valleys near Butanuka, but I could not get a specimen. It has a very curious weird screaming cry, quite unlike that of any other animal.

I brought home a specimen of *Cercopithecus pluto* or of the allied form *C. stuhlmanni*. The Wakondja in the Nyamwamba valley, East Ruwenzori, make a sort of pouch or pocket of its skin, which they carry over the shoulder, so that the animal must be common. This Monkey is extremely shy, and usually the only sign of its presence is the noise of a tremendous crash amongst the branches a long distance away. Once I saw very well a troop of another monkey, probably a *Cercopithecus* also. I was alone, of course without a gun, and sitting down very quietly on a fallen tree. Four or five of the older males came quite close after some hesitation. They had white marks on the face, simulating eyebrows, moustache and imperial, and their expression was melancholy and unhappy.

There are also Baboons (*Papio*, sp. inc.) on the Wimi River, where they greatly damage the native crops.

A kind of Lemur (probably a *Galago*), a nocturnal creature living in hollow trees, was the only animal I heard of on the west side of the mountain.

A Squirrel (*Sciurus rufobrachiatatus*) of West-African affinity is common in the Wini valley.