

tains. Five were killed; but one large one was torn by the dogs and rendered useless. In order to make the difference apparent I exhibit a series of *A. oweni*, the nearest affine of *A. haastii*, in various stages; one of these is the largest skin (as usual a female) which I have seen.

“The colour of *A. haastii* is so much darker, the size so much greater, equal to the largest *A. australis*, that I am strongly of opinion that this species will stand. It appears to be rare. Mr. Potts, to whom I believe the discovery is due, has done good service. Here let me call attention to the wonderful vicissitudes *A. australis* and *A. mantelli* have undergone: first they were the same; then (P. Z. S. 1850, p. 274) Mr. Bartlett made them two; after which, for some time, they returned to unity, and are now again made different by Dr. Buller and Dr. Haast on account of the hardness and softness of their respective plumages, which, however, Dr. Finsch in a series pronounces ‘to have different degrees observable.’ He regards the Kiwi of the North Island ‘only as a race or local form’ (Trans. N. Z. Institute, 1872, vol. v. p. 212). The high value I attach to the opinions of these gentlemen, and the small amount of variation discovered, induce me to consider it optional, according to the fancy of those who do, or do not, like to make out a new species from a variety. As far as I am able to judge, we have three Apteryges in New Zealand—*A. australis* with variety *mantelli*, *A. haasti*, and *A. oweni*. We have yet to discover that great and glorious form, *A. maxima*, which may, perhaps, reward the zeal of some painstaking naturalist.

“The skin brought to me as *Nestor superbus* is an albino variety of *N. meridionalis*. It was endeavoured to preserve this bird alive; for its talking-powers were described as good. The other forms, such as *N. esslingii* &c., will probably be found to be only varieties; the present one is a remarkable bird.

“The two living Owls (*Sceloglaux albifacies*, Buller), which have never before been brought to England alive, are now very rare in New Zealand, and will soon, alas, be extinct; they are said to have a horrible cry, but have not yet given me an opportunity of knowing it. The peculiar nature of this Owl, partly accipitrine, renders it, like the *Stringops*, which has an owl-like tendency, an object of interest. My birds are fond of washing, and allow themselves to be handled.”

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Mr. Alfred R. Wallace, F.Z.S., exhibited some Rhinoceros-horns, sent from Borneo by Mr. Everett, and read the following letter addressed to him by Mr. Everett concerning them:—

“Sarawak, March 12, 1874.

“I have forwarded to you, through Dr. Jessopp, of Norwich, two Rhinoceros-horns, obtained in the Bazaar at Sibiu, the principal station of the Sarawak Government in the Rejang river.

“These specimens, together with three others, the largest of which, measured perpendicularly, stood  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, were brought probably from the country about the headwaters of the Koti; but there

is reason to believe that the animal is distributed (though not abundantly) throughout the upper course of the Rejang, Kapuas, Koti, Baluñgan, and, perhaps, all the larger streams of the island. Both horns and teeth are brought to Sibü by natives arriving from the above district for purposes of trade; and these articles being valued by Chinese and Malays for their supposed medicinal properties, at once command a ready sale, so that they disappear generally beyond hope of recovery.

“The Kayans call the animal ‘Temadu;’ and the country at the head of the Rejang, *i. e.* for the last five days of its course, would seem to be well suited to be the habitat of this bulky herbivore, being described as destitute of any settled human population, and as affording stretches of tolerably level and grassy country which affords pasture to herds of a species of wild Ox. The horns of the latter are often to be purchased at Sibü; but I have never seen a skin or a skull. The general close affinity between the faunas of Borneo and Sumatra suggests that a Bornean Rhinoceros would be found to be furnished with two horns; and, in fact, natives describe it as being so.

“It is very long since I have seen the horns of any species of Rhinoceros; but, so far as my memory serves, the large one I send is unlike that of the *R. sumatrensis*.”

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Mr. Bartlett exhibited a similar horn, but a larger example, which he had obtained from a friend, along with some Dyak weapons twenty years ago, and which was stated to have been received from Borneo.

Mr. Bartlett remarked that these specimens left no doubt of the existence in Borneo of a Rhinoceros which was probably allied to *R. sondaicus*, but of smaller dimensions\*.

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The following letters were read:—

“26 Charlotte Street,  
Bedford Square, London,  
October 30, 1874.

“DEAR SIR,—As I am still too unwell to attend the scientific meetings of our Society, I shall feel greatly obliged if you will state on my behalf, at the next Meeting of the Society on the 3rd of November, that I have received positive evidence of the existence of a fine undescribed Parrot on the east coast of Australia.

“This must be a magnificent bird, as will be seen from the enclosed drawing, which is said to be an exact representation of it, both as to size and colour.

“This drawing was kindly forwarded to me by Mr. Waller, and was made by his son from the specimen (unique) procured near Jimbour, which is a few miles north of Dalby, a small town on the Darling Downs in Queensland.

“Mr. Coxen writes me that the bird was in the possession of a working man, who guarded it jealously. Mr. Coxen carefully com-

\* *Cf.* Busk, P. Z. S. 1869, p. 409.