

GUIDE TO THE GARDENS  
OF  
THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF LONDON. Gardens,

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Twenty-ninth Edition,

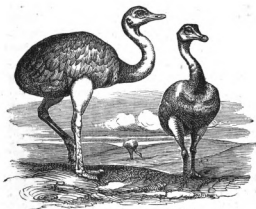
CORRECTED ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT OF THE GARDENS

BY

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AMERICAN RHEA. See p. 57.

LONDON:  
BRADBURY, AGNEW, & CO., 8, 9, & 10, BOUVERIE ST.;  
AND AT THE SOCIETY'S GARDENS IN THE REGENT'S PARK.  
1875.

developed in a sheath which soon bursts, but apparently without inclination to use them, its powerful feet giving it ample means of locomotion at once. Early in the afternoon, the young bird retires to the mound again, and is partially covered up for the night by the assiduous father, but at a diminished depth as compared with the circle of eggs from which it emerged in the morning. On the third day, the nestling is capable of strong flight, and on one occasion one of them, being accidentally alarmed, actually forced itself, while on the wing, through the strong netting which covered the inclosure. The account of the habits of the Talegalla, given by Mr. Gould in his "Birds of Australia," in 1842, strange as it appeared at the time, is thus perfectly verified in every respect.

## 52. THE MARKHORES' HOUSE.

**The Markhore.** (*Capra megaceros*.)—A male of this scarce species of Wild Goat, which inhabits the Sulimani range of Afghanistan, was in the Society's Menagerie some years since, and is correctly figured in the second series of "Zoological Sketches." The pair at present belonging to the collection were presented in the autumn of 1866 by Major F. R. Pollock, Commissioner at Peshawur. They have bred several times in the Society's Gardens, and may be now seen accompanied by their kids.

## 53. THE REFRESHMENT STALL.

Here light refreshments are sold, the principal refreshment rooms being on the other side of the Gardens. (See p. 42.)

## 54. THE CROWS' CAGES.

This row of cages is appropriated to various representatives of the Corvine family, or Crows, amongst which will be noticed the Piping-Crows of Australia, the American Crow, the Cornish Chough, and the Alpine Chough, besides examples of most of our native species.

## 55. THE PARROT HOUSE.

The collection of Parrots is remarkably rich, and will bear comparison with any in Europe. There are nearly eighty species now living in this house, among which some of the most remarkable are the Ganga Cockatoo (*Callocephalon galeatum*) of Australia, and the Kaka Parrot (*Nestor hypopolius*) of New Zealand.

In addition to the Parrots, several other forms of extreme interest will be found in this house, among which the TOUCANS (*Ramphastos carinatus* and *R. toco*), and the GRACKLES are conspicuous.

The collection of Australian Finches is likewise very attractive, embracing seven or eight species of those neat little birds—many of them of great brilliancy. For several of them the Society is indebted to the liberality of Alfred Denison, Esq., F.Z.S.

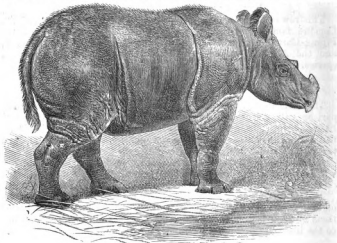
## 56. THE ELEPHANT HOUSE.

This large new building has been recently constructed to contain the Society's series of Elephants and Rhinoceroses. These are as follows:—

**The African Black Rhinoceros.** (*R. bicornis*).—Two very distinct forms of Rhinoceros are found in Africa, commonly called the Black Rhinoceros and the White Rhinoceros. The White Rhinoceros is known by its pale colour, its very long anterior horn, and its square, short-lipped mouth, which induced Mr. Burchell to name it *Rhinoceros simus*. In the Black Rhinoceros, which, however, is not really black, as will be seen by examination of the present specimen, but flesh-coloured, the upper lip is produced and slightly prehensile. The White Rhinoceros is a grass-eater, and inhabits the more open districts, while the Black Rhinoceros resorts to the forests, and feeds much on shrubs and small branches. It is held by some authorities that there are two species of Black Rhinoceros—the true *R. bicornis* and the Keitloa; but this is not yet proved. The Society's African Rhinoceros, which is the first specimen of this animal that has been brought to Europe since the days of the Romans, was captured in Upper Nubia, near Casalá, in February, 1868, by the Arabs of the Beni-Ammer tribe, and arrived in the Gardens on the 11th of September following.

**The Javan Rhinoceros** (*R. sondaicus*) is a smaller representative of the Indian Rhinoceros, which is found in Java, and, it is said, also in the Malay peninsula and Sunderbans of Bengal. The young male of this species lately acquired by the Society is believed to be the only individual of this form in Europe. It is readily distinguishable from its larger brother by the difference in the folds of the neck, more granulated skin, and smaller dimensions.

**The Hairy-eared Rhinoceros.** (*Rhinoceros lasiotis*).—Of this new Rhinoceros a nearly adult female specimen has lately been added



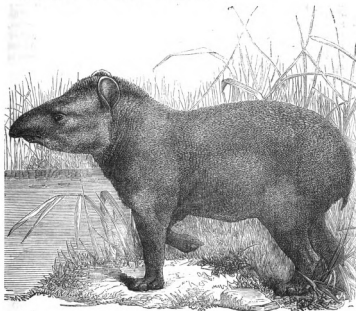
THE HAIRY-EARED RHINOCEROS.

to the Society's collection. "Begum," as she is called, was captured near Chittagong, in British Burmah, about four years ago, by some officers

employed in the *Kheddah* department of the Indian Army—that is, on the capture of Elephants. In January, 1872, she was brought to England by Mr. W. Jamrach, a well-known dealer in living animals, and purchased by the Society for the sum of 1,250*l.* The Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sumatrensis*) is a nearly allied species, of which the Society unfortunately lost their example last year. It is the only other Asiatic species with two horns.

**The Indian Elephant.** (*Elephas indicus*.)—The species of Elephant now existing in the world are two in number, the African Elephant (*Elephas africanus*) being very distinct from the Indian, as will be seen at once on comparing together the Society's specimens of these two animals.

The adult female Indian Elephant now in the Society's possession was imported from India in 1851, being then quite a calf and suckled by its mother, and is, therefore, about 22 years old.



THE BRAZILIAN TAPIR (p. 52).

**The African Elephant.** (*Elephas africanus*.)—The large male African Elephant was acquired by exchange from the Jardin des Plantes of Paris, and is believed to be the first of this species ever brought alive to England. The younger female by his side was purchased in September, 1865. The African Elephant is usually less in size than the Asiatic species. The head is rounded, the front is convex instead of concave, the ears are much larger, and the general physiognomy is quite different from that of the Indian Elephant. The African Elephant is not now known to be used

in a tamed state, although there is no doubt that the Carthaginians availed themselves of the services of this species in former days, and the Elephants exhibited in the Roman Arenas are known to have been African. The tusks of the adult males of this species are very large, and of great value. They are imported to England in great quantities from different parts of the African continent, in the unexplored interior of which this huge animal is still met with in great abundance.

**The Indian Rhinoceros.** (*Rhinoceros unicornis*).—The larger Indian Rhinoceros, with a single horn of its nose, is found in Assam and Nepal, in the great forest district which fringes the base of the Himalayas. It is a huge unwieldy creature, covered with a thick skin, which lies in massive folds on different parts of the body. It is purely herbivorous, and quite inoffensive in a state of nature, unless attacked.

**The Brazilian Tapir.** (*Tapirus terrestris*).—The Tapirs constitute a family of themselves, allied to the Horses in structure, though very different in appearance, and remarkable for their short proboscis. The Society's collection contains an example of one of the New-World species, which is common in the eastern forests of South America. Further north in Central America a second Tapir occurs, and a third in the Andes of Peru and Columbia. The only Tapir belonging to the Old World is restricted to the Malay peninsula and Sumatra.

## 57. THE DEER SHEDS.

In this row of sheds are assembled a series of Deer from various parts of the Old World. Amongst them we may notice the following species :

**The Formosan Deer.** (*Cervus pseudaxis*).—A male of this beautiful Spotted Deer was received from Robert Swinhoe, Esq., H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul in the Chinese Island of Formosa, in December, 1861, and was the first individual of the species received in Europe, either alive or dead. Additional examples of the same species have been subsequently obtained. The Formosan Deer appears to be allied to the Japanese Deer (*Cervus sika*), but is easily distinguished by its superior size and different markings.

**The Manchurian Deer.** (*Cervus manchuricus*).—This is another newly-discovered species of Deer from Eastern Asia, of which at present the Society possesses only the male here exhibited. This individual was procured for the Society by Mr. Swinhoe in 1864, and is from Newchang, in Northern China. It belongs to the same spotted group as the Formosan Deer, but is much larger in size.

## 58. THE BEAVER POND.

This pond and the surrounding inclosure have been lately reconstructed for the benefit of a pair of Canadian Beavers (*Castor canadensis*), which have done remarkably well in this locality. The sagacity and social polity of these animals are well known, and every one has read of the wonderful works they execute in preparing their dams and houses of earth and sticks.

## 59. THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

This is the residence of the Officer of the Zoological Society who

has the immediate superintendence of the Gardens. The Society's headquarters and principal place of business are at No. 11, Hanover Square, W., where all communications should be addressed to the "Secretary."

## 60. THE HIPPOPOTAMUS HOUSES.

The block of buildings which the visitor now enters is the most important in the establishment, and contains a collection of animals, principally African, of the highest interest.

**The Hippopotamus.** (*Hippopotamus amphibius*).—The fact of Hippopotami having been on many occasions exhibited by the Emperors of Rome in the great displays of wild beasts which were presented to the people in the Circus, was a sufficient proof that the animal could be transported from its haunts in the Nile with success. And, therefore, although 1500 years had elapsed since the last recorded instance of this kind, the Council of the Zoological Society, in the year 1849, undertook, with considerable confidence, the operation of obtaining one from Upper Egypt, all attempts to obtain it on the west coast having proved futile.

By the influence of the Hon. C. A. Murray, then H. M. Agent and Consul-General at Cairo, His Highness the Viceroy, Abbas Pasha, was induced to give orders that this object should be effected; and in the month of July in that year a party of hunters, specially organised for the purpose, succeeded in capturing a calf of some three days old on the island of Obaysch, in the White Nile. When found in the reedy covert to which the mother had confided him, the Hippopotamus, who now weighs at least four tons, was of such small dimensions that the chief huntsman took him up in his arms to carry him to the boat from which his men had landed. Covered, however, with a coat of slime more slippery than that of any fish, the calf glided from his grasp, and struggled to regain the safe recesses of the river. Quicker than he, the hunter used the gaff-hook fastened to his spear, of the same model as that used for a like purpose at the mouth of the Nile 3000 years before, and struck him on the side, where a scar still marks the wound, and safely held him.

From Obaysch, many hundred miles above Cairo, the Hippopotamus travelled down in charge of the hunters and a company of infantry, who finally landed him at the British Agency in the month of November, 1849.

By the obliging and liberal co-operation of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, an apparatus was constructed on board their steamer, the "Ripon," by which the peculiar requirements of the animal were perfectly accommodated, and the result was, that on the 25th of May, 1850, the first living Hippopotamus, since the tertiary epoch, was landed on English soil. A special train conveyed him to London; every station yielding up its wondering crowd to look upon the monster as he passed—fruitlessly, for they only saw the Arab keeper, who then attended him night and day, and who, for want of air, was constrained to put his head out through the roof.

The Hippopotamus, thus acquired, has continued to be a prime favourite with the public, and the arrival of his mate, "Adhela," in 1853, has not diminished his attraction.

<sup>1</sup> For many years our hopes and expectations that the pair would breed together were doomed to disappointment. At length, in the spring of 1872, the female produced her first calf, and a second about nine months afterwards. Both these, however, were lost shortly after their birth, in spite of every care and precaution. With the third calf, born on the 5th