

GUIDE TO THE GARDENS
OF
THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF LONDON.

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Twenty-third Edition,

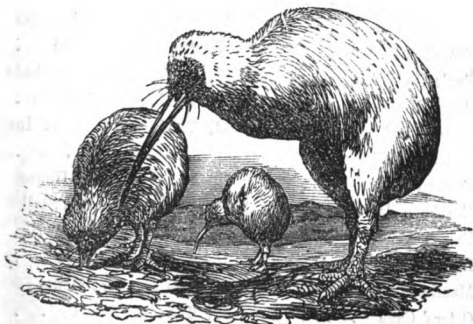
CORRECTED ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT OF THE GARDENS,

BY

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THE KIWI (p. 58).

LONDON:

BRADBURY, EVANS, & CO., 11, BOUVERIE STREET,

AND AT THE SOCIETY'S GARDENS IN THE REGENT'S PARK.

1870.

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 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. The young male of the same species was liberally presented to the Society, in September, 1863, by C. H. R. Cocq, Esq., by whom it was imported from Southern India.

The African Elephant. (*Elephas africanus*).—The young male African Elephant was acquired by exchange from the Jardin des Plantes at 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 Asiatic Rhinoceroses form a distinct group from those of Africa. There are at least three species of them,—two of which have one horn, and the third two horns on the nose. The two-horned species—the Sumatran Rhinoceros—is found in Sumatra, and of the two single-horned species, one, the *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, occurs in Java and Borneo, and the present—the Indian Rhinoceros—in continental India only. All the Asiatic Rhinoceroses which have hitherto been brought to Europe are of this species. The Society's full-grown specimen, which is a female, was purchased in 1851. The male was received from Calcutta in July, 1864.

The Two-horned 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 *bicornis* and the Keitloa; but this is not yet proved. The Society's African Rhinoceros, which is the only 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.

57. THE DEER SHEDS.

In this newly erected 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 taiwanus*).—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. Before Mr. Swinhoe's first arrival in Formosa, nothing was known of the zoology of this island, which indeed has been seldom visited by Europeans.

The Mantchurian Deer. (*Cervus mantchuricus*).—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.