

May 10th, 1837.

William S. Macleay, Esq. in the Chair.

The group of groundfinches, characterised, at a previous meeting, by Mr. Gould, under the generic appellations of *Geospiza*, *Camarhynchus*, *Certhidea*, and *Cactornis*, were upon the table; and Mr. Darwin being present, remarked that these birds were exclusively confined to the Gallapagos Islands; but their general resemblance in character, and the circumstance of their indiscriminately associating in large flocks, rendered it almost impossible to study the habits of particular species. In common with nearly all the birds of these islands, they were so tame that the use of the fowling-piece in procuring specimens was quite unnecessary. They appeared to subsist on seeds, deposited on the ground in great abundance by a rich annual crop of herbage.

The remainder of the evening was occupied with the examination of an extensive series of drawings, taken from various subjects in zoology, during the progress of the late exploring expedition into central Africa; and which will form the materials for a separate Work, now preparing for publication by Dr. Andrew Smith.

A considerable proportion of the illustrations were those of new and highly interesting species; and Dr. Smith stated that it was his intention, on a future evening, to bring a part of his collection before the Society, that the Members might have the opportunity of examining the original specimens, from which the drawings had been taken.