

that we may not receive further accounts of them or hear of the results accomplished by the mission until February next.

Mr. Wallace's last letters are dated from Batavia, Sept. 20th. After leaving Timor, of which island Mr. Wallace has given us an account in our last Number ('Ibis,' 1861, p. 347 *et seq.*), he proceeded to Bourou, and staid there two months. "From the existence of the Babirusa in this island," says Mr. Wallace, "I had been somewhat doubtful whether its fauna would not prove more *Celebesian* than *Moluccan*. I was soon, however, satisfied that it is a true Moluccan island, though a very poor one. Most of the common Amboyna and Ceram forms occurred, some absolutely identical, others sufficiently modified to be characterized as distinct species. The *Tanygnathus*, *Polychlorus*, *Eclectus*, *Geoffroi*, *Eos*, and *Trichoglossus*, as well as the *Aprosmictus*, occur as in Ceram, the *Tanygnathus* being the only one which varies from the type, wanting the black markings on the wings. *Lorius* is altogether absent, as well as *Corvus*, *Buceros*, and *Cacatua*, genera which are present in every other island from Celebes eastwards. This deficiency does not rest alone on the fact of my not having met with them, though that would be pretty good proof, they being all ubiquitous and noisy birds, but on the universal testimony of the natives, many of whom know all these birds from their visits to other islands, and are quite sure that their own country is destitute of them.

"The Flycatchers (3-4 sp.) seem new, as well as a very common *Mimeta*, near *M. forsteni* of Ceram, and a *Tropidorhynchus*—I suppose the *T. buruensis*, Q. & G., though in Bonaparte's 'Conspectus' that species is given to Celebes, where I never found the genus. The Pigeons are mostly known species, except a fine *Treron* with very brilliant yellow-marked wings; and I heard of other species of the same group occasionally met with. A single specimen of *Tanysiptera* seems different from the Ceram species; and a *Pitta*, near *P. macklotti* and *P. celebensis*, but sufficiently distinct, is also unique. I was much surprised to find, besides the *Ptilonopus viridis* of Amboyna, the beautiful *P. prasinorrhous*, G. R. Gray, which I had first discovered in Ké, then found in Goram, afterwards in Waigiou, and I think there can

be no doubt it is also found in Ceram ; but birds seem so thinly scattered over that large island, that it would take years to acquire a proper knowledge of its ornithology.

“ At Bouru I shot a *Glareola*—the first time I have met with the genus. I found Coleoptera and grubs in its stomach. Its sternum shows it to be a true Wader, though a most curious and abnormal form.

“ The Cassowary is absent from Bouru, and from every Moluccan island except Ceram ; yet I had been positively assured it was common in Bouru. The error has arisen thus. The people of the little island of Bonoa, at the west end of Ceram, often get young Cassowaries from the main island to bring up. The traders of Cayeli in Bouru buy these, and then take them to Amboyna for sale, often in company with young Babirusas. This happened when I was there. Of course the Amboyna merchants purchasing these animals from Bouru residents, and having no reason for hunting up their pedigree, take it for granted that Cassowaries and Babirusas are found wild in Bouru.”

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Mr. Salvin's latest letters are dated from his old quarters at Dueñas in Guatemala, Nov. 4th, and state that, having been there since the 14th of the previous month (in company with Mr. F. Godman), he had obtained about 100 specimens of birds, amongst which were some five or six new to the fauna of Guatemala : “ a Swallow, which may be *Hirundo lunifrons*, *Antrostomus carolinensis*, *Ardea exilis*, a species of *Cardellina* (not *C. rubra*), an *Elainea*, probably new, and a bird something like a *Granatellus*.” In Humming-birds these gentlemen had been pretty successful, having obtained examples of *Selasphorus heloisæ* and *Delatiria henrici*. They had also fallen in with a flock of the rare little Parrot, *Conurus lineolatus*, and obtained three specimens. They intended to stay at Dueñas about three weeks longer, and then make an excursion to Coban ; leaving Guatemala for Costa Rica about the middle or end of January.