

was nearly ready for birth in the middle of May. Dr. Traill mentioned sucklings five feet long in December 1806, at Scapay Bay, one of the Orkneys; Mr. Neill says that most of the adult females at Uyea Sound, Unst, were either pregnant, or giving suck to their toothless young, in February and March 1805; and in January 1812, in the neighbourhood of Paimpol, near the northern extremity of Bretagne, M. Lamaoût found the young seven or eight feet long, and with cuttle-fish, cod, and milk in their stomachs.

M. F. Cuvier states that this species is remarkable for the spherical form of the anterior part of the head, and that his brother had named it "*globiceps*, à cause de la forme arrondie de sa tête." But the "very rounded top of the head," or "remarkably convex and prominent forehead," included by systematic writers in the specific characters of the Ca'ing Whale, and even among the otherwise judicious observations of Mr. Couch, does not properly belong to it; for the forehead of the skull is flat, as in other porpoises, though the prominent upper muzzle or snout-knob is sufficiently remarkable, and not badly represented in the plates already mentioned.

But, as I have caused a young skull to be sent to the British Museum, and Mr. Brabazon has presented a complete skeleton of the adult male animal to the same national collection, Dr. Gray has examined them, and that eminent zoologist has favoured me with the following note of the result:—"I have compared the skeleton with the species which have been usually described under the name of *D. globiceps*, and it would appear that the shape of the head of the animal scarcely justified that name; I can find no difference between the Irish and the other specimens."

June 14, 1853.

Dr. Gray, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Dr. Crisp exhibited the alimentary canal and ova of a Cuckoo (*C. canorus*), dissected on the 30th of May last. Some facts were observed that were thought of sufficient interest to place before the Society. A perfect egg was found in the oviduct, ready for expulsion, and about fifty in the ovary; two of the size of large peas, the others much smaller; a circumstance which tends to confirm the opinion that the eggs of this bird are deposited at intervals of seven or eight days.

The gizzard was lined with a hair-like substance, which, under the microscope, proved to be the spines from the legs of beetles. The gizzard contained a large quantity of the remains of the Cockchafer, and one of the Click-beetles, but no trace of a Caterpillar was discovered. In 1834 Mr. Thompson exhibited the gizzard of a Cuckoo at the Society (Proceedings, p. 29), and at first the hairy lining was

supposed to be a natural structure, but Prof. Owen, on microscopic examination, believed that the hairs were from the larva of the Tiger-moth (*Arctia caja*).

Dr. Crisp thought the subject worthy of future inquiry, and that it would be important to ascertain whether this hairy lining is present in the *Caprimulgidae* and other insectivorous birds. As regards the spines of the beetles and the hairs of the larva of the Tiger-moth, the microscope shows this important difference,—the *hairs* are all furnished with alternate lateral aciculæ; the spines of the beetles are smooth, with sharp points.

Explanatory drawings of the parts were exhibited.

Dr. Crisp also showed two new species of worms which he had recently obtained; one from the lung of the Egyptian Cobra (*Naja Haje*) which had been in the Society's collection. It is 3 inches long, and its chief peculiarity consists in its annular protuberances, twenty-eight in number.

Dr. Baird has described this worm as a new species, in the British Museum Catalogue, under the name of *Pentastoma annulatum**.

The other specimens were two nematoid worms, which Dr. Crisp obtained from the knee-joint of the common Coot (*Fulica atra*). They are of a cylindrical form, highly elastic, and coiled in a spiral manner round each other; the larger of the two, when extended, is about two inches in length, the smaller about an inch and a half; the extremities are tapering; the tail pointed; the head more orbicular. Under a power of 50 diameters, the alimentary canal can be distinctly seen.

Dr. Crisp believed that this worm had not been before described; it most resembled the *Spiroptera Falconis* of Rudolphi, or the *Spiroptera serpentulus* of Diesing. In the Museum of the London College of Surgeons (prep. 170) there are two *Filaria*, one about six inches long, from the knee-joint of the Kangaroo (*Macropus major*): and Diesing, in his 'Systema Helminthum,' 1850, mentions the *Filaria subspiralis*, from the tendons of the foot of a Crane; and the *Spiroptera serpentulus*, from the leg and foot tendons of several species of Falcon.

The following paper was read:—

ON A NEW SPECIES OF DENDROCOLAPTES.
BY PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER.

(Aves, Pl. LVII.)

The fine species of *Dendrocolaptes* which I now bring before the notice of the Society, was discovered by Mr. Wallace in the neighbourhood of Para. My specimen is from the Capin river, where it was collected in June 1849. A second, in Mr. Wallace's own collection, marked 'Para,' is the only other I have seen. Had I not the authority of Mr. Eyton and the Baron de la Fresnaye for considering

* Dr. Baird has also given a description and figure of this worm, in the Proceedings for the present year, page 22. Annulosa, Pl. XXX, fig. 7.



Wolf, lith.

M. & N. Hanhart, Imp^r

DENDROCOLAPTES EYTONI. *Sclater.*

the present bird as hitherto undescribed, I should hardly have ventured to characterize a species of this family, which is one of those most perplexing to ornithologists, by reason of the great similarity of colouring that pervades the group. The Baron de la Fresnaye, who has lately written a most complete monograph of these birds in the 'Revue de Zoologie,' has mentioned this species in a recent number of that periodical, under the MS. name I had proposed for it when on a visit to him eighteen months ago. This makes it desirable, I think, to give it specific characters at once, in order to avoid the evils of leaving a published name without a published description attached.

The specific name is in honour of Mr. Eyton, who has worked a great deal at the *Dendrocolaptinæ*, and published the results of his labours in the shape of descriptions of several new species, and a general list of the whole subfamily, in the 'Contributions to Ornithology' for last year.

DENDROCOLAPTES EYTONI, Sclater. *D. supra cinnamomeo-brunneus*; *caudæ colore intensiore, primariis intus ad apices obscurioribus*; *capitis collique superi plumis nigrescentibus, linea lata mediali fulvo-albida*; *subtus, mento et gula albis*; *pectore toto et ventre summo albido flammulatis, singulis plumis plaga mediali albida utrinque brunneo marginata*; *ventre imo et lateribus fulvis*; *tectricibus subalaribus pallide brunneis*; *rostro paululum incurvo*; *mandibula superiore nigrescente, inferiore corneo*; *pedibus nigris.*

Long. tota, 9-5; alæ, 4-0; rostri a rictu, 1-9; a fronte, 1-5.

Hab. in vicinitate Paræ, imp. Brasiliensis.

June 28, 1853.

W. Yarrell, Esq., in the Chair.

The following paper was read:—

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SHELLS FROM THE COLLECTION OF
H. CUMING, Esq. BY ARTHUR ADAMS, F.L.S. ETC.

1. **GAFRARIUM (CORBIS) CÆLATUM**, A. Adams. *G. testa æquivalci, subcompressa, æquilaterali, alba, transversim ovali, utrinque rotundata, costellis transversis, concentricis, crenatis et tuberculis triangularibus, squamiformibus in interstitiis pulcherrime cælata*; *tuberculis antice et postice validioribus et imbricatis*; *marginè ventrali arcuato, crenulato.*

Hab. Sorsogon, Island of Luzon, coarse sand, 6 fathoms (H. C.).
Mus. Cuming.

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