

*Occurrence of the Crane at Hartlepool.*—Mr. Abbott, a birdstuffer, of Church Street, Hartlepool, has just received for preservation a fine and perfect specimen of the crane. It was seen in an open field near that place and was killed at a distance of eighty yards. This magnificent, ornamental and most docile bird is in all respects adapted for the climate of England, and was formerly so abundant here that Archbishop Neville, as reported in Leland's 'Collectanea,' served up two hundred and four cranes at a single feast. Without asking why an archbishop should have exceeded Heliogabalus in the extent and lavish prodigality of his banquets, we may ask why such a magnificent bird is killed whenever it sets foot on our inhospitable shore. Why should we perpetually seek to verify the satirical remarks of our acerb but truthful poet Rogers, who has said that whenever the sun happens to shine of a morning an Englishman exclaims, "See, here's a fine morning! let us kill something."—*Edward Newman.*

*Occurrence of the Egyptian Goose at Alton.*—About a month ago, I am not sure of the exact date, as I only heard of the fact yesterday, three Egyptian geese were killed at one shot, on Frensham Pond, about nine miles from here. The one I sent you an account of before was shot at Oakhanger Pond, which is only about four or five miles from Frensham. I know of no one near here who keeps any Egyptian geese, as from four being shot so nearly together one would almost suppose they must have escaped. I have only known of two shot in this neighbourhood before these four, and that was some years ago.—*P. Crowley; Alton, March 26, 1862.*

*Occurrence of the Slavonian Grebe at Halifax.*—A female specimen of the Slavonian grebe was shot on the 17th ult. by Mr. Marchant, at the Victoria Reservoir, Halifax.—*George H. Parke; Stanway Old Hall, Halifax, April 1, 1862.*

*Occurrence of the Blackthroated Diver near Scarborough.*—A young female bird of this species was found dead, washed ashore on the north beach here, a few mornings since, by a fisherman, having evidently perished from exhaustion. Several little auks and young of the great glaucous gull have been taken on the coast. A few common crossbills were noticed in a small plantation here near the sea, and one killed by a boy with a stone; another, a fine old male bird, was shot on alighting in the Castle Holmes. Birds, on the whole, though, have been scarcer here than usual this winter.—*Alwin S. Bell; Scarborough, March 15, 1862.*

*Occurrence of the Manx Shearwater, Thickknee and Crossbills in the Neighbourhood of Huddersfield.*—In the month of September last a fine male specimen of the Manx shearwater (*Puffinus Anglorum*) was taken by a boy in a mill-dam, where it had been seen for many weeks; the dam abounded with gold fish. On January 17th a very fine specimen of the thickknee (*Ædicnemus crepitans*) was caught at Toothill, in an exhausted state: it has been preserved by Mr. Williamson. In December last the gamekeeper of Mr. Taylor, Almondbury, shot fourteen crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) on Storthes Hall Moor, all in a fine state of plumage: these have been preserved by Mr. Mozley.—*James Varley; Almondbury Bank, Huddersfield, March 15, 1862.*

*Birds of Paradise at the Zoological Gardens.*—One of the most beautiful and interesting additions to the menagerie of the Zoological Society has just been made, by the safe arrival in the Regent's Park of two living birds of paradise (*Paradisea papuana*). The restricted habitat of these birds, and the dangers and difficulties attending an exploration of their haunts in the unhealthy climate of New Guinea, have hitherto rendered almost hopeless any attempt to procure living specimens of these lovely birds. There are but few instances known of birds of paradise having been kept in confinement,

and it is believed that the bird which died at Windsor about forty years ago, in the possession of the late Princess Augusta, is the only example which had been seen alive in Europe prior to the present arrival. Mr. A. R. Wallace, the indefatigable traveller and explorer of some of the rarely visited islands of the Indian Archipelago, has for some time been commissioned by the Zoological Society to fill up this gap in their collection; but all his endeavours failed to preserve alive some specimens he obtained. By chance, however, and after he had left the neighbourhood of New Guinea, he fell in with two of the much-desired birds, which had been a short time in confinement, and these, under his continued care and attention, were safely landed in England on Tuesday last. The birds are both males. They appear to have suffered little from their long journey, and, excepting that their plumes are apparently but half grown, their condition is as perfect as could be desired. Fortunately they are exceedingly tame, taking food readily from the hand, and displaying their beautiful plumage without showing any signs of fear. A dried skin of one of their brethren was immediately recognised, although at some little distance, and called forth loud and frequent caws, proclaiming their relationship to the Corvidæ, with which family ornithologists have associated them, and leading naturalists to hope that, like their congeners, they may prove hardy and long-lived in captivity. Their manners and customs will form an interesting study.—*E. W. H. Holdsworth.*

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*Tenacity of Life in an Iguana.* — From a letter lately received by me from my brother Gordon, who writes from Quamby, Tasmania, I make the following extract, which I venture to hope may prove beneficial not only to generations of iguanas yet unborn, but also to such of their captors who may not be too proud to avail themselves of a useful hint: — “I have lately procured for you a very fine specimen of an iguana, of whose precise species, however, I am somewhat in doubt. I intended to skin him for you, but was prevented by a very formidable difficulty, *viz.*, I could not kill him! It is wonderful what an immense amount of vitality these creatures possess. He was brought to me struggling violently, with a string drawn round his neck: not dead indeed, but still a very interesting example of suspended animation. I put him into a box, when he became exceedingly savage, hissing and darting at me whenever I opened his prison. First of all I tried to kill him with chloroform, pouring what appeared to be half a dozen times more than sufficient upon a piece of wadding within the box, and then tightly closing the lid. On looking at him some time afterwards, I found that this had not taken the slightest effect, although the fumes were even then quite enough for me. So far from being in the smallest degree stupified, he darted about as actively as before, hissing furiously, with his tongue playing about like lightning. Well! I teased the poor reptile for a while, and then, as he evidently wished to bite somebody or something, I eased his mind by giving him the feather end of a quill pen: he instantly snapped at it, and when I paid him a visit next morning he still held it so firmly in his jaws that I lifted him up by it. What his jaws and his temper were made of I can't say; nor, by the way, do I know whether the bite is harmless; probably it is, but one does not like to try. Finding that he rather liked chloroform than otherwise, I next got a large tub of water, shut the iguana in a box with the lid partially propped open, and placed this at the bottom of the tub, with a few bricks piled upon the lid to keep all fast. And then I thought