

three of them (Snowy Owl, Great White Heron, and Bewick's Swan) in his *second* work, and, so far as my memory serves me, omitted only one (the Great White Heron) in his third work; but as I have only the *second* work within reach at present, I may be mistaken in this.

Now although I believe there are thirty-five deficiencies in British oology, I am still at a loss to discover how many known species ought to be considered British, and I should feel deeply indebted to yourself, or any other member of the British Ornithologists' Union, who would kindly inform me how I can obtain a reliable list of British birds, and still more indebted to any one who would publish such a list in the way suggested in my last letter.

In common with many others who feel a real interest in the study of ornithology, I am too much engaged in professional avocations to admit of my devoting much time to the pursuit, and am obliged to confine my attention pretty much to British birds; consequently I am desirous that my knowledge of these should be as exact as possible, and this, without an authentic list, is difficult to attain.

Yours, &c.,

BEAVEN RAKE.

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Mr. Samuel Stevens has just received a letter from Mr. A. R. Wallace, dated "Ternate, December 7th," in which he writes as follows:—"I returned to Ternate a few days after the last mail had left here, having had a most hazardous voyage from Ceram and Waigiou. My collections are immense, but very poor, when it is considered that they are the result of nine months' collecting by two persons in East and North Ceram, Mysol, and Waigiou. Ceram is a wretched country; and the Papuan Islands, now that the cream is taken off by Aru and Dorey, are really not worth visiting, except for the Birds of Paradise.

"My beetles, I am sorry to say, are most miserable—smaller and more obscure species than at Dorey, and only a few of the good ones found there, and none in any quantity.

"In birds there is absolutely nothing good but the *Paradisea rubra*, which is the only species that inhabits Waigiou, and is peculiar to that island.

“I have been so busy with my mass of specimens (all wanting sorting and cleaning), and with my numerous letters and books (a whole year), that my mind has been too much unsettled to write. Next mail I shall write to all my entomological and ornithological friends who have been kind enough to send me communications.

“I do not like the figure of *Semioptera wallacii* copied in ‘The Ibis’ from Gould’s: the neck-shields are not shown to advantage; and the white plumes should be raised much higher or laid down lower—they are neither one thing nor the other.

“C. Allen starts in a week or two for N. Guinea—to the true locality for the rarer Birds of Paradise, and I trust he may be successful. The last voyage, with all its dangers and disappointments, has nearly sickened me, and I think in *one year* I shall return.

“I seem to have all your letters but one (April 16, 1860).”

The following extracts are from letters recently received by us from Mr. Edward Blyth:—

“Calcutta, January 4th.

“I have just received ‘The Ibis,’ vol. ii. No. 8, and need I say that I am delighted with it? My compliments especially to the Hon. T. L. Powys and to Mr. W. H. Simpson. I have also something like a compliment to send you on the part of my little *Sháma* (*Kittacincla macroura*), whose cage hangs about eight paces from where I am now writing, and thoroughly enjoying existence at the delicious temperature of 70° Fahrenheit. Turning to p. 410, opposite to which is a figure of *Circaëtus zonurus*, and holding it up to look at it, little *Sháma* immediately became in a violent condition of excitement. No doubt at all about it, as I have proved a second and a third time. There is something about that spirited figure of *Circaëtus zonurus* which *Sháma* less approves of than I do. We have all heard of the old Greek painter who deceived the birds. Here is a modern instance; and, I cannot help thinking, a sufficiently remarkable one. Alexander von Humboldt, in his ‘Personal Narrative,’ if I remember rightly, relates that a small South-American monkey at once recognized the insects it had been accustomed to prey upon, though represented only in outline