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The following is a list of the birds recorded up to date, that frequent these atolls, brought so much into prominence by the recent coral-boring expeditions :—

<i>Urodynamis taitensis</i>	<i>Streptopelia interpres</i>
<i>Fregata aquila</i>	<i>Limosa nove-zealandice</i>
<i>Demigretta sacra</i>	<i>Anous stolidus</i>
<i>Globicera pacifica</i>	<i>Micramous leucocapillus</i>
* <i>Carpophaga pistrinaria</i>	<i>Procelsterna caerulea</i>
<i>Charadrius fulvus</i>	<i>Sterna ancesthera</i>
<i>Totanus incanous</i>	<i>Sterna melanauchen</i>
<i>Numenius tahitensis</i>	<i>Gygis candida</i>

#### V.—ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *BUTASTUR TEESA* IN AUSTRALIA.

Some time ago Mr. Richard Grant of Lithgow, presented a skin of *Butastur teesa* to the Trustees, accompanied by the following note: "With regard to this Hawk, I shot it in a ring-barked tree, near the Bowenfels road, Lithgow. I do not know the exact date, but as near as I can remember it was in November 1889. I skinned it, also some Brown Hawks, that I shot the same day, and partly filled the skins out and put them away. I took no further notice of them until my brother returned home and drew my attention to this bird's plumage." Lithgow is situated in a valley of the Blue Mountains, 3007 feet above the level of the sea, and 96 miles west of Sydney. *Butastur teesa*, the White-eyed Buzzard Eagle is very abundant in some parts of India, which is the habitat of this species, but I can find no record of its having been obtained on any of the islands lying between India and Australia. *B. liventer*, which occurs in Java and Timor, or *B. indicus*, inhabiting Borneo, Sumatra, and the Phillipines, I should not have been so much surprised at obtaining on the Australian continent. The specimen of *B. teesa* procured at Lithgow, is similar to others in the collection from India, except in showing very little trace of the white mottlings on the wing-coverts. It is not in full adult plumage, for the sides of the throat and the spots on the breast are white instead of yellowish-white, otherwise it agrees with the description of the adult female given by Dr. Sharpe† in the "Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum."

#### VI.—ON A LIVING EXAMPLE OF *PSEPHOTUS CHRYSOPTERYGIUS*.

Regarding this species, Gould, who described it, writes in his Handbook to the Birds of Australia,‡ as follows :—"One of the

\* On the authority of Mr. Gardiner.

† Sharpe—Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus., i., p. 295, (1874).

‡ Gould, Handbk. Bds. Aust., ii., p. 65 (1865).

greatest pleasures enjoyed by the late celebrated botanist Robert Brown, during the last thirty years of his life, was now and then to show me a drawing of a Parrakeet made by one of the brothers Bauer, from a specimen procured somewhere on the north coast of Australia, but of which no specimen was preserved at the time, and none had been sent to England, until several were brought home by Mr. Elsey, a year or two prior to Mr. Brown's death. On comparing these with the drawing made a least forty years before, no doubt remained on my mind as to its having been made from an example of this species. This, then, is one of the novelties for which we are indebted to the explorations of A. C. Gregory Esq. and I trust it may not be the last I shall have to characterize through the researches of this intrepid traveller. Mr. Elsey, who, as is well known, accompanied the expedition to the Victoria River, obtained three examples—a male, a female, and a young bird—all of which are now in our national collection. In the notes accompanying the specimens, Mr. Elsey states that they were procured on the 14th of September 1856, in Lat. 18° S. and Long. 141° 33' E., and that their crops contained some monocotyledonous seeds."

Since the above passage was written by Gould, so far as I am aware, no additional information has been recorded of *Psephotus chrysopterygius*, the rarest of all our Australian Parrakeets, and the three specimens in the British Museum obtained by Mr. Elsey in 1856 were the only ones known. It was therefore with extreme pleasure that when passing one of the bird dealer's shops near Circular Quay, in November 1897, my attention was arrested by a living specimen of the Golden-shouldered Parrakeet, the first I had seen, and previously known to me only by Gould's description and figure. On making inquiries I found that it had been caught by a bird-catcher in his nets about three months before in the neighbourhood of Port Darwin, in the Northern Territory, and was the only specimen that he had ever seen. Subsequently it was acquired by the Trustees, and has since enlivened my room with its cheerful notes. It bears confinement well and is exceedingly tame, except to strangers, feeding entirely on millet seed and leaving untouched the canary seed with which it is mixed. Like other members of this genus—which I have seen wade into water to quench their thirst—it partakes freely of water. One note of this species repeated several times at intervals of a second apart is exceedingly sharp and shrill, and resembles the metallic sound produced by quickly turning an unoiled key in a new and close fitting lock. The remainder of its notes which are continued for some time, is like the warbling of the Grass Parrakeet, *Melopsittacus undulatus*, only much louder. This specimen measures ten inches, and from the brilliancy of its plumage is evidently an adult male. Gould's central figure of the male of this species in his "Supplement to the Birds of Australia,"\* is too

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\* Gould—Suppl. Bds. Austr., pl. 64 (1869).

large and robust ; a better idea of its size is conveyed by the upper figure of the supposed female. The figure of the male is fairly accurate in colour, except in the bill, cere and feet, which at all times it is a difficult matter to faithfully depict from dried skins. In the living example now before me a narrow line of turquoise blue separates the pale-yellow feathers of the forehead from the crown of the head, and the black feathers of the latter extend in a central stripe on to the nape ; the bill is horn-white, faintly shaded with bluish-grey at the base, and the cere, legs, feet and *claws* are of a pale cinnabar-flesh colour.

It is worthy of remark, that forty years elapsed between Bauer making a drawing of this bird, and Elsey obtaining the first specimens, and that nearly a half century has since passed away before the discovery of another specimen. Only four examples and a drawing of this bird during a period of eighty-two years, fully entitle it to the distinction of being the rarest of all our Australian Parrakeets.

*Addendum.*—Since the above was in type I have received Part iv. of the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, for 1898, and find in the list of additions to the Gardens, that a pair of these birds was purchased by the Society on the 10th of March, 1897.

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VII.—ON THE EXTENSION OF THE RANGE OF *PHÆTON CANDIDUS* TO NEW SOUTH WALES AND LORD HOWE ISLAND.

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Climatic influences are among the most important factors in the distribution of species, and the recent heavy easterly gales of February 10th, 11th, 12th of the present year, which caused so much disaster to the shipping on the coast of New South Wales, have been the means of increasing the number of birds included in its avifauna. On the 15th of February an immature specimen of *Phæton candidus*, in the flesh, was presented to the Trustees by Mr. Henry Burns, who had picked it up in a dying condition, the previous day, on the shores of Botany Bay. This species was not met with by Gould, neither is it mentioned in any of his works on Australian birds. Dr. E. P. Ramsay has, however, in his "Tabular List of Australian Birds" included Cape York and Wide Bay, among the numerous localities over which it enjoys a range. Previously it was not represented in the Museum by an Australian specimen, but there is portion of a skin in a slightly advanced stage of immaturity from Lord Howe Island, obtained there by Mr. D. Love in May 1890 ; another new locality for this species. This wanderer over the intertropical zone of the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans, has been recorded, among other localities, by Count Salvadori in his "Ornitologia della Papausia e delle Molucche" from Florida, Cuba, Costa Rica, Jamaica, the Bermudas,