falconers certainly recommended dog's flesh during moult: can *this* have anything to do with the above-quoted statement?

However, I have seen a trained falcon of my own fly at men, dogs, and sheep, and that furiously; but she was innocent of any desire to pick their bones. Several times she has driven a flock of sheep over a moor, making such determined stoops at them that I was afraid she might get entangled in the wool. She spoiled my pointer for hawking purposes by the fearful blows she hit him, sending him howling home. He will hunt, it is true, while the hawks are carried; but no sooner is one on the wing than he drops as if to down-charge. This is provoking, for the best kind of game-hawking, in my opinion, is shown not by waiting for a point, but by casting off the hawk in a likely bit of country, and while he "waits on" at a height, scouring the field with wide-ranging dogs. I have killed in one wheat-stubble, in the south of England, the greater part of a covey of birds, flying them *once every day* in the manner just described. I did this with a favourite tiercel. The number of the covey of course I knew. It was not joined by any fresh birds while I worked it; and what is worth knowing and remembering is *this*—that, while it lost one of its number daily and for many days, I always found it in the same field at the same time of day, between three and four o'clock. It was a singular thing, and might never happen again—the *ill-luck* which haunted this covey in a country not at all deficient in game; for I only remember once giving it, quite unintentionally, a day of grace, by springing some other birds as soon as the hawk was at his pitch. I know nothing of the artificial hawk; but this I know from constant experience, and would willingly swear to my belief, that flying trained peregrines does not drive game from the ground.

These hawks differ somewhat in disposition, one individual from another; some are more courageous than others, and some—I am speaking now of trained birds—are less soon spoilt than others for general work, by being kept to a particular quarry. One and all, however, and especially the tiercels, if kept long and constantly to pigeons, become careless of partridges, and, in many cases, will not fly them at all. A tiercel, intended for partridge-hawking, should be entered to them at once, and not suffered to kill more than one pigeon—two at most—before he is put up above a young covey in an easy country. When he is thoroughly entered to partridges he may fly them alternately with pigeons. If a falcon is intended for rooks, I recommend that she kill about three large pigeons, one every other day, before she is called down, when sharp-set, to a live rook in a string. I would give her more pigeons than I should the partridge-hawk, because she must understand *killing* before she can be trusted with a rook or crow. Let her now drive a wild rook into a tree, from which, as the hawk "waits on," it should be driven out by a small charge of powder and shot. The majority of falcons, after this entering, will fly rooks well in an open country. They also may be exercised with pigeons occasionally.

It is high time to bring this long chapter to a close. It might perhaps have been more interesting had I given more incident; but I did not wish to repeat what I have said elsewhere. At any rate, I have done my best to offer a picture of a bird which is grand in its natural wildness, but most docile, generous, and efficient as a servant of man. For more than five years I have pleaded the cause of the peregrine in this newspaper; and of all the time which I have devoted to sporting matters and natural history, that spent in defence of this falcon I regret by far the least. I have, at any rate, made friends for the bird and for myself, whom I value far more than the greatest amount of labour which I could bestow upon any subject in the world. PEREGRINE.

THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

NOW THAT THE WARM SPRING WEATHER begins to tempt Londoners into their parks, it may not be uninteresting to the lovers of natural history to know what there is awaiting their inspection at the Zoological Gardens, Regent's-park. The energy and painstaking of Dr. P. L. Sclater, the Secretary, and of the resident superintendent, Mr Bartlett, are conspicuous at every turn. Improvements at every turn are made, and are still making, not only as regards the grounds themselves (including a new gravel-walk round the south side of the gardens near the water-fowl enclosure), but also as regards minor details, such as the cages and dens of the animals, &c.

The carnivora-house, as usual, attracts the first notice of the visitor, and our readers will be pleased to hear that these frost-dreading creatures have gone through the winter very well, though we miss the old Lion from his place. This animal died at Christmas last. (See THE FIELD of that date.) The following beasts, however, remain well and hearty: an African lion and lioness (two years old); a Babylonian lioness, two Asiatic tigers, two pumas, two leopards, two jaguars, &c. Then, on the north side of the terrace, we see specimens of the spotted hyæna, of the brown and black bears (there are two nice cubs of the latter), the Himalayan sloth bear, and the monstrous Russian bear, all in good health and *voice*, especially the hyænas. The two polar bears alone seem to regret the absence of winter, and will shortly commence their summer pantings and plunge-baths. The Arabian camel, as usual, occupies his corner, and, with outstretched neck, begs for buns and biscuits (food which it is not very likely he gets in the desert) as a fee for carrying juvenile visitors about the gardens.

To the zebra and antelope house great additions have been made; a building has been erected at right angles to the old one, containing fifteen loose boxes of the most improved construction, each box opening into a little private paddock behind. (This is to be occupied by the whole series of antelopes, *arranged in order*). The list of these animals is indeed satisfactory. We see, lively and in good health, the gnu (both white-tailed and brindled), the addax, the rehbok, the lechee, the zebra, and the quagga; and then, in the first of the new boxes, the kiang, or wild-horse, or rather mare (for the specimen is a female), who looks, poor thing, as though she would amazingly like to have a gallop on some open bit of ground; anyhow, she intimates as much by sundry whinnyings and nose-smellings with her neighbours, the wild asses from India and Syria.

On coming out of these loose boxes we see fine and healthy specimens of the llama, guanaco, and alpaca (with calf four months old). These animals are now exciting the greatest interest in Australia, and promise most important results to that colony. Many interesting details, commercial and otherwise, of these creatures were made known to the public by Mr Ledger, in his lecture in February last, before the Society of Arts.

Passing southwards, we come to the brush-turkeys' enclosure. These curious and valuable birds have now plenty of space and materials wherewith to construct, with their peculiarly-formed feet, their mounds of earth, leaves, and grass in which to bury their eggs, and let the heat of vegetable fermentation do the work of incubation for them. Adjoining these is a new small carnivora-house, containing the ocelot, the African and Indian civet, several kinds of paradoxurus, a genet with an artificially-twisted tail, as well as other smaller carnivora. Adjoining these we find aviaries, in which are displayed a most valuable and beautiful series of Indian pheasants and other birds: there we see, resplendent with the most lovely colours, the Impean pheasant, the peacock pheasant (a bird whose colours no words can describe), the cheer pheasant (from North India), the purple (from Assam), the kaleege, the black-backed kaleege, Indian and Chinese pheasants, as well as other specimens of gorgeously-dressed pheasants, in all the rainbow beauty of natural colour, and in many instances breeding and multiplying their species. With them we find a healthy group of those pretty, compact, impudent little birds, the Californian quail; as well as specimens of the four known species of Peacocks—the common, the albino, the black-shouldered, and the green-necked; while above their heads a number of rare and beautiful pigeons bill and coo in the noonday sun. The other aviaries in the gardens have lost but few of their occupants, and we wish we had space to notice them in detail.

A new swine-house has been erected in the gardens, near the water-fowl inclosure, containing an interesting and valuable series of the pig family, viz., the "bosh vark" (Africa), the wart hog, the white-lipped and collared peccory, the wild boar, and last, but not least, a sow and fine litter of the masked pig from Japan. These are most curious-looking creatures; their faces are one mass of deep and solid wrinkles; they look as if their heads had been boiled, collared, and stuck on to the live animal again. The mamma pig has a countenance like a pantomime mask, and we here throw out the idea for next Christmas; the young ones trot about with a peculiar "high action."

The aquarium-house, as usual, is full of visitors and living inhabitants of the waters, both salt and fresh. One great feature of attraction is a young salmon, about four inches long, presented by Alfred Smee, Esq. This, with others, was hatched artificially in Paris, February 1860, brought to Carshalton, and thence to the Gardens in November last; so that this little *French* salmon has a history, and already, though so young, has seen something of the world. A salmon boiled and served up smoking hot is, to my mind, not nearly so interesting as a live fish, and in the above specimen we can examine and admire the wonderful elasticity of its body, its graceful movements, its india-rubber-like and arrow-like dartings, rendering it a very swallow among fishes. A strange contrast to the salmon is our old friend the lethargic pike; there he *sits* (for he is resting his tail on the bottom), showing his sore nose, excoriated by mistaking the glass wall of his tank for water, moving his gill flaps lazily up and down, and wishing, I would venture to say, he could scratch his back with his pectoral fin, for a horrid parasite has fixed himself close to his dorsal fin, and is digging his way in between the scales, head down and tail up, while he is filling his transparent body with piscine blood. The other marine and fresh-water captives seem doing well, and hungry as usual, especially the pretty emerald-coated English kingfisher, the humming-bird (as regards colour) of our British fauna.

The monkey-house is as noisy as usual; they are all indoors, and good use has been made of their outdoor playground for the accommodation of a series of foreign foxes, with whose skins, in the form of rugs and mats, we are sufficiently familiar, though their faces are not so well known to us. Here we see, *wagging their brushes* with pleasure, specimens of the Egyptian fox, the red fox from North America, and of the Indian jackal, &c.—as nice a series of foxes as one would wish to see.

F. T. BUCKLAND (2nd Life Guards).

(*To be continued*).

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

AT the anniversary meeting of this society, held on Monday, April 29, at the house in Hanover-square—present G. R. Waterhouse, Esq., V.P., in their chair, Admiral Bowles, Professor Busk, J. H. Gurney, Esq., M.P., Sir P. Egerton, Bart, M.P., G. Sclater Booth, Esq., M.P., G. Cornwall Legh, Esq., M.P., Sir W. J. Newton, Rev. J. Barlow, Sir J. P. Boileau, Bart., and others—the business was commenced by the reading of the auditors' report, which congratulated the society upon the continued improvement in the finances, &c. The secretary read the report of the council, detailing the proceedings of the society since the last anniversary. The ballot for the council and officers for the ensuing year was declared to have resulted in the election of H.R.H. the Prince Consort, K.G., as President; R. Drummond, Esq., as Treasurer; and Philip Lutley Sclater, M.A., Ph.D., as Secretary of the Society. The Duke of Argyll, F.R.S., John Lubbock, Esq., F.R.S., Lord Llanover, Professor Huxley, F.R.S., and Alfred Newton, Esq., M.A., F.L.S., were elected as members of the Council, in the place of the Right Hon. Sir George Clerk, Bart., F.R.S., James Scott Bowerbank, Esq., F.R.S., LL.D., Sir Benjamin C. Brodie, Bart., Pres. R.S., Professor Owen, F.R.S., F.L.S., and Robert MacAndrew, Esq., F.R.S., semoved therefrom. R. Hudson, Esq., F.R.S., was also elected into the Council in the place of E. J. Rudge, Esq., deceased. The following gentlemen were added to the Publication Committee, in the room of three who retired by rotation—Dr. John Lister, Dr. James Salter, and Osbert Salvin, Esq. The meeeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman and the scrutineers.

INFLUENCE OF THE FORM OF THE BRAIN ON THE CHARACTER OF FOWLS.

SIR,—From the recent investigations of Mr Tegetmeier, and from those of the older naturalists, most people who keep Polish fowls are aware that the tuft of feathers on their heads is supported by an extraordinary, almost hemispherical, protuberance of the front part of the skull. This protuberance is accompanied by an equal change in the shape of the brain. Pallas and some of the older writers describe the Polish fowl as, in consequence, stupid; but Mr Tegetmeier has shown that this is a mistake. The experience of many savage races of man proves that the external shape of the brain may be greatly modified by pressure, without the intellectual faculties being affected. Nevertheless, after having recently examined the skulls of Poland fowls, I am astonished that such profound changes should have produced no effect on the mental powers of these birds. Bechstein, writing in Germany in 1793, says, that although it is an error to suppose that fowls with such misformed skulls are stupid, yet that he had a white-crested black Poland which "was crazy, and which all day long wandered anxiously about." I, also, formerly had a silver-spangled Poland which was curiously affected; she sometimes seemed lost in reverie, and allowed any one to approach so as even to touch her; she was solitary in her habits, and was extraordinarily deficient in the sense of direction. I have seen her stray hardly more than a hundred yards from her feeding place, and become completely lost; and she would then continue obstinately to try to get through a fence in a direction exactly opposite to her home. Now, will any of your correspondents who have long kept tufted fowls have the kindness to state whether they have observed any clear signs of deficiency in the mental powers of any of their birds? or, has any one ever seen a "crazy fowl," such as Bechstein describes, in any other breed? CHARLES DARWIN.

Down, Bromley, Kent.

EXHIBITION OF GORILLAS.

MR DU CHAILLU, whose experiences with the gigantic gorilla are known to our readers, has now placed part of his collection on private view in the library of the Geographical Society, 15, Whitehall-place. There are several stuffed skins in various attitudes, as well as skulls and skeletons of the gorilla, forming altogether the most remarkable collection of these animals ever brought together. Mr Du Chaillu has also upon his table skins of other rare and new animals, as the bald-headed ape, *Troglodytes calvus*, or nscheigo-mbouve; the new antelope, *Tragelephas albo-cristatus*; a fine specimen of that curious cetacean creature, the manatee; a new and remarkable rodent that devours ivory, *Sciurus eburvorus*, as well as other specimens of beasts, birds, and native implements from Central Africa, West Coast.

THE GORILLA.

SIR,—I could not for the life of me help smiling at the amorous remarks of Mr Waterton. I went with the most amiable feelings imaginable once again purposely to look upon the gorilla (which is so admirably preserved (quite life-like) in the Museum of the Jardin des Plantes. The creature stood before me in all its infernal ugliness. It is in an upright posture, the right hand clasped to a tree, and the left clutching a club as thick as the arm. Its height is, as nearly as can be measured outside the glass case, 5ft. 6in., and looks ready to destroy with instant destruction everything human or inhuman around it. I do not think that the devil himself would ever stomach up courage enough even to smile upon, much less embrace, such a villanous *échantillon* of monstrosity and wickedness. H. G. (Paris).

SIR,—In regard to the controversy which has arisen on the part of Mr Waterton, and from having had, while in America, much conversation with Mr Du Chaillu, I must say that that traveller told me that gorillas lived chiefly on the ground, and that the paths made by them in the underwood in the places of their resort were excessive. He never in the course of our conversation, and I was very minute in my inquiries, alluded to their "roaring;" but he said that when coming close upon a male gorilla, the animal rose from his natural position of all-fours, and then, in an unnatural and ill-balanced manner, came at him on his hinder legs, his length of arm *flung out to balance the upright position of the body more than for any other purpose*, while the animal himself uttered a sort of "Boh, bo, boh," grunting noise, *by no means approaching to a roar*. Mr Du Chaillu said that the female always fled, the male alone showing fight. The description of the death by a gorilla of one of Mr Du Chaillu's followers I never believed as the traveller related it to me—that is, I do not mean to charge that traveller with wilfully telling an untruth; no doubt he attributed the death of the man to the cause assumed; but I deny, first, that the gorilla could have done that which was attributed to him; and, secondly, that the gorilla would have attempted to have compassed the death of the man in the way assigned. Mr Du Chaillu told me, in New York, that the gorilla had "torn out the entrails of the man from the side of the stomach at one grasp." Now, in the first place, I deny that the hand of the gorilla could have torn the superficial integuments sufficiently to have done that, for the hand is remarkably short, and not armed with strong tearing claws; and, secondly, that though the arms of the gorilla are immensely muscular for the purposes of climbing, his arms are visibly not that portion of his structure on which the infuriated animal would depend for the completion of mischief or death to an aggressor. The animal would use his teeth, which are equal to that of a certain sized lion or tiger, and capable of making the most fatal wounds. Immense muscular power often exists, but, somehow or other, enormous as that power may be, the possessor cannot always apply it to the desired purpose. Thus I have known working men, and even gentlemen, with arms the development of whose muscular power was terrific, yet, as hitters with or without the gloves, to use a common saying, they would "scarce have knocked a nesting duck from off her eggs." On the other hand, I have seen men with arms that showed no more power than those of a woman, who would knock an opponent "out of time." Among these I *have heard* (I was too young to see the fact) was the celebrated pugilist, Tom Belcher. As to the ourang outang and one of the largest apes, this I have personally tried. I have given my hand to the animals when angry and desirous of getting my hand to the bars of their cage, and within reach of their teeth, and, taking care to stand firm, tried who had the most power. I had not the slightest difficulty to resist the attempt of either to pull my arm an inch nearer to them than I desired; and this trial of strength may yet be experimented on by any man not unwilling to shake a spiteful "cousin" by the hand. In stories told by word or letter, no narrator, no traveller, no sportsman, no naturalist, should deviate, even by careless expression, from the truth. The truth is ever more astonishing than fact; and there will ever be found as many people ready to disbelieve the truth, as there are to contemn the vilest falsehood. Who believed me in America, or in England on my return from America, when I foretold in my lectures in the one place, and in THE FIELD in the other, word for word, what has since happened in the disunited States—or took from my lips as a coming event the fatality, the presence of which the correspondent of the *Times* in America is now recounting? When men work themselves up in public speaking, as well as in writing for the press, they may be excused when borne away by a desire to carry with them their audience or their reader, if they even indulge in flowery expression, to the extent of asserting that there is such a thing as an "aquiline-nosed monkey;" but, in speaking, as in writing, there ought always to be adhered to such a vein of sterling veracity that even the most sceptical could not hinge a doubt upon the matter. Let but a doubt have the power to exist, its inflammatory action will extend and stain or mar the delicacy of hue that ever attends upon the naked truth. GRANTLEY F. BERKELEY.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS ON NATURAL HISTORY.

THE AMADAVAD.—Can any of your numerous readers inform me to what age the avadavat (or the amadavad) has been known to live in England? A friend of mine had several of these little birds brought to her from India, in June, 1852. Of these she kept eight herself, and five of them are still alive and in good health.—M. A. (Wilts.)

CATS CATCHING MOLES.—I should be glad to be informed whether it is an uncommon thing for cats to kill the mole; and whether, if some are found with this useful talent, a race of cats might not be bred as mole-catchers? The garden, lawn, and paddock, belonging to a house I once resided in, were infested with moles; and we were surprised at constantly finding them dead on the gravel walks. At last, the cat was discovered to be the cause. In fact, she soon entirely cleared them off.—J. G.

ADHERENCE OF A PARTRIDGE TO ITS EGGS.—Walking in a green lane near my residence last breeding season, old Duchess pointed in the hedge, of which I took no notice, but passed on, thinking that she was amusing herself with small birds, as she was apt to do. I had not walked on many yards before she brought me a partridge, which, being perfectly uninjured (the bitch having a beautifully fine mouth), I let go, with the unpleasant thought that a brood was lost, for on going back to the spot I found Duchess had taken her off her nest well filled with eggs. Going to the spot next day, I found the old bird on duty as though nothing had happened, and in a few days after every egg had released its tenant.—L. D. GARWOOD (Acomb, York).

WEASELS.—Last week I saw a very fine stuffed specimen of a white and fawn coloured weasel at a friend's house. As old stagers, we had our experience and notions upon the subject of its colour, but we want to have it accounted for by some of your scientific naturalist correspondents. The winter before last I shot at a similar specimen, about five miles from the same locality; but as he was running towards, and within two yards of, me, I missed him. I have seen similar coloured weasels before. The tail was nearly black.—SANDY.—[It is a very rare circumstance for a weasel to turn either entirely or partially white; but *no precious record* exists of the tail becoming black. The black or black-tipped tail is the character of the stoat, which also habitually turns white in winter. We cannot, therefore, avoid surmising that our correspondent, though an "old stager," has mistaken these two very different animals.—ED.]

A "THIEVING MOUSE."—I have a bird-cage in my dining-room, suspended by a cord which passes to a crook, and from thence in a triangular form to the shutter at the side of the window. Last year a mouse almost every evening when we were at tea ascended the cord from the knob of the shutter to the crook, then passed down the cord into the cage. There were two canaries in the cage, who appeared to regard their evening visitor with indifference. After seeing the little creature feed and go away many times, I one evening struck it down, and I have not seen it since. I have subsequently much regretted this temporary feeling of mine, for the act of the mouse was very interesting, and it did no harm to anything beyond eating a few canary seeds. The little creature must have been extraordinarily tame, as it passed always within a couple of yards from where I was sitting.—I. L. (Plymouth.)

LOVE LAUGHS AT LOCKSMITHS.—The partridge has recently proved that if the tender passion with the human race, according to the ballad handed down to us by Sir Walter Scott, makes "love be still the lord of all," nevertheless, the bird vies with man in illustrating that law of nature. At Newburgh Park, the seat of Sir George Wombwell, there were three partridges confined in an aviary, when one morning during the present spring, on the gamekeeper going to visit them, there were four birds instead of three, a wild male having forced himself into captivity heart and wing, and paired with a winning fair. The curious part of it is, that on the closest inspection, the keeper cannot find out by what window, crank, or crevice the lover made his way; while the willing captive, at the same time, betrays no desire to return to his native wilds, but takes his food and attends his fair as if the aviary really was to him, in such society, the height of his ambition.—GRANTLEY F. BERKELEY.

ARRIVAL OF MIGRATORY BIRDS.—In this neighbourhood I saw the first swallow on the 5th of April, but did not see any more till the 10th; heard and saw several chiff-chaffs on the 17th; heard the white-throat and cuckoo on the 22nd, and the nightingale singing on the 23rd.—B. P. BRENT (Dallington, Sussex).—P.S. On the 27th we had a heavy fall of snow all day, which laid on the ground during the afternoon, and it froze during the night.

— Having seen mention made of the arrival of the nightingale on the 23rd ult., allow me to state that it has come to my knowledge that about a dozen were captured by birdcatchers from the 16th to the 20th. A fact, not perhaps generally known, respecting the arrival of migratory birds, and especially nightingales, may be worth mention—namely, that the male birds precede the females by about a week; and birdcatchers make use of their knowledge of this fact to capture all the nightingales they can on the first week of their arrival, as these birds almost invariably prove to be cocks. After that time it is scarcely worth their while to go out to catch them, as there are no means (unless they hear them sing) of distinguishing with any degree of certainty which are males, and the hen-birds are quite useless to them.—W. D. HIPKINS.

MISSEL-THRUSH BREEDING IN SCOTLAND.—This bird's breeding in Scotland is surely as rare an occurrence as the fieldfare's doing so?—EBORACUM.—[We think not. Mr M'Gillivray, at page 123 of the Second Volume of his "History of British Birds," gives a most graphic account of a pair feeding their young within sight of a drawing-room window. This account is for the purpose of showing the habits of the bird while nesting, and is well worth perusal. No mention is made of its being an uncommon occurrence. At page 121 Mr M'Gillivray also mentions the "great havoc" committed by the missel-thrushes "among the gooseberries at Selkirk"—a circumstance that proves the bird is a summer resident, and therefore breeds in that vicinity. Indeed, the nesting, nest, and eggs are described by this intelligent author without the slightest allusion to rarity. On the subject of the fieldfare's breeding in Scotland Mr M'Gillivray says: "Several instances have been mentioned of the fieldfare's breeding in Scotland. . . . Perhaps the missel-thrush may have been mistaken for it, as happened to a person who two years ago brought me the eggs of the missel-thrush for those of the fieldfare." Again, in another place, the same author says of the fieldfare: "As this species does not nestle with us, I am unable to describe the nest, eggs, or young in the first plumage." We think these extracts from the highest authority on the subject quite sufficient to establish the fact that the fieldfare is not known to breed in Scotland, while the missel-thrush commonly does so.—ED.]

THE OTTER, THE WATER-RAT, THE LAMPERN, AND MOORHEN.—In a former FIELD I mentioned the myth-like presence of an otter on my river, and that I had had him in a trap, from which he escaped. Ever since that time the beast has been upon my fishery, here, there, and everywhere; and when I discover his last haunt, I with the greatest caution put down my traps beneath the water, but he never comes there again. I have waded to the places, and punted and boated to the places, and gone to them by land; but no caution that I have as yet adopted will bring my game to bag. By the last moon, with every precaution as to the wind, my keeper, gun in hand, was on the watch, but still without the wished-for result. All sorts of things militate against success. At one time a fall in the water exposes my traps; at another a rise puts them too deep; at others, moorhens, house and water-rats, get caught; and on Friday night a curious circumstance ensued. I use three strong rabbit-traps, chained together, the chain to which they are all attached ending in a heavy iron drag, which lies deep in the bottom of the river. In *one* of these traps, and *coming on the trap from different directions*, were simultaneously caught a lampern and a water-rat. The water-rat came from the tail of the trap, and was caught by the right fore root; the fish from the opposite direction, and was caught fast by the neck, close down at the springs of the trap, and killed and held in the attitude of swimming. A third party then came on the scene, and devoured the head and shoulders of the rat; and this party I suspect to have been a stoat. The occurrence took place upon an island. On the following night, on the opposite bank of the river, in two out of three more traps, were a house-rat and a moorhen; the latter was alive.—GRANTLEY F. BERKELEY.

ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES FROM CAITHNESS.—Although it has been remarked that of late years the quail (*Perdix coturnix*), one of the most spirited and interesting of game birds, has been getting rarer in the midland and northern counties of England, it is undoubtedly extending its migratory range in Scotland. Its occurrence in Aberdeenshire and in counties farther south has been recorded many years since; and Mr St. John, in addition to stating that he had known of specimens having been procured in Morayshire, mentions having shot a couple on the Ross-shire side of the Moray Firth. Further north, the Rev. F. O. Morris states that it appears occasionally near Dunrobin, the princely seat of his Grace of Sutherland. Dr. Sinclair, of Wick, who has formed an interesting museum of Caithness birds, includes it in his list, published in 1840. Last year, how

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