simplicibus; columellâ plicis quinque instructâ; labro intus sulcato, margine crenulato.

Hab. Eastern Seas.

Somewhat like *M. incisa*, but of very different form and colour.

50. MITRA PUSILLA, A. Adams. *M. testâ ovato-fusiformi; spirâ turrâ, elongatâ; anfractibus subrotundatis; albidâ, fasciâ latâ transversâ, carneâ, anticè ornatâ; longitudinaliter costatâ, costis regularibus, æqualibus, subconfertis, interstitiis transversim valdè sulcatis; aperturâ brevi; columellâ plicis quatuor.*

Hab. —?

A small species, with a single, transverse, faint pink band at the fore part of the last whorl.

51. MITRA COLUMBELLINA, A. Adams. *M. testâ ovato-fusiformi; spirâ brevi, acutâ; anfractibus subrotundatis, albo castaneoque concinnè pictâ, transversim evanidè sulcatâ; aperturâ ovato-oblongâ, anticè dilatâ; columellâ plicis quatuor; labro intus lævi.*

Hab. —?

This species is very prettily painted with white and dark chestnut-brown, and in form somewhat resembles a *Columbella*.

52. MITRA PHILIPPINARUM, A. Adams. *M. testâ ovato-fusiformi; spirâ brevi, acuminatâ; anfractibus planulatis, cinerâ, flammulis rufo-fuscis, longitudinalibus, variegatâ; transversim sulcatâ, sulcis regularibus, subdistantibus, profundis; aperturâ lineari-oblongâ, intus fuscâ; columellâ plicis sex; labro margine albo, crenato.*

Hab. Philippines.

This species is figured in Mr. Reeve's Monograph as *M. flammea* of Quoy, the original type of which, however, Mr. Cuming possesses, and it is entirely different.

May 27, 1851.

W. Yarrell, Esq., V.P.L.S., in the Chair.

The following communications were received and read:—

1. NOTICE OF THE BIRDS OF MADEIRA, IN A LETTER
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY.
BY EDWARD VERNON HARCOURT, ESQ.

SIR,—According to your request, I send you a short account of the birds that breed in Madeira, together with a list of those that visit the island.

The birds of Madeira are less numerous than might be expected in so genial a climate, and most of them are merely varieties, where they differ from European species.

The birds that breed in Madeira are these :—

<i>Latin Name.</i>	<i>English Name.</i>	<i>Portuguese Name.</i>
1. <i>Falco Tinnunculus</i> , Linn.	Kestrel.	Francelho.
2. — <i>Buteo</i> , Linn.	Buzzard.	Manta.
3. <i>Strix flammea</i> , Linn.	Barn Owl.	Coruja.
4. <i>Turdus Merula</i> , Linn.	Blackbird.	Mérlo-preto.
5. <i>Sylvia Rubecula</i> , Lath.	Redbreast.	Papinho.
6. — <i>atricapilla</i> , Lath.	Black-cap Warbler.	Tinto-Negro.
(<i>Curruca Heinekeni</i> , Jard.)	Variety of the former.	Tinto-Negro de Capello.
7. <i>Curruca conspicillata</i> , Gould.	Spectacle Warbler.	None.
8. <i>Regulus</i> — ?	— ?	Abibe.
9. <i>Motacilla boarula</i> , Linn.	Grey Wagtail.	Lavandeira amarella.
10. <i>Anthus pratensis</i> , Bechst.	Meadow Pipit.	Corre de Caminho.
11. <i>Fringilla butyracea</i> , Linn.	Green or Wild Canary.	Canario.
12. — <i>Carduelis</i> , Linn.	Goldfinch.	Pinta Silva.
13. — <i>Petronia</i> , Linn.	Ring Sparrow.	Pardao.
14. — <i>Tintillon</i> , Webb & Berthelot.	Buff-breasted Chaffinch.	Tentilhao.
15. — <i>cannabina</i> , Linn.	Greater Redpole or Linnet.	Tinto roxo.
16. <i>Cypselus unicolor</i> , Jard.	Lesser Swift.	Andorinha da Serra.
17. — <i>murarius</i> , Temm.	Common Swift.	— do Mar.
18. <i>Columba Trocaz</i> , Hein.	Long-toed Wood-Pigeon.	Trocaz.
19. — <i>Palumbus</i> , Linn.	Ring-dove.	Pombo.
20. — <i>Livia</i> , Briss.	Rock-pigeon.	Pombinho.
21. <i>Perdix rubra</i> , Briss.	Red-legged Partridge.	Perdix.
22. — <i>Coturnix</i> , Lath.	Quail.	Cordonez.
23. <i>Scolopax Rusticola</i> , Linn.	Woodcock.	Gallinhola.
24. <i>Sterna Hirundo</i> , Linn.	Tern.	Garajao.
25. <i>Larus argentatus</i> , Brunn.	Herring Gull.	Gaio, Guivata (after 3rd aut. moult).
26. <i>Procellaria Puffinus</i> , Linn.	Cinereous Shearwater.	Cagarra.
27. — <i>Anglorum</i> , Temm.	Manks Shearwater.	Boeiro.
28. — <i>obscura</i> , Gmel.	Dusky Petrel.	Pintainho.
29. { — <i>anginho</i> , Hein.	Angel Petrel.	Anginho.
{ — <i>Bulwerii</i> , Jard.	Bulwer's Petrel.	
30. — ?	— ?	Roque de Castro.

The Kestrels are very numerous and very tame, perching on the roofs of houses, from whence they dart frequently at canary-birds hanging in their reed cages outside the windows, and they generally succeed in securing their prey ; they live principally on lizards, grasshoppers, and mice.

The Buzzard is seldom seen about the town, but confines his flights to the highest mountains, feeding on small birds, insects, and reptiles.

The Barn Owl inhabits the ravines in small numbers ; it is a little darker than the British Owl. It may be remarked that all the birds of Madeira are darker than their European brethren.

The Redbreast is very common ; it is frequently caged, and seems to flourish in captivity.

The Blackbird, which in some parts is very plentiful, does not differ from the English bird.

The Black-cap Warbler, which is here the most domestic songster, has been sometimes called the Madeira Nightingale; there is a fullness in its warble which in a degree justifies such praise. A Madeiran variety of this bird has been described by Sir William Jardine* as a new species, under the name of *Curruca Heinekeni*; Dr. Heineken, however, in his paper on the subject in the 'Zoological Journal,' No. xvii. Art. xvii., disproves the supposition of its being a distinct species, and I am able to confirm the view that Dr. Heineken takes of it. The popular belief amongst the natives is, that where the nest of a "Tinto Negro" contains five eggs, the fifth always turns out a "Tinto Negro de Capello." The variety is much prized; for where you could buy a common "Tinto Negro" for sixpence or a shilling, you would be asked eight or ten shillings for a "Tinto Negro de Capello." The size of the two birds is precisely the same in all particulars; the chief difference consists in the black cap in the variety being extended to the shoulders, and I have sometimes seen the black extended over all the under parts: the under parts are generally much the same as those of the common female Black-cap, and the upper parts as those of the common male.

The Wren is one of the prettiest feathered inhabitants of Madeira; it lives amongst the laurel forests, in the less frequented parts of the island. It seems intermediate between the Gold and Fire-crested Wrens of Britain, and is a little larger and brighter than either.

The Spectacle Warbler is very locally distributed; it is found in brakes and bushes in some of the unfrequented parts.

The Grey Wagtail is very common, frequenting the cisterns attached to houses, as well as the streams; where, from its familiar habits amongst the washerwomen, it has been admitted in Madeiran phraseology into the ranks of the sisterhood, under the title of "Lavandeira."

The Meadow Pipit is plentifully found on the cliffs and fields near the sea, and on the serras.

The Green Canary is the original stock of the bird so well known to us as the Yellow Canary; it flies about in large flocks, with linnets and other birds, and is easily distinguished by its song, which is the same as that of the captive variety. The price of a good singing canary, either in Madeira or the Canary islands, varies from five to nine shillings, so that in fact it may be bought much cheaper in London. This bird has been admirably described by Dr. Heineken, in the 'Zoological Journal,' No. xvii. Art. xvii.

The Goldfinch is very common, and differs in no respect from our own.

The Ring Sparrow here takes the place, in a way, of our House Sparrow: it is universal; on the bleak serras, near houses, on the rocks by the sea; there is no place that it does not frequent. It differs thus in habits, though in nothing else, from the Ring Sparrow of Europe.

* Edinb. Journ. of Nat. and Geog. Science, Jan. 1830, vol. i. p. 243.

The Chaffinch of Madeira is nearly identical with the bird figured, under the name of "*Fringilla Tintillon*," in Webb and Berthelot's work on the Canary islands.

The Greater Redpole is very abundantly met with ; it differs from the English Linnet in retaining its carmine colouring through the year.

The Lesser Swift is mentioned in Brewster's 'Journal,' by Dr. Heineken, under the title of "Black-chinned Swift." This property is however by no means general amongst the species : I have several in my possession with the chin fully as white as that of the common Swift. One of the chief differences is in size, the '*unicolor*' being much the smallest. The tail is forked about an inch and a half, and the plumage is rather darker than that of the common Swift.

The common Swift is not quite so plentiful as the Lesser Swift. Both species remain in the island throughout the year ; their nests are built in the cliffs ; their habits vary from those of Swifts in England ; here they seem to take the place of the Swallow, hunting and skimming along the ground in a manner that would appear very degrading to their northern brethren.

The Ring-dove appears to be rather larger than the English bird ; in other respects it is similar. It lives in the forests on the north side of the island.

The Long-toed Wood Pigeon has been described by Dr. Heineken, in 'Brewster's Journal,' under the name of "*Columba Trocaz* ;" it is about an inch longer than the Madeiran Ring-dove ; one of its chief peculiarities, and which seems to have escaped observation, is the great length of its centre toe, being more than an inch longer than that of the Ring-dove ; it has a silvery ring all round its neck ; it is darker in its general plumage than the Ring-dove, and is excellent eating. It inhabits the forests on the north side of the island, feeding upon grasses and the acorns of the laurel-trees.

The Rock Pigeon inhabits the sea cliffs, and rocks in the ravines all over the island. There is a variety here which is darker in its plumage and in the colour of its feet than the common Rock Pigeon.

The Red-legged Partridge is shot on the serras.

The Quail is more plentiful than the Partridge, and approaches nearer to the habitations of man ; it pairs, laying about sixteen eggs, and has three or four broods in the season.

The Woodcock is found chiefly in the west, and on the Paul da Serra, sometimes plentifully. It is a large bird, but I think of inferior flavour ; it breeds in the island, and is met with throughout the year.

The Tern appears chiefly at the Dezerta islands and at Point São Lourenço.

The Herring Gull is common everywhere ; Dr. Renton says it is quicker by some months in obtaining its mature plumage than with us.

The Cinereous Shearwater breeds plentifully on the Dezerta islands ; its cry, whether on the wing or on shore, is very remarkable ; the natives salt it and consider it eatable.

The Manks Shearwater is also very plentiful at the Dezertas ; it is

easily distinguished from the Dusky Petrel, which is another inhabitant of the Dezertas, by its superior size, and by the colour of its feet. In the Dusky Petrel the feet are bluish ash-colour, and in the Manks Shearwater flesh-colour; in the Dusky Petrel all the secretions are green, and in the Manks Shearwater yellow. The Dusky Petrel is a very tame bird, and will live upon almost anything; it runs along the ground on its belly, and uses its curious-shaped bill in climbing up the rocks.

The Angel Petrel of Heineken has the tail slightly forked, and differs from the other smaller Petrels in having no white about the rump or flanks; it is entirely uniform black; it is very common on the Dezerta islands; when approached it emits a highly offensive matter.

The Bulwer's Petrel, as described by Sir Wm. Jardine †, I never saw at Madeira, nor have I ever met with any one that has seen it there. Sir Wm. Jardine says, "it is easily distinguished from any other, by having the two centre tail-feathers elongated, as in the genus *Lestris*, and not even or forked, like the other Petrels." It is probably identical with the Angel Petrel.

There is another Petrel, called by the natives "Roque de Castro," pronounced "Roque de Crasto," which differs from any I have ever seen described; it approaches perhaps nearer to Leach's Petrel than any other, though the shape of the bill alone is sufficient to separate it from that species. It is common on the Dezerta islands, where it breeds, though it is by no means so abundant as the Angel Petrel.

The following is a list of the stragglers found in Madeira:—

<i>Latin Name.</i>	<i>English Name.</i>	<i>Authority ‡.</i>
31. <i>Cathartes perenopterus</i> , <i>Temm.</i>	Egyptian Vulture.	* * *
32. <i>Falco nisus</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	Sparrow Hawk.	* * *
33. <i>Corvus corax</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	Raven.	* * *
34. — <i>corone</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	Carrion Crow.	Mr. Lowe.
35. <i>Oriolus galbula</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	Golden Oriole.	* * *
36. <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	Common Starling.	* * *
37. <i>Turdus iliacus</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	Redwing.	Mr. Lowe.
38. — <i>musicus</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	Common Thrush.	Mr. Penfold.
39. <i>Sylvia hortensis</i> , <i>Lath.</i>	Greater Petty-chaps.	Mr. Penfold.
40. <i>Troglodytes europæus</i> , <i>Selb.</i>	Common Wren.	Mr. Lowe.
41. <i>Motacilla alba</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	Pied Wagtail.	* * *
42. <i>Alauda arvensis</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	Skylark.	Mr. Lowe.
43. <i>Fringilla chloris</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	Green Grosbeak.	* * *
44. — <i>domestica</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	Common Sparrow.	Mr. Penfold.
45. <i>Cuculus canorus</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	Cuckoo.	* * *
46. <i>Musophaga africana</i> , <i>Temm.</i>	African Bee-eater.	Mr. Lowe.
47. <i>Upupa epops</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	Hoopoe.	* * *
48. <i>Merops apiaster</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	Bee-eater.	Mr. Lowe.
49. <i>Alcedo ispida</i> , <i>Linn.</i>	King-fisher.	Mr. Lowe.

† Sir W. Jardine on the Birds of Madeira, 'Edinb. Journ. of Nat. and Geog. Science,' Jan. 1830, p. 245, and 'Illustrations of Ornithology,' by Jardine and Selby.

‡ Where there are stars it is on my own authority.

<i>Latin Name.</i>	<i>English Name.</i>	<i>Authority†.</i>
50. <i>Hirundo urbica</i> , Linn.	House Martin.	* * *
51. — <i>rustica</i> , Linn.	Chimney Swallow.	* * *
52. — <i>riparia</i> , Linn.	Bank Martin.	Doubtful.
53. <i>Caprimulgus europæus</i> , Linn.	European Goatsucker.	Mr. Hinton.
54. <i>Columba cenas</i> , Linn.	Stock-dove.	Mr. Lowe.
55. — <i>Turtur</i> , Linn.	Turtle-dove.	* * *
56. <i>Œdicnemus crepitans</i> , Temm.	Thick-knee.	Mr. Lowe.
57. <i>Calidris arenaria</i> , Ill.	Sanderling.	Mr. Lowe.
58. <i>Vanellus cristatus</i> , Meyer.	Crested Lapwing.	* * *
59. <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> , Linn.	Ringed Plover.	Mr. Lowe.
60. — <i>pluvialis</i> .	Golden Plover.	Mr. Hewitt.
61. <i>Streptilas interpres</i> , Leach.	Turnstone.	Mr. Lowe.
62. <i>Ciconia nigra</i> , Temm.	Black Stork.	Mr. Lowe.
63. ? <i>Ardea cinerea</i> .	Common Heron.	* * *
64. <i>Ardea russata</i> , Wagler.	Buff-backed Heron.	* * *
65. — <i>purpurea</i> , Linn.	Purple Heron.	* * *
66. — <i>minuta</i> , Linn.	Little Bittern.	* * *
67. — <i>stellaris</i> , Linn.	Common Bittern.	Mr. Lowe.
68. — <i>nycticorax</i> , Linn.	Night Heron.	* * *
69. <i>Limosa melanura</i> , Leisler.	Black-tailed Godwit.	* * *
70. <i>Numenius arquata</i> , Lath.	Common Curlew.	Mr. Hinton.
71. — <i>phæopus</i> , Temm.	Whimbrel.	Mr. Lowe.
72. <i>Tringa pugnax</i> , Linn.	Ruff.	* * *
73. — <i>subarquata</i> , Temm.	Pigmy Curlew.	Mr. Lowe.
74. — <i>variabilis</i> , Meyer.	Dunlin.	* * *
75. — <i>cinerea</i> , Temm.	Knot.	Mr. Lowe.
76. <i>Totanus hypoleucos</i> .	Sandpiper.	* * *
77. — <i>glottis</i> , Bechst.	Greenshank.	* * *
78. <i>Scolopax gallinago</i> , Linn.	Common Snipe.	Mr. Hinton.
79. — <i>major</i> , Temm.	Great Snipe.	* * *
80. <i>Crex Baillonii</i> , Temm.	Baillon's Crake.	* * *
81. <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> , Lath.	Gallinule.	* * *
82. <i>Ortygometra crex</i> , Temm.	Land-rail.	Mr. Lowe.
83. <i>Fulica atra</i> , Linn.	Coot.	* * *
84. <i>Anser segetum</i> , Steph.	Bean Goose.	* * *
85. <i>Mareca penelope</i> , Selb.	Wigeon.	Mr. Penfold.
86. <i>Anas crecca</i> , Linn.	Teal.	* * *
87. — <i>boschas</i> , Linn.	Mallard.	Mr. Penfold.
88. <i>Sterna nigra</i> , Linn.	Black Tern.	Mr. Lowe.
89. — <i>Dougallii</i> , Mont.	Roseate Tern.	Sir W. Jardine.
90. <i>Larus tridactylus</i> , Lath.	Kittiwake.	* * *
91. <i>Lestris cataractes</i> , Temm.	Skua.	* * *
92. <i>Colymbus glacialis</i> , Linn.	Northern Diver.	* * *
93. <i>Sula alba</i> , Temm.	Gannet.	Mr. Lowe.
94. <i>Procellaria Leachii</i> , Temm.	Leach's Petrel.	Sir W. Jardine.
95. — <i>pelagica</i> , Linn.	Stormy Petrel.	Doubtful.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

EDWARD VERNON HARCOURT.

† Where there are stars it is on my own authority.