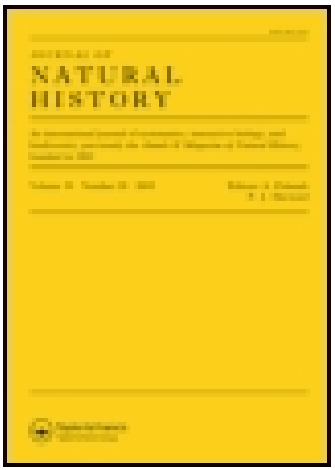

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XXXI.—Note on Anthracosaurus

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The latter animal is easily known from Dr. J. R. Forster's description and figures.

Phoca nigra, Pallas (Zoog. Rosso-Asiatica; Fischer, Synops. p. 242; Rees, Cyclopædia, *Phoca*), from the Caribbee Islands, is most likely the young of some north-west species of the family.

I cannot agree with Dr. Murie (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1869, p. 108) in regarding *Otaria Philippii* as the same as *O. Hookeri*, but consider it a distinct genus.

XXXI.—*Note on* Anthracosaurus. By Albany Hancock, F.L.S., and Thos. Atthey.

In the following brief remarks we wish to supply a note to our paper on *Anthracosaurus* and *Urocordylus*, published in the September Number of the 'Annals.' In that paper we described a large portion of the skull of *Anthracosaurus* and a portion of a mandible belonging also to the same Labyrinthodont. We spoke likewise of the occurrence of a central sternal plate, ribs, and vertebræ which we thought belonged to that Amphibian. We are now in a position to show that another considerable fragment of a skull of this interesting Labyrinthodont has occurred in the same locality, the true nature of which fossil, however, has been misunderstood.

In the 'Annals,' some months ago, Mr. T. P. Barkas described what he considered to be a malar bone as large as that of a full-grown crocodile. Having obtained some authentic information respecting this enigmatical bone, we are not surprised to find that it has no resemblance whatever to a reptilian malar, and that it is, in fact, composed of several of the upper cranial bones of the Labyrinthodont alluded to.

Mr. William Dinning, a clever young palæontologist, was allowed by the owner of the fossil in question to make a drawing of it; and he has kindly permitted us to refer to his figure, which represents the specimen of the natural size, and has all the appearance of great accuracy. With the aid of this drawing and the original incomplete description in the 'Annals' there is no difficulty in determining the real nature of this so-called malar. That it is the upper portion of the cranium of a Labyrinthodont, there can be no doubt; neither can there be any doubt that it consists of the two frontals (which are quite distinctly displayed), the parietals, and the greater portion of the supraoccipitals.

We have recently had an opportunity of examining a perfect cranium of a large Labyrinthodont resembling *Loxomma*.

In this specimen the contour of the combined frontals, parietals, and supraoccipitals resembles the general contour of the bones composing the so-called malar in the most remarkable manner; only in this fine cranium they are altogether more elongated in proportion to their width than they are in it; and, besides, in the former the outer margins of the frontals are parallel, or nearly so, while in the so-called malar the frontals considerably widen anteriorly. Now in *Anthracosaurus* this is precisely the case; and though in our specimen of this Labyrinthodont, described in the paper before referred to, the frontals are a little larger than those of the so-called malar, they agree with them exactly in form and proportion. This is sufficiently evident, notwithstanding that they are not quite perfect. Moreover the surface-sculpture of the bone in *Anthracosaurus* is very similar to that represented in Mr. Dinning's drawing; and, indeed, Mr. Dinning says that the surface-sculpture in the two is exactly the same.

We can therefore have little difficulty in concluding that this so-called reptilian malar is really a considerable portion of the upper central bones of the cranium of *Anthracosaurus*. It was found in the same locality that supplied our specimen of this Labyrinthodont, and not very long before it occurred.

XXXII.—*Description of* Ceryle Sharpii, *a new Kingfisher from the Gaboon.* By JOHN GOULD, F.R.S.

I HAVE long had in my collection a specimen of this Kingfisher, which is closely allied to the well-known *Ceryle maxima*, but presents certain striking points of difference. In the first place, it is somewhat smaller, and has the crest almost unspotted and the back entirely so. The principal difference, however, is in the colouring of the abdomen. In *Ceryle maxima* this is white, with a few bars of slaty black on the flanks, while the under tail-coverts are pure white; but in the new species the abdomen and under tail-coverts are slaty black profusely banded with white. Again, the under wing-coverts are thickly banded with black bars, whereas in *C. maxima* they are pure white.

I think there can be no doubt as to the distinctness of the present species, which I propose to call *Ceryle Sharpii*, in honour of Mr. Sharpe, who is now engaged on a monograph of this fine group of birds.