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LVIII.—On the bower-birds of Australia, with the description of a new species

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Figs. 5 A-5 D. Transverse sections of the same specimen, showing the arrangement of the septa at different stages of growth.

Figs. 6-6 c. Transverse section of *Zaphrentis patula*, Mich., at different points, showing the dissepiments, secondary septa, and mode of formation of the fossula.

Fig. 7. Transverse section of *Zaphrentis Guérangeri*, E. & H., showing how the fossula is formed by the folding and coalescence of a certain number of the septa; 7 A, longitudinal section of the same, showing the arrangement of the tabulæ.

[To be continued.]

LVIII.—*On the Bower-birds of Australia, with the Description of a new Species.* By JOHN GOULD, F.R.S.

OF all the acts performed by birds, that of building themselves beautiful bowers, variously decorated with shells, bleached bones, glittering stones, and gaudily coloured feathers, must ever be ranked amongst the most interesting traits in connexion with ornithology. At present the only known country in which these playing-places or halls of assembly are constructed is Australia. Whoever may have the good fortune to lift up the curtain which separates New Guinea from other countries, may probably find others.

Chlamydodera occipitalis, n. sp.

In size a trifle larger than *C. maculata*, and in its general aspect and spotted upper surface very similar; and, like that, the present new bird has the usual occipital mark of lilac feathers, except that it is twice as large and more beautiful in colour, especially when seen from beneath. I have for many years had two females in my collection, which differ from the females of *C. nuchalis*, so common on the river-banks of Mokai Guyder and other parts of the interior of New South Wales; but it is only lately that I have received the male. That I ought to be an authority on the different species of the Bower-birds is evidenced by my having lived among them, studied their habits, and given double-sized plates of the bowers of two of the species in my folio edition; but never in all my encounters with the *Chlamydodera maculata* (and they were many) have I seen any thing like the bird under consideration. In giving North Queensland as the habitat of this species, it must be taken in a general sense; for the precise locality is unknown to me; and I await fresh information with interest and anxiety.