

ZOOLOGICAL.—April 8.—Dr. J. E. Gray, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. A. Newton exhibited a variety of the common Greenfinch (*Fringilla chloris*), upon which he was of opinion that the *Fringilla incerta* of Risso (an alleged species, which had caused much perplexity to naturalists) had been founded.—The Secretary announced the acquisition by the Society for their menagerie of a pair of living Paradise Birds (*Paradisea Papuana*).—Mr. A. R. Wallace, the well-known traveller and naturalist, who had been engaged these last eight years in exploring the less known islands of the Indian Archipelago, had for some time held a commission to obtain living Birds of Paradise for the Society. But though Mr. Wallace had visited in person the islands inhabited by several species of this magnificent group of birds, he had failed in his efforts to preserve these birds alive when captured, and had given up all hopes of being successful in his object. A short time before Christmas, 1861, when in the interior of Sumatra, Mr. Wallace had received information of two specimens of the lesser Bird of Paradise (*Paradisea Papuana*) being alive in captivity at Singapore. Mr. Wallace immediately proceeded to that place, purchased the birds, which were then in the hands of a European merchant, and left by the following mail for England, arriving safely in London with his valuable burden on the 1st of this month. The two Paradise Birds had been lodged in the upper part of the Zoological Society's old museum, a room having been fitted up for their reception with a large cage of galvanized wire twenty feet long by eleven in width. As they were both males it had been found necessary to keep them apart; the sight of one another, or even of a Paradise Bird's plume waved near them in the air, producing in them great excitement. The cage had been therefore divided by a screen which excluded the light, and the two birds placed in the separate compartments. The remarkable side-plumes which ornament the males of the true *Paradisæ* when in full-dress, were as yet but partially developed in these specimens; but in a few weeks, if the birds continue to thrive, would probably attain their full dimensions.—Mr. J. Y. Johnson communicated some observations on a specimen of *Alepisaurus ferox* recently obtained at Madeira, in which he upheld Dr. Günther's views as to the correct place of this singular fish being with the Siluroids.—Mr. A. Murray pointed out the characters of a new Crocodile from the Old Calabar River, West Africa, for which he proposed the name *Crocodylus frontatus*, as indicative of the large size of the forehead in this species.—Mr. Gould exhibited and pointed out the characters of the following new species of birds from his own collection: *Anser serrirostris* from China, *Prion magnirostris* from the South Pacific, *Tregilus Himalayanus* from the Himalayas, *Heliothrix longirostris* and *Aphantochroa hyposticta* from Ecuador.—Dr. Cobbold made some remarks on the skull of *Lepidosiren annectens*, with a view to the more correct determination of the true nature of the different cranial elements in this singular vertebrate.