

A BESTIARY of LOCHAC.

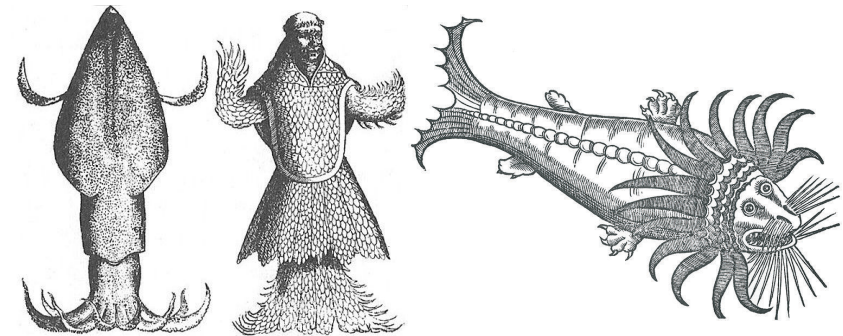
*THE HISTORIE of Certain Beasts of the Lands of
Lochac couering the territories of the Crescent Isles Describing
at Large Their True & Liuely Figure, their Seuerall Natures,
Conditions, Kinds, Virtues (both Natural and Medicinal),
their Loue & Hatred to Mankind, Interwouen with a curious
variety of Historical Narrations out of Papers, Philosophers,
Physicians & Poets.*



Lochac ex Officina typographica: *katherine kerr.*
At the Hermitage, Anno Soc. X. L. V.

De Pisces et al

them known vnto manie, I let it passe at this time. Of the legged kind we haue not many, neither haue I seen any more of this sort than the lobster, crayfish and the crab. As for the little crayfishes, they are not taken in the sea, but plentifully in our fresh riuers in banks, and vnder stones, where they keep themselues in most secret manner, and oft, by likenesse of colour with the stones among which they lie, deceiue euen the skilful takers of them except they vse great diligence. Carolus Stephanus doubted whether these lobsters be fishes; and concludeth them to grow of the purgation of the water, as doth the frogge. As touching the shelly sort, we haue plenty of oysters; whose value in old time for their sweetnesse was not vnknown in Rome, and these we haue in like manner of diuers quantities whereon the most famed is that of Bluff which sets forth an oyster festiualle when the season for eating such arriues. And there is no lesse variety also of our mussels and cockles. We haue in like sort no small store of great whelks, scallops, and periwinkles, and each of them brought far into the land from the sea coast in their seuerall seasons.



SQUID & MONKFISHHE.

THE WHALE.

And thus much of the beasts of lande & sea, as one in manner vtterly vnacquainted with their diuersitie of kinds, yet so much haue I yielded to doe, hoping hereafter to say somewhat more, and more orderly of them, if it shall please God that I may liue and haue leifure once again to peruse this treatise and so make vp a perfect piece of work of that which, as you now see, is very slenderly attempted and begunne.

FINIS.

OF FISHES & SEA CREATVRES:

A smalle parte of those which
are found in oure waters.

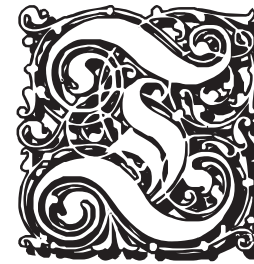
I might finallie speak of fishes and other beastes founde in the waters that washe the Crescaunt Illes. For mine own parte, I am not greatlie acquainted with fish itself: and therefore, if I should take vponne me to describe or speake of manie of them absolutely, I should enterprife more than I am able to performe, and go in hande with a greater matter than I can well bring about.

Of fishes, I find v ferts: the flat, the round, the long, the legged, and shelled. The flat are diuided into the smooth, sealed, and tailed. Of the first are the plaice, the turbot or sea flounder, Iohn doree, dab, etc. Of the second the soles and shark, whereof the greater be for the most part either dried and carried into other countries, or sodden, soufed, and eaten here at home, whilst the lesser be fried or buttered soon after they be taken, as prouision not to be kept long for fear of putrefaction. Vnder the round kinds are commonly comprehended whitebait (a straunge colourlesse fish much saughte as it hath a very delicate in eating if it be kindly dressed), the sea bream, hake, gurnard, roughies, cod, herring, pilchard, sprat, and such like. And these are they whereof I haue best knowledge, and are commonlie to be had in their times vpon our coasts. Vnder this kind also are all the great fish contained, as the seal, the dolphin, the porpoise, the whale, and whatsoever is round of body, be it neuer so greate and huge. Of the longe fort are congers, eels, garefish, and such other of that form. And the squid who resembles a monk. It is sayd that in fenny riuers' sides, if you cut a turf, and laie it with the grasse downwards vpon the earth in such fort as the water maie touch it as it passeth bye, you shall haue a brood of eels. It would seem a wonder; and yet it is believed with no lesse assurance by some, than that a horse hair laid in a pail full of the like water will in a short time stir and become a liuing creature. But sith the certainty of these things is rather proued by fewe than the certaintie of

GREAT KINGS & PRYNCES,

DVKS & COVNTES, KNIGHTES & BVRGESSES.

And People of all degrees who desire to gain knowledge
of the diuersities of the fundrie
regions of the Worlde.



ake this work and cause it to be read to you. For ye shall find therein a small sampling of the manie beastes that are to be found in the landes of Lochac drawne from among the manie and varied fauna found throughout the demesne of the Crescent Illes, according to the description of Mistresse Katherine Kerr, a wife and noble citizen of the Crescent Illes, who has trauelled to those partes and seen such beasts with her own eyes. And of some knowledge therein which she beheld was nathlesse learned from menne of credit and veracitie and much in the way of beaustly obseruation. And we shall set down things seen as seen, and things heard as heard only, so that no iot of falsehood may mar the truth of this Booke, and that alle who shall read it or hear it read may put full fayth in the truth of all that it containys.

For lette me tell you that since our Lord God did mould with his hands our first Father Adam, euen vntil this day, neuer hath there been Christian, or Pagan, or Tartar, or Indian, or any man of any nation, who in his own person hath had so much knowledge and experience of the diuers parts of this part of the Known World and its Wonders as hath hadde this Mistresse Katherine. And for that reason it would be a very great pitie did she not cause to be put in wryting all the great maruels that she hath seen, or on sure information heard of, so that other people who had notte these aduantages might, by this Book, get such knoweledge. And I may tell you that in acquiring this knoweledge she spent in those various parts of the Known Worlde a goodly space of tyme, and has consulted many wise teachers and much in the way of bookes and tomes and rolls that dwell vpon the beausts of the lande with this holding but a small taste of that which in time shall form the basis of a Magnum Opus.

OF UNIQUE QUADRUPEDS:

Of which are saide to bee founde in the
Crescent Isles onlie and no-where else
within the Kingdome of Lochac.

Tis none of the least blessings wherewith God hath endued these islands that they are void of noysome beasts, as lions, bears, tigers, pards, wolues, and such like, by means whereof our countrymen maie trauell in safetie, and our herds and flocks remaine for the most parte abroad in the field without any herdsman or keeper. This is chieflie spoken of the North and Southe-West parts of the land. For, whereas those who dwelle vpon the northern is-land and those of the West Coast of the South may safely boast of securitie in thys behalf, yet can not those dwelling within the southern area of Canterbury for that there are tayles of a Great Catte which hauntes those partes providing startlement to those who encounter it and much amusement for the news-mongers. And sometime it is sayed that the Great Catte is a panther or a blacke leopard but I belieue that is is an house cat escaped and grown or perhaps those who see it - being men - hath ouer-iudged its syze as they are wont to do manie things. Other pernicious beastes we haue not, except you repute the great plentie of red and fallow deer, and sheep and goats and store of conies amongst the hurtful forte. Which although that of them felues they are not offensive at all, yet alle their great numbers are thought to be very preiudicial, and therefore iustlie reprobued of manie, as are in like sort our huge flocks of sheep, whereon the greatest part of our soil is employed almost in euery place, and yet our mutton, wool, and felles neuer the better cheap. If I should go about to make any long discourse of venymous beastes bred in the Crescaunt Isles, I should attempt more than occasion itself would readily offer, sith we haue no beasts at all, that are thought by their natural qualities to be either venomous or hurtful, bar a verie few shy spiders which may bite, and bees and wasps which styng.

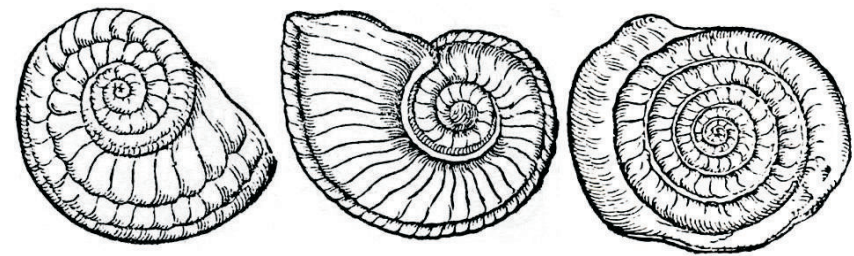
And so thys section deals with merelie those four-footted beastes not well known without our shores.

OF STRAUNGE FOSSILS:

Those which haue a resemblance
to things that liue in the sea.

SERPENTSTONES.

MOST NOTABIL of all fossils to be found within the Crescaunt Isles is the greates stone coil oft tem'd in daies of old serpentstones when common folke thought they were the snakes Saint Patrick froze in casting them from Hibernia. Some to bee seen haue the heads of serpentes but I belieue these are mere caruing made by corrupt men for their owne gain. More properlie they are term'd ammonite for Pliny the Elder tells vs these are *ammonis cornua* or the horns of Ammon the Egyptian god of times past. And truy is the coil like vnto an rams horn an the ouine creature be verie large for the greates serpentstone of the Crescaunt Isles has a beath as wide as a manne is tall and weighs moer than a large bulle.



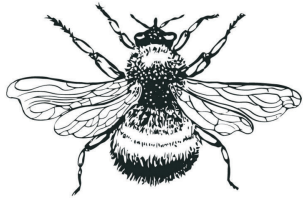
SERPENT STONES.

It is sayed that the giant serpentstone of the Crescaunt Isles was once a lyuing creature when these lands were ioyned with that of the Continent to oure West. No such beaste is to be found in the waters of the Crescaunt Isles in these days saue the Argonaut or nautilus which sails the oceans in a shell coiled like that of an ammonite all though smooth and small.

De Insectes

THE HUMBLE BUMBBLE BEE or BOMBUS.

THE BUMBLE BEE is the biggest of all bees within the Crescent Isles and trauelled far to settle these lands in long tyme past brought by priests to succour those who would grow clouer for the longe tonges of these bees can reach within to make the plant fruitful from one season to the nexte. No such trauail has taken these bees to the Continent though some talke of helping them on their way and others haue taken greate pains to bring them once more to the shores of Englonde.



They construct their dwellings with indefcribable art, and store away honey from a variety of flowers butt vnlykke the fruitfull honey bee that of the humblebee is humble indeed for they make but enough for their owne vse. And their combs are not neate and fix-sided but irregular and ouall within nestes often vnderground from when the name *Bombus subterraneus*. They swarme not. Bees, alone amonge all the kindes of liuing thinges, rayse their offspring communallie, liue in a single dwelling, are endosed within a single homelonde, and share their toyle, their food, their talkes, the produce of their labour and their flight. Bees haue an army and queenes; they fight battels. Onlie the queenes and workers haue a sting but it lies vnused mostlie within the bodie of the beaste and when they strike they die not. The nestes liue for but a yeare and new queens ventur forth in autumn one thyr mother-quene has died and ouer winter liue within the grounde. The bees who do notte comply with the laws of the queene, repent and punish themselues and die by their own sting. It is custom that the Persians are said to preferue todaie: that those who haue committed a crime paye the price by carryng out their own sentence of death.

The Aberdeen wryter faith that to produce them, you beat the flesh of dead calues, so that worms come forth from the putrefying blood; these later become bees. But I haue sene them come forth from the bare grounde in Spring.

De Quadrupedibus

SPINEY LIZZARD.

THE LIZZARD is called a kind of reptile, because it has arms. There are many kinds of lizzards, such as the botrax, the salamander, the saura and the newt. In the Crescent Isles are many lizzards not to be found elsewhere and the oldest of these is the spiny lizzard, whych is thot coz to the terrible lizzards of olde if muche lesser in size than those beastes. Like Methuseleh the spiny lizzard liues to a great age of four score or more, outlasting Mans span on earth and leauing behind hym once a year hys old skin to begin life anew in fresh garb. So should we cast aside our old liues to renew ourselues faieth the spirituallie minded.



DE SPHENODON.

This greate lizzard is armored all ouer, and with fearfome claws. Triangle vanes like those of a crockodil line his spine from the back of his head to the tail and when broke these will grow againe. Some fanne these out to grow larger in size and bryghter in color to amaze any creature who might approach. He is named by the local people for these peaks in its back and they belieue that he is a messenger of death and disafter so that women should not eat of his flesh. He hath greate

De Quadrupedibus

determinacion as he vses his strengthe to lift his belly from the grounde to moue in the way no other lizarde can. His eye is completely tar black. All though he has noe ears he can heare. Like no other lizzard, the spiney lizzard has two rows of teethe within his vpper mouth and one vpon the floor but like many a mans thefe toothes wear awaie in tyme and they must suffice on softer foods. He liues in harmony with seabirds sharing the burrows of those which liue beneath the grounde but he maks a deadly foe to the thorn cricketts that are found in damp places in the Crescent Isles and eats thefe with vigour. And although some call hime a lizzard truly I tell you he is not, bearing a resemblance to his close kin but belonging to a different line of family. But lyke an lizzard he can let loose his tayle if it be taken hard so as to escape capture and then grow it once more.

Eithni reports that this lizzard creeps along with a waddling gait, a fearfome predator of any thing it can fitte into hys mouthe and down his wattl'd throat. For a short time he spots ane toothe vpon his snout to rip apart the parchmaint of his maternal shell and then said tooth is discarded which giues him a Latin name *sphenodon* by which is meant wedge tooth. At that time he has a third eye in the centre of hys hed which vanishes as he comes into growth and ther is muche speculation as to what he sees with this orb whether of this worlde or the next.

HEDGEHOGS.

THE HEDGEHOGGE or vrchin is found acrosse the lande of the Crescent Isles but neuer in the greate Continent that maks vp the reste of the Kingdom of Lochac. She has come from England to makk hyr home here. As Ifidore of Seuille saith, the hedgehog is couer'd with quills which stiffen when it is threatened whereupon she rolls herself into a ball and is thus protected on all sides so as to regain her currage behind her armour. When yong, Lord Dikkon Baskin stepped uponne a hedgehog and required the attention of the chirurgeons to remove sayd quills from his feet.

De Insectes

THE VVALKING VVORM.



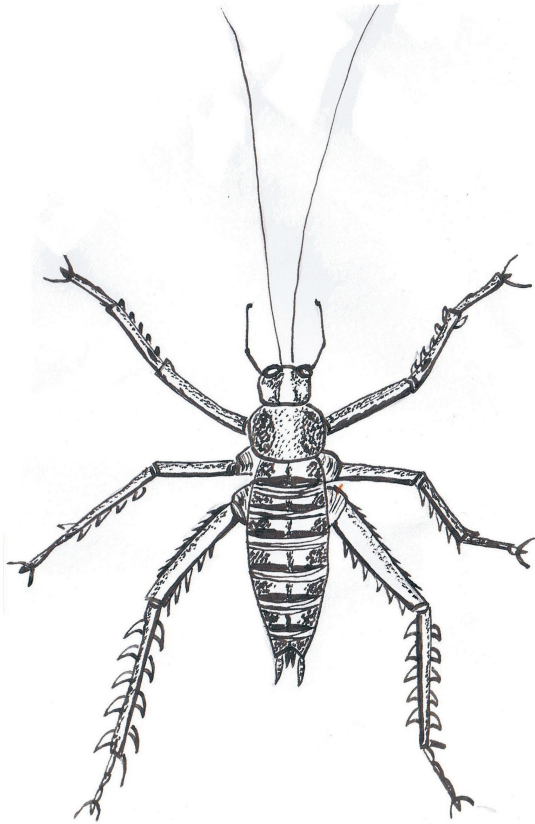
THE PERIPATUS is so-named for its Nature, it being a beaste that looks like vnto a worme but which hath legges with which to perambulayte. Some call it the veluet worme for the softnesse of its skinne. Like all wormes it is a creature which springs from fleshe, or wood or some other material, but not as the result of intercourse, although occasionally they are hatched from egges, like the scorpion. In form he moueth like a caterpillar but he hath a dozen pairs of legges which are round and soft and stumpe and each endeth in a claw for gripping, giueng it the name in the latin tongue of claw bearer. Fromme his hed springe forth two large wandes and two blacke eyes are found at the base, and he can meafure as much as a hand-span. Some are blue and some green, some gray or brown.

In nature he is like the spider as he squirts forth a stickie webbe, but from his mouth and notte his nether partes, to trap his prey for he eats the meate of beatles, crickets and other creatures which dwelleth in the grounde. Like archnea he suckes theyr fleshe and if hunting be hard he eates hys own skinne.

All though the Continent hath greate numbres of wormes, the Crescent Isles, being a blessed place, hath fewe that would harm manne wheras the landes to the West hath many such as the leech, sanguisfuga, which sucketh blood, sanguinem fugere; and manie others of the bodie which are the emigramus, the stomach-worm, the ascaride, the coste, the louse, the flea, the lendex, the tarmus, the tick, the vsia, the bug.



De Insectes



The gigante outsizes a mouse four times over and is found on the Lyttel Barrier Is-land; the smallest hydes in the mountains of Marlborough and may be frozen; yet theyr especial virtue brings them to life againe. He bears playtes of strong armour vpon his bodie and oft sports a fearfome lance from hys rear and some have tuskes from the mouthe like a boar. When challeng'd he rayfes his spiked legs aboue his head and chitters lyke a squirrel. When prouoked saith the Lady Brigit Macha Ruadh he throes off the brambles vpon his enemies to caufe much dolor striking for the eyen to blinde.

As with manie of the beastes of the Crescaunt Isles, this insecte flies not but leaps and stalkes vpon the forest floor to find its prey. Some naturall philosophers saie that this beaste stands in playce of the moufe among the creatures of the Crescaunt Isles for the land had no mus musculus before the presence of Manne. He has a bite painfull to a full grown man such that most on encountering hym will retreat and refuse to draw nigh despite the implorations of their womenfolk to remoue the beaste from out their syght. It is said that he exudes feare to make euen the braueft of heartes flinch. His enemy is the Owle and the anciaunt lizzard whych feare notte hys visage nor his thornes. As for the cricket called *cicada*, he hath some likelihood vnto his coufin, but not very great.

De Quadrupedibus

In regard to the instinckt of hedgehogs, it has been obserued in manie playces that, when the wind doth shift from north to S, and from south to N, she will shift the outlook of her earth-hole, and those that are kept in domeftickacion shift ouer from one walle to the other. A manne in Byzantium gain'd high repute for




fore-telling a change of weather, alle owing to his hauing seene this habit of the hedgehog. Her maeat is apples, wormes, or grapes: when she findeth apples or grapes on the earthe, she rolleth hyrself vpon them, vntil she hath filled all her prickels, and then carrieth them home to her denne, neuer bearing aboue one in her mouth; and if it fortune that one of them fall off by the waie, she likewise shaketh off all the residew, and walloweth vpon them afresh, vntil they be alle settled vpon her back again. So, forth she goeth, making a noyse like vnto a cart-wheele; and if she haue any young ones in her nest, they pulle off her load wherewithal she is loaded, eating thereof what they please, and

De Quadrupedibus

laying vp the residew for the tym to come. And for this largeffe was the hedgehog chofen at one tyme for a Token for Canterbury Faire.

St Antony faies that the hedgehog is the obftinate finner, couered all ouer with the prickles of hys fins. If you endeauour to conuince him of the finne he has committed, he rolles himfelf vp, and hides, by excufing, hys fault. Butte in thefe times learned men faie that this is not fo, but done for fears fake. Some in the Crefcent Ifles haue attempted to fport withe the herifon to no auail for fo greate was the noyfe of the crowd and fo fearful of Mann was the wee beafly that when any tried to take them, they would roll hymfelf vp, and become as it were a ball in the hand of the holder. And fo the wifhe to race the hedgehogs cam to nawt. Hedghogs are not to be found in the remainder of Lochac and fo fmall children earn pennys from thofe who iourney from the Olde Principality for fetching them a hedgepig that they may maruel muchly vpon it. It is faid that the Rom will eat of a hedgehog once couered in claie to bake him and remoue the quills. The meat is medicinal in nature. The fam'd hedgehog Bogor was knowne for hys liking for medicinal plants viz that of the hemp familie which made hym the leaft fearful of his kynd.

THE BATTE.

OME WULD SAIE the bat belongeth with the birdes but I fay fhe maie count among the quadrupeds for there being few of thefe and alfo becaufe all though fhe be a winged creature fhe is als a four-footed one, and fhe hath teeth and fur which you would not vfually find in birds. She births like a quadruped, not to eggs but to liue younge whom fhe fuckles to teat. And of all the animales in the Crefcent Ifles, the bat is the onlie one whych is bothe viuaparous and natiue to thefe partes, though some do saie that the battes in these lands came from the Continent to the West.

OF INSECTES:

Of whome God
is inordinantly
fonde.



MANIE and varied are the infectes of the Crefcent Ifles and though the populace regards them nott, manie are to be found nowhere elfe and pitie fould be showen vnto them that maie well depart the face of the earthe for want of hearth and home. Vnlyke the Continental beaftes, the infectes of the Crefent Ifles are friend to Man, not biting or ftinging or caufing iniury, for few are venymous like thofe in the benighted lands to the West and euen the fand-flie of the far South is regarded with bemufement for his vnufual affinitie for flefh, it being a habbit not feen in other beaftes. Netither have we the fcorpion, neither the tarantula nor the manie spiders of the Continent nor the stining emmett wherefore I fuppose our country to be the more happy for that it is void of thefe grievous annoyances wherewith other lands are plagued.

THORN CRICKET.



HIS INSECTE is hight Deinacrida or terrible graffe hopper for that he refembles hys humbler coz but with a fearfum afpect and greate fize able to iump the fulle length of an horfe. The pepul of the Crefcent Ifles haue named hym heathenifhly as the God of Vgly Things for the nature of his vizage. He can growe to the length of ane handfpann and weighs as muche as a fparrow doth. He hydes hymfelf within bufhes & beneath rottyng logs & when wynter falleth can liue within the ice wayting for the warm to returne with noe harm. Some hide within caues and fuch darke places to startyle the vnwarie e'en with hys leap which is the length of a man but fome are fo greate that they can not iump at all.

De Auibus

Of moſte note is the ſong of the birdes which ringge loud, far and ſtrong, and moſt melodious through the woodes at day-brekke ſuch that ſum who hear thys term it a buſh choir ſuch as myght be ſunng by the beſt of voyces. It makkes other noyſes ſuch as the mewng of a catte or buzzing as of bees and with this beginns his dawn performans from the toppe of the talleſt tree. The famed Walter Buller who knows much of birdes declaimed thuſlie:

I haue oft heard two or more Kokakos, each in a different key, ſounding forth theſe rich organ-notes with rapt'rous effect; and it is well worth a night's diſ-comforte to be awakened at dawn by this rare foreſt muſick.

The ſtorys ſay that this birde brought water to the great warrior Maui as he fought the ſunne carrying the drinkke within his wattels and that the warrior gaue him the priz of longge and ſlender leeges ſuch that he could bound through the foreſt with eaſe in ſearch of foode. But I do nott thinke this be true.

THE WATTLEBIRD *also hight the kokako.*



She flies, but not on winges; rather ſhe ſupports hyrſelf by makeing a rowing motion with the ſkinne between her legges, and, ſuſpended iuſt as on winges, ſhe darts and flits forth. Some battes hath longe tails held within the membrayne of the winges; others hath ſhort tayles that flie free. Of the latter, ſhe maie fly faſt but ſhe alſo huntēs vpon the foreſt floore tucking her leathers into a pokket and vſing her forelimbes to pull herſelf about vnlike no other animal of hyr type; and likewyſe hath ſhe paired talons on her claws. She of the ſhort tail is one of a kynd,



Vespertilio.

whom the naturall philoſophers called the Myſtacinidae. She hath long ears and her noſtrils are lykewiſe groſſe and her tayle can roll within lyke no other batt to giue her freedom to walke lyke other beaſtes. Isidore of Seville ſaieth that the bat, vnlike other birds, is a flying quadruped, reſembling a mouſe. She hath the name *veſpertilio* from the tyme when ſhe flies, after twilight. She flies about driuen by precipitate motion, hangs from fragile branches, and makes a ſound like a ſqueak. Neither belfry nor caues hide theſe beaſtes for they rooſt in hollow trees and take greate care to chooſe a different reſtyng plaice each night transporting their younge with them to ſome-where newe. There is one thing which theſe mean creatures do, howeuer: they dingge to each the other and hang together from one place looking like a cluſter of grapes, and if the laſt lets goe, the whole group diſintegrates; a kind of act of loue of a ſort which is dyfficult to find among menne. And theyr menfolke ſingge to them to make themſelves pleaſinge unto the ear of the female.

OF SUNDRIE BIRDES :

there being manie within these londes,
onlie a fewe of which are treated
here-in.



OR D E R requireth that I speake somewhat of the fowls also of the Crescaunt Isles, which I maie easily diuide into the wyld and tame; but, alas! such is my small skille in fowles that, to say the truth, I can neither rescite their numbers nor welle distinguishing one kind of them from t'other. Yet this I haue by general knowledg, that there is no nation vnder the Sunne which hath alreadie in the tyme of the year more plentifull of wild fowl than we, for so many kindes as our islandes doth bring forth, and much more would haue if those of the higher soil might be spared but one year or two from the greedie engines of couetous fowlers which fet only for the pot and purse or the eager farmer who clears alle the forest such that the birdes haue no place to rest or those vnthinking of minde who brought to these landes those pestes which sett vpon our natiues such as the stoat and the weasill and the feral catte. Certes this enormitie hath bred great troubles, insomuch that, in some partes are to be found little or no of the birdes natif ad this hath set some wyse peopull to mayke the taking of such wilde fowl prohibit and greates swathes of cuntrye referued for their goode in the hope that thereby the land within will be thoroughly replenished again. But whether this shall let our chindren see such beastes in their own place or not is too earlie to say if it succeed.

Ouer tame fowles are such (for the most part) as are common bothw to vs and to other countries, as cocks, hennes, geese, ducks, peacocks of Ind, and pigeons, now a hurtful fowl by reason of their multitudes and number of houses daily erected for their increafe. But, sith I haue no more knowledg of these than what I haue gotten by mine eare, I will not meddle with them. It may als be that some looke for a discourse of ower other fowls in this playce at my hands, such as sparrows, thrushes, blackbirds, larks, kingfishers, goldfinches, fantails, yellowheads, bellbirds, etc.; but I should then spende more tyme vpon them than is conuenient. Neither will I speake of our costlie and curious auiaries daile

thought lost to the land but found by a docttor after much assiduous searhing. The henne does not flie well bearing an awkward aspecet in the aire and landing poorlie. Although she chooses to walk with a stately strut and can run if need be, the swamp hen can fly and indeed one was found on L'Esperance Rock sum cc miles or more from the main land. Her red beak and legges are signs of power and nobility gifted him by an ancient dan chief, but a person who is stubborn is said to haue pukeko ears for the natiue name of the bird. Vnlike manie birds of the Crescaunt Isles, the swamp henne is friend to Man and liues in the edges of fields and paths such that a-times they suffer from the traffic of pepul. The swamp henne is the enemy of the stoat and when a stoate affaies to venture in hyr demesne, all the hennes will gather in a flock to hunt it awaie with much cackling. The swamp henne eats caterpillars and crickets which pleafeth the husbandman of the fields, and fruits of the garden which please notte the husbandman of the garden. Fewe know that she will steal the egges of fowles and ducks and will kill young duckkes of which it may eate only the head. And shee maie als steale lykwise the egges of her systers and ther husband thereof for two or three hennes choose a cocke and he is a good fellowe to helpepe them with their trauail to raise manie chicks.

And it was saide by a cooke of olde that to eat the swamp henne you should boyle her for three daies with some cast-off bootes and when it was enow drain off the liquor and remoue the layces prior to dinning.

THE WATTLEBIRD.

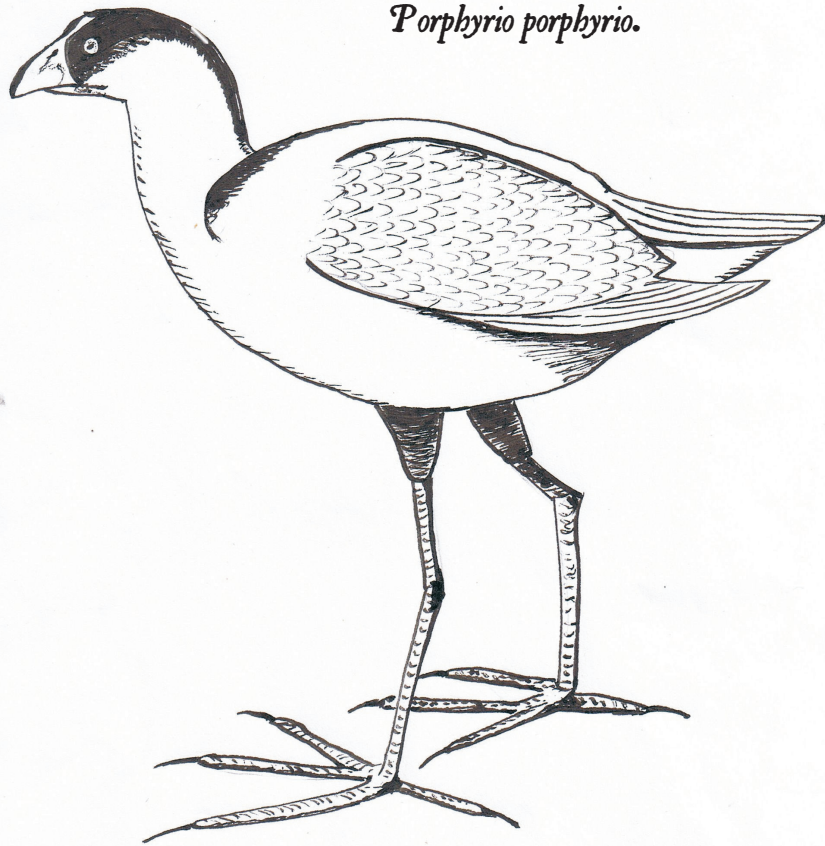


THE WATTLEBIRDS belong to an anciaunt familie, some cadet branches of which are failing or found no more. The fleshy wattels for whych he is named falle from his nek and those in the North haue them blew and those in the South haue them orange; both birdes are gray in tone with longe tayles and short winges. As with manie of the birdes of these lands, the wattlebirdes do notte fly well, instead hauing powerfull legges to leap and runne and dans through the woodes.

De Auibus

coast, though some say to the west. In other parts the birde is call'd the purpul gallinule or rail but for all these nammes she is notte purple at alle but, for the moste part, an indigo blue that shines. Her back and winges are blacke with a greens glosse to them and she hydes a pure whitenesse beneath hyr tail which flicks in warninge at tymes of dangaur. Her bill is large and bryght redde and her feete are tawnie and verrie large. She has a coufin who is much stouter who was long

Porphyrio porphyrio.



De Auibus

mayde for the better hearing of their melodies so sweetelie do they sing compared to the birdes of western Lochac.

BIRDES maie haue but a single name, auis, butte they are various in types and as they differ in appearaunce, so do they differ in Nature. Some are guilelesse, like the woode pigeon; others are cunning, like the kea parrote; some come obediently to man's hand, like hawks; others shun it, like the wild birds called shags. Some take pleasure in mans companie, like the fanntail; others loue the solitarie life of the wyldernesse, like the takahe. Some haue twittering voices like the gray warbler; others sing the sweetest of songs, like the bellbird. Birds are called aues because they do notte go in a strait line but flie at random, per auia. They are called alites, wing'd creatures, because it is on thyr wings, ale, that they reach for the skys and it is by beating them that they ascend vnto the heights. They are called volucres, flying creatures, from volandum, flying. And alle that be giuen yette manie birds of these landes flie not but dwell vppon the grounde making them prey to Man and other beastes. It is knowne that manie bird-names are formed from the sound of their calle like ruru, for the owl; riroriro, the gray warbler; keewee, the kiwi; hokioi, the gigante eagle; although the takahe, which is coufin to the swamp henne, is sayd to have a low muttered klomphe, I haue notte heard the like and maruel muchly at this descryption.

And birds hold their fascinaycion due to theyr flyght whych was noted by Leonardo of Vinci. He saw that the peregrine and other birdes which beat their wings lyttle, go seeking the course of the wind, and when the wind preuails vp on high then they will be seen at a great height, and if it preuails low they will hold themfelues low. When the wind does notte preuail in the ayre, then this bird beats its winges seueral times in its flyght in such a waie that it raises itself high and acquires a start, with which start, descending afterwards a little, it goes a long way, and when it is descended it does the same thing ouer againe, and this descent without flapping the winges serues it as a means of resting itself in the air.

*When once you haue tasted flight,
you will foreuer walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward,
for there you haue been, and there you will always long to return.*

De Auibus

THE MOUNTAIN PARROTE.

AND THERE in the Barony of Southron Gaard be many popiniays, that they depe kea or in the Latin tongue Nestor notabilis for this most noteworthy of parrotes. And these stand to the hight of a mans knee and the colour of oliues but for the vnderpart of the wing which flashe a bryght tawny when he takes to the aire. Vnlike alle other popiniays this one seeks out the heights of snow and ice within the southern mountayns. As Isidore of Seuille said of the miluus so too is this bird soft in flight and graceful tho prone to waddel when about on the grounde.

The writer of Aberdeen saieth that his beak is of such hardnesse that if he falls from a height on to a stane, he takes the impact on his mouth, vsing it as bafe of vncommon toughnesse. His skull is so thick, that if euer you haue to admonish it with blows to learn, you should beat it with an iron rod. He hath great cunning and boldnesse such that he can solve riddles and create muche hauoc when he encounters the workings of Manne as he maie pull apart trappings and breake such thyngs as may be

DE NESTOR NOTABILIS.



De Auibus

the worlde has euer seen with winges that spann'd the skie and the talons of a tygre. And he fedde vpon the bigge birds and, it was said, vpon men and womyn and smalle children also so that he was much feared in daies of olde. His weight was that of two plumpe gooses so that he could notte soar in the skies like his kin but would reſte in high places in the forests of the eaſte and plunge forth to bear his prey into the ground by means of his powerfull legges and sharpe talons. His form is captur'd in certayn drawinges amongſt rocky places and in large kites flowne at certayn times of the yeare, and once his bones were pryzed for vſe as flutes and tooles. It maie be that this birde was that told of by the trauelſer Marco Polo who term'd it the Rue of Madagaſcar, and relates that the Great Khan of the Tartyrs haueing heard of this birde at the far off borders of the celeſtialle empire, ſent forthwith meſſengaurſ to bringe a feather back. And ſaid feather meaſured nine ſpans long, and two palms in circumference, at which His Maieſtie expreſſed vnfeigned delygth. People laughed at this tale as a fable, and lyke ſo many other relations made by Marco Polo on realle facts, it was declared butte vayne ſwaggering talk vntil tidings came eſta bliſhing that a gigantick bird was ſtill to be founde in thoſe partes.

THE PVRPVL SWAMP HENNE.

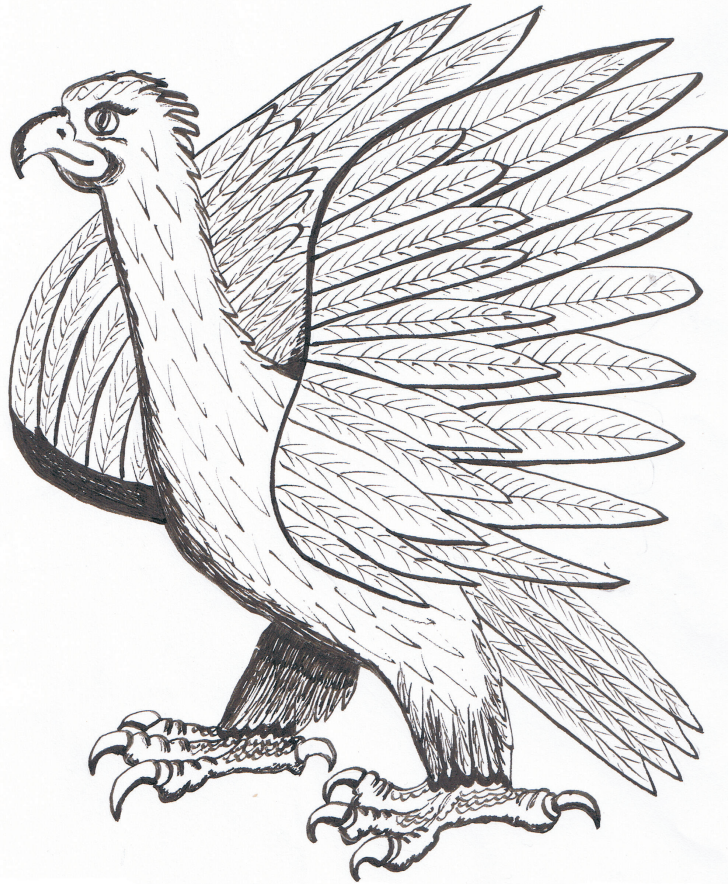
THE PVRPVL SWAMP HENNE is termed Porphyrio porphyrio for its indigo nature term'd ſuch by the Greeks who ſhunned eating them but kept them to maruel at within their ſacred places likeing their colour. Pliny the Elder ſaieth that the Romans followed in this wyſe. And their like is depic't d in paintings of Anciaunt Egypt.

In the Creſcent Iſles this bird hight the pukeko and all though it is found in manie parte of the Knowne Worlde the people of the Creſcent Iſles haue a fondeneſſe for her and think her natif to theſe partes. She is ſaid to have come from the Continental lands where others of her ilk reſide albeit ſmaller, and the earlieſt peopul of the Creſcant Iſles ſay the hennes ſayled with them to the eaſt

De Aves

THE CRESCENT ISLE GIANTE EAGLE.

DEHARPAGORNIS, *als knowne as Haasts eagle.*



IT SEEMETH that whenne the Dinornis was seen no more, soe too did the giante eagle which fed vpon it fall for he hath notte been seen in the memorie of those who dwell in Southron Gaard where once he liued. He was the greatest and most powerfull of alle eagles

De Auibus

brokene and departe with such things as are shiney and of valew. St Antony called the fox a thief, fearing not to carry into their dens, old shoes and vessells, or instruments of husbandry and thus it is with this birde. Manie trauellers in mountayne passess dread and desyre the approach of this bird, for he brings delight in his wit and humor but also damnation for the destruction he may wreak vppon the vnwarie in pulling apart trappings and other aspecks of a trauellers goodes to theyr detryment. His humour is such that some call hym the downe of the mountains although yeomenne who work the lande find naught to laff at in the state of their stock once Nestor has had them for he is said to be so rapacious that he strikes sheep with hys sharpe beak to rip the fatte off the back and thus maie kille a creature much larger than hymself. In times past there was a bountie paid for the despatche of these birds and good coine was giuen for a hooked bille such that manie were kilt and the birds were lost to the skyes in many parts of the lande. But nowe it is notte so and Nestor is welcomed by moste.

This papingo represents those light of spirit who do notte stop to think what harm thy actions may cause and thus contrbute to their owne downfall.

THE TERRIBLE GIANT BIRD.

WELL NAMED has bene the dinornis for huge terrible bird reaching a more collossal syz than any other knowne acrosse the worlde : standing twice the hight of a manne and weighing nigh vnto that of a younge bull. The femayle had vnnaturall dominion ouer the male being much larger than her confort. Her egge would hold as much fleshe as that from a centurie of chicken eyren and were so stronge they could bee vsed to carrie water & other potables for manie myles. She could be onne of many colours of redde to brown and thus had the name in these parts of kura in the former tongue of the lande and some were said to sport feathyr of Imperial purpel in recognition of her Rule ouer the other birdes. But she could not rule the skyes for she had no winges, they haueing been taken from hyr in exchange fore her great siz and so she fell prey to the huge eagle that once would drop from the skyes

De Auibus

DE DINORNIS.



De Aves

to carry the terrible birde away. Her footes, which she vses as weapyons, resemble the hooues of stags, being clouen in twain but these were nott enough to saue her from the predacions of Manne and it has been manie a year since one of these terrible birds has been seen although there arise tayles of such fightings from time to time in those weak of syght and exciteabel of spirit. It is sayed that the tracks of these giant birdes were still to be seen but iii generations past although they themfelues had long departed, such was the weight of theyr footstep vppon the land. And that certayn trees still growe in caution lest they be foode for the terrible beaft, waiting vntil they are of a height that would reach aboute the biting beak before they take on leaues. The naturall philosopher Ifillin is the last sayed to haue reported on the dinornis thusly :

I must write to you of the serpent-neck gigantius. This bird is as tall as two men. It has been occasionally seen in the tall brush between the forest proper and the field. It has a chicken-like head complete with beak appears strangely small with compared with the donkey-size body which it is attached to by an eel like neck. The neck itself is longer than a man is tall. When I saw the creature standing still it appeared to haue four legs, but when it moued I only saw two like that of chickens. Its coat appears strangely fur like, but I assume that it is really comprised of very fine feathers, though when I went to look I found nothing. In coloring it most closely resembles a common sparrow. I belieue it is reasonable to assume that like most birds this creature subsists on a diet of insects and seeds. But the quantity inuolued staggers the mind. It moues in the manner of a heron, stately, lifting its feet high and putting them down firmly after each step with the head mouing forward and back gently as it walks. I must admit that I haue neuer seen this bird in flight. Actually I would be surprisid if it is capable of flight. If it has wings they are either well camouflaged or small compared to its body size. I will write more when I see it again.

It maie be that Ifillin drew too close in the next encounter for naught further has been heard of thys writer. As for the depicktion of this birde, some say that the nek should be straiter lying alonge the lines of its backke, and that the feet should be bigger but let the eye-witnesse be the iudge, for I haue neuer seen this bird for myself.