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in return for a copy of his late work, in two volumes, "Monographie des Phytophages," and also proposing an exchange of Coleoptera of North America for those of Europe.

From M. Fischer de Waldheim, dated Moscow, 1st May, 1849, acknowledging the reception of his notice of election as a Correspondent.

Mr. Cassin called the attention of the Society to the specimen of *Anas Rafflesii*, King, (Jard. and Selby, Ill. Orn. n. s., pl. 23,) presented this evening by E. Pilaté, M. D., of Opelousas, La. This, Mr. C. stated, is the first instance of the capture of this species within the limits of the United States, to the fauna of which it is an addition of the highest interest.

Dr. Pilaté, who obtained the present specimen in the neighborhood of his residence, represents it as the only one which has come under his observation. To this gentleman, who is ardently devoted to the study of Ornithology, the Academy is highly indebted for this valuable specimen.

August 28th.

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

The Committee to which was referred the paper of Dr. Savage, on the Driver Ants of West Africa, reported in favor of its publication in the Proceedings of the Academy, with some additional observations by the Committee, suggested by the specimens sent by Dr. Savage with the paper.

*The Driver Ants of Western Africa.*

BY THOMAS S. SAVAGE, M. D.

These remarkable and interesting insects have been, till quite recently, without their place in our systems of Natural History. Occasional, but very imperfect notices have been given from time to time of Smeathman and Afzelius to the present, of one or two annoying features in their economy; but till now, no regular description either of their entomological character or habits.

In 1845, the author of this article, after a series of observations, sent, in compliance with a promise, a detailed account of their habits, with numerous specimens, to J. O. Westwood, Esq., Secretary of the Entomological Society of London.\*

Mr. W. dissected with that minuteness and accuracy for which he is so remarkable, individuals of the three classes into which they had been divided, and published the results with illustrations, supplementary to the account, in the Transactions of the Society.

The insect in its perfect state had not then been discovered. Neuters with larvæ and pupæ only were sent. The former only (neuters), it seems, arrived in a state for examination. This is the more to be regretted, since, soon after sending his account to London, the author left the locality for his health, without the prospect of returning.

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\* See Vol. 5, First Part, Transactions of London Entomological Society, for remarks of Mr. W., and the account of the habits of the insects, more in detail.