



studies in Natural History.

There is no more interesting and instructive study for children than the habits and character-

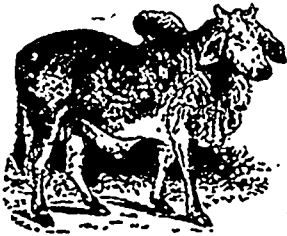


Fig. 1.—ZEBU.

istics of animals. The following illustrations of curious species in animal life are from the American Agriculturist Cyclopaedia of Natural History, published September 1st, and already sent to many of our readers, old and young.

Figure 2 represents the Zebu, an interesting variety of the ox tribe of India. It differs not only



Fig. 2.—EARTH-HOG.

in size, being smaller, from the common ox of Europe, but in having a curious fleshy hump upon the shoulder. The tail is considerably shorter also. These oxen are often used as beasts of burden, and their flesh is good as food. As in the American bison, the fleshy hump is considered a great delicacy



Fig. 3.—MARMOSET.

The Earth-hog or Aard-vark, figure 2, is found everywhere in South Africa, but being a night prowler it is rarely seen. Its length is about five feet, the tail being twenty inches long. It lives on



Fig. 4.—KOALA.

wild fruits, at night attacking and tearing down the eucalyptus, and sweeping up its victims with

its long tongue, which is covered with a glutinous secretion to which the insects adhere.

Figure 3 shows an interesting form of South American Opossum, the Marmoset. It is about six inches long exclusive of the tail. Instead of a pouch this animal has two longitudinal folds near the thighs which serve to inclose the young, which it has the singular habit of carrying about with it on its back.

Another genus of this class is the Koala of New South Wales, figure 4. It is about two feet in length, and of an ash-gray color. When the young have become too large for shelter in the pouch of the mother, they mount and are carried about upon her shoulders.

Figure 5 represents the Iguana of South America, one of the largest herbivorous lizards. They



Fig. 5.—COMMON IGUANA.

are often four or four and a half feet in length, of a beautiful brilliant green when young, but afterward of a dull, ugly gray-green, made hideous, especially in the case of the male, by a curiously jagged, raised ridge along its back and by an enormous dewlap. They live about the banks of rivers.

The Alligator of our Southern States is familiar to most of our readers. In figure 6 is shown the head of the Gavial, its Indian representative. The



Fig. 6.—HEAD OF GAVIAL.

Gavial is distinguished by its very long and narrow snout, and is of much use as a scavenger, consuming the carcasses of drowned animals that if left undisturbed would pollute the water to a dangerous extent. It reaches a length of about eighteen feet.

Rays or Skates are an interesting genus of fishes; they feed on flat fish, shell fishes, and crustacea.



Fig. 7.—STARRY RAY.

There are five species on the Atlantic coast. Figure 7 represents the Starry Ray of Europe.

The largest bird next to the Ostrich is the Emu, figure 8. It inhabits Central Australia, where it was formerly very common, but is decreasing rapidly. It feeds on fruits, roots, and herbage, and generally flocks. The nest is a shallow ground pit, and contains from nine to thirteen eggs, in color varying from a bluish-green to a dark bottle green, which are hatched by the male bird, the period of incubation lasting from seventy to eighty days.

One of the most gorgeous groups of birds are the parrots, a prominent form of which are the Cockatoos. All have crests, and in the Crested

three colors.

Figure 10 represents the Hammer-headed Shark,

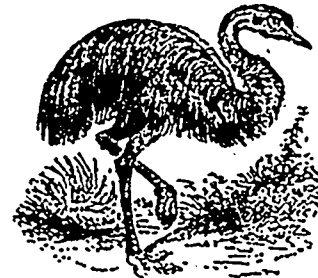


Fig. 8.—EMU.

so-called because of the broad, flattened extension of the head on each side, which gives it the shape of a blacksmith's hammer. The eyes are placed at either end of the projecting extremities, and the mouth is set quite below. The tropical regions are



Fig. 9.—TRI-COLOR CRESTED COCKATOO.

the headquarters for these bloodthirsty creatures, but one species of Hammerhead is found from Cape Cod southward.

Figure 11 shows a most remarkable animal which



Fig. 10.—HAMMER-HEADED SHARK.

is now extinct, our engraving having been taken from a specimen restored according to the formation of a skeleton found in South America. It was



Fig. 11.—NEOTHERIUM (restored).

about eight feet high, its body twelve to eighteen feet long, and its fore-feet were armed with claws.