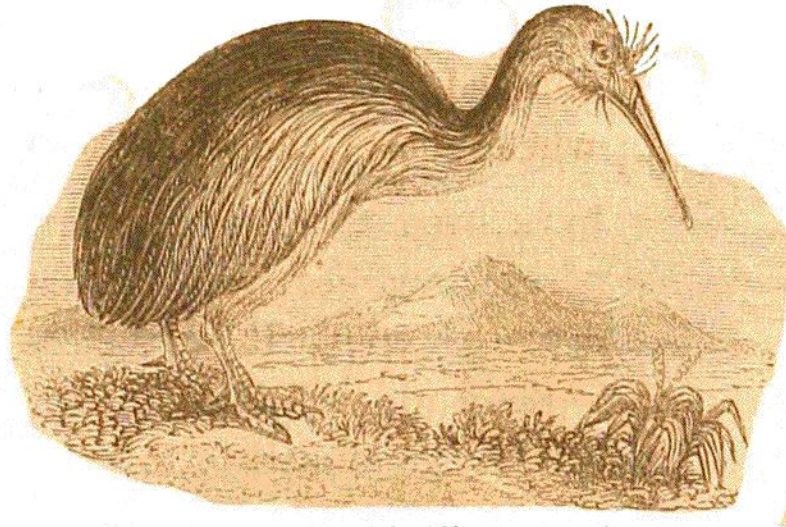


Apteryx Australis, so called from being destitute of wings. The only known specimen was figured and described by Dr. Shaw, and is now in the collection of Lord Stanley. It has lately been examined by



TAB. 16.—APTERYX AUSTRALIS.

Mr. Yarrell, by whom the characters of the skeleton have been correctly ascertained. This bird is of a greyish brown colour, and has neither wings nor tail. The beak is slightly curved, and the nasal apertures, instead of opening at the base, as in birds in general, and especially in those of a similar conformation of beak, which is adapted for respiration while immersed in mud or water, is placed at the apex. The eyes are very small. The feathers are long and loose, like those of the emu, but each plume has only a single shaft.*

* Since the former edition of this work, three or four dead specimens of the apteryx have been brought from New Zealand to this country. Mr. Gould states that it is a very rare bird, and that its nocturnal habits render it difficult to be obtained. Its skin is in much request among the New Zealand chiefs, to