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978-1-108-00166-3 - *The Philosophy of Zoology: Or a General View of the Structure, Functions, and Classification of Animals*, Volume 2

John Fleming

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The Philosophy of Zoology

John Fleming (1785–1857) was a minister of the Church of Scotland, but in his time at the University of Edinburgh he had also studied geology and zoology. In the tradition of the country parson who was also a talented and knowledgeable naturalist, he published his first works on the geology of the Shetland Islands while serving there as a minister. His subsequent works led to his being offered the chair of natural philosophy at the University of Aberdeen, and subsequently at the newly created chair of natural history at the Free Church College in Edinburgh. The two-volume *Philosophy of Zoology* was published in 1822, and the young Charles Darwin is recorded as borrowing it from the library of Edinburgh University in 1825/6. His intention in the book was to ‘collect the truths of Zoology within a small compass, and to render them more intelligible, by a systematical arrangement’.

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BY JOHN FLEMING, D. D.

MINISTER OF FLISK, FIFESHIRE,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH, OF THE WERNERIAN
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