

A  
POPULAR LIST  
OF THE  
BIRDS FOUND IN THE MARATHI COUNTRY,  
WITH SHORT NOTES,

BY  
REV. S. B. FAIRBANK, A.M.

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COMPILED FOR THE BOMBAY GAZETTEER.

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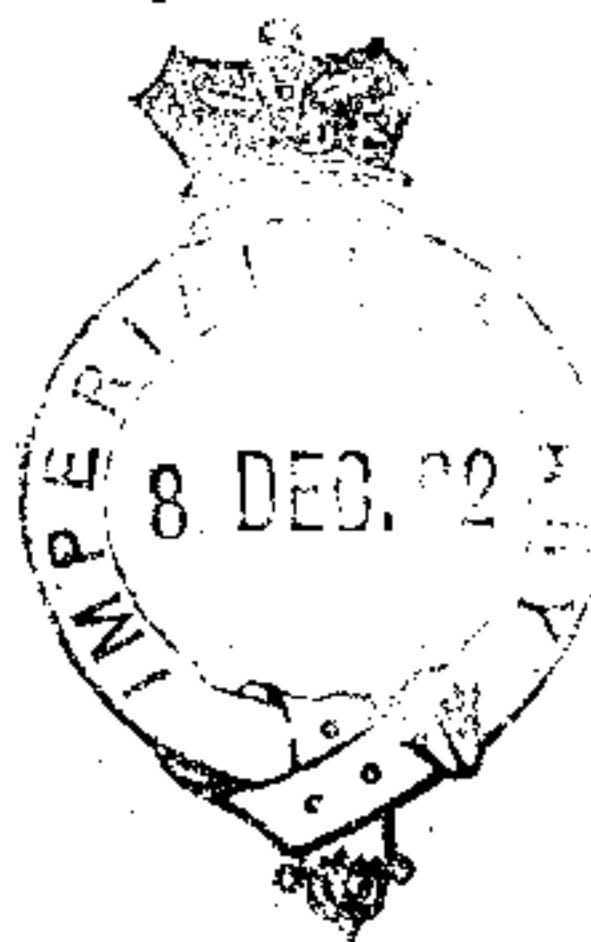
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WE have comparatively few helps for the study of Ornithology in the Bombay Presidency. There is no collection of our avifauna nearer than that in the Indian Museum at Calcutta. And since Colonel Sykes published his list, there has been no attempt to publish separately a complete list of the birds that inhabit the Maráthi Country. Lieutenant Burgess collected all he could find in the Ahmednagar Collectorate, and on his return to England, published a list of the birds he had obtained, with valuable notes on their identification, habits, nests, and eggs, &c. But many years have passed since then. Dr. Jerdon has embodied in his *Birds of India*, the information afforded by Colonel Sykes and Lieutenant Burgess. And Jerdon's *Birds of India* is our *vade mecum*, so far as we have any. Stray contributions to the history of the Birds of the Maráthi Country have appeared in the *Ibis* and in the journals of scientific societies. But these are not accessible to me. There is a mine of valuable information in the voluminous works on Indian Ornithology, with which Mr. A. O. Hume, C.S., Secretary to Government of India, has favoured us during the last six years. His "Rough Notes" on the Raptorial appeared in 1869-70, and his "Stray Feathers," begun in 1872, form each year a volume of 500 or 600 pp. Besides these, his "Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds," 662 pp., Roy. 8vo., has been published during the last two years.

I shall take the liberty of using any information found in the above-mentioned works without any further acknowledgment than this general one that I make now and here.

For the rest, I must depend on the results of study and observation, continued as a specialty through the past twelve years. I have made collections at Mahábaleshwar during one cold season and three hot seasons, and I collected for a few weeks in the Belgaum District and along the edge of the Goa and Sáwant Wádi territories. For several months a year, as a rule, I have itinerated in the Ahmednagar District.

Doubtless the publication of this list will call out supplements from those who are interested in the study and have made collections in other parts of the Maráthi Country. Every year I have found birds that I had not found before. In some cases I have been unable to find birds again that I had previously collected.

In a popular list some may think it unnecessary to give the scientific names, but it is only by giving their scientific names that accuracy can be secured. So I will add the scientific names of the birds, usually according to Dr. Jerdon's Birds of India, or, if subsequent research seems to demand a different name, I will prefix the number under which the bird is placed in Dr. Jerdon's Birds. An interrogation point will be found before the names of some birds. It indicates a doubt with regard to the identification of the bird, which some one has recorded as living within our limits, or that no one has recorded its occurrence, though there is reason to believe that it inhabits the Maráthi Country:

## RAPTORES.

Of the true VULTURES we have three :—

THE BLACK VULTURE : 2. *Otogyps calvus*.—It makes its nest on the top of a tree, and lays a single white egg, which is three and a quarter inches in length. This vulture, when sailing in a clear sky, with the white heart spot shining on its breast, is a picture of grace and beauty. The Maráthis call this and the other Vultures *Gídh*, or *Gidad*.

THE LONG-BILLED BROWN VULTURE : 4. *Gyps Indicus*.—There is a shelf in the face of a precipice of trap rock in Mánikdaundí, a town 25 miles east from Ahmednagar, to which this vulture abundantly resorts, and where it is said to breed. The third is

THE WHITE-BACKED VULTURE : 5. *Gyps Bengalensis*.

The fourth is also beautiful when on the wing, though an object of aversion from its habits. It is the dirt-bird, or

THE WHITE SCAVENGER VULTURE : 6. *Neophron ginginianus*.—This bird nests in clefts of rock, on parapets, on trees, or wherever it finds a place that pleases it. Its eggs are two and a half inches long, of a rufous or brownish colour, and usually covered with and blotches of a reddish-brown, or dark blood-red colour.

Next in order come the FALCONS. According to Jerdon we should have the

? PEREGRINE FALCON : 8. *Falco peregrinus*.—But as I have not learned of one being found in the Maráthi Country, it must come into this list with an interrogation point.

THE SHAHIN FALCON : 9. *Falco peregrinator*—has been found in our limits, but is very rare.

THE LAGGAR FALCON : 11. *Falco jugger*—is abundant, as many villagers who raise fowls, know to their cost. It breeds usually on trees. It lays eggs, which are about two inches long, with a rich yellow-brown or reddish-brown ground colour, and are clouded, mottled, and streaked with different shades of dark red, in such a way as to be “perfect pictures.” Those “who understand the art of taking walks” will sometimes see the *Lagad* stoop to its quarry. In a sloping line, with a rushing sound, and unerring aim, it comes as if shot down from the sky. The grouse or other bird it has marked for its prey is startled by the sound, and squats trembling, only to find the next moment, the strong talons planted in its back, and that escape is impossible.

THE RED-HEADED MERLIN : 16. *Chiquera typus*—is also common. With its fulvous head and blue slaty plumage, the *Turumti* is one of the prettiest falcons. Its claws are as sharp as needles, and its flight is remarkably swift. It preys principally on sparrows,

larks, and such small birds, but is also fond of chickens. It will chase a lark around and through a bush, till paralyzed and palpitating with fear, it at last finds the sharp claws in its vitals. Its egg is also a beautiful thing. The nest may be found in the hot season on the top of a tamarind or mango tree.

THE KESTRIL: 17. *Tinnunculus alaudarius*—does not breed in this country, but may be seen in every field, from September through the cold weather hovering in the air and then dropping straight down to seize a grasshopper or a lizard.

THE LESSER KESTRIL: 18. *Erythropus cenchris*—visits us in flocks, but it is very rarely. I saw a flock at Dedgaw, in the Nagar Districts, on some Bábul (*Acacia Arabica*) trees in January 1861. I at first thought it a flock of the red ring-dove (*Turtur humilis*) as the colour of the male is similar, and that dove usually is found in small flocks. There were perhaps 25 of them, and I bagged a pair. The male was blue-grey, with back and wing coverts reddish, and the quills black. The female was coloured like a female kestrel, ferrugineous with dark stripes.

#### Of HAWKS we have

THE SHIKRA: 23. *Micronisus badius*—is very common. It is white beneath when young, and dusky-brown above. This changes with age to ashy grey. It nests on trees in the hot season, and lays three or four bluish-white eggs, that are an inch and a half long. Its food is principally lizards and grasshoppers, with sometimes a mouse or a small bird.

THE EUROPEAN SPARROW-HAWK: 24. *Accipiter nisus*—visits us in the cold weather.

THE BESRA SPARROW-HAWK: 25. *Accipiter virgatus*—may be found along the Gháts. I have obtained birds on the western slope at Mahábaleshwar, which I identified as the Besra, and sent them to my correspondents with that name. But on my sending one to the Editor of *Stray Feathers*, he wrote me that the bird I sent for a *Besrá* was



unequivocally a *Shikrá*. It was obtained, and put up with only a glance at its characters, where I had previously found one that I examined carefully and identified as a *Besrá*, though I may have been mistaken.

We have several EAGLES that inhabit our limits.

THE SPOTTED EAGLE : 28. *Aquila naevia*—may sometimes be observed, but it is shy. The only one I could approach near enough for a shot, though it rolled over and over, managed to rise before I could get hold of it, and was soon like a small speck in the sky above.

THE TAWNY EAGLE : 29. *Aquila vindhiana*—is more easily obtained. It breeds with us on trees in the cold season. The eggs are three and a quarter inches long, and are white and sometimes are streaked or blotched with brown and red. This is a powerful bird of prey, and is the tyrant of our Dakhan plains. Some Natives call it the *Wokhá*b.

THE DWARF EAGLE : 31. *Hieratus pennatus*—is not uncommon. It consorts with the common kite (*Milvus govinda*), and is not usually distinguished from the kite, though it may easily be distinguished by its shorter rounded tail, and, when young, by being white beneath.

THE BLACK EAGLE : 32. *Heteropus malaiensis*—is found at Mahábaleshwar. It circles just above the tops of even low trees, and so may now and then be obtained on the wing. Dr. Jerdon says that the food of those he had examined "had been invariably eggs and nestling birds."

THE CRESTLESS HAWK-EAGLE : 33. *Nisæetus Bonelli*, called *Morghár*, i.e., the Peacock-kite, by the Maráthis, because it kills peafowl, is also found at Mahábaleshwar, though rarely.

THE CHANGEABLE HAWK-EAGLE : 34. *Spizæetus caligatus*—may now and then be obtained on the plains of the Dakhan; and



THE CRESTED HAWK-EAGLE : 35. *Spizætus cirrhatus*—is still more frequently found on the western slopes at Mahábaleshwar.

THE SERPENT-EAGLE : 38. *Circætus Gallicus*—frequents the plains of the Dakhan. Seeing one with a serpent dangling from one foot, I followed it, and shot at it. It did not fall, but dropped the serpent, which I found benumbed, but still living. It was a cobra (*Naja tripudians*), four feet long. The bird had evidently seized it by the head, and carried it with the head compressed in its talons.

THE CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE : 39. *Spilornis cheela*—attracts attention in the valleys around Mahábaleshwar by its “plaintive wild cry” that is heard for an incredible distance. The feet of one I obtained near Kineshwar were muddy. Blyth says that it clutches frogs out of the mud of shallow tanks. They nest on lofty trees, and lay usually but one egg, that is like the egg of the Scavenger Vulture (*Neophron gin-ginianus*).

According to Jerdon we should have—

THE GREY-BACKED SEA-EAGLE : 43. *Haliæetus leucogaster*—along our large rivers, and I have seen a bird at a distance which may have been this.

THE LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD : 45. *Buteo ferox*—is not uncommon. It is a handsome bird, with its rufous tail and spotted breast.

THE WHITE-EYED BUZZARD : 48. *Poliornis teesa*—is common. One may see several in a morning drive, sitting on the small mounds of earth that mark the boundaries of fields in the Dakhan, or, when disturbed, flying along close to the ground to another mound. The iris of the adult is chalk white. They nest in the end of the hot season, building in the forks of trees twenty or twenty-five feet from the ground. The eggs are bluish white, and are an inch and three-quarters in length. Lizards and grass-

hoppers, the staple of the food of most of our birds of prey, form the larger part of its food. Its Maráthi name is *Tísá*.

We have at least three **HARRIERS** included amongst the Buzzards.

**THE PALE HARRIER**: 51. *Circus Swainsonii*.

**MONTAGUE'S HARRIER**: 52. *Circus cineraceus*.

**THE MARSH HARRIER**: 54. *Circus aeruginosus*.

The habits of these Harriers are similar. They come early in the cold season, and some individuals stay on till April. Their flight is slow and near the ground. They beat back and forth, now and then pouncing on a reptile or an insect.

**THE PIED HARRIER**: 53. *Circus melanoleucos*—should also be found in our limits, though Dr. Jerdon says it is rare in the Dakhan.

Of **KITES** we have *three*.

**THE BRAHMANI KITE**: 55. *Haliastur Indus*—lives on fish, frogs, and water insects, in this region. Dr. Jerdon says that "about large towns it gets its chief food from garbage and offal."—It breeds on trees, laying two eggs, which are about two inches long and are white, with rusty-brown spots. As the head and neck are white and the rest of the plumage is bright rufous, excepting the black quills, this is a handsome bird.

**THE COMMON KITE**, often called the Pariah Kite: 56. *Milvus Govinda*—is common, and its useful as well as vexatious habits are so well known, that they need not be described in this list. The Maráthis call it *Ghár*.

**THE BLACK-WINGED KITE**: 59. *Elanus melanopterus*—is found in some localities. With its grey back, black wings, and white breast, it is a very pretty bird.

**THE HONEY BUZZARD**: 57. *Pernis ptilorhynchus*—is frequently noticed, and it lives almost entirely on honey and the young of bees and wasps. It is a

wonder where so many of them find sufficient rations. It may be easily recognized when flying by the two black bands across its greyish tail.

The OWLS are not so often seen as heard, yet most persons must have seen.

THE INDIAN SCREECH-OWL : 60. *Strix Javanica*—which is our most common Owl. This, as well as the other varieties of large owl are called *Ghubád* by the *Maráthis*. It nests in holes in the walls of villages or of old trees, and is found sitting in some trees where it hopes to escape notice.

THE GRASS-OWL : 61. *Glaux candida*—may be flushed in high grass, out of which “it rises heavily, and flies but a short distance, when it drops down suddenly into the grass.” It is said to lay four pure white eggs on the ground in November or December. The eggs are one and two-thirds by one and a quarter inches, or about the size of those of the last species. Like the eggs of all owls they are very blunt at the ends, and seem round.

THE BROWN WOOD-OWL : 63. *Syrnium Indranea*—was first described by Colonel Sykes, whose collections were made principally in this region. He found it in the dense woods of the Sahyádris, and still they live in the woods of Mahábaleshwar.

THE MOTTLED WOOD-OWL : 65. *Bulaca ocellata*—lives on the plains of the Dakhan. It is a beautiful bird, especially when its wings are spread. I found a nest in a mango grove, in a hollow place formed by the division of the trunk of a mango tree into three large branches, at about eight feet from the ground. On one side the owl was visible to passers by when sitting on her nest. The eggs are white or of a delicate cream colour, and are about two inches long by one and three-quarter inches thick.

THE ROCK HORNED-OWL : 69. *Ascalaphia Bengalensis*—lives along the large rivers and among ravines, where it may be found sitting on a rock or hummock. From a distance it looks like a hare lifting itself on its hind

feet to look over some obstruction. The tufts of feathers, called horns, pass for the ears of the hare. It sees well by day, and takes flight at a long distance, if approached without cover. It lays two white eggs, and usually on a ledge. But contributors to Hume's "Nest and Eggs" speak of finding three and four in a nest. The eggs are similar in size to those of *Bulaca ocellata*. Rats and mice form the staple of its food.

THE BROWN FISH OWL : 72. *Ketupa Ceylonensis*—is found rarely in our limits in the wooded parts of the gháts.

THE INDIAN SCOPS-OWL : 74. *Ephialtes pennatus*—or a nearly allied species, is sometimes found at Mahábaleshwar.

THE STRIATED SCOPS-OWL : 74 bis. *Ephialtes Brucei* (Hume)—was first procured by Mr. Bruce near Ráhori, in the valley of the Godávári. I have since obtained a second specimen from a neighbouring village. It is called *Kutruz* in Maráthi.

THE SPOTTED OWLET OR PINGALA : 76. *Athene Brama*—is everywhere in the Dakhan, "making the night hideous" for those who must pitch their tents under the shade of trees that it inhabits. It nests in February or March, laying four or five white eggs that are an inch and a quarter long. The Maráthis call this bird the *Pingalá*.

? THE JUNGLE OWLET : 77. *Athene radiata*—should be found, according to Jerdon, in our forests.

THE BROWN HAWK OWL : 81. *Ninox hirsutus*—is found, but somewhat rarely, in our limits. Its call is very unpleasant, resembling the squall of a cat, or the cry of a child. I have found it in secluded places formed by old hedges under large trees. It begins to hunt in early twilight.

Next comes the order of **INSESSORES** or Perchers, of which the first tribe is called **FISSIROSTRES**.

Of SWALLOWS, MARTINS, and SWIFTS we have several species. The habits of these birds are well known, and it seems necessary only to mention their names except when they frequent restricted localities. We have

THE COMMON SWALLOW : 82. *Hirundo rustica*.

THE WIRE-TAILED SWALLOW : 84. *Uromitus filifera*.

THE RED-RUMPED SWALLOW : 85. *Lillia erythropygia*.

THE INDIAN CLIFF-SWALLOW : 86. *Lagenoplastes fluvicola*.

THE EUROPEAN SAND-MARTIN : 87. *Cotile riparia*.

THE DUSKY CRAG-MARTIN : 90. *Ptyonoprogne concolor*.

THE MOUNTAIN CRAG-MARTIN : 91. *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*.

THE ALPINE SWIFT : 98. *Cypselus melba*.

THE COMMON INDIAN SWIFT : 100. *Cypselus affinis*.

THE WHITE-CLAWED SWIFT : 101. *Cypselus leuconyx*.

THE PALM SWIFT : 102. *Cypselus palmarum*.

THE INDIAN CRESTED-SWIFT : 104. *Dendrochelidon coronatus*.

The Cliff Swallow (86) is not common. I found it last May near Satara in company with the Sand-Martin (87). The Crag-Martin (91) is plentiful at Khandála, and is doubtless found all along the Sahyádris. It is questionable whether the Alpine Swift is found anywhere within our limits, except at the southern corner of them. The White-clawed Swift is put in this list, because Jerdon says that he obtained a specimen in the western part of the Dakhan. It would be easily distinguished on the wing from the common Indian Swift (100), which it much resembles, by its forked tail. The outer feathers of its tail are an inch longer than the centre ones, while the tail of the common Swift is nearly even. The Crested Swift is found along the hills and where there are forests. The Maráthi name for each and all of these birds is *Pākoli*.



The nests of Swallows and Swifts are usually made of mud, or of feathers, &c., glued firmly together by the saliva of the birds. They usually build in company under arches, eaves, and ledges, or in caves, &c. But the Palm Swift nests and lives among the leaves of the palm exclusively. The Wire-tail and the Crag-Martin make solitary nests, and the nest of the Crested Swift is "placed on the side of the branch of a tree." It is made of feathers, bark, &c., glued together with its saliva, and "is entirely filled up with the solitary, rather largish, white egg."

Of GOAT-SUCKERS or NIGHTJARS we have,

THE JUNGLE NIGHTJAR : 107.. *Caprimulgus Indicus*.

THE COMMON INDIAN NIGHTJAR : 112. *Caprimulgus Asiaticus*.

SYKES' NIGHTJAR : 113. *Caprimulgus Mahrattensis* ;  
and

FRANKLIN'S NIGHTJAR : 114. *Caprimulgus monticolus*.

These birds are similar in their habits. They hunt the insects, on which they live, in the twilight. They sit close on the ground, and resemble a dried leaf to the careless eye. If they perch on the branch of a tree, they sit not across, but in the direction of the branch. They lay their eggs, usually two salmon coloured eggs, in a depression on the bare ground. The Marathi name is *Kápú*.

Of the TROGONS we have

THE MALABAR TROGON : 115. *Harpactes fasciatus*—inhabiting the forest at the base of the hills in the Goa and Sáwant Wádi territories. The dress of this bird is exceedingly rich and beautiful, the head is black, the back and middle feathers of the tail chestnut. The side feathers of the tail black and white, and the breast and belly glowing crimson. The bill and the skin around the eyes and the feet are blue. It avoids observation, living in the thick woods.

Next in order come the BEE-EATERS.

THE COMMON INDIAN BEE-EATER : 117. *Merops viridis*—is found everywhere, and is one of the "characteristic adjuncts of Indian scenery." It breeds from



March to June in holes. that it digs in the banks of rivers and ravines, laying three to five eggs that "are nearly spherical in shape, milky white in hue, and brilliantly glossy." Its Maráthi name is *Tai-lingí* or *Vedá Rágh*

THE BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER : 118. *Merops Philippen-sis*—is rare in the Ahmednagar District. I found four one evening near the fort at Nagar, but have never seen them here since.

THE CHESTNUT-HEADED BEE-EATER : 119. *Merops Swinhœi*—is found on and by the hills in the Goa and Sáwant Wádi territories.

We have but one **ROLLER**.

THE INDIAN ROLLER : 123. *Coraciás Indica*—often called the Jay. The Maráthis call it the *Tás*. We enjoy its presence during the cold season. In March it leaves us, and goes to the northern part of India to breed.

Of **KINGFISHERS** we have

THE BROWN-HEADED KINGFISHER : 127. *Pelargopsis Gural*—is rarely seen. I remember to have seen it but once, and that was in May, by the Koina River, near Mahábaleshwar.

THE WHITE-BREASTED KINGFISHER : 129. *Halcyon Smyr-nensis*—is not uncommon in the Nagar District and in the vicinity of Mahábaleshwar. With its coral-red bill and plumage of chestnut and blue, black, and white, it is a beautiful bird. It digs a deep hole in a bank from April to June, and lays there four or five shining white eggs. This and the following Kingfishers are called *Khandú* or *Khandyá* by the Maráthi people.

THE THREE-TOED KINGFISHER : 133. *Ceyx tridactyla*—was procured by Colonel Sykes in the Dakhan, and is said to have been seen at Khandála. I have been unable to find it.

THE COMMON INDIAN KINGFISHER : 134. *Alcedo Bengalensis*—is common, but more abundant by the streams among the hills than on the plains. It usually sits on a rock or a bush near the surface of shallow water, and dives obliquely to catch fish, tadpoles, &c.

THE PIED KINGFISHER : 136. *Ceryle rudis*—hovers and then drops perpendicularly on its prey. Both this and the last make their nests by digging holes in the banks of rivers, and breed from February to April.

At least three species of **HORNBILLS** are found within our limits.

THE GREAT HORNBILL : 140. *Dichoceros Homrai*—comes up as far as the valleys of the Mahábaleshwar Hills, and is remarkable for its appearance, and its braying, and its peculiar mode of nesting. For particulars on these points the reader may consult Dr. Jerdon's *Birds* and Mr. Hume's *Nests and Eggs*. - This is the *Garud* of the Maráthis.

THE MALABAR PIED HORNBILL : 141. *Hydrocissa coronata*—inhabits the Southern Konkan, coming as far north as Ratnágiri.

THE JUNGLE GREY HORNBILL : 145. *Tockus griseus*—comes as far north as the district of Sáwant Wádi, for I obtained a specimen there last May. It was one of three that were feeding on a Pimpal tree.

The next tribe of the Perchers is the **SCANSORES** or Climbers.

Of the PARROT family we have three Parrakeets and a Lorrikeet.

THE ROSE-RINGED PARRAKEET : 148. *Palæornis torquatus*—is familiar to all. The Maráthis call it the *Rághu*.

THE ROSE-HEADED PARRAKEET : 149. *Palæornis purpureus*—is found in particular localities where there

are wooded ravines in the Dakhan, but it is more abundant along the Sahyádris. This is called *Kir* at Mahábaleshwar.

THE BLUE-WINGED PARRAKEET: 151. *Palæornis colymboides*—inhabits the western slopes of the Sahyad as far north as Mahábaleshwar. We found them last May in the ravines below Elphinstone Point and also along the Koina River. The young of both this and the rose-headed Parrakeet are brought to the Mahábaleshwar Sanitarium in May for sale at a small price.

THE INDIAN LORRIKEET: 153. *Loriculus vernalis*—is found in the forests of the Goa and Sáwant Wádi territories.

These members of the Parrot family scoop the holes for their nests either in trees or mud walls, and lay from three to six, white, glossless eggs.

THE WOODPECKERS are more numerous in species, but less numerous in individuals. We have most widely spread,

THE YELLOW-FRONTED WOODPECKER: 160. *Picus Mah-rattensis*.—It is met with, here and there, in all parts of our province that I have visited.

THE SOUTHERN PIGMY WOODPECKER: 164. *Yungpicus Hardwickii*—was found rarely in the Goa forests.

THE GOLDEN-BACKED WOODPECKER: 166. *Chrysocolaptes sultaneus*—is found on the western slopes at Mahábaleshwar as well as in the Goa forests, and doubtless inhabits all the ranges of the hills in the Konkan.

? THE BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER: 167. *Chrysocolaptes festivus*—is found in the same localities, unless specimens of *Brachypternus* have been mistaken for it.

THE MADRAS RUFOUS WOODPECKER: 179. *Micropternus gularis*—is said to be found in Dharwár, &c. I obtained a specimen near Kineshwar at the base of the Mahábaleshwar Hills.

THE LESSER GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER : 181. *Brachypternus chrysonotus*—is also found on the western slopes near Mahábaleshwar as well as in the Sáwant Wádi forests.

THE HEART-SPOTTED WOODPECKER : 165. *Hemicircus canente*.—I have seen a speckled Woodpecker near the Reversing Station at Khandála that I could not secure, which must probably have been *Hemicircus*.

THE COMMON WRYNECK : 188. *Yunx torquilla*—is found sparingly in the Ahmednagar Collectorate and doubtless throughout our limits.

Woodpeckers chisel out holes in trees for their nests, or rather for their eggs, which are placed on the bare wood. Their eggs are usually white, though some are of a salmon or pink colour before they are blown. The Maráthi name for a Woodpecker is *Lohár*.

The **BARBETS** come next in order. They also chisel out their nest-holes and lay three or four white eggs. But though they have so powerful bills for boring and chiseling, they live on fruit. We have four Barbets.

THE COMMON GREEN BARBET : 193. *Megalaima caniceps*—is found at the base of the Mahábaleshwar Hills in the Konkan, but it is not as common as

THE SMALL GREEN BARBET : 194. *Megalaima viridis*—which ranges from the top to the bottom of the western slopes of the Sahyádris. Both of these birds are called *Kotúr* by the Maráthis, and the word is a fair imitation of their loud cry. They are both so like the leaves of trees in appearance, that unless they move it is difficult to find them.

THE CRIMSON-BREASTED BARBET, or, as it is usually called, the Coppersmith : 197. *Xantholaema hæmacephala*—is found wherever there are trees, and its ventriloquous call of *took, took*, repeated at about the rate of the strokes of a coppersmith and sounding with a similar metallic ring, gives it its Maráthi name of *Túktúk*.

THE CRIMSON-THROATED BARBET : 198. *Xantholopha Malabarica*—is very similar to 197, but it has no yellow about its head. I found it in the Sáwant Wádi forests.

Several CUCKOOS are found in our limits, but most of them are rare.

THE SMALL CUCKOO : 201. *Cuculus poiocephalus* ;

THE BANDED BAY CUCKOO : 202. *Cuculus sonneratti*, and

THE INDIAN CUCKOO : 203. *Cuculus micropterus*—are found rarely.

THE COMMON HAWK-CUCKOO : 205. *Hierococcyx varius*—is common, though it affects the wooded parts of the country. Its shrill loud call, repeated each time on a higher key and with more intensity till the bird is exhausted, when it waits a little, and begins again at the bottom of its scale, is familiar to all. The Marathis call this bird *Koel*, and are fond of its flesh, but the flavour of its flesh is strong and unpleasant.

THE INDIAN PLAINTIVE-CUCKOO : 208. *Polyphasia nigra*—is sometimes found in the Nagar Districts, but is more common farther south. Its plaintive call is written *ka-veer, ka-vee-eer*, by Jerdon. It also is a ventriloquist, and though calling near by, is secure from the search of any but well-trained eyes.

THE PIED CRESTED-CUCKOO : 212. *Coccystes Jacobinus*—visits us sometimes in the Nagar District, and I found it near Mahábaleshwar and in the Dakhan.

THE INDIAN KOEL OR KOKILA : 214. *Eudynamis honorata*—is more common. It is very abundant at Belgaum, and is to be found where there are many trees and gardens all over the country. It is very noisy, calling "*ku-il, ku-il*," and increasing in intensity as it goes on. This bird lays its eggs in Crows' nests, making them the foster parents of its young. All the Cuckoos lay their eggs in the nests of other birds, and each species chooses the nest of a bird that resembles itself, or the nest of a bird who lays similar eggs.



Allied to the true Cuckoos are the **COUCALS**.

**THE COMMON COUCAL**, which is often called the Malabar or Crow-pheasant, and by the Marathis is called *Kumbhákukadá*: 217. *Centrococcyx rufipennis*—is about gardens and hedges everywhere, and its deep bell-like whoop is well known. When newly dressed, after moulting, with its black head and tail glossed with purple and green, its rufous or chestnut wings smooth and bright, and its ruby-like eye sparkling, it is a very pretty bird. It builds a huge globular-domed nest in the centre of thick thorny bushes, and lays three to five white eggs.

**THE CENTRAL INDIAN SIRKEER**: 222. *Taccouca affinis*—is shaped in general like *Centrococcyx rufipennis*, but is grey. I found it forty miles east of Nagar and also near Belgaum. Its eggs are similar to those of 217.

We now come to another tribe, that of the **TENUIROSTRES** or **SLENDER-BILLED BIRDS**, and first among them are the **SUNBIRDS**, or, as they are often called, the **HONEY-SUCKERS**. They take the place that the Humming birds take in America, and are popularly called Humming birds. We have

**THE VIOLET-EARED RED HONEY-SUCKER**: 226. *Æthopyga Vigorsii*—that appears at Khandála, Mahábaleshwar, &c., in May. Where the rain is not too heavy it stays on through the rainy months. It is exquisitely beautiful in its summer plumage. I am inclined to think it lives in the Konkan the rest of the year, so plainly dressed in grey and olive as to pass *incog*.

**THE TINY HONEY-SUCKER**: 233. *Leptocoma minima*—which also has a metallic green cap and deep red back, is found halfway up the western slopes at Mahábaleshwar. It moults earlier than 226, and is in perfection in March.

**THE PURPLE HONEY-SUCKER**: 234. *Arachnechthra Asiatica*—is found everywhere. When in breeding plumage, in shining black and green and purple, with tufts of yellow and orange under its wings, it also is a gem.



THE LARGE PURPLE HONEY-SUCKER: 235. *Arachnechthya lotenia*—is found in the Konkan and, I am told, at Bombay.

TICKELL'S FLOWER-PECKER: 238. *Dicæum minimum*—is found on the western slopes at Mahábaleshwar, as is also

THE NEILGHERY FLOWER-PECKER: 239. *Dicæum concolor*—but this is rare.

THE THICK-BILLED FLOWER-PECKER: 240. *Piprisoma agile*—is also found sparsely in the same localities.

All these Honey-suckers suspend their neat little nests from twigs, or sometimes from strings or even cobwebs, and lay two or three little eggs, which look plain to be the caskets of the gems they contain.

#### Of the **TREE-CREEPERS**,

? THE SPOTTED-GREY CREEPER: 246. *Salpornis spilonota*—has been found in Central India, and probably inhabits our eastern border.

THE VELVET-FRONTED BLUE NUTHATCH: 253. *Dendrophila corallina*—was found near Belgaum, and probably comes up still farther along the hills.

We have two **HOOPOES**,

THE EUROPEAN HOOPOE: 254. *Upupa epops*, and

THE INDIAN HOOPOE: 255. *Upupa nigripennis*.

They greatly resemble each other, but 254 is a fifth larger, and its crest is tipped with white. Their Maráthi name is *Sutár*.

The Tribe **DENTIROSTRES** begins with the **SHRIKES**.

THE INDIAN GREY SHRIKE: 256. *Collyrio lahtora*—is common, but not abundant. A pair may always be found half way between any two villages in the Dakhan, and they live there throughout the year, making their nest in January to March in a Kiral (*Capparis aphylla*) bush or some other thick and thorny bush. They lay four or five speckled eggs,

which the common observer will say are like sparrow's eggs. The eggs and nests of the following Shrikes have a general similarity to them. I have heard them called *Kidmákad* by villagers in the Dakhan.

THE RUFOUS-BACKED SHRIKE : 257. *Collyrio erythronotus*—is also found throughout our province.

THE BAY-BACKED SHRIKE : 260. *Collyrio Hardwickii* (or *Lanius vittatus* according to Hume's Nests and Eggs)—is more common than the other kinds, and is handsomer. It would be a favourite but for its harsh voice and quarrelsome habits.

THE BROWN SHRIKE : 261. *Lanius cristatus*—is rare in the Nagar Districts, and I have not found it anywhere else.

THE COMMON WOOD-SHRIKE : 265. *Tephrodornis Pondiceriana*—is often found in our limits, especially along the Sahyádris.

THE LITTLE PIED SHRIKE : 267. *Hemipus picatus*—affects similar localities. I have found it but rarely in the Dakhan.

THE BLACK-HEADED CUCKOO-SHRIKE : 268. *Volvocivora Sykesii*—is also rare in the Dakhan. I found it plenty in the woods by the Gatprabhá River.

THE LARGE CUCKOO-SHRIKE : 270. *Graucalus Macei*—is more common. It has sweet mellow notes that alternate pleasantly with those of the Oriole (*Oriolus kundoo*), whose company it affects.

In the same family come the beautiful small Shrikes that are called **MINIVETS**. We have

THE ORANGE MINIVET : 272. *Pericrocotus flammeus*—is found on the western slopes near Mahábaleshwar, and still more abundant in the Goa forests. It is the male that looks so brilliantly red in the sunlight. The female is yellow where the male is orange red.

THE SMALL MINIVET: 276. *Pericrocotus peregrinus*—is to be found in every mango-tope, and the attention is called to it by its weak *cheep, cheep*, or by a flash of the red breast of the male. He is usually accompanied by half a dozen females.

THE WHITE-BELLIED MINIVET: 277. *Pericrocotus erythropygius*—is rare. I have obtained it in the Nagar Districts on two occasions.

THE DRONGO SHRIKES come next in order.

THE COMMON DRONGO SHRIKE, or "KINGCROW": 278. *Buchanga albirictus*—is well known, and found everywhere. It is called *Kolasá* by the Maráthi people.

THE LONG-TAILED DRONGO: 280. *Buchanga longicauda*—is sometimes found in the Dakhan. It is common in the cold season at Mahábaleshwar.

THE WHITE-BELLIED DRONGO: 281. *Dicrurus caerulescens*—affects groves, and is not common in the Dakhan. It has a sweet song.

THE MALABAR ROCKET-TAILED DRONGO: 285. *Bhímraj* of the Hindus: 285. *Dissemurus Malabaricus*—is found as far north as the forests of Sáwant Wádi. Its call has a remarkably metallic ring that at once distinguishes it.

THE ASHY SWALLOW SHRIKE: 287. *Artamus fuscus*—is said by Dr. Jerdon to be rare in the Dakhan. I have never found it.

The TRUE FLY-CATCHERS come next, and the first on the list is the beautiful

PARADISE FLY-CATCHER: 288. *Tchitrea Paradisi*.—It is remarkable for the two long feathers of its tail. The colour of the females and of the young males is light chestnut, but of the perfect male is white, while the heads of all are glossy green-black. The change from chestnut to white is "chemical," that is, the colour changes after the feather is fully

formed. I have taken parti-coloured individuals in which some of the feathers had turned white and the rest were still chestnut. This bird is found rarely in the Dakhan when passing through. It is more plenty along the Sahyádris.

THE BLACK-NAPED BLUE FLY-CATCHER : 290. *Myiagra azurea*—is found at Mahábaleshwar, and more rarely the Dakhan.

THE WHITE-BROWED FANTAIL : 292. *Leucocirca albofrontata*—is found in the cold season in every clump of trees in the Nagar Districts, and as it is always spreading its tail and whirling about, at the same time warbling sweetly, it is a great favourite.

THE WHITE-SPOTTED FANTAIL : 293. *Leucocirca pectoralis* (or *Leucocirca leucogaster*)—is a plainer bird, but also has a sweet song. It is rare at Mahábaleshwar, common at Satára, and is found in company with *Leucocirca albofrontata* at Poona.

THE GREY-HEADED FLY-CATCHER : 295. *Myiagla cinereocapilla*—is also found in groves in the Dakhan. So is also

THE SOUTHERN BROWN FLY-CATCHER : 297. *Alseonax latirostris*—as well as at Mahábaleshwar.

THE VERDITER FLY-CATCHER : 301. *Eumyias melanops*—is more plenty at Mahábaleshwar, but is sometimes found in the Dakhan.

HORSFIELD'S BLUE FLY-CATCHER (or Redbreast, as Dr. Jerdon calls it,) : 305. *Cyornis Jerdoni*—is found both on our plains and hills.

THE RUFOUS-TAILED FLY-CATCHER : 307. *Cyornis ruficauda*—occurs in the Dakhan, but is rare. I found two specimens of

THE WHITE-BELLIED BLUE FLY-CATCHER : 309. *Cyornis pallipes*—near Párwár, on the crest of the hills that form the eastern frontier of the Goa territory.

THE WHITE-TAILED ROBIN FLY-CATCHER : 323. *Erythrosterna (narya?)*—is found in the hills.

the Nagar Districts and at Mahábaleshwar. This is a very fearless bird, coming into tents, or resting on twigs close by one, and as it resembles the Redbreast, it has a right to be a favourite. It leaves our limits in the end of March or in April.

The **THRUSHES** furnish several of our finest singers as well as some finely attired birds.

THE MALABAR WHISTLING-THRUSH, or "THE LAZY SCHOOL-BOY," *Gogi* of the Maráthis 342. *Myiophonus Horsfieldii*—has become rather abundant at Mahábaleshwar within a few years, and delights everyone by its strange whistling song. It builds its nest on some shelf of a rock or a precipice beside water, and lays three or four eggs that are pinkish and finely speckled.

THE YELLOW-BREASTED GROUND-THRUSH, or "NAUBANG" : 345. *Pitta coronata*—is a beauty of a bird, and has a sweet, loud call. It is very shy. It is found on the western slopes of the Mahábaleshwar Hills, coming up half way from the base. One stopped a day in October in my garden at Nagar.

THE BLUE ROCK-THRUSH : 351. *Cyanocincla cyanus*—is found all over the country in the cold season. It usually sits solitary on a rock or the edge of a flat roof.

THE BLUE-HEADED CHAT-THRUSH : 353. *Petrocincla cinclorhynchus*—lives at Mahábaleshwar throughout the cold season, but just as its grey head is turning blue in April, it departs, perhaps for the Himalayas, where it breeds. A pair were shot near Nagar in October, probably in transit.

THE WHITE-WINGED GROUND-THRUSH : 354. *Geocichla cyanotus*—is common at Mahábaleshwar. It has a fine varied song, and may be heard any evening. Its song is not so loud as that of the Blackbird (*Merula nigropileus*), and yet is not distinguished by many from it. It nests in the grove at Lanauli in August, building in the forks of trees, a few feet high. It is sometimes found in gardens in the Dakhan.



THE BLACK-CAPPED BLACKBIRD : 359. *Merula nigropileus*—is abundant at Mahábaleshwar and all along the Sahyádris, in suitable localities. Its song is very fine, rich, and varied.

Then follow the BABBLING THRUSHES.

THE YELLOW-EYED BABBLER : 385. *Pyctorhis Sinensis*—frequents the eastern slopes at Mahábaleshwar. It suspends its nest from bushes or reeds, and lays three to five eggs that are pink, blotched with red.

THE NEILGERRY QUAKER-THRUSH : 389. *Alcippe poiocephala*—is abundant on the Khandála, Mahábaleshwar, and Belgaum hills. Dr. Jerdon says that this bird is silent ; but all throughout the hot season this and *Pellorneum* (399) keep up their babbling and laughing songs. The eggs are said to be handsome, of a beautiful reddish pink, blotched and streaked with purplish carmine.

THE WHITE-THROATED WREN-WARBLER : 398. *Dumetia albugularis*—is found in the same localities. Its eggs are white, densely spotted with bright red.

THE SPOTTED WREN-WARBLER : 399. *Pellorneum ruficeps*—is shy, but frequently seen among thickets at Mahábaleshwar, &c. Its eggs are said to be greenish white, finely speckled with lilac and rufous-brown, and the nest is on the ground.

THE SOUTHERN SCIMITAR-BABBLER : 404. *Pomatorhinus Horsfieldii*—makes the ravines of the Sahyádris ring with its bell-like call. The male calls *klook, klook*, and the female answers *wee*. It nests in February and March among the roots of bushes, and lays three to five white, translucent eggs.

The BABBLERS divide the land among them, each being abundant in its own district.

THE WHITE-HEADED BABBLER : 433. *Malacocircus griseus*—comes as far north as the Gatprabhá River, and there meets



THE LARGE GREY BABBLER : 436. *Malacocircus Malcolmii*, Maráthi *Quiyá*—which is the one we have in the Nagar Districts.

THE RUFOUS-TAILED BABBLER : 435. *Malacocircus Somervillei*—inhabits the Sahyádris, at least from Khandála to the Goa Hills.

THE RUFOUS BABBLER : 437. *Layardia subrufa*—is rare at Mahábaleshwar.

THE STRIATED BUSH-BABBLER : 438. *Chatarrhœa caudata*—may be heard whistling among the bushes along every road-side in the Dakhan.

All these Babblers nest in thick bushes, and lay blue or greenish blue eggs.

We have several **BULBULS**, and of some kinds the individuals are very numerous.

THE GHAT BLACK BULBUL : 446. *Hypsipetes Ganeesa*—is found at Mahábaleshwar and the Goa Hills.

THE YELLOW-BROWED BULBUL : 450. *Criniger ictericus*—has the same habitat as 446.

THE WHITE-BROWED BUSH-BULBUL : 452. *Ixos luteolus*—was found on the Gatprabhá River, and inhabits Bombay.

THE RED WHISKERED BULBUL : 460 bis. *Otocompsa fuscicaudata*—is very abundant along the hills from Khandála to Goa.

THE COMMON MADRAS BULBUL : 462. *Molpastes pusillus*—frequents the eastern slopes of the Hills and the Dakhan plains.

THE COMMON GREEN-BULBUL : 463. *Phyllornis Jerdoni*—and, similar to it,

THE MALABAR GREEN-BULBUL : 464. *Phyllornis Malabaricus*—are found along the Sahyádris from Khar

**THE BLACK-HEADED GREEN-BULBUL :** 467 and 468.

*Ægithina tiphia*—is scattered throughout our province. It is a brilliant little shining-black and yellow bird, and sings sweetly.

The ground colour of the eggs of the Bulbuls is pink, lilac, claret, or sometimes white, and they are spotted with red, purple, and brown.

**THE FAIRY BLUE-BIRD :** 469. *Irena puella*—is placed by Dr. Jerdon with the Bulbuls, but Mr. Hume would place it near the Starlings. It is truly a fairy, and is a sweet singer. We found it in the Sâwant Wâdi forests.

We have three **ORIOLES**, or four, if *Oriolus melanoccephalus* and *Oriolus Ceylonensis* prove ultimately to be distinct.

**THE INDIAN ORIOLE, or Mango Bird :** 470. *Oriolus Kundoo*, Maráthi *Páushá*—is found all over our province. It is a favourite both for its golden colour and its pleasant call. Its nest, as is that of 472, is suspended at the end of a branch between two or three twigs. The eggs are opaque white, with black dots.

**THE BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE :** 471. *Oriolus Chinensis*—is rare. The only one I have obtained was found in the Sâwant Wâdi forests.

**THE BENGAL BLACK-HEADED ORIOLE :** 472. *Oriolus melanoccephalus*—is sparsely found in the Nagar Districts, but I have never found a fully matured bird. The note of those found was much sweeter than the rather harsh call of *Oriolus Ceylonensis*, as heard at Mahábaleshwar.

**THE SOUTHERN BLACK-HEADED ORIOLE :** 473. *Oriolus Ceylonensis*—is found along the hills from Mahábaleshwar to Goa.

The **ROBINS** and **CHATS** come next in order.

**THE MAGPIE-ROBIN :** 475. *Copsychus Saularis*—is ~~common~~ at Bombay, in the Konkan, and the Sahyâdri Hills, and is sparsely scattered in the Dakhan. I often makes its home in gardens, and is prized for its

song. It nests in holes in walls, and lays three or four greenish eggs that are blotched with brownish red.

THE SHAMA : 476. *Cercotrichas Macrourus*—is found in the Belgaum and Goa districts in dense groves. The tones of this most charming songster are fairly luscious. I heard one in a thicket below Elphinstone Point at Mahábaleshwar, but was unable to find the bird.

THE INDIAN BLACK-ROBIN : 479. *Thamnobia fulicata*—is found around villages in the Dakhan as well as along the sides of all hills. It makes its nest in a hollow on the ground, and lays two or three eggs that are greyish white, speckled with pale yellowish brown.

THE WHITE-WINGED BLACK-ROBIN : 481. *Pratincola caprata*—is found throughout our province. Mr. Aitken found its nest at Khandála in May.

THE NEILGERRY BLACK-ROBIN : 482. *Pratincola bicolor*—inhabits the Mahábaleshwar Hills, &c. It looks much like 481, but is larger.

• THE BUSH CHAT : 483. *Pratincola rubicola*—visits all parts of the Dakhan, and stays with us through the cold season.

THE INDIAN WHEAT-EAR : 491. *Saxicola Isabellina*, and

THE BLACK-THROATED WHEAT-EAR : 492. *Saxicola deserti*—are found rarely among bushes in the Nagar Districts. And a black and white Stone-chat, which is probably

? THE INDIAN WHITE-TAILED STONE-CHAT : 488. *Saxicola opistholeuca*—has been observed twice near Nagar, but not secured for examination.

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THE REDSTARTS are represented by

THE INDIAN REDSTART : 497. *Ruticilla rufiventris*—appears in September and remains with us through cold season.

THE BLUE WOOD-CHAT : 507. *Larvivora cyanea*—is rare along the hills. I obtained it at Mahábaleshwar and in the Belgaum Districts. It was creeping about in thickets.

THE INDIAN BLUE-THROAT : 514. *Cyanecula suecica*—is found in the Dakhan by hedges and in bushes and rushes along river banks.

Some GRASS-WARBLERS are common. We have

THE LARGE REED-WARBLER : 515. *Acrocephalus brunescens*—was found at Wadále, near Nagar. This is called *Calamodyta stentoria* by Mr. Hume in "Nests and Eggs."

THE LESSER REED-WARBLER : 516. *Acrocephalus* (or *Calamodyta*) *dumetorum*—is in every tree in the cold season. It calls attention by its note, which is a *tchik*, like "the sound made by a flint and steel."

Of WREN-WARBLERS we have

THE INDIAN TAILOR-BIRD : 530. *Orthotomus longicauda*, Maráthi *Gawalan*—is always calling out its pretty, pretty, in our gardens.

THE DARK-ASHY WREN-WARBLER : 534. *Prinia socialis*—which is another Tailor-bird, and has a similar note to 530, is nearly as common.

THE MALABAR WREN-WARBLER : 538. *Prinia Hodgsoni*—lives at the western base of the Mahábaleshwar hills. I obtained it below Elphinstone Point.

THE DAKHAN WREN-WARBLER : 543 bis. *Drymoipus* (? *inornatus*)—weaves its bottle-shaped nests in our bájar ( *Holcus spicata* ) fields in August and lays its exquisite little greenish blue eggs that are so curiously marked with purple brown. It is ever saying pzee, pzee.

THE LONG-TAILED WREN-WARBLER : 544. *Dymoipus longicaudatus*—is found along hedges ; may be the same as the last in winter plumage.

THE RUFOUS-FRONTED WREN-WARBLER : 551. *Franklinia Buchanani*—is found in the Nagar Districts, whist-

ling and flitting from bush to bush, like the *Chatarhæa* (438). The nests of the Warblers, so far as they have been found, show great ingenuity in sewing or weaving, and the eggs are very pretty. Most of them have a peculiar jerky flight, and their notes are loud for the size of the birds.

I will merely give the names of the **TREE WARBLERS** that have been found in our limits. These little birds are identified with difficulty, and Dr. Jerdon's descriptions are very meagre. We have at least

SYKES' WARBLER : 553. *Pythopais Rama*.

THE BROWN TREE-WARBLER : 554. *Phylloscopus tristis*.

THE DULL GREEN TREE-WARBLER : 558. *Phylloscopus lugubris*.

THE BRIGHT GREEN TREE-WARBLER : 559. *Phylloscopus nitidus*.

THE GREENISH TREE-WARBLER : 560. *Phylloscopus viridanus*.

TICKELL'S TREE-WARBLER : 561. *Phylloscopus affinis*.

THE OLIVACEOUS TREE-WARBLER : 562. *Phylloscopus Indicus*.

THE CROWNED TREE-WARBLER : 565. *Reguloides superciliosus*.

Our **GREY WARBLERS** are

THE LARGE BLACK-CAPPED WARBLER : 581. *Sylvia Orphea*.

THE ALLIED GREY WARBLER : 582. *Sylvia affinis*.

THE LESSER WHITE-THROAT : 583. *Sylvia Curruca*.

The **WAGTAILS** of our Province are as follows :—

THE PIED WAGTAIL : 589. *Motacilla Maderaspatana*—is found along our rivers. It nests in the hot season, choosing some place it fancies near the water, and lays about four greenish or grey eggs with brown spots.

THE BLACK-CHINNED WAGTAIL : 591 bis. *Motacilla Dukhunensis*—is common with us during the cold season. They leave us about the beginning of April, before the majority of them have fairly donned their breeding dress.

THE GREY AND YELLOW WAGTAIL : 592. *Calobates boarula*—is generally found associated with 591, and it also frequents mountain streams, where 591 is seldom found.

THE INDIAN FIELD WAGTAIL : 593. *Budytes viridis*—is found feeding among cattle and sheep. Their plumage is very changeable, so that this has been separated into several species.

THE YELLOW-HEADED WAGTAIL : 594. *Budytes calcaratus*—is less common, and frequents the beds of streams and other damp places.

THE BLACK-BREASTED WAGTAIL : 595. *Nemoricola Indica*—is a wood-loving species.

The PIPITS also wag their tails, but they mostly frequent stony fields, the dry sides of hills, &c. We have

THE INDIAN TREE-PIBIT : 596. *Pipastes agilis*—is usually found near trees, and when disturbed usually flies up into a tree. Its olive colour distinguishes it from (600) *Corydalla rufula*, which is grey-tinted.

THE LARGE MARSH PIPIT : 599. *Corydalla Richardi*—should occur in our limits, but I have not found it.

THE INDIAN TITLARK : 600. *Corydalla rufula* ;

THE LARGE TITLARK : 601. *Corydalla striolata* ; and

THE STONE PIPIT : 602. *Agrodroma campestris*—are a band of brothers with similar habits, and often found in company on a hill side in the Dakhan.

THE RUFOUS ROCK-PIBIT : 603. *Agrodroma cinnamomea*—is rare, but I have found it on the hill sides.

Of the TITS we have



THE WHITE-EYED TIT : 631. *Zosterops palpebrosus*;  
And of TITMICE,

THE INDIAN GREY TIT : 645. *Parus Cinereus* ; and

THE SOUTHERN YELLOW TIT : 648. *Machlolophus Jerdoni*.—The first two are with us in the Dakhan plains all the year, and Mr. Aitken says that the White-eyed Tit breeds in Poona. We find the Grey Tits at Nagar in the rains, very anxious when we approach particular places and trees, but I have never found its nest. The Yellow Tit is found in my observation only along the Ghát Hills.

The next tribe is that of the **CONIROSTRES**.  
The two **CROWS** we have are

THE INDIAN CORBY : 660. *Corvus culminatus*, or, as Mr. Hume calls it, *Corvus LeVaillantii*, our larger black crow, Maráthi *Domkávalá*—is found throughout the whole country. It lives on the tops of our highest mountains, which the Ashy-necked Crow (663) does not.

THE COMMON ASHY-NECKED CROW : 663. *Corvus impudicus*, Maráthi *Kávalá*, or, as it has usually been called, *Corvus splendens*—is too well known to require further remark. Both of these Crows nest in the beginning of the rains, and lay four eggs each, which are usually greenish-blue with dusky blotches and spots.

We have one **MAGPIE**.

THE COMMON INDIAN MAGPIE : 674. *Dendrocitta rufa*—is found in the ravines of the hills and in some restricted places in the Dakhan.

Of **STARLINGS** we have

THE COMMON MYNA : 684. *Acridotheres tristis*, Maráthi *Sálunki*—is the one that lives in the Dakhan and on the eastern slopes of the Sahyádris. But it gives place to

THE DUSKY MYNA : 686. *Acridotheres fuscus*—on the western slopes.

THE BRAHMANI MYNA : 687. *Temenuchus pagodarum*—though less abundant in most parts of the country, is found on both slopes and throughout the country.

The eggs of all three are glossy blue, or greenish blue, and holes are used for nests.

THE ROSE-COLOURED STARLING : 690. *Pastor roseus*, Maráthi *Bhorada*—comes into the Dakhan in vast flocks in November and stays till April. It is very destructive to the jowári (*Holcus sorghum*) crops. They gather each evening at favourite roosting places, and the assembled flocks look like clouds, from a distance.

THE SOUTHERN HILL MYNA : 692. *Eulabes religiosa*—is said to occur as far north as Goa.

The WEAVER-BIRDS come next in order.

THE COMMON WEAVER BIRD : 694. *Ploceus baya*, Maráthi *Gawalan*—famous for its curious hanging nests and its intelligence in captivity; is found abundantly both in the Dakhan and the Konkan.

Next come the AMADAVADS.

THE SPOTTED MUNIA : 699. *Munia punctulata*—is rarely found in the Nagar Districts.

THE WHITE-BACKED MUNIA : 701. *Munia striata*—is found all along the Ghát range.

THE PLAIN BROWN MUNIA : 703. *Munia Malabarica*—is common throughout the Dakhan. The Maráthis call it *Chidi*.

All of these birds lay pure white eggs that look like pellets of snow, as do also the WAXBILLS, of which we have in some places

THE RED WAXBILL : 704. *Estrilda amandava* and

THE GREEN WAXBILL : 705. *Estrilda formosa*.

Our SPARROWS are

THE INDIAN HOUSE SPARROW : 706. *Passer Indicus*, Maráthi *Chimani*—differs very little from the Sparrow of England.

THE YELLOW-NECKED SPARROW : 711. *Passer flavicollis*—has a yellow spot on the middle of the throat. It is found all over the country, and is a sweet singer.

Of BUNTINGS we have

THE GREY-NECKED BUNTING : 716. *Emberiza Huttoni*—that delights in hill-sides.

THE BLACK-HEADED BUNTING : 721. *Euspiza melanocephala*, Maráthi *Piwal*—which collects in flocks, and is only less destructive of millet than *Pastor roseus* (690).

THE RED-HEADED BUNTING : 722. *Euspiza luteola*—is found in the eastern part of the Nagar Districts in small numbers.

THE CRESTED BLACK BUNTING : 724. *Melophus melanicticus*—is sparsely scattered on the sides of the Sahyádrí Mountains, and also of the spurs that extend into the Dakhan. A pair or two will usually be seen in passing over any of the longer Gháts.

Of the FINCHES we have only

THE COMMON ROSE FINCH : 738. *Carpodacus erythrínus*.—It is found on both our hills and plains through the cold season, but leaves us just as the male puts on his bright rosy plumage in the end of March.

Our LARKS are more numerous.

THE RUFOUS-WINGED BUSH-LARK : 756. *Mirafra erythroptera*—will usually be found among scattered bushes, especially on hill-sides, in the Dakhan. It nests by a bush or tuft of grass, and lays three to five greyish speckled eggs, in the hot season.

THE RUFOUS-TAILED FINCH-LARK : 758. *Ammomanes phœnicura*—lives in every field in the Dakhan. It nests in grass, and in April to June lays three or four greenish-white eggs that are speckled with brown.

THE BLACK-BELLIED FINCH-LARK : 760. *Pyrrhulauda grisea*—is also everywhere. It breeds throughout th

year, but especially in the cold season, making its nest in a hollow, and laying two or three brown speckled grey eggs.

**THE SOCIAL LARK : 761.** *Calandrella brachydactyla*—is with us through the cold season, living in flocks in the grass or grain fields.

**THE SMALL CRESTED-LARK : 765.** *Spizalanda Hayi*, Maráthi *Chandol*—lives in the Dakhan through the year. It nests beneath a tuft of grass, and lays two or three yellowish grey eggs with dark spots. It is a true Sky-lark, singing as it mounts.

**THE MALABAR CRESTED-LARK : 768.** *Spizalanda Malabarica*—is very similar to 765 in appearance and habits, but is larger and darker in plumage and has a much longer bill. It lives along the Sahyádris on both slopes, at least from Khandála to Goa.

Dr. Jerdon puts the Pigeons and Doves in an order by themselves, and calls them **GEMITORES** or the Cooers. Of these we have

**THE SOUTHERN GREEN-PIGEON : 773.** *Crocopus chlorigaster*, Maráthi *Harel*—lives both on the plains and among the hills of our province, often escaping observation from its colours so closely resembling those of the leaves of the trees it frequents. It feeds wholly on the smaller kinds of fruit, and is usually fat.

**THE NILAGIRI WOOD-PIGEON : 786.** *Palumbus Elphinstonei*—is found on the Mahábleshwar Hills, but is not often seen. Its coo resembles the hooting of Owls.

**THE BLUE ROCK-PIGEON : 788.** *Columba intermedia*, Maráthi *Párawá*—is common everywhere. In the Dakhan it usually breeds in holes in the walls of wells.

**THE ASHY TURTLE DOVE : 792.** *Turtur rupicola*, Maráthi *Hálagád*—is found along the western slopes of the Sahyádris and rarely on the plains of the Dakhan.

**THE RUFOUS TURTLE-DOVE : 793.** *Turtur meena*—is found at Mahábaleshwar in the cold season.

THE LITTLE BROWN DOVE : 794. *Turtur Cambayensis*, Maráthi *Holá*—is common everywhere.

THE SPOTTED DOVE : 795. *Turtur Suratensis*, Maráthi *Kawadá*—is abundant on the western slopes of the hills, and is rarely found in the Dakhan.

THE COMMON RING-DOVE : 796. *Turtur risoria*, Maráthi *Pithá Holá*—lives everywhere, but is more abundant in the Dakhan.

THE RED RING-DOVE : 797. *Turtur humilis*—is found usually in small flocks.

All these Doves and Pigeons lay white eggs, and most of them build their nests in the forks of trees.

The next order is that of the **RASORES** or **SCRATCHERS**. We have two species of **SAND-GROUSE**.

THE PAINTED SAND-GROUSE : 800. *Pterocles fasciatus*—is found in the Dakhan on the sides of bushy hills.

THE COMMON SAND-GROUSE, Maráthi *Pakorade* : 802. *Pterocles exustus*—frequents the bare open fields. It is social in its habits. When flying it frequently calls *kadak, kadak*.

The eggs of these two species are laid on the bare ground, are nearly as large at one end as at the other, and are of an earthy green colour, with grey and brown spots.

Of **FOWLS** we have

THE PEACOCK : 803. *Pavo cristatus*, Maráthi *Mor*—delights in wooded hills and ravines. It lays a dozen or more buff or coffee coloured eggs on the ground.

THE GREY JUNGLE FOWL : 813. *Gallus Sonnerattii*, Maráthi *Ránkombadi*—is found at Mahábaleshwar and along the hills to the south of it. Its eggs are cream coloured or buff, smaller than good specimens of the domestic hen's eggs.

THE RED SPUR-FOWL : 814. *Galloperdix spadiceus*, Maráthi *Chakotri*.—It is abundant at Mahábaleshwar and along the Sahyádrí Mountains generally. It lays five to ten eggs on the ground. The eggs are cream coloured or fawn coloured.



Of **PARTRIDGES** we have

**THE PAINTED PARTRIDGES :** 819. *Francolinus pictus*—  
is sometimes found in bushy places in the Dakhan.

**THE GREY PARTRIDGE :** 822. *Ortygornis Pondiceriana*,  
Maráthi *Titir*—is common throughout the Dakhan,  
and well known by its call of *ka, ka, katheeta, katheeta*.  
It makes its nest on the ground under grass or  
whatever will hide it, and lays six to eight creamy or  
buffish white eggs.

The **QUAILS** are more numerous in species. We  
have

**THE JUNGLE BUSH-QUAIL :** 826. *Perdica Cambayensis* according to Dr. Jerdon, or *Perdica Asiatica*  
according to Mr. Grey—is the one most abundant  
at Khandála and Mahábaleshwar.

**THE ROCK BUSH-QUAIL :** 827. *Perdica Asiatica* ac-  
cording to Dr. Jerdon, or *Perdica Argoondah* of Col.  
Sykes, Maráthi, *Lawá*, is the one found around Nagar  
and in the Dakhan generally.

**THE PAINTED BUSH-QUAIL :** 828. *Perdica erythro-  
rhynca*—is found at Mahábaleshwar and along the  
hills.

**THE LARGE GREY QUAIL :** 829. *Coturnix Communis*—  
is found in the cold season in grain fields.

**THE BLACK-BREASTED OR RAIN-QUAIL :** 830. *Coturnix  
Coromandelica*—is found at all seasons in grain fields  
and by hedges.

**THE BLACK-BREASTED BUSTARD QUAIL :** 832. *Turnix  
Taigoor*—lives both among the hills and on the plains.

**THE BUTTON QUAIL :** 835. *Turnix Sykesii*—the most  
diminutive game bird of India, is sometimes flushed  
when beating for Quail, but is not abundant.

Quails nest on the ground, and lay yellowish or reddish  
white eggs, that are sometimes spotted.

We now come to the order of **GRALLATORES**,  
including the long-legged birds, the Runners, and  
the Waders. First in tribe are the **BUSTARDS**.

THE INDIAN BUSTARD : 836. *Eupodotis Edwardsii*, called *Karadhonk* or *Máldhonk* in the Dakhan—is the largest of our game birds. It frequents the open plains of the Dakhan. It lays in grassy places a single egg that is usually olive with dark blotches.

THE LESSER FLORIKIN : 839. *Sypheotides aurita*, Maráthi *Tanmor*—is found in different parts of the Dakhan. The male assumes the black plumage in the rains. It lays two or three eggs, much smaller than, but similar in colour to, those of the Bustard.

#### Of PLOVERS,

THE INDIAN COURSER-PLOVER : 840. *Cursorius Coromandelicus*—is found common in the cold season, and I have seen it in July. It also lays on the ground, and its “very spherical” eggs are yellowish with inky spots.

THE GREY PLOVER : 844. *Squatarola Helvetica*—comes into the Dakhan in flocks in the cold season.

THE INDIAN RINGED PLOVER : 849. *Aegialitis Philipensis*—is sometimes found in our fields, &c., and Lieutenant Burgess found it “breeding in April on sand banks in rivers, laying three eggs, of a rich stone colour, spotted and freckled with grey and brown.”

#### Of LAPWINGS.

THE RED-WATTLED LAPWING : 855. *Lobivanellus Indicus*, Maráthi *Titavi*—is found by every river or tank both among the hills and on the plains. Everyone has heard its “*Did you do it?*”

THE YELLOW-WATTLED LAPWING : 856. *Sarciophorus bilobus* of Dr. Jerdon, and *Lobipluvia Malabarica* of Mr. Hume, also called *Titavi*—is not so noisy, and frequents the dry fields. The eggs of both these Lapwings are of the pegtop shape, and are buffy, covered with brown and inky clouds and blotches.

#### Of STONE-PLOVERS,

THE STONE-PLOVER, or BASTARD-FLORICAN : 859. *Edicnemus Indicus*—is seldom seen, but its call of *whip-poorwill* is frequently heard after dusk. They are sometimes found in a flock, but usually only three or four

together. It lays two yellowish eggs that are spotted and blotched with brown.

### Of the **CRANES**,

THE SARAS : 863. *Grus Antigone*—is found in the northern part of our province, but seldom comes south of the Godávári River.

THE COMMON CRANE, or the KALLAM : 865. *Grus cinerea*—comes into the Dakhan in the cold season, but not in such large flocks as the next.

THE DEMOISELLE CRANE : 866. *Anthropoides Virgo*, Maráthi *Karkuchi*—which is very destructive when a flock alights in a grain field.

Next come the tribe **LONGIROSTRES**.

The **SNIPES** come first, and we have

THE PINTAILED SNIPE : 870. *Gallinago stenura* ;

THE COMMON SNIPE : 871. *Gallinago Scolopacina* ; and

THE JACK SNIPE : 872. *Gallinago Gallinula*. They are cold weather visitants.

THE PAINTED SNIPE : 873. *Rhynchæa Bengalensis*—is said by Dr. Jerdon to be a permanent resident in India, he found it breeding in the Dakhan. The egg is buff, thickly blotched with brown.

The **SANDPIPERS** arrive early in the cold season :  
We have

THE SPOTTED SANDPIPER : 891. *Actitis glareola* ;

THE GREEN SANDPIPER : 892. *Actitis ochropus* ; and

THE COMMON SANDPIPER : 893. *Actitis hypoleucos*.

These are found by every bit of water. They are solitary in habits, though several may often be seen at once.

THE GREEN-SHANKS : 894. *Totanus canescens* ;

THE LITTLE GREEN-SHANKS : 895. *Totanus stagnatilis* ;  
and

THE **STILT** OR **LONGLEGS** : 898. *Himantopus candidus*—are also found by rivers and tanks in the cold season.

Then comes the tribe **LATITORES**.

The two **JACANAS** are found, but are rare, in the Dakhan. They are

THE BRONZE-WINGED JACANA : 900. *Metopodius Indicus*,  
and

THE PHEASANT-TAILED JACANA : 901. *Hydrophasianus*  
*Chirurgus*.

The **WATER-HENS** and their relatives are classed next.

THE PURPLE COOT : 902. *Porphyrio neglectus*—is located in our province as well as the rest of India by Dr. Jerdon. I have never seen one.

THE BALD COOT : 903. *Fulica atra*—is common, and Lieutenant Burgess found it breeding near Nagar in August. The eggs are buffy and closely stippled with small dark brown specks.

THE WATER-HEN : 905. *Gallinula chloropus*—is also said by Dr. Jerdon to be generally diffused throughout India.

THE WHITE-BREASTED WATER-HEN : 907. *Gallinula phœnicura*—is found by the Koina River, near Mahábaleshwar, and Mr. Aitken writes of finding its nest on a date palm in Bombay in September. The eggs are yellowish or pinky white, with spots and streaks of brownish red or reddish purple.

THE BROWN RAIL : 908. *Porzana Akool* ;

THE SPOTTED RAIL : 909. *Porzana maruetta* ;

THE PYGMY RAIL : 910. *Porzana pygmæa* ;

THE RUDDY RAIL : 911. *Porzana fusca* ;

THE BANDED RAIL : 912. *Porzana Ceylonica* ; and

THE BLUE-BREASTED RAIL : 913. *Hypotaenidia striata*—are all said by Dr. Jerdon to be distributed throughout India. In the Dakhan I have found only the Spotted (909) and the Pigmy Rail (910).

Then come the **CULTIROSTRES**.

The **STORKS**, each kind called *Bagalá* by the Maráthis, are well represented.

THE GIGANTIC STORK : 915. *Leptoptilos dubius*—usually called the Adjutant, is rarely seen in the Dakhan, satisfying its appetite from a carcass along with vultures.

THE BLACK STORK : 918. *Ciconia nigra*—is rare, but has been killed in the Dakhan.

THE WHITE STORK : 919. *Ciconia alba*—is said to be abundant, in the cold season, in some parts of the Dakhan.

THE WHITE-NECKED STORK : 920. *Melanopelargus Episcopus*—is more common in the Nagar Districts, usually near small streams.

But the **HERONS** are still more common.

THE BLUE HERON : 923. *Ardea cinerea* and

THE PURPLE HERON : 924. *Ardea purpurea*—frequent our rivers. So do also several **EGRETS**, viz. :—

THE LARGE EGRET : 925. *Herodias alba*.

THE SMALLER EGRET : 926. *Herodias Egrettoides*.

THE LITTLE EGRET : 927. *Herodias Garzetta*.

THE ASHY EGRET : 928. *Demiegretta asha*, and

THE CATTLE EGRET : 929. *Buphus Coromandus*. Mr. Hume includes all these Egrets under the generic name of *Ardea*. These Herons collect in immense numbers and build their nests on trees near large lakes. I am not aware that there is any such breeding place within the limits of our province.

THE POND HERON : 930. *Ardeola Grayii*—is very common. Dr. Jerdon says it breeds everywhere on trees, laying four or five pale, greenish blue eggs. I have not found a nest.

THE LITTLE GREEN HERON : 931. *Butorides Javanicus*—is sometimes seen near Nagar. It is common around Mahábaleshwar.

THE CHESTNUT BITTERN : 933. *Ardetta cinnamomea*—is found, though rare, near Mahábaleshwar.



**THE BITTERN : 936.** *Botaurus stellaris*—is said by Dr. Jerdon to have been killed in the Dakhan.

**THE NIGHT-HERON : 937.** *Nyctiardea Nycticorax*—is common in the Nagar Districts. It is brought to notice by its cry in the evening of *wāāk*, *wāāk*, as it leaves the large trees during which it had hidden through the day.

The family of the Tantalidae, which includes the Ibis. &c., will complete the Waders.

**THE PELICAN-IBIS : 938.** *Tantalus leucocephalus*, called *Pāñch Pāñdaw* by the Maráthis—is common along our large rivers. A large number breed in the cold season at the village of Bhende, 35 miles north-east from Nagar, or some years at Mhasle, which is near Bhende. They use every available branch of a large Banyan tree over the village gate. The eggs are “white, sometimes blotched with pale brown,” and measure about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  by  $1\frac{7}{8}$  inches.

**THE SPOON-BILL : 939.** *Platalea leucorodia*—is found in small parties feeding in shallow water.

**THE SHELL-IBIS : 940.** *Anastomus oscitans*—feeds on the Unios in our rivers.

The following are the **IBISES** proper :—

**THE WHITE IBIS : 941.** *Threskiornis melanocephalus*—is sparsely found feeding in tanks and rivers.

**THE WARTY-HEADED IBIS : 942.** *Geronticus papillosus*, called by sportsmen the Kingcurlew or Black Curlew, and by the Maráthas *Shendaryá* and also *Mánabháw*, is commonly seen picking up insects in the fields. It nests on tamarind and other high trees in the cold season. The eggs are sea-green.

The last order is that of the **WEB-FOOTED BIRDS**, called **NATATORES** or Palmipedes.

The first tribe including Flamingoes, Ducks, and Geese, and is called **LAMELLIROSTRES**.

The first, which has long legs like a Wader, though Web-footed, is

**THE FLAMINGO : 944.** *Phænicopterus roseus*.—It sometimes visits the large tanks in the Dakhan and the salt pans of Bombay.

I am not aware that any **GEESE** except *Sarkidiornis melanotus*, or the Nukta, visit our province. Of the **SHIELDRAKES**,

THE WHISTLING TEAL : 952. *Dendrocygna arcuata* and

THE LARGE WHISTLING TEAL : 953. *Dendrocygna major*—are found in the Dakhan, but not frequently.

THE RUDDY SHIELDRAKE : 954. *Casarca rutila*, or Brahmani Duck, *Chakrawák*, or *Chákawá*, of the Maráthis—is a winter visitant to our larger rivers, usually in pairs, but to some places in flocks.

The **DUCKS**, called *Badak* by the Maráthis, that visit us, are

THE SHOVELLER : 957. *Spatula clypeata* ;

THE SPOTTED-BILLED DUCK : 959. *Anas Pæcilorhyncha* ;

THE PINK-HEADED DUCK : 960. *Anas caryophyllacea* ;

THE GADWALL : 961. *Chaulelasmus streperus* ;

THE WIGEON : 963. *Mareca Penelope* ;

THE COMMON TEAL : 964. *Querquedula crecca* ; and

THE BLUE-WINGED TEAL : 965. *Querquedula círcia*.

The next tribe is that of **MERGITORES**, or Divers, under which we have one **GREBE**.

THE LITTLE GREBE : 975. *Podiceps Philippensis*—is found in all lakes and large tanks.

Of the tribe **VAGATORES**, including Petrels, Gulls, and Terns, some **GULLS** frequent the coast and ascend rivers a long way. They are

THE BROWN-HEADED GULL : 980. *Xema brunnicephala* and

THE GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL : 979. *Kroikocephalus ichthyætus*.—They are found in Bombay Harbour.

THE LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL : 978. *Larus Fuscus*—was obtained by Dr Jerdon near Jálná, in the Dakhan.

Of **TERNs**,

THE GULL-BILLED TERN : 983. *Gelochelidon Anglica* ;  
 THE SMALL MARSH TERN : 984. *Hydrochelidon Indica* ;  
 THE LARGE RIVER TERN : 985. *Sterna Seena* ;  
 THE BLACK-BELLIED TERN : 987. *Sterna Javanica* ; and  
 THE LITTLE TERN : 988. *Sterna minuta*—are rarely  
 found by our tanks and rivers.

The Diving Fishers or **PISCATOIRES** remain.  
 These birds dive and pursue fish in their own element. They  
 move in the water with astonishing celerity. They are

THE LARGE CORMORANT : 1005. *Graculus carbo*.

THE LITTLE CORMORANT : 1007. *Graculus melanognathus*,  
 Maráthi *Pán-kombadi*—which is very abundant, and

THE INDIAN SNAKE-BIRD : 1008. *Plotus melanogaster*.—This, with its very long, flexile neck, suggests  
 the idea of a snake, and especially so when it is in  
 the water, floating with only its head and neck  
 visible.

Dr. Jerdon says that both of these last species breed  
 on trees, occasionally in the midst of villages, having numerous  
 nests on the same tree. They lay light green eggs.