

THE
BIRDS OF INDIA;

BEING

A NATURAL HISTORY

OF ALL

THE BIRDS KNOWN TO INHABIT CONTINENTAL INDIA:

WITH

*Descriptions of the Species, Genera, Families, Tribes, and Orders, and a
Brief Notice of such Families as are not found in India,*

MAKING IT A

MANUAL OF ORNITHOLOGY

SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR INDIA.

BY

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PREFACE.

IN consequence of the time that the careful compilation or an Index will take, and other circumstances, the Author has been induced to issue the Second Volume in two parts. This will be attended with great additional expense to the Author; but, in consideration of the numerous observers, now fortunately scattered over the country, who are anxious for the early appearance of the Work, the Author has not grudged it.

The concluding part will, he hopes, be issued in a few months.

CONTENTS OF VOL. II., PART I.

	PAGE.
ORD. INSESSORES, (<i>Continued</i> ,)	
Fam. MERULIDÆ, <i>Continued</i> ,... ..	
Timalinæ,	1
Fam. BRACHYPODIDÆ,	75
Pycnonotinæ,	76
Phyllornithinæ,	96
Ireninæ,	104
Oriolinæ,	106
Fam. SYLVIADÆ,	113
Saxicolinæ,	114
Ruticillinæ,	135
Calamoherpinae,	153
Drymoicinæ,	164
Phylloscopinæ,	187
Sylvianæ,	207
Motacillinæ,	210
Fam. AMPELIDÆ,	240
Leiotrichinæ,	241
Parinæ,	269
Accentorinæ,	283
Tribe CONIROSTRES,	291
Fam. CORVIDÆ,	292
Corvinæ,	292
Garrulinæ,	306
Dendrocittinæ,	313
Fregilinæ,	318

CONTENTS

	PAGE.
Fam. STURNIDÆ,	320
Sturninæ,	321
Lamprotorninæ,	331
Fam. FRINGILLIDÆ,	341
Ploceinæ,	342
Estreldinæ,	351
Passerinæ,	362
Emberizinæ,	369
Fringillinæ,	383
Alaudinæ,	415

THE BIRDS OF INDIA.

Sub-fam. TIMALINÆ, Babbling Thrushes.

Syn. *Crateropodinæ*, Swains.—*Timalidæ*, Bonap.—*Liotrichidæ*, Caban., and Van Hœven (in part).

Legs and feet stout and large ; bill various in form and length, almost always compressed, usually notched ; wings short and rounded ; tail largish, graduated ; plumage often lax.

This family presents a large assemblage of birds of diverse and varied aspect ; some with short and thick bills ; a few with long and curved beaks ; others with this organ moderate and Thrush-like. In fact, we have represented here, as far as the beak is concerned, Thrushes, Shrikes, Jays, Finches, Titmice, and Tree-creepers. Their most characteristic features are their strong legs and feet, combined with a short rounded wing, and a compressed bill. Their colors are usually plain and sombre, in one group varied with some richer tints. Their habits correspond with their structural details. They are mostly social, or even gregarious ; they are a good deal on the ground, on which they hop vigorously, or climb with facility through tangled thickets or reeds ; and their food is both insects, fruits, and grain. The majority of those, with whose habits we are familiar, lay blue eggs. The sexes rarely differ, if at all, and the young are clothed much as the parent birds, only somewhat duller. The greater number of the species, as at present recognized, are Asiatic, chiefly from India and Malaya ; and it is only of late years that most of them have been made known to science. They extend through the Eastern Isles to Australia and New Zealand ; several are African ; and possibly many birds of the New Continent may be found to associate naturally with the birds of this group.

Swainson was the first naturalist who seized on their peculiarities of structure, and named them *Crateropodinæ*, a name which perhaps ought to be retained. Bonaparte, in his *Conspectus*,

separated them, some of them being placed as a sub-family, *Timalinæ*, of his *Maluridæ*; and others in the *Ptilorhynchinæ*, a sub-family of the *Garrulidæ*, or Jays. Latterly, however, he fully recognized the extent of the group, so far as to locate in his family, *Timalidæ*, most of the birds now usually placed here; but he included in it many of the short-legged Thrushes, *Brachypodinæ*; and, with more justice, I consider, the group of Mocking-birds, or American short-winged Thrushes. Blyth, in his Catalogue, also classed them much as the Prince formerly did; but now nearly adopts the group as defined by Gray and Horsfield, with some additions. This naturalist also is inclined to place the diminutive, short-winged warblers, such as *Drymoica*, *Pinia*, &c., with the Babblers; but I prefer classing them as a type of the *Sylviadæ*.

Taking all their characters and habits into consideration, I fully agree with Gray and Horsfield in their views as to the extent of this family; but I believe that many other forms, not usually associated with this family, also belong here, some of which will be pointed out in the proper place. As we approach the limits of the group on either side, there are of course a few forms whose place is not so clear or marked; and one or more have been placed in the next family, the *Brachypodidæ*; and this we can easily understand (as the two groups approach each other, if they do not actually unite,) without agreeing with the Prince of Canino, and placing the short-legged Thrushes, of strict arboreal habits, with these strong-legged and active clamberers, and ground birds. A few of this family also approach the *Myiotherinæ*, and several of the smaller members of the *Timalia* section were classed by Temminck under his somewhat heterogeneous *Myiothera*. Some of the forms of this family also approach the *Leiotrichinæ*; they are classed together by certain foreign Ornithologists; and one, or more genera have been bandied between the two groups by other writers.

Bonaparte divides the *Timalidæ* (excluding the Bulbuls) into *Leiotrichinæ*, *Garrulacinæ*, *Crateropodinæ*, *Miminæ*, and *Timalinæ*. I shall divide them, without bestowing any distinct name, or defining the limits of each very closely, into the following sections: 1st, the thick billed, or Finch-thrushes; 2nd, the Jay-thrushes

and Shrike-babblers; 3rd, the Quaker and Wren-babblers; 4th, the Creeper-thrushes; 5th, the Laughing-thrushes; 6th, the true Babblers; and lastly, the Reed-thrushes.

Although the series, as here given, is not unbroken, I think that it presents the affinities, *inter se*, of the various sections pretty closely; and the two most abnormal groups are here placed each on the confines of the family. With regard to their external relations, I think, that whilst they perhaps join the Tits, and *Liotrichinæ*, through *Suthora* and the *Alcippe* group, on the other side they are undoubtedly connected to the Warblers through some of the Reed-thrushes, such as *Eurycercus* and *Schænicola*, and they join the true Thrushes by the Mocking Thrushes of America.

1st. The thick-billed, or Finch-thrushes, (*Paradoxornithinæ*, Gray.)

There has been considerable difference of opinion as to the affinities of these very curious birds. Mr. Gould, who founded the typical genus, contents himself with calling it a paradoxical bird. Gray places the smaller forms with the *Parinæ*, and the larger in the *Fringillidæ*, next *Phytotoma*. Bonaparte, likewise, in his Conspectus, classed them among the Finches, but subsequently admitted their alliance with the *Timalinæ*, associating them with *Leiothrix*, and thus formed the sub-family, *Liotrichinæ*, in which, moreover, he placed *Conostoma*. Hodgson considered the larger ones nearly allied to *Conostoma*, an undoubted member of this family; and Blyth, whilst placing them in the *Paridæ* (as does Horsfield), also admitted the relationship to *Conostoma*; and he is now inclined to class them near the *Timalinæ*. Tickell does not allow their affinities for this family, and calls them Fringillideous. Putting aside the bill, the structure in every other respect is quite Crateropodine. The strong legs and feet, the rounded wing, the long graduated tail, the lax plumage, all agree with the characters of this family; whilst the bill, (on which so much stress is laid by some, to the exclusion of every other feature,) as already noticed, varies greatly in this family; and here it is reduced to a minimum in shortness, and a maximum in depth and width. *Conostoma*, *Pyctoris*, and some other genera, foreign to India, approach it in these points, and make an easy transition to the more ordinary form of beak.

Gen. PARADOXORNIS, Gould.

Syn. *Bathyrhynchus*, McLell.—*Heteromorpha*, Hodgson (partly).

Char.—Bill short, stout, as high at the base as long; culmen much curved, compressed on the sides, blunt, sinuated on the margin; nostrils small, round, concealed by setaceous feathers; rictus with a few slender bristles; wings feeble, rounded, the 6th quill longest, the four first graduated; tail long, firm, graduated; legs and feet very stout; tarsus nearly entire; lateral toes equal; hind toe and claw large, claws all freely curved; the middle toe not much elongated; plumage soft and lax.

The birds composing this curious genus differ somewhat in the form of the bill and wing, and one of them has been classed separately by Gray; but I think that, with the exception perhaps of *Heteromorpha*, they range better together than if each peculiarity is made to constitute a sub-genus. The present genus is characterized by the deep sinuation of the tomia of the mandibles.

373. *Paradoxornis flavirostris*, GOULD.

P. Z. S., 1836, 17—HORSF., Cat. 609—GOULD, Icones, pl. 1.—Birds of Asia, Part VI., pl. 8.—*Bathyrhynchus brevirostris*, MCLLELLAND.

THE YELLOW-BILLED FINCH-THRUSH.

Descr.—Above, the head and hind neck pale rufous; back, wings, and tail, dull olive-brown; cheeks and throat white, with small black spots; ear-coverts and a gular band, black; beneath, pale earthy rufescent. One (female) specimen wants the black gular band, and has the white of the lower parts rufescent-white, with some brown spots on the throat and breast.

Bill bright yellow; legs plumbeous; irides red brown. Length $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{1}{4}$; tail $3\frac{3}{4}$; bill at front $\frac{1}{2}$, nearly as deep at the base; tarsus $1\frac{1}{10}$.

I have only procured this very interesting bird on the Khasia hills, at an elevation of above 5,000 feet, in a pine wood, and found that it had partaken of various seeds. There were two or three young birds in company with the parents, one of which I also shot, and found that it closely resembled the old birds in plumage. They were rather shy, though they did not conceal

themselves in the manner of the *Garrulax* group, but flew from tree to tree. McLelland obtained his only specimen in Assam, very probably on the Khasia hills; and Hodgson has also procured it in the Sikhim Terai, and Nepal.

374. *Paradoxornis gularis*, HORSFIELD.

HORSFIELD, MSS.—GRAY, Genera of birds, pl. 94, f. 2—GOULD, Birds of Asia, Part VI., pl. 10—*P. caniceps*, BLYTH—*Heteromorpha*, apud BLYTH, Cat. 528—HORSF., Cat. 612—*Chongto-phep-pho*, Lepch.

THE HOARY-HEADED FINCH-THRUSH.

Descr.—Above rufescent brown; head pure grey, with a black superciliary line, commencing with the nostrils; beneath white, with the chin black.

Bill yellow; legs and feet plumbeous; the claws pale; irides light brown. Length 6 inches; wing $3\frac{1}{2}$; tail 3; bill at front $\frac{1}{2}$ inch nearly; tarsus 1. The wing in this species is proportionally longer, and the hind toe is very large.

I procured this bird at Darjeeling, where, however, it is rare, and it is found at from 3,000 to 6,000 feet of elevation. It has also been sent from Bootan.

375. *Paradoxornis ruficeps*, BLYTH.

J. A. S., XI., 177, and XII., 1010, with a figure—HORSF., Cat. 611—*Heteromorpha*, apud BLYTH, Cat. 527—GRAY Genera of Birds, pl. 94, f. 1—GOULD, Birds of Asia, Part VI., pl. 11.—*Chongto-phep-pho*, Lepch.

THE RED-HEADED FINCH-THRUSH.

Head, cheeks, ear-coverts, nape, and sides of neck, bright rufous; the rest of the upper plumage olive-brown, darker, and tinged with rufous on the wings; beneath, white, a little sullied with fulvescent on the neck and flanks.

Bill, with the upper mandible, horny brown, the lower one pale yellowish; legs plumbeous; irides red brown; orbital skin pale blue. Length about $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{1}{2}$; tail $3\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, $\frac{3}{8}$ th deep; tarsus above 1 inch.

This species differs somewhat from the two last by its less compressed bill, which is also less sinuated at the margin; and Blyth, at one time, classed it as a *Heteromorpha*. Gray, moreover, separates it from *Paradoxornis*, appropriating for it McLelland's name of *Bathychynchus*.

It is found in the hilly regions of Nepal, Sikhim, Bootan, the Khasia hills, extending into Arrakan. I have procured it both at Darjeeling, and on the Khasia hills, and found it in dense bamboo jungle, feeding on the seeds which ripened this year (1862) over a large extent of the hills. Whilst feeding on the bamboos, in small parties, it did not shun observation, but on being followed soon concealed itself. Tickell saw this bird at Ging, near Darjeeling, and found it feeding on grain, maize, rice, and buck-wheat. "It perches," says that naturalist, "on the top of high trees, as well as bushes, when off its feed, and in fact shows nothing, in its manners, of the thicket-loving, skulking habit of the *Crateropodines*." In the few opportunities I had of observing it, I saw nothing opposed to the view of its being placed in this family, and several undoubted members of the *Timalinæ*, viz., the *Malacocerci*, are great grain-eaters.

Gen. HETEROMORPHA, Hodgson.

Char.—Similar to the last, but the bill with the margin straight; the head crested.

This sub-genus, applied by Hodgson also to the other species of *Paradoxornis*, is retained as distinct by Gray for this species; and from its form, and the mode of coloration, I am inclined to accept it.

376. *Heteromorpha unicolor*, HODGSON.

J. A. S., XII., 448, with figure—HORSF., Cat. 610—GOULD, Birds of Asia, Part VI., pl. 9—*Lho-ramnio-pho*, Lepch., i. e., the Mountain Actinodura.

THE BROWN FINCH-THRUSH.

Descr.—Throughout of an ashy olive-brown, brightest on the head, wings, and tail; head with full but short crest.

Bill orange-yellow; legs slaty-grey; irides brown. Length $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{7}{16}$; tail 4; bill at front $\frac{9}{16}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{8}$.

This plainly-coloured Finch-thrush is not distantly allied to *Conostoma oemodium*. The Lepchas call both birds by the same name, and both are peculiar to the more elevated regions of the Himalayas, and have not been procured elsewhere.

Hodgson states that it is found in the higher regions of Nepal, dwelling in thick brushwood, frequently alighting on the ground, but also feeding on trees, on bugs and other insects, in small flocks, and not noisy. I procured a single specimen from Mount Tonglo, near Darjeeling, 10,000 feet high.

Gen. *CHLEUASICUS*, Blyth.

Char.—Bill much as in *Paradoxornis*, but shorter, wider, and more tumid on the sides.

This genus is now included by Blyth and Horsfield in *Suthora*; but I think that it is more allied to the last group than to the Tit-like members of that genus, and the sole species has very much the colors of *P. ruficeps*.

377. *Chleuasicus ruficeps*, BLYTH.

J. A., S XIV., 178—BLYTH, Cat. 529—*Chongto-phep-pho*, Lepch.

THE RED-HEADED TIT-THRUSH.

Head and neck bright ferruginous; the rest of the upper plumage olive-brown, more or less inclining towards ferruginous, specially on the shoulder of the wing; entire under parts white.

Bill whitish horny; legs greenish plumbeous; irides red-brown. Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{5}{8}$; tail $2\frac{3}{4}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{8}$; tarsus $\frac{7}{8}$.

This bird has only yet been procured in Sikhim. I got it at Darjeeling, but had no opportunity of observing its habits.

Gen. *SUTHORA*, Hodgson.

Syn.—*Temnoria* and *Hemirhynchus*, Hodgson (postea).

Char.—Bill very short and stout, as high and nearly as wide as long; ridge much curved; the sides slightly tumid; rictus smooth; nostrils concealed by plumes; wings short, rounded, 6th quill

longest; tail rather long, graduated, feeble; tarsus long, smooth; toes short; nails compressed and acute, hind toe stout; outer toe slightly longer than the inner.

This remarkable group of small birds cannot, I think, be separated from the last series, as is done by Gray and others, for they are distinctly connected to *Paradoxornis* by *Chleuasicus*. Gray, Horsfield, and Blyth, however, agree in placing them among the *Parinæ*, near the long-tailed Tit-mouse and *Panurus biarmicus*, as does Hodgson, though he asserts their relationship with *Heteromorpha*, &c. But it appears to me questionable if the bearded Tit-mouse really belongs to the *Parinæ*, for it differs from them by its short wings, large legs and feet, short tumid bill, and dense plumage; and, in these points, certainly agrees with *Suthora* Bonaparte, indeed, in his *Conspectus*, placed *Suthora* among his *Leiostrichinæ*, with *Paradoxornis* and *Conostoma*.

378. *Suthora nipalensis*, HODGSON.

Ind. Rev. 2, p. 32—BLYTH, Cat. 530—HORSE, Cat. 613.—*Ternoris atrifrons*, HODGSON, P. Z. S., 1845—GOULD, Birds of Asia, pl. upper figure—*Suthora*, Nipal.

THE BLACK-FRONTED TIT-THRUSH.

Descr.—Crown bright fulvous, passing to duller fulvous on the back; forehead, and a broad streak over the eyes to the nape, black; lores and sides of the face, with the plumes growing from the base of the lower mandible, pure white; ear-coverts, and a spot behind the eye, below the black streak, bright fulvous; below the ear-coverts, and the sides of the neck, pure ash, paler on the breast, and passing to white on the abdomen; chin and throat black, with whitish margins; wings dark brown, the first two or three quills edged with white, the next two or three with rufous, and the remainder edged throughout their entire length with the same colour, but of a deeper hue; tail bright cinnamon brown, edged externally with rufous; the inner webs dusky.

Bill black, bluish at the base; legs fleshy white; irides brown. Length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing 2; tail $2\frac{1}{4}$; bill $\frac{1}{4}$; tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$.

Gould has figured two varieties, one with ashy crown and white cheeks, the other with rufous crown and ear-coverts. Are these the different sexes?

This bird inhabits the Central and Northern regions of Nepal and Sikim. It associates, says Hodgson, in small flocks; frequenting the brushwood and tall grass, and has the manners and food of *Parus*. I only obtained one specimen near Darjeeling.

379. *Suthora poliotis*, BLYTH.

J. A. S., XX., 122—HORSF., Cat. 615—*S. Nipalensis*, apud GOULD, Birds of Asia, pl. (the two lower figures).

THE ASH-EARED TIT-THRUSH.

Descr.—Crown of head, and back of neck, brownish grey; the ear-coverts and sides of the neck grey; face, and superciliary stripe, white, bounded above by a broad black line; rest of the upper plumage rusty red; wings as in the last; beneath, the chin barred with black and rust colour, the rest of the lower plumage uniform rusty.

Bill blackish; legs fleshy. Dimensions of the last.

The Ash-eared Tit-thrush has been found in Nepal, and also in the Khasia hills.

380. *Suthora fulvifrons*, HODGSON.

J. A. S., XV., 579—BLYTH, Cat. 531—HORSF., Cat. 614—*Temnoris Nipalensis*, HODGSON, J. A. S., XIII., 450, with figure—GOULD, Birds of Asia, pl. 61.

THE FULVOUS-FRONTED TIT-THRUSH.

Upper parts light rufescent brown, inclining to fulvous on the forehead, throat, and breast; a pale dusky streak on each scapular; secondaries, and the base of the caudals, broadly margined with bright chesnut-fulvous; the belly and flanks albescent greyish.

Bill pale; legs light brown. Length 5 inches; wing $2\frac{1}{2}$; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{1}{4}$; tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$.

This bird has hitherto only been sent from Nepal. In it the bill is reduced to its minimum in this group, and it might easily be

mistaken for a thick-billed Tit-mouse. Another species of this genus from China has lately been figured by Gould in his *Birds of Asia*, as *Suthora Webbiana*.

I agree with Mr. Blyth in considering that *Struthidea* of Australia belongs to this family, and probably to this group: as perhaps also *Sphenostoma*, and *Xerophila* of Gould, which, indeed, I see Bonaparte includes in his *Timalinæ*, placing them after the *Paradoxornis* group, in a sub-family with *Psophodes* and *Melanochlora*, which latter, however, I look on as a true Tit. Near this group perhaps should come the genus *Pyctorhis*, but as its affinities for the *Alcippe* and *Timalia* section, are perhaps stronger, I shall bring it into the system along with the latter series, and go on to the Jay-thrushes.

Gen. CONOSTOMA, Hodgson.

Char.—Bill short, stout, compressed, arched, with the culmen broad and rounded; nostrils round, concealed; rictus with a few short bristles; wings short, feeble, much rounded, 6th, 7th, and 8th quills being about equal and longest; tail moderately lengthened, rounded, broad; feet large and strong; tarsus long, nearly smooth; the outer toe longer than the inner; hind toe very large; nails long, slender, and moderately curved.

This genus, of which there is only one representative, was considered by its founder to belong to the *Glancopinæ*, or Tree-crows of Swainson, with analogies for the *Timalinæ*, and *Crateropi*, of the lower regions; and Gray agrees with this view of its affinities. Blyth classes it with the *Paradoxornis* group, as do Bonaparte and Horsfield, who had previously placed it near the *Garrulæ* series.

Taking into consideration its short wing, strong legs, and lax plumage, I have no hesitation in placing it near *Heteromorpha*, at the same time leading, through the next form, towards *Garrulæ* and its affines.

381. *Conostoma cœmodium*, HODGSON.

J. A. S., X., 857, with figure.—BLYTH, Cat. 526—HORSF., Cat. 309, and 612 bis—GOULD, *Birds of Asia*, pl. 84.—*Lho-ramnio-pho* Lepch.

THE RED-BILLED JAY-THRUSH.

Descr.—Head, neck, and body above, dull olive-brown, clearest on the secondaries, and most rufescent on the wings; the outer edge of the first three primaries pale rufescent or vinous; beneath paler, and passing into dusky slaty blue, all the feathers at their base being of that tint.

Bill dull orange; legs slaty grey; iides brown. Length $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing 5; tail $4\frac{1}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{8}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{8}$ th, nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep.

This bird has hitherto been only procured in Nepal and Sikkim. I got one specimen from Mt. Tongloo, close to the Nepal frontier. Hodgson says that its habits are terrene and rasorial.

"It is," says he, "a shy forester, adhering to the wilds, and tenanting the skirts of forests, where brush-wood as well as trees abound. Five or six of these birds are usually found together, chattering, hopping and feeding on the ground, and resorting to the trees and shrubs for shelter. Their food is principally insects in summer, but in winter, doubtless, they take some vegetable food. They inhabit the northern region of Nepal, close to the snows."

The next genus, though somewhat allied in form, differs in its longer and less deep bill, in the apert nostrils, and shorter claws. Like the last, it is composed but of a single species, which was by some considered congeneric with a New Zealand bird, but has lately been separated from it.*

Gen. GRAMMATOPTILA, Reich.

Syn. *Turnagra*, apud Blyth—*Keropia*, Gray.

Char.—Bill short, stout, moderately compressed, gently curving from the base, slightly hooked and notched; nostrils obliquely oval, exposed; a few thin rictal bristles; wings short, rounded, 5th and 6th quills longest; tarsus strong; feet stout; lateral toes slightly unequal, claws moderate, broad. Crested.

382. *Grammatoptila striata*, VIGORS.

Garrulus, apud VIGORS, P. Z. S., 1830—GOULD, Century, pl. 37—BLYTH, Cat. 480—HORSE, Cat. 301—*Nampiok-pho*, Lepch—*Kopiam*, Bhot.

* The New Zealand bird, *Keropia crassirostris*, appears to me related to the Bower-birds of Australia.

THE STRIATED JAY-THRUSH.

Descr.—Above light wood-brown, tinged with umber brown on the head, and rufescent on the wings; the tail almost chesnut brown; the outer edge of the outermost primaries tinged with hoary; beneath, brown slightly paler than above; all the body feathers, both above and below, striated longitudinally with yellowish white; the streaks on the abdomen wide, and longer than those on the back.

Bill black; legs dusky plumbeous; irides red brown. Length 12 inches; wing $5\frac{1}{4}$; tail $5\frac{1}{4}$; bill at front nearly 1, $\frac{3}{4}$ th deep; tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$.

This bird has a remarkably strong and Jay-like bill, and was originally described as a Jay by Vigors. In its mode of coloration it approaches some of the *Garrulax* series, viz. *Trochalopteron lineatum*, and *T. imbricatum*. The striated Jay-thrush is a very common bird about Darjeeling, from about 6,000 feet to 9,000 feet, but is more often heard than seen. It frequents the densest thickets, in pairs, or in small and scattered parties. It has some very peculiar calls, one of them not unlike the clucking of a hen which has just laid an egg. I found both fruit and insects in the stomach of those which I examined, chiefly the latter. It extends from Bootan to Nepal, but I am not aware if it is found further to the west.

We next come to the Shrike-thrushes. These are disguised so completely as Shrikes that they have usually been classed as such; but, after a full consideration of all their characters, and noting their apparent affinities for some of the next group, many of which have strong Shrike-like bills, I think that their true place is in this family.

Gen. THAMNOCATAPHUS, Tickell.

Char.—Bill lengthened, compressed, high at the base, well hooked at the tip, and strongly notched; rictal vibrissæ small and few; wings short, much rounded, the 3rd to the 7th primaries about equal and longest; tail moderately long, nearly even; the outermost feathers slightly shorter; tarsus long; lateral toes unequal; feet strong; plumage soft, full, and puffy.

383. *Thamnocataphus picatus*, TICKELL.

J. A. S., XVIII.—BLYTH, Cat. 866.

THE WHITE-WINGED SHRIKE-THRUSH.

Descr.—Above dull greyish-black, deeper on the crown, and blackest on the lores and ear-coverts; a narrow white bar on the wing-coverts, continued along the margin of two of the first row; beneath, uniform rufescent-white, tinged with ferruginous on the flanks and lower tail-coverts.

Bill dusky; legs apparently plumbeous. Length 9 inches; wing $3\frac{3}{4}$; tail $3\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{4}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{8}$ th, depth at the base $\frac{3}{8}$.

This remarkable form differs from all the other members of this family (except *Sibia* and *Gampsorhynchus*) by its white wing-spot, assimilating it still further to the Shrikes, and indeed it is very similar, in its mode of coloration, to some of the African Shrikes. The general character of its plumage, however, combined with its elevated and strong tarsi and feet, its habitat in a region rich in varied forms of this family, and its near affinity for *Gampsorhynchus*, have influenced me in placing it here.

It has only been procured near Darjeeling by Major Tickell, and the specimen in the Museum of the Asiatic Society at Calcutta is, I believe, unique. Nothing is recorded of its habits.

Gen. GAMPSORHYNCHUS, Blyth.

Char.—Bill of moderate length, nearly equal to the head, rather wide at the base, deep, moderately compressed; culmen curved, strongly hooked at the tip, and notched; gape conspicuously armed with straight vibrissæ; nostrils oval, pierced in the front of the membrane; wings moderate, much rounded, 5th, 6th, and 7th quills about equal and longest; tail rather long, graduated; tarsus moderately long, strong; claws tolerably curved.

Major Tickell considered this form congeneric with the last, from which it differs chiefly by its shorter bill, graduated tail, and colours. Its mode of coloration allies it to some of the next group, and the Lepchas give it the same name as they apply to the species of *Paradoxornis* and *Chleuasicus*.

384. *Gampsorhynchus rufulus*, BLYTH.

J. A. S., XII., 370—Garrulax, apud GRAY—BLYTH, Cat. 865—HORSF., Cat. 225—Thamnocataphus senilis, TICKELL—*Chongtophep-pho*, Lepch.

THE WHITE HEADED SHRIKE-THRUSH.

Descr.—Above uniform olive-brown; head in adults white, in the young bright ferruginous; beneath, white in adults, and more or less ferruginous in younger specimens; shoulder of the wings more or less white; under surface of the wings pale fulvescent; the tail-feathers narrowly tipped with pale fulvescent or whitish.

Bill dusky horny above, pale beneath; legs reddish horny; irides orange yellow in some, straw yellow in others. Length 9 inches; extent $11\frac{1}{4}$; wing $3\frac{1}{2}$; tail $4\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{8}$.

This curious bird is found from Nepal through Sikhim and the Khasia hills to Arrakan. In Sikhim it frequents the warmer valleys up to 3,000 feet of elevation. I had not an opportunity of observing it myself, though I procured several specimens; but the Shikarces assured me that it was found in small flocks in thick bushy places. Those which I have examined had eaten grasshoppers and other insects.

The next group consists of the Quaker-thrushes and Wren-babblers: a great many of them are clad in grey and russet plumage, with more or less of white, and many of them resemble each other so closely that they are only distinguished specifically by the form of the bill, and the size. It is more developed in Malayana than in India, and appears to correspond to a certain extent with the section *Cacopitææ* of Bonaparte. Some of this series approach the *Paradoxornis* group; others the Shrike-thrushes; and a few are close to the *Timaliæ*, with which, indeed, most of them are usually placed; but I think that they form a peculiar section, distinguished as well structurally, as by a particular mode of coloration.

I shall begin with one formerly alluded to, which is, however, by no means a typical member of the group.

Gen. PYCTORHIS, Hodgson.

Syn. *Chrysomma*, Hodgs.

Char.—Bill rather short, strong, deep, arched, entire; rictus strongly bristled; orbit nude; wings rather short and feeble, 4th and 5th quills longest; tail long, graduated; legs and feet stout and large; claws large, moderately curved.

385. *Pyctorhis sinensis*, GMELIN.

Parus, apud GMELIN—BLYTH, Cat. 860—HORSF., Cat. 339—*Timalia hypoleuca*, FRANKLIN—JERDON, Cat. 95—T. Horsfieldii, JARD. and SELBY, Ill. Orn, pl. 111—Tim. bicolor, LAFRESN., Mag. Zool., pl. 39—*Gal-chasm* or *Buhul-chasm*, H. in the south.—*Bara-podna*, H. in the N. W. P.—*Yeria kali-jitta* Tel.—*Mullala*, Sindh.

THE YELLOW-EYED BABBLER.

Descr.—Above clear red brown, rufous or cinnamon color on the wings, and the tail obsoletely banded with dusky; lores, and all the lower plumage, white; lower surface of wings and tail dusky cinereous.

Bill black, with the nostrils deep yellow; legs orpiment yellow; irides dark brown, with an outer circle of buff; orbits bright orange. Length $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{11}{10}$; tail $3\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front not quite $\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{10}$.

This species of Babbler is universally spread throughout India, extending to Burmah, and, from the name, perhaps to China. It has been sent from Nepal by Hodgson; is not rare in Bengal and the N. W. P.; is said to be common in Sindh, and I have seen it in every part of the South of India. It is also found in Ceylon, and it is very common in Upper Burmah. It frequents low jungles, or the skirts of forests, long grass, hedge-rows, and even comes occasionally into gardens. Though sometimes to be met with singly, it is generally seen in small parties of five or six, flying from bush to bush before you, and trying to conceal itself in some thick clump. It has a low chattering note when at rest, and when flying from bush to bush, a loud sibilant whistle. I have, on several occasions, heard one, perched conspicuously on a high bush or

hedge-row, pour forth a remarkably sweet song. It feeds mostly on insects, often on ants and small coleoptera. Mr. Blyth remarks, that he possessed some of these birds alive, and noticed that they frequently placed one foot upon their food, while they pecked with the bill. Mr. Philipps states that, in the N. W. Provinces, this is the bird said by the natives "to support the heavens by its legs, lest they fall." In Southern India this is related of the common Plover, *Pluvianus Goernsis*. The same observer also says, that it generally builds on Banyan trees. I wish that he had described the eggs, which I have never been able to procure.

386. *Pictorhis longirostris*, HODGSON.

P. Z. S., 1854—HORSF, Cat. 669.

THE LARGER YELLOW-EYED BABBLER.

Descr.—Above, rufous-brown, darkest on the crown, wings and tail, the last distinctly rayed; chin, throat, the middle of the belly, and vent, white; ear-coverts, sides of neck, and breast, pale rufescent, brightening on the flanks, thighs, and under tail-coverts.

Bill black, yellowish at the base beneath; legs pale horny. Length $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches; wing $2\frac{3}{4}$; tail $3\frac{1}{4}$; bill at front $\frac{5}{8}$; tarsus 1.

This bird has been only recently described from specimens sent home from Nepal by Hodgson. It is probably the species noticed by Mr. Frith (J. A. S., XIII., 370), as being found in Bengal, which he states to differ from the common species, in being about half larger.

I discovered a third species of this genus at Thayet-myo in Upper Burmah, which I have described in the 4th vol. of the 'Ibis,' as *Chrysomma altirostre*. Its short deep bill approximates it to the *Paradoxornis* series.

Gen. TRICHASTOMA, Blyth.

Syn. *Malacocincla*, Blyth.

Char.—Bill about equal to the head, straight, stout, high, much compressed; the tip hooked; nostrils large; wings moderate, 4th quill longest; tail somewhat short, weak, nearly even; tarsus moderate; feet large, the lateral toes slightly unequal; claws moderately curved, the middle and hind claw very long.

Plumage full and lax, with the coronal feathers slightly elongated.

This genus appears to have some affinities for *Pyctorhis*, but differs in its longer bill, shorter, nearly-even tail, and shorter tarsus.

387. *Trichastoma Abbotti*, BLYTH.

Malacocincla, apud BLYTH, J. A. S., XIV., 601—BLYTH, Cat. 838—HORSE., Cat. 662—*Malacopteron*, apud GRAY.

THE BROWN-BACKED TIT-BABBLER.

Descr.—Above, plain olive-brown, tinged with rufous on the rump and tail; under parts paler; the throat and the middle of the belly white; ear-coverts, sides of breast, and flanks, rufescent; lower tail-coverts pale ferruginous.

Bill horny, pale beneath. Length 6 inches; wing 3; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{1}{2}$.

This bird has been sent from Nepal by Hodgson, from Dacca by Tytler, and also from Arrakan. I have not had an opportunity of observing it.

Other recorded species of *Trichastoma* are *T. bicolor*, Less. (*ferruginosum*, Bl.); *T. rostratum*, Blyth; and *T. olivaceum*, Strickland, all from Malacca.

Gen. *ALCIPPE*, Blyth.

Syn.—*Setaria*, Blyth—*Siva*, postea *Ioropus*, Hodgs.

Char.—Bill short, moderately stout and compressed; culmen slightly curved, hooked and notched; nostrils slightly impended by some setæ; rictal bristles moderate; wings moderate, rounded, 4th and 5th quills equal; tail moderate or rather short, very slightly rounded; tarsus stout, moderate; lateral toes unequal; claws tolerably curved.

The birds of this genus are of small size, with plain colors, and, mostly, undefined markings; and, in their habit are less social, perhaps, and more silent, than most of the *Timaliæ*, with which however, they have undoubted affinities; and they exhibit distant relationship to some of the *Leiotrichinæ*; more than one species, now referred to this genus, having been described as *Brachypteryx*.

388. *Alcippe nipalensis*, HODGSON.

Siva, apud HODGSON, Ind. Rev., 1838—Ioropus, HODGS., J. A. S., XIII., 937—BLYTH, Cat. 848—HORSF., Cat. 330—*Sam-dayal-pho*, Lepch.

THE NEPAL QUAKER-THRUSH

Descr.—Above, the head ashy brown; lores, ears, and sides of neck also ashy; back, wings, and tail, olivaceous brown; an inconspicuous dark brown line over the eyes, extending to the nape; beneath, the chin white, the rest of the lower parts albescent, mixed with earthy brown.

Bill horny yellow; feet pale fleshy brown; irides whitey brown. Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{3}{4}$; tail $2\frac{1}{4}$; bill at front barely $\frac{3}{8}$; tarsus $\frac{7}{8}$.

This bird has been found in Nepal, Sikhim, the Khasia hills, and Burmah, as far as Tenasserim. It is very common about Darjeeling, frequenting trees, singly, or in small parties, and feeding chiefly on insects. I had the nest and eggs brought me by the Lepchas; the nest was loosely made with grass and bamboo leaves, and the eggs were white with a few reddish-brown spots.

389. *Alcippe poiocephala*, JERDON.

Timalia, apud JERDON, Suppl. Cat. 95 bis—BLYTH, Cat. 850.

THE NEILGHERRY QUAKER-THRUSH.

Descr.—Head and nape dusky cinereous; back and rump greenish olive, inclining to rufous on the rump, darker and more ferruginous on the wings and tail; beneath, pale rufescent or fulvous, lightest and albescent on the chin and throat.

Bill horny, yellow at the gape and edges; legs pale fleshy; irides greenish-white; the very narrow orbits yellow. Length nearly 6 inches; wing $2\frac{8}{10}$; tail $2\frac{8}{10}$; bill at front $\frac{9}{20}$; tarsus $\frac{7}{8}$.

This is very similar to the last, but differs structurally in having the rectal bristles less elongated, and the feet shorter, with a more robust hind toe.

It is found in all the forests of Malabar, as high as North Canara, in Coorg, Wynaad, and the slopes of the Neilgherries, up about 5,000 feet, but it is not a common bird. It goes singly or

in small flocks, flying from branch to branch of low trees; is silent, and lives chiefly on various insects.

390. *Alcippe atriceps*, JERDON.

Brachypteryx, apud JERDON, Cat. 78—BLYTH, Cat. 861.

THE BLACK-HEADED WREN-BABBLER.

Descr.—Head, cheeks, and nape, black; wings, tail, and under tail-coverts brownish olive, darkest on the tail and wings; beneath, white, with a tinge of olive-brown on the sides and towards the vent.

Bill horny-brown; legs plumbeous; irides pale orange or buff. Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{3}{10}$; tail 2; bill at front $\frac{4}{10}$; tarsus $\frac{9}{10}$; extent 7.

The Black-headed Wren-babbler is found in the same localities as the last, but not ascending so high on the slopes of the hills, and being most abundant in the lower forests, contrary to the habits of the previous species.

It frequents the thickest underwood in dense and lofty jungles; lives in small flocks of five or six, and is continually hopping about the thick bushes with an incessant loud twittering note. It lives on various insects, small *mantidæ*, grass-hoppers, and the like.

In my Catalogue I placed it under *Brachypteryx* from its likeness to *B. Sepiaria* of Horsfield, which, I see, is now considered by some to be also an *Alcippe*, though Blyth says it is intermediate to this and *Malacopteron*. Perhaps this has led Gray to associate this genus with *Brachypteryx* in his *Myotherinæ*. A very closely allied species is *A. nigrifrons*, Blyth, from Ceylon; and *Brachypt. nigro-capitata*, Eyton, is probably another.

Though so similar in structure, I am by no means certain that these last-named species, viz., *A. atriceps*, *nigrifrons*, *nigro-capitata*, and *sepiaria*, should not be classed apart from the more dingy-colored species first noticed. The habits of *A. atriceps*, as observed by myself, are more those of *Timalia*, or, at all events, of *Dumetia* and *Pellorneum*, than the more staid and quiet demeanour of *A. poiocephala* and *Nipalensis*.

Next to *Alcippe*, perhaps, should be placed the pre-eminently Malayan group of the Quaker-thrushes, named *Malacopteron* by

Eyton, and to which belong *Turdinus*, *Turdirostris*, *Macronous* *Trichixos*, and *Napothera*. Among the recorded species are *Malacopteron magnum*, Eyton; *M. major*, Blyth; *Macronous* *ptilosus*, J. and S.; *Turdinus macrodactylus*, Strickland, *Turdirostris* *superciliaris*, Hay, &c. &c., from Malayana: *Turdinus crispifrons*, Bl., *T. brevicaudatus*, Bl., *T. guttatus*, Tickell, are from Tenasserim; and there is a new species of that genus from the Khasia hills. *Cacopitta*, Bonap., with a few species from the Islands, apparently belongs to this section of the *Timalinæ*. Some of the birds, however, described under these names are more nearly allied to the true *Timaliæ*. Although several species have been lately described, yet from their plain and sombre plumage, many are perhaps overlooked; and Wallace states that he got some new species from Malacca, quite common there, but neglected by the bird-dealers. They vary a good deal in the form of their bill, some having this organ large, and much hooked; and others comparatively slender and slightly hooked. The last-named observer found that they feed chiefly on fruit, but also on insects. It appears to me (judging from the figures only, and the account of their habits) that *Phyllastrephus*, an African genus, belongs rather to this family than to the Bulbuls, or Warblers, and if so, it should be located in this section; and *Alethe*, Cassin, also from Africa, is said to be near *Napothera*.

Close to the black-headed species of *Alcippe* should be placed the following group with which I would commence the series of Wren-babblers, and these nearly agree with Bonaparte's section *Timalæ* of his *Timalinæ*.

Gen. STACHYRIS, Hodgson.

Char.—Bill somewhat long, high at the base, straight, compressed, tapering or conic, the tip very slightly bent downwards, and faintly notched; nostrils nearly concealed; rictus almost smooth; wings short, rounded, 5th, 6th and 7th quills equal and longest; tail rather short, slightly graduated; tarsus moderately long, stout; lateral toes nearly equal, claws moderately curved; middle toe not elongated; hind toe and claws very large. The head is usually crested or sub-crested, the feathers being semi-erect and divergent.

Blyth, Horsfield, and Gray locate this genus near *Pycnorhis* and *Timalia*, the latter, indeed, ranking them as *Timalia*. Bonaparte puts it among *Liotrichinæ*, and Hodgson considered it to have affinities for the *Brachypodina*, but leading to the Crateropodans, and with a tendency to pass into the *Leiotrichinæ*. He further compares its habits with those of *Zosterops*. It appears to me that there are two types of form in this genus, and that, whilst the more common species belong to this family, others, especially *S. chrysoæa*, appear to have relations to *Myzornis*, *Erpornis*, *Zosterops*, and *Iora*, which in fact are the views of the founders of the genus.

391. *Stachyris nigriceps*, HODGSON.

J. A. S., XIII., 378—BLYTH, Cat. 861—HORSEF., Cat. 340.—*Sangriam-pho*, Lepch.

THE BLACK-THROATED WREN-BABBLER.

Descr.—Above olive-brown; beneath paler and tinged rufescent; the crown, face, and throat, dusky black; the feathers of the crown edged with whitish grey; a white supercilium, and also a white moustache from the base of the lower mandible, and some white on the chin and throat.

Bill dusky horny above, paler beneath; legs pale horny green; irides pale yellow. Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; extent 7; wing $2\frac{3}{4}$; tail 2; bill at front $\frac{9}{16}$; tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$.

This bird inhabits the S. E. Himalayas and the Khasia hills. It is very common about Darjeeling, from 5,000 feet to nearly 10,000 in summer; is quite arboreal, hunting among the upper foliage and flowers of trees, singly, or in small parties, and feeding chiefly on insects. Hodgson says that it builds a large globular nest, and lays four or five eggs of a pale fawn color, unspotted. A nest and eggs were brought to me at Darjeeling, said to be of this species; the nest was rather large, very loosely made of bamboo leaves and fibres, and the eggs were pale salmon color, with some faint darker spots.

392. *Stachyris pyrrhops*, HODGSON.

J. A. S., XIII., 378—BLYTH, Cat. 862—HORSEF., Cat. 341.

THE RED-BILLED WREN-BABBLER.

Descr.—Above olivaceous-brown, with a tinge of rufous on the head; lores and chin black; a pale line impending the latter; below rufescent, more or less brown on the belly and flanks.

Bill sordid sanguine; legs pale fleshy-brown; irides blood-red. Length $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 inches; wing 2; tail 2; bill at front $\frac{7}{8}$; tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$.

I did not procure this bird in Sikhim. It has been sent from Nepal, Mussooree, and Kussowlee, and it is probably the *Prinia*, No. 132, of Adams' List of Birds, said to be common on Apicot trees in the lower Himalayan ranges, in the N. W. Provinces.

393. *Stachyris ruficeps*, BLYTH.

J. A. S., XVI., 452—BLYTH, Cat. 863—HORSF., Cat. 670—*Syak-birang-pho*, Lepch.

THE RED-HEADED WREN-BABBLER.

Descr.—Crown of the head light ferruginous, the rest of the upper plumage plain olive; chin and the middle of the throat white, with faint black streaks; the rest of the lower parts whitish, with a fulvous tinge on the sides of the neck and breast, or, throughout of dull oil-yellow or pale ferruginous, darkest on the breast, and fading, and becoming dusky towards the vent.

Bill plumbeous above, reddish beneath; legs pale yellow brown; irides light brown. Length $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing $2\frac{1}{4}$; tail $2\frac{1}{8}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{8}$; tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$.

This bird, which, says Mr. Blyth, is allied in form and size to the last, is found in Nepal, Sikhim, and the Khasia hills. It is common at Darjeeling, frequenting high trees in small parties, searching the foliage for minute insects. A nest and eggs, said to be of this species, were brought to me at Darjeeling. The nest was a loose structure of grass and fibres, and contained two eggs of a greenish white color, with some rusty spots.

394. *Stachyris chrysæa*, HODGSON.

J. A. S., XIII., 379—BLYTH, Cat. 864—HORSF., Cat. 342—*Syak-birang-pho*, Lepch.

THE GOLDEN-HEADED WREN-BABBLER.

Descr.—Above yellow olivaceous; forehead and crown yellow, the latter with black streaks; lores black; wings and tail dusky, margined with olive; beneath bright yellow.

Bill plumbeous; legs pale brownish yellow; irides light brown. Length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{1}{2}$; tail 2; bill at front nearly $\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{8}$.

The Golden-headed *Stachyris* is found in the S. E. Himalayas, the Khasia hills, and Arrakan, generally at a lower level than the last, from 3,000 to 5,000 feet or so. It frequents high trees generally, feeding on the minute insects that infest flowers and buds, and often has its forehead powdered with the pollen of flowers, as we see in *Zosterops* and other birds.

This species differ from its congeners in its mode of coloration, more pointed bill, and other points, and perhaps should be removed to a distinct genus near *Zosterops* or *Myzornis*.

Very probably some of the smaller *Timaliæ* of the Malayan Fauna should be placed in *Stachyris*. *Tim. poliocephala*, Temm., judging from the figure, has much of the character and plumage of *Stachyris*.

Gen. MIXORNIS, Hodgson.

Char.—Bill rather long, compressed, with a tendency to arch; tip blunt, barely notched; nostrils ovoid, advanced; wings moderate, rounded, the first four graduated, 5th and 6th sub-equal and longest; tail moderate or rather short; tarsus strong; toes rather short, laterals very unequal; hind toe large; nails well curved.

This genus is very closely allied to the last, inclining more towards *Timalia*. Hodgson says that it 'resembles *Iora*, but the bill is more imeruline, inclining to the *Crateropodinæ*.'

395. *Mixornis rubicapillus*, TICKELL.

Motacilla, apud TICKELL, J. A. S., II., 575—BLYTH, Cat. 855—HORSEF., Cat. 338.—*M. chloris*, HODGS.—*M. ruficeps*, HODGS.—*M. gularis*, HORSEF.?

THE YELLOW-BREASTED WREN-BABBLER.

Descr.—Above dull olive-green, inclining to rufescent or brown; wings and tail rufescent brown; part of the forehead, supercilium,

ears, and sides of the neck, yellowish-green, with some dusky streaks; crown of the head dull ferruginous; beneath pale yellow, fading to whitish on the lower abdomen, and olivaceous on the flanks and vent; the throat and upper part of the breast with some blackish streaks.

Bill horny; legs pale horny brown; irides reddish-hazel. Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{3}{4}$; tail 2; bill at front $\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus $\frac{1}{3}$.

This bird, very similar in color to *Stachyris ruficeps*, has been found at the foot of the Nepal and Bootan Himalayas, and in part of Central India; but it appears to be rare, for I have never met with it. It will probably occur in the Sikhim Terai, at the foot of the Khasia hills, and in various parts of lower Bengal. Tickell says that it is found in thick under-wood, hollows, ravines, &c., and is lively and agile, with a frequent piping note, and occasional chatter. *M. gularis* of Java looks like a faded specimen of this bird; but is put as distinct by Horsfield. In this genus are placed several species from Sumatra, Java, and Borneo.

Gen. TIMALIA, Horsfield.

Char.—Bill strong, deep, much compressed, very gently arching throughout; nostrils oval, apert; strong rectal bristles; wings short, much rounded, 5th and 6th quills longest; tail moderate, rounded; tarsus stout; lateral toes unequal; hind toe, and especially the claw, large.

This genus, founded on the only species occurring in our province, was one of the first of this family separated from the old Linnæan *Turdus*, and, perhaps, on this account has been selected for the family name, though I do not consider it as one of the most typical forms.

396. *Timalia pileata*, HORSFIELD.

LIN., Trans. XIII., 151—HORSE., Zool. Res. Java, pl.—HORSE., Cat. 332—BLYTH, Cat. 856.

THE RED-CAPPED WREN-BABBLER.

Descr.—Forehead and ears white; top of the head bright rusty-red; the rest of the upper plumage olivaceous-brown, tinged with ashy on the sides of the neck and nape; wings and tail tinged

with rusty brown; beneath, the chin, throat, neck, and part of the breast, pure white; the lower part of the neck with narrow black streaks, the shafts of each feather being shining black and prolonged; abdomen and vent pale ferruginous, tinged with olivaceous on the flanks, and the lower tail-coverts olive-brown.

Bill black; legs fleshy brown; irides dusky red. Length $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{3}{4}$; tail $2\frac{9}{10}$; bill at front $\frac{5}{8}$; tarsus nearly $\frac{7}{8}$.

The Red-capped Babbler has been procured in Nepal, the Bengal Sunderbuns, Assam, and Arrakan, extending through Burmah and the Malayan peninsula to Java. It has thus the most extensive geographical distribution of any of this family. I have seen it in the grass jungles of Purneah, Rajmahal, Sylhet, and Cachar, as well as in Upper Burmah, where it is much more abundant than in Bengal, and less shy, affecting hedge-rows near villages, instead of the unfrequented grass jungles and thickets in which alone it is seen in Bengal. Horsfield says that it is common (in Java) in groves and woods; approaches villages, constructs its nest in hedges, and is one of the social birds which delight to dwell in the neighbourhood of cultivation. It has, he says, a pleasant note, which consists of a slow repetition of the five tones of the diatonic scale (C. D. E. F. G.), with perfect regularity, and at small intervals of time.

There are many other species of *Timalia* in Malayana, viz., *T. nigricollis*, T.—*T. erythroptera*, Bl.—*T. maculata*, T. (*pectoralis*, Bl.), from Malacca; and others from the islands.

Gen. DUMETIA, Blyth.

Syn. *Timalia*, apud Franklin.

Char.—Bill moderate, or rather short, compressed, pointed; culmen slightly curving from the base, and the commissure also slightly curved; a few small rectal bristles; wings short, rounded, 4th, 5th. and 6th quills nearly equal; tail moderate, rounded; tarsus stout; middle toe not elongate; lateral toes about equal, hind toe and claw moderately large.

This genus, instituted by Mr. Blyth for two small species confined to continental India, is barely separable from *Pellorneum*, with which at one time Mr. Blyth classed them; but it differs

in the bill being somewhat shorter, the middle toe less elongate, and in its distribution. The species have all the wandering habits of the *Malacocerci* and *Chatarhæa*, and in this they certainly differ from the *Drymoica* and *Prinia*, which are only a little smaller than these birds.

397. *Dumetia hyperythra*, FRANKLIN.

Thimalia, apud FRANKLIN—BLYTH, Cat. 787.

THE RUFOUS-BELLIED BABBLER.

Descr.—Above brownish olive, the tail obsoletely barred with dusky; forehead and whole body beneath rufous.

Bill horny; legs fleshy yellow; irides pale yellow-brown. Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{1}{10}$; tail $2\frac{2}{10}$; tarsus $\frac{8}{10}$.

This bird is found in low jungle and brushwood, from Nagpoor northwards to Central India and Midnapore, but has not been obtained in Lower Bengal. It has similar habits to the next, with which I formerly confounded it; and Mr. Blyth remarks that its note is like that of *Chatarhæa caudata*, but proportionally weaker.

398. *Dumetia albogularis*, BLYTH.

Pellorneum, apud BLYTH, J. A. S., XXI.—BLYTH, Cat 788—HORSF., Cat. 660—T. hyperythra, apud JERDON, Cat. 69—*Pandijitta*, Tel. i. e., Pig-bird.

THE WHITE-THROATED WREN-BABBLER.

Descr.—Like the last, but with the chin and throat pure white. Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{2}{10}$; tail $2\frac{1}{4}$; bill at front $\frac{4}{10}$; tarsus $\frac{7}{10}$.

This little Babbler is found throughout Southern India in suitable localities, in bushy jungle, ravines, thick hedge-rows, &c., but it is entirely absent in the forest districts of Malabar.

It always occurs in small parties, skulking along one after the other, under bushes or through them, rarely showing itself on the top; hence the Telugu name of Pig-bird given it by the Yanadees of Nellore. It feeds almost exclusively on small insects, and has a low chattering call.

Gen. PELLORNEUM, Swainson.

Syn. *Cinclidia*, Gould—*Hemipteron*, Hodg.

Char.—Bill moderate, straight, compressed, very gently curving throughout, slightly hooked at the tip, and notched; rictal bristles feeble; wings much rounded, 5th, 6th, and 7th quills nearly equal; tail moderate, rounded; tarsus moderate; feet large; middle toe lengthened; laterals barely unequal; hind toe long; claws tolerably curved.

399. *Pellorneum ruficeps*, SWAINSON.

BLYTH, Cat. 823—HORSE, Cat. 323—*Megalurus ruficeps*, SYKES, Cat. 87—*Motac. dumeticola*, TICKELL—*Cinclidia punctata*, GOULD—*P. olivaceum*, JERDON, Cat. 86—*Adavi liku-jittu*, Tel.

THE SPOTTED WREN-BABBLER.

Descr.—Above olive-brown; crown and nape deep rusty colored. with a more or less marked white eye-brow from the forehead to the nape; ears dusky-white, or mixed brown and white, or entirely brown; beneath, white or fulvous white, with spots of dark olive on the sides of the breast and belly, olivaceous on the flanks and under tail-coverts.

Bill horny above, yellowish fleshy beneath; legs fleshy yellow; irides brick-red. Length 7 inches; extent 9; wing 3; tail 3; bill at front $\frac{9}{10}$; tarsus, $1\frac{1}{10}$.

This bird has a wide geographical distribution, only inferior, in this family, to that of *Tim. pileata*. It is found throughout Southern India, both on the east and west coasts; in Central India; in the South East Himalayas; the Khasia hills; and through Burmah to Tenasserim. It associates in small flocks, frequenting underwood and thickets in forest jungle, often descending to the ground, where it hops about in search of various insects, or climbing up the small branches of shrubs; it keeps up a continual chattering, and, occasionally, one of them, perched on a bough, elevating his head and neck, gives utterance to a sort of crowing laugh, not unlike that of *Trochaloxyron cachinnans*. Col. Sykes's observation that it frequents the plains like a Lark, must have arisen from some mistaken identity.

Besides the affinity of *Pellorneum* for some of the last noticed group, there is also considerable similarity to at least one of the next birds mentioned, the *Pomatorhini*. Other species of *Pellorneum* recorded are *P. fuscicapillum*, Blyth, from Ceylon, formerly classed as *Drymocapthus*; *P. Tickelli*, Blyth, from Tenasserim; and a closely allied species from the Khasia hills.

At the end of this Section, Bonaparte places two Oceanic types, *Clitonyx*, Reich, and *Certhiparus*, Lafresn., with what justice I cannot say.

The next group is one which shows the extreme form from the species of this family first noticed; for while in *Paradoxornis* and *Suthora*, the bill was reduced to its minimum in length and maximum depth, here it is extremely elongated, slender, and curved, varying of course in the different species.

Gen. POMATORHINUS, Horsf.

Char.—Bill long, compressed, pointed, much curved throughout, entire at the tip; nostrils barely apert, lengthened; a few very small rictal bristles; wing short, rounded; 5th and 6th quills longest; tail long or moderate, rounded; tarsi and feet long and stout; anterior toes not much elongate; hind toe large; claws large, moderately curved, somewhat blunt.

Bonaparte ranges this genus with the Babblers, his *Crateropodinae*; but it is certainly more nearly allied both in plumage and habits to the *Garrulax* series. It is found in India and Malayana, extending to Australia, but of a somewhat different type. They hunt in pairs, and less in parties than many of this family, and their diet is exclusively insects, in seeking for which on the ground they are said to use their bills freely like *Upupa*, but I have not had an opportunity of observing them thus employed; and from the thick brushwood and tangled brakes they usually frequent, it is difficult to watch them closely. Though not habitually frequenting the open forests, they are never found away from a forest country. They nidificate in banks generally, and the eggs of those that are known are white.

The first species in our list is a slightly aberrant form; its bill being shorter and less arched, and it has much resemblance to *Pellorneum ruficeps*.

400. **Pomatorhinus ruficollis**, HODGSON.

As. Res., XIX.—BLYTH, Cat. 834—HORSF., Cat. 350.

THE RUFOUS-NECKED SCIMITAR-BABBLER.

Descr.—Above olive-green; head and nape dusky; back and sides of neck deep rusty; lores and ear-coverts blackish; a white supercilium from the brow to the nape; beneath, as above, but paler, and shaded with white on the breast and belly, merging into pure white on the chin and throat.

Bill yellow, dusky above; legs plumbeous; irides red or red-brown, (or sometimes hoary according to Hodgson). Length 8 inches; extent $9\frac{1}{2}$; wing 3; tail $3\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus $\frac{1}{4}$.

This species is found in the S. E. Himalayas and the Khasia hills.

401. **Pomatorhinus ferruginosus**, BLYTH.

J. A. S., XIV., 597—BLYTH, Cat. 833—HORSF. Cat. 351—*Piong-kohut*, or *Poniong-hut*, Lepch.—*Bhotetet*, Bhot.

THE CORAL-BILLED SCIMITAR-BABBLER.

Descr.—Above greenish-olive brown, the cap black (in the males); lores and ears black; a long white supercilium, tinged with rufous in front (in the male); beneath, the throat white, and the rest of the under-parts deep ferruginous, fading on the belly, and olivaceous on the flanks.

Bill coral-red; legs greenish brown; irides red-brown. Length $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches; extent 11; wing $3\frac{1}{2}$; tail 4; bill at front 1; tarsus, $1\frac{1}{4}$.

The Coral-billed Babbler has been found in the S. E. Himalayas, Nepal, and Sikhim, at from 3,000 to 6,000 feet of elevation. I procured it near Darjeeling, but know of nothing peculiar in its habits. A very nearly allied race, *P. Phayrei*, Blyth, is found in the hill regions of Assam and Arrakan, differing only in the crown being of the same color as the back; and *P. albogularis*, Bl., also closely allied, is from the Tenasserim province of Burmah.

402. **Pomatorhinus schisticeps**, HODGSON.

As. Res., XIX.—BLYTH, Cat. 828—HORSF., Cat. 345—*P. montanus*, apud McLELLAND—*Pubda* Beng.

Phoyeum-pho, or *Pharreeum-pho*., Lepch.

THE SLATY-HEADED SCIMITAR-BABBLER.

Descr.—Above dark olive-green; crown, nape, and ear-coverts, dark slaty; a long white supercilium from the base of the bill to the shoulder; lores black; sides of the neck and body intense ochreous red; beneath, the chin, breast, and belly, pure white; lower part of abdomen, with the flanks, vent, thigh-coverts, and under tail-coverts, olive-green; tail faintly cross barred.

Bill orange-yellow, with the ridge dusky; legs fleshy-brown; irides hoary; orbital skin slaty. Length 11 inches; extent $12\frac{1}{2}$; wing 4; tail $4\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $1\frac{3}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$.

This species of *Pomatorhinus* extends from Nepal, through Sikhim and Bootan, to Assam, Sylhet, and Arrakan. It is not rare near Darjeeling, at about 5,000 feet high, and goes generally in pairs, the male uttering a loud hooting call, answered by the female in a different tone. A nest made of moss and some fibres, and with four pure white eggs, was brought to me at Darjeeling as belonging to this bird.

403. *Pomatorhinus leucogaster*, GOULD.

BLYTH, Cat. 829—HORSE., Cat. 346—*P. olivaceus*, BLYTH.

GOULD'S SCIMITAR-BABBLER.

Descr.—Above uniform dull olive; the head tinged with dusky-cinereous, and a faint rufescent tinge on the nape; lores and ear-coverts black; a long white supercilium, and a deep ferruginous spot behind the ear, continued on the sides of the neck and flanks; beneath, the throat, breast, middle of abdomen, white; flanks and lower tail-coverts olivaceous.

Bill yellow, dusky above; feet leaden brown. Length 9 inches; wing $3\frac{7}{8}$; tail 4; bill at front 1; tarsus $1\frac{1}{4}$.

This appears like a somewhat diminutive race of the last (*schisticeps*), and is widely spread from the N. W. Himalayas, through Nepal, to Assam, and as low as Tenasserim. I did not procure it at Darjeeling. It appears not to ascend the hills to any height.

404. *Pomatorhinus Horsfieldii*, SYKES.

Cat. 73—JERDON, Cat. 89—BLYTH, Cat. 831—HORSF., Cat. 347—*Namala-pitta*, or *Dasari-pitta*, Tel.

THE SOUTHERN SCIMITAR-BABBLER.

Descr.—Above deep olive-brown; a white superciliary stripe; neck in front, breast, and middle of abdomen, white; the flanks, vent, and under tail-coverts olive-brown.

Bill yellow, dusky, above; legs dusky green; irides dark-red. Length $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{8}{10}$; tail 4; bill at front $1\frac{1}{10}$; tarsus $1\frac{3}{10}$.

This is the only species of *Pomatorhinus* we possess in the south of India, or indeed in any part of India except the Himalayas. It is found in all the forests and hill ranges of Southern India, especially in the more elevated districts such as Wynaad, Coorg, and the Neilgherries, up to above 6,000 feet; also in the Eastern Ghâts, Goomsoor, &c.; and in the heavy jungles of Central India. It frequents tangled under-wood, in forests, especially in swampy places, and bamboo jungles; and it makes its way through the most dense and tangled bushes with great facility. It is very shy and wary, and speedily evades observation. It is usually in pairs, the male calling out, as well expressed by Col. Sykes, *hoot, hoot, hoot*, while the females answer *hooee*. Occasionally it is met in parties, keeping up a continual chattering call.

It feeds entirely on insects. I procured its nest near Nediwuttum on the Neilgherries, on a bank on the road side, made with moss and roots, and containing four white eggs of a very elongated form. A nearly allied species, *P. melanurus*, Bl., occurs in Ceylon; and this, with the two last species, and *P. montanus*, Horsf., from Java, may be considered representative species.

405. *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*, GOULD.

P. Z. S., 1831—GOULD, Cent. H. B., pl. 55—BLYTH, Cat. 827—HORSF., Cat. 345—*P. ferrugilatus*, HODGS.—*Ban-bukra*, at Mussooree—*Yongohut-pho*, Lepch.

THE RUSTY-CHEEKED SCIMITAR-BABBLER.

Descr.—Above light olive-brown; the forehead and sides of the head rusty; a hoary spot just before the eye, and a short faint dusky moustache; beneath, white, dashed on the top of the breast with dusky; and the sides of the body, the lining of the wings, thighs, and under tail-coverts, bright rusty.

Bill horny; legs fleshy-yellow; irides pale yellow (hoary according to Hodgson); orbital skin slaty. Length $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches; extent $11\frac{1}{2}$; wing $3\frac{3}{4}$; tail $4\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $1\frac{4}{10}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$.

The female is said to differ from the male in wanting the dark moustache.

This *Pomatorhinus* is found throughout the whole extent of the Himalayas, from Simla to Sikkim and Bootan. It is not rare at Darjeeling. Hutton says that it is "common in the N. W. Himalayas, from 3,000 to 10,000, and even 12,000 feet; always in pairs, turning up the dead leaves on copsewood-covered banks, uttering a loud whistle, answering and calling each other; it breeds in April, constructing a nest on the ground, of dry grasses and leaf stalks of walnut trees, and is covered with a dome-shaped roof, so nicely blended with the fallen leaves and withered grasses, among which it is placed, as to be almost undistinguishable from them. The eggs are three in number, and white, of ordinary oval shape. When disturbed the bird sprung along the ground with long bounding hops, so quickly, that from its motions and the appearance of the nest, I was led to believe it was a species of rat."

Somewhat allied in appearance and structure to this last species is *P. hypoleucos* of Blyth, from Arrakan, and a new species, lately found by me on the Khasia hills, *Pom. McLellandi*. The former species, originally described by Blyth from a young specimen, under the generic name of *Orthorhinus*, is still considered generically distinct by Tickell, who says that "the bill is soft in texture, and sub-cylindric in form, the sinciput flat, and the tail broad and fan-like.

Other *Pomatorhini* not previously noticed are *P. Isidorei*, Lesson, from New Guinea; *P. borneensis*, Cab., from Borneo; *P. musicus* and *P. stridulus*, Swinhoe, from China. The Australian

Pomatorhini have been recently separated as *Pomatostomus*; their habits appear very similar, but the nidification differs.

Gen. *XIPHORAMPHUS*, Blyth.

Syn. *Xiphorhynchus*, Blyth, olim.

Char.—Bill still more curved and more slender than in *Pomatorhinus*, much compressed; wings and tail as in that genus; claws longer, more slender, and very slightly curved.

This is simply an exaggerated form of *Pomatorhinus*.

406. *Xiphoramphus superciliaris*, BLYTH.

J. A. S., XI., 175—BLYTH, Cat. 856—HORSF., Cat. 353—JERDON, Ill. Ind. Orn., Pl. 49—*Karriok-tamveep*, Lepch.

THE SLENDER-BILLED SCIMITAR-BABBLER.

Descr.—Above uniform reddish brown; quills and tail dusky; crown, occiput, and sides of head, dark cinereous, with a narrow superciliary white line; under-parts dull rufo-ferruginous; throat whitish, streaked with dusky grey; the breast fainter rufous than the belly, and obscurely spotted with dusky; shoulders of wings and tibial feathers dark cinereous.

Bill dusky black, plumbeous at the tip; legs leaden brown; irides red-brown. Length 9 inches; wing 3; tail $4\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $1\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{4}$.

This very curious bird has hitherto been only procured in Sikkim. It is rare, and is found from 7,000 to 10,000 feet, and upwards. I know nothing of its habits, but I doubt its being known to any one as a pleasing songster, as Mr. Blyth was informed.

The next group, that of the Laughing Thrushes, *Garrulacinæ*, Bonaparte, is peculiarly a Himalayan and mountain tribe, only three having been found in Southern India; one or two in Ceylon; and a few more on the Khasia hills, and the upland forests of Burmah, extending northwards to China, but sparingly into Malayana. They have received several names. Swainson formed of them his genus *Crateropus*, which was formerly used by myself, but that name is now restricted to a peculiar African type; and Gould formed his *Ianthocincla* for some. *Garrulax* of Lesson is now generally adopted, but it has been sub-divided.

All the species of this group have a more or less Thrush-like bill, short rounded wings, a long and broad, graduated or rounded tail, and strong legs and feet. As introductory to this division of the *Timaline*, I extract some excellent general remarks by Hodgson, when describing several new species: "They frequent deep and dark forests and groves exclusively, feed chiefly on the ground, eat insects, berries, and caterpillars, and are incapable of a sustained flight. They are frequently met with on the roads and pathways in the forests, attracted by the dung of cattle. for the grain, larvæ, and insects it affords them. On the whole they are more insectivorous than frugivorous or graminivorous, yet they are more capable of a graminivorous diet than the true Thrushes.* They scrape the earth with their bill, and sometimes with their feet; many of them are caged and tamed with facility, and in Nepal are often kept in walled gardens, when they are very useful, destroying larvæ and insects."

To these remarks I can only add that they are almost exclusively monticolous, one (or two perhaps) frequenting forests in the plains. All are very social, and have loud voices, some harsh, others mellow and pleasing; a few lay white eggs, the majority blue.

Gen. GARRULAX.

Syn. *Crateropus*, Swainson, apud Jerdon—*Ianthocincla* (partly) Gould.—*Cinclosoma*, Vigors and Hodgson.

Char.—Bill rather long, moderately stout, nearly straight; the culmen gently curved towards the tip, which is slightly hooked and notched; nostrils advanced, more or less impended by nareal tufts; rictal bristles rather long; wings moderate, 5th and 6th quills longest; tail long, much rounded; legs and feet very strong; lateral toes nearly equal; claws long.

The birds composing this genus are of rather large size, with longer bills than the next; the plumage plain, in masses, and with fewer marks and variegations. In their habits they are the most gregarious and noisy of their tribe.

There are several sections, distinguished chiefly by the mode of coloration.

* I presume that Mr. Hodgson had here partly in view the *Malacocirci*, or Babblers, which are much greater grain-eaters than the Laughing-thrushes.

The first have the head crested, that and the breast white, and a black ear-stripe; and the only species known to the older authors is the first on our list. The bill is furnished with tufts of bristly feathers advancing to the base of the nostrils; the tarsus is very strong; the middle toe elongated, and the outer toe distinctly longer than the inner.

407. *Garrulax leucolophus*, HARDWICKE.

Corvus, apud HARDWICKE, *Lin. Tr.* XI.—BLYTH, *Cat.* 482—HORSEF., *Cat.* 284—GOULD, *Cent. H. Birds*, pl. 18—*Rawil-kahy*, H. in the N. W. P.—*Karrio-pha*, Lepch.—*Karria goka*, Bhot.—Laughing Crow of Europeans in the N. W. Himalayas.

THE WHITE-CRESTED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—The whole head with the crest, nape, sides of neck, throat, and breast, pure white, tinged with cinereous on the nape and back of the neck; a black streak from the nostrils through the eye to the ear-coverts; the rest of the plumage rich olive rufescent brown, tinged with chesnut where it joins the white, and darker on the tail; quills and tail dusky on their inner webs.

Bill black; legs plumbeous; irides red-brown (or brownish yellow in some). Length 12 inches; extent $15\frac{1}{2}$; wing 5; tail 5; bill at front $1\frac{1}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{8}$.

The White-crested Laughing-thrush is found throughout the whole extent of the Himalayas from the far north-west to Bootan, and thence through the Khasia hills to Arrakan. It assembles in large flocks of twenty or more, every now and then bursting out into a chorus of most discordant laughter, quite startling at first, and screaming and chattering for some time. They feed on the ground a good deal, turning over dead leaves for insects, but also eat various berries. They frequent the hill zone from about 2,000 to 6,000 feet of elevation (rarely higher), but are most numerous between 3,000 and 4,500 feet.

I have had the nest and eggs brought me more than once when at Darjeeling; the former being a large mass of roots, moss, and grass, with a few pure white eggs.

A nearly allied species is found in Burmah, *G. Belangeri*, Lesson. Another sub-division, very similar in form, is exemplified by *G. strepitans* of Tickell, and this extends into China, where represented by *G. perspicillatus*, and *G. chinensis* (which last also occurs in the Tenasserim Provinces); indeed, it is doubtful if it really do occur in China. *G. bicolor* and *G. mitratus*, Müller, from Sumatra, perhaps belong to this section. An interesting account of the habits of *G. chinensis* in confinement is recorded by Blyth, from Mr. Frith, which, as throwing light on the manners of the group, I shall here transcribe: "The bird was excessively tame and familiar, and delighted in being caressed and tickled by the hand, when it would spread its wing, and assume very singular attitudes. It was naturally a fine songster, and a most universal imitator. Whenever chopped meat, or other food, was put into its cage, it always evinced the propensity to deposit the bits one by one between the wires; and when a bee or wasp was offered, the bird would seize it instantly, and invariably turn its tail round and make the insect sting it several times successively before eating it. A large beetle it would place on the ground and pierce it with a violent downward stroke of its bill; a small snake (about a foot long) it treated in like manner, transfixing the centre of the head; it afterwards devoured about half the snake, holding it by one foot, while it picked with the bill, as was its common mode of feeding." Swinhoe relates that he has more than once found the remains of small birds in the gizzard of *G. perspicillatus*, and he states that it also pilfers eggs.

The two next birds, with two others found out of our limits, form a small group of allied species, of similar habits to those of the last section, but with a particular coloration; the bill is a trifle more curved; and the narial bristles almost conceal the nostrils.

408. *Garrulax cærulatus*, HODGSON.

Cinclosoma, apud HODGS., As. Res. XIX.—BLYTH, Cat. 487—HORSE, Cat. 291—*Tarmol-pho*, Lepch.—*Piang-kam*, Bhot.

THE GREY-SIDED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Above rich olive-brown, tinged with chestnut; the head darker, with some black marks, each feather being narrowly tipped

black; a black frontal zone reaching through the lores to the ears; wings and tibial feathers dull blue or ashy grey.

Bill dusky, livid at the base; legs fleshy white; irides red brown; orbital skin livid. Length 11 inches; extent 13; wing $4\frac{1}{4}$; tail 5; bill at front $\frac{7}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{5}{8}$.

This Laughing-thrush is found in the S. E. Himalayas. It is not rare in Sikhim, from about 2,000 to 4,000 feet or so. A nest and eggs, said to be of this bird, were brought to me at Darjeeling, the nest loosely made with roots and grass, and containing two pale-blue eggs.

409. *Garrulax Delesserti*, JERDON.

Crateropus, apud JERDON, Cat. 88—JERDON, Ill. Ind. Orn., pl. 13—C. griseiceps, DELESSERT.

THE WYNAAD LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Head and nape dusky blackish grey; the rest of the plumage above dark brownish rufous, lighter and ferruginous on the rump and tail-coverts, and darker on the wings and tail; chin, throat, neck, and breast, white; the sides of the breast shaded with dull cinereous, belly and vent light reddish brown.

Bill dusky, yellow at the base beneath; legs fleshy; irides dull red. Length 11 inches; wing $4\frac{5}{16}$; tail $4\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$.

This is a somewhat rare bird. I first saw it in possession of M. Delessert, who got it in the slopes of the Neilgherries; and I afterwards procured it in the same locality, at about 3,000 feet of elevation. I also saw it several times in the Wynaad, associating in large flocks, wandering about among the under-wood and bamboos, and occasionally bringing out a chorus of peculiar, but clear, chattering notes.

A nearly allied species is found in Ceylon, *G. cinereifrons*, Blyth; another in Assam, *G. gularis*, McLelland, which last I lately procured in the Khasia hills.

The next bird noticed differs in some points: the bill is shorter and more arched, the frontal plumes are bristly; the tarsus is distinctly scutated, and the coloration is peculiar.

410. *Garrulax ruficollis*, JARD. and SELBY.

Ianthocincla, apud JARDINE and SELBY, Ill. Orn., 2nd Series, pl. 21—BLYTH, Cat. 496—HORSE. Cat. 293—*Ianthoc. lunaris*, McLELLAND—*Pobduya*, Beng.—*Rapchen-pho*, Lepch.

THE RUFOUS-NECKED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—General plumage olive-brown, darker on the tail, which is almost black at the tip, and passing into deep ashy on the crown and occiput; forehead, orbital region, ear-coverts, throat, and fore-neck, deep black; a crescent-like patch of deep rufous on the sides of the neck; middle of the lower abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts, rufous.

Bill black; legs livid brown; irides dull red. Length $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; extent $12\frac{1}{2}$; wing 4; tail $5\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$.

This *Garrulax* is found at the foot of the Himalayas, extending up the slopes of the hills, to perhaps 2,000 feet; and is also common in the forests of Assam, Sylhet, and Cachar, and the eastern frontier of Bengal. I first observed it in the Sikhim Terai, where I was absolutely startled by a large troop of them, twenty or thirty at least, suddenly breaking out into a most extraordinary cackling, chattering, crowing chorus, some of the notes being clear, others harsh. The birds were in some bamboo jungle on the road side, some feeding on the ground, others perched on the bamboos and trees around; and they did not leave the spot, nor cease their calling, till I had shot two or three of them. I found that they had been feeding chiefly on insects, also on seeds. Buchanan Hamilton says that this bird is easily tamed, sings with a fine full mellow note, like a Blackbird, and lives on insects and plantains, &c.

The next group is distinguished by their dull plumage, by the tail feathers tipped with white, and by a tendency of the outer web of the primaries to be lighter colored, as in the next genus. The bill is stronger than in the last, the nostrils more apart, the rictal bristles feeble, the tarsus strongly scutated, and the middle toe less lengthened.

411. *Garrulax albogularis*, GOULD.

Ianthocincla, apud GOULD, P. Z. S., 1835—BLYTH, Cat. 484—HORSE, Cat. 286—*Cinclos. albigula*, HODGSON—*Karreum-pho*, Lepch.

THE WHITE-THROATED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Above dull olive-brown, with some fulvous on the forehead and near the eyes; lores, and under the eyes, black; terminal third of the lateral tail feathers white; beneath, the chin and throat white; breast the same colour as the back; abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts, rusty, darker on the flanks and under tail-coverts.

Bill dusky; legs plumbeous grey; irides glaucous; orbital skin greenish. Length 12 inches; extent 15; wing $5\frac{1}{2}$; tail $5\frac{3}{4}$; bill at front nearly 1; tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$.

The White-throated Laughing-thrush is found throughout the Himalayas, from Bootan to Simla, more common in the North-west, than in the eastern portion of the range. It prefers rather high elevations, from 6,000 to 9,000 feet and upwards; lives in large flocks, feeding mostly on the ground, among bamboos and brush-wood, and every now and then screaming and chattering; but not so loudly or discordantly as some of the others. Hutton, who says that it is very common at Mussooree, found the nest "about seven or eight feet from the ground, of woody tendrils, twigs, fibres, or at times of grass and leaves, and with three beautiful shining green eggs." It is not very common at Darjeeling, and is not found below 6,000 or 7,000 feet.

412. *Garrulax pectoralis*, GOULD.

Ianthocincla, apud GOULD, P. Z. S., 1835—BLYTH, Cat. 485—HORSF., Cat. 288—Cinclos. *grisaure*, HODGSON—*G. melanotis*, BLYTH—*G. uropygialis*, CABANIS—*Ol-pho*, Lepch.

THE BLACK-GORGETED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Plumage above light olivaceous brown, with a rusty tinge on the back and rump, and the nape and hind neck bright rusty; quills edged whitish, or pale cinereous, and the terminal third of all the lateral tail-feathers with a double band of black and white; a narrow white supercilium; cheeks, lores, and ear-coverts silvery grey or white (in some, however, pure black), enclosed by two narrow black lines, which originate at the base of the bill, and circling round the eyes and ears, unite into a broad band, which descends on the sides of the neck, and thence form a gorget

on the top of the breast; beneath, the chin is white; the neck, throat, breast, and sides of the abdomen, very pale fulvous, in some bright rusty throughout, except on the middle of the lower abdomen, sometimes white on the throat and breast; the rest of the body beneath, white.

Bill bluish horny, dusky above; legs greenish plumbeous; irides brown; orbital skin dusky leaden. Length 13 inches; extent $16\frac{1}{2}$; wing $5\frac{3}{4}$; tail $5\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $1\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$.

This species varies a good deal (according to the locality) in the markings on the ear-coverts, which in some are black, in others white mixed with black; and in some the pectoral band is obsolete. Specimens from the Himalayas have usually the ears silver-grey, whilst those from Arrakan have them black and grey in every gradation. It is found in the Himalayas, extending through Assam into Burmah.

Bonaparte, in his *Conspectus*, gives *G. uropygialis*, Cabanis, from Assam, as distinct from this, 'the wings of a duller shade, and the rump rufescent, not concolorous with the body.' It does not appear to me to differ.

413. *Garrulax moniliger*, HODGSON.

Cinclosoma, apud HODGSON, As. Res. XIX.—BLYTH, Cat. 486—HORSE, Cat. 289—Ianthoc. pectoralis, apud McLELLAND—Garr. McLellandi, BLYTH—*Ol-pho*, Lepch.—*Piang-kam*, Bhot.

THE NECK-LACED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Very like the last; above pale olive-brown; the whole neck and throat rusty; the lateral tail feathers with a double band of black and white, but the white much less broad than in the last; the rest of the body beneath white, more or less tinged with rusty on the breast, flanks, and middle of the abdomen; a white supercilium from the bill to the occiput; below it a black line proceeding from the bill, through the eyes and ear-coverts (which are black, more or less mixed with white or grey), and sweeping round the bottom of the breast like a necklace.

Bill dusky horny; legs fleshy grey; irides yellow, or pale brownish, or orange; orbital skin evanescent. Length $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $5\frac{1}{2}$; tail 5; bill at front 1; tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$.

This species differs from the last in its smaller size, shorter wing, the less development of the pectoral band, less white on the tail feathers, and in the ear-coverts seldom having any white, or, it is only seen in the lower part; the legs and irides, too, differ in color. It is found in the S. E. Himalayas, also extending into Assam, Arrakan, and the Tenasserim Provinces.

I procured both this and the last at Darjeeling, and have also seen one, or both, in Sylhet, Cachar, and Upper Burmah. They both associate in large flocks, and frequent more open forests than most of the previous species. The eggs are greenish blue.

Other species of *Garrulax*, which, without being very closely allied, may yet be classed near this section, are *G. merulinus*, Blyth, from the Khasia hills, remarkable for its Thrush-like appearance, and perhaps *G. rufifrons*, Swains. and Lesson, from Java. The former I found to be rare near Cherra Poonjee, at least during the rainy season.

The next species differs somewhat from those previously noticed by its shorter wing, lengthened tail, and coloration. In its habits it is intermediate between the species of *Garrulax* and *Trochalopteron*, having the loud call and numerous flocks of the former, whilst the members keep individually more apart, as in the succeeding birds. Gray separates it generically, retaining for it Gould's name, *Ianthocincla*, but, with Horsfield, I shall still keep it as *Garrulax*.

414. *Garrulax ocellatus*, VIGORS.

Cinclosoma, apud VIGORS, P. Z. S., 1831—GOULD, Cent. H. B., pl. 15—BLYTH, Cat. 488—HORSEF., Cat. 292—*Lho-karreumpho*, Lepch.

THE WHITE-SPOTTED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Forehead, sides of the head, and body above, reddish brown; top of the head, and neck in front, blackish brown; the nape, back, wings, and upper tail-coverts, marked with white ocelli, black anteriorly; quills, and lateral tail-feathers, greenish dusky, with white tips; outer webs of the middle quills grey, showing a

grey alar band; the lower wing-coverts variegated with red, black, and white; beneath, the breast whitish rufous with black bands; abdomen pale rufous.

Bill yellowish, dusky on the ridge and tip; legs dull yellow; irides yellow-brown. Length 14 inches; wing 5; tail 7; bill at front 1; tarsus $1\frac{7}{8}$.

I have seen no record of this handsome bird having been procured elsewhere than in Nepal and Sikhim. About Darjeeling it is not found below 8,000 feet, and is most abundant between that elevation and 10,000 feet. I saw it between Darjeeling and Tongloo in large flocks, with a fine loud clear call, which, when begun by one, was immediately answered on all sides. It was feeding on various fruit and seeds.

Crociæ guttatus, Temm., P. C. 592, from Java, judging from the figure, appears to me allied to this species; and Bonaparte places near these birds *Timalia palliata* and *T. lugubris*, Müller, both from Sumatra.

The following birds differ considerably from *Garrulax*, as restricted, in their smaller size, more variegated plumage, more rounded wings, and also in habits; for, though still associating in flocks, they do not keep so close together, but scatter through the brushwood. They have all peculiar calls, which, however, in general, they do not utter in such full chorus as *Garrulax*. They have of late been divided into two genera, which, however, differ but very slightly from each other, and chiefly in the more complete rounding of the wings. I shall not separate them, but class them both under Hodgson's genus *Trochalopteron*; *Pterocyclos*, in which Gray places them, being pre-occupied in Malacology.

Gen. TROCHALOPTERON, Hodgson.

Syn. *Garrulax* (in part) Auct.—*Pterocyclos*, Gray.

Char.—Bill moderate or short, nearly straight, very slightly hooked at the tip, distinctly notched; nostrils impended at their base by the frontal plumes; wings short, much rounded, the tertiaries being as long as the primaries; tail moderately long, broad; tarsus and feet moderately strong; hind claw large.

The birds of this genus are pleasingly varied in their plumage, and the outer webs of the first primaries of many are colored yellow, or bluish, or red.

415 *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*, VIGORS.

Cinclosoma, apud VIGORS, P. Z. S., 1831—GOULD, Cent. H. B., pl. 17—BLYTH, Cat. 495—HORSEF., Cat. 294.

THE RED-HEADED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Head and nape deep rich chesnut; lores, chin, and throat black; ear-coverts mixed rufous and dark brown; neck posteriorly olivaceous, with black marks; the rest of the upper plumage ashy olive; shoulders of the wings and lesser coverts deep ferruginous or chesnut; primaries olivaceous, tinged, more or less, with ferruginous, and with black spots on the breast, especially on the sides; these vary in number and size, probably according to age; the flanks, lower abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts, olivaceous.

Bill horny brown; legs dull yellow. Length $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $4\frac{1}{2}$; tail $5\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$.

The Red-headed Laughing-thrush appears to be confined to the N. W. Himalayas and the western districts of Nepal. It is unknown in Sikhim, where it is represented by a very closely allied species. Shore, as quoted by Gould in his "Century," says that "it is by no means uncommon in Kumaon, where it frequents shady ravines, building in hollows and their precipitous sides, and making its nest of small sticks and grasses, the eggs being five in number, of a sky-blue colour."

416. *Trochalopteron chrysotermum*, GOULD.

Ianthocincla, apud GOULD, P. Z. S., 1835—BLYTH, Cat. 494—HORSEF., Cat. 294—*Tarphom-pho*, Lepch.—*Paniang*, Bhot.

THE YELLOW-WINGED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Forehead dark rufous; sinciput dusky grey, continuing behind the eyes as a dark band; occiput dark chesnut; back of neck reddish, with large black spots; back, rump, and upper tail-coverts, olivaceous, tinged rufescent on the interscapulars; shoulder of wings and lesser coverts deep chesnut; primaries olivaceous,

edged with bright yellow; tertiaries dull cinereous, black tipped; beneath, the chin and throat are black, ear-coverts black, edged with white; the rest rufous, with black crescentic spots on the neck and breast; olivaceous on the flanks, vent, and under-tail-coverts.

Bill dusky brown; legs horny yellow brown; irides red. Length 10 inches; wing 4; tail $4\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus $1\frac{3}{8}$.

This is perhaps the most common and abundant species about Darjeeling. It is often seen on the road, picking up insects or grain among the dung of cattle, but rapidly hopping off, and diving into the nearest thicket on being approached. If one utter its call, it is answered in all directions, though not very noisily.

The eggs are greenish blue, in a nest neatly made with roots and moss. It extends from Sikkim and Bootan to Nepal, and is very closely allied to the last, which it replaces in the S. E. Himalayas. *T. ruficapillum*, Bl., from the Khasia hills, and *T. melanostigma*, Bl., from Tenasserim, are also representative species in their respective localities.

417. *Trochalopteron subunicolor*, HODGSON.

J. A. S., XII., 952—BLYTH, Cat. 491—HORSF., Cat. 306—*Tarmal-pho*, Lepch.—*Nabom*, Bhot.

THE PLAIN-COLORED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Above olive-brown, with black marks; the crown dashed with dusky cinereous, and the feathers slightly edged dark; lores blackish; ear-coverts, and the feathers beneath them, margined with silvery ash; the outer primaries, and the emarginate portion of the others, edged with bright yellow; the central tail-feathers golden olive-green; lateral tail feathers blackish, olivaceous at their base, with narrow white tips; the under parts, like those above, viz., olive-brown with dark marks, but paler, and with the dark markings less defined.

Bill dusky; legs reddish brown; irides red-brown. Length 10 inches; wing $3\frac{1}{2}$; tail $4\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{5}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{3}{8}$.

This bird is classed as a *Trochalopteron* in Horsfield's Catalogue, whilst the two former are placed in *Pterocyclos*, but there is no

essential distinction. The bill is a little shorter in this species, and the wing a trifle more rounded.

It is nearly as abundant as the last in the vicinity of Darjeeling, and its habits do not differ.

418. *Trochalopteron variegatum*, VIGORS.

Cinclosoma, apud VIGORS, P. Z. S., 1831—GOULD, Cent. H. B., pl. 16—BLYTH, Cat. 493—HORSE, Cat. 296—*Ganza*, Nepal.

THE VARIEGATED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Plumage above brownish grey, rusty on the forehead, and cinereous on the head and neck; a stripe from the nape through the eyes black, surmounted by a narrow white line behind the eye; ear-coverts dark brown; wings with a black spot on the primary coverts, and another on the middle of the wings; the greater coverts rufous; outer webs of the primaries pale ashy-white, tinged yellowish (probably bright yellow in the fresh bird); the last of the primaries and all the secondaries tipped white; tail, with the tips of four middle feathers, ashy grey, the four outer feathers on each side edged with olive-yellow, and white tipped, and all, except the outer ones, black at the base; beneath, the chin, throat, and middle of the neck, are black; the sides of the neck pale rusty whitish, olivaceous on the breast and flanks; and the abdomen and vent rufous.

Bill black; legs reddish; irides brown. Length 10 inches; wing 4; tail $4\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{1}{16}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{4}$.

This species has been sent from Nepal, Kumaon, and Simla, but it does not appear to extend into Sikhim.

419. *Trochalopteron affine*, HODGSON.

Garrulax, apud HODGSON, J. A. S., XII., 950—BLYTH, Cat. 492—HORSE, Cat. 297.

THE BLACK-FACED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Above rufescent olive-brown, more or less mottled with paler on the back; rump dingy greenish, and the upper tail-coverts rufous; sides of head, lores, cheeks, and ear-coverts, black, occasionally this hue even suffusing the crown; shoulder of

wings and wing-coverts like the back; a jet black spot on the primary coverts; winglet, and the outer margin of the quills, pearl grey; those of the secondaries and some of the tertiaries greenish yellow; the rest of the tertiaries and tips of the secondaries slaty grey; a broad white moustachial spot, and one behind the ears also white; beneath, the chin is black; the breast rufous brown, the feathers edged laterally with grey; the belly uniform faint rufous brown; lower tail-coverts the same, but darker.

Bill black; feet reddish brown; irides brown. Length $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing 4; tail $4\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front nearly $\frac{7}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$.

This rare species of Laughing-thrush may be said in some measure to take the place, in the S. E. Himalayas, of the last. It has been sent from Bootan, Sikhim, and Nepal. I saw it in thick bamboo jungle between 8,000 and 9,000 feet of elevation, on the road from Darjeeling to Tonglo, and I imagine that it only frequents the higher mountains.

420. *Trochalopteron squamatum*, GOULD.

Ianthocincla, apud GOULD, P. Z. S., 1835—BLYTH, Cat. 492—HORSF., Cat. 305—JARD. and SELBY, Ill. Orn. 2, pl. 4—*Cinclos. melanura*, HODGSON—*Tarmal-pho*, Lepch.—*Nabum*, Bhot.

THE BLUE-WINGED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Head, neck, and body above, olive-brown, with black lunules; rump unspotted dark chesnut; brows black; wings black internally, visible as such on the tertiaries, but the edges of the first primaries blue; margins of the other quills, and the coverts, dark castaneous; tail black, overlaid with glossy green, and obsoletely barred with a terminal band of rusty; beneath, the chin is black, and the rest of the lower plumage olivaceous in some, in others inclined to rufous or chesnut; vent and under tail-coverts rufescent or chesnut.

Bill black; legs shining fleshy brown; irides red-brown (glaucous according to Hodgson). Length $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches; extent 12; wing $3\frac{3}{4}$; tail $4\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{10}$.

This is a common bird in the neighbourhood of Darjeeling, and has similar habits with the others. It has very short and highly

rounded wings, and was placed by Horsfield as a restricted *Trochalopteron*. It has hitherto only been found in Nepal and Sikhim, but I quite recently obtained it in the Khasia hills, where not uncommon.

421. *Trochalopteron rufogulare*, GOULD.

Ianthocincla, apud GOULD, P. Z. S., 1831—BLYTH, Cat. 482—HORSF., Cat. 303—*Cinclos. rufimenta*, HODGSON—*Narbigivanpho*, Lepch.

THE RUFOUS-CHINNED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Above olive-brown, broadly lunated with black; the entire cap black; tail dark rufescent olivaceous, unspotted, but with a double band of black and rusty at the tip; winglet, and outer edges of the primaries, bluish, the last white tipped; the long coverts of the wings tipped with black, barwise; a pale white roundish spot before the eyes, and a broad longitudinal black patch behind the gape, extending under and behind the ear-coverts, which are olive rufescent; beneath, the chin is rusty; the throat white (rusty in some individuals, the females?); breast and belly pale smoky grey, with black drops; vent and under tail-coverts rusty; the lower part of the flanks and thighs olive-brown.

Bill horny yellow; legs fleshy brown; orbital skin blue. Length 10 inches; extent $10\frac{3}{4}$; wing $3\frac{1}{2}$; tail $4\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front not $\frac{1}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{3}{8}$. The bill is somewhat straighter than in the others, and very indistinctly notched.

This bird is found throughout the whole extent of the Himalayas, from Bootan to Cashmere, and also in the Khasia hills. It is not common at Darjeeling, and I found it at from 5,000 to 8,000 feet. Hutton obtained the nest and eggs at Mussorie in May. The eggs are white; a color rare, but not unknown, in this group, *vide* p. 35. Adams states that it is common in the dense jungles of the lower Himalayan ranges in the N. W., and around the vale of Cashmere. It is generally seen in flocks, and its call is loud and harsh.

The next bird stands alone in its coloration, and is perhaps the richest colored in the family.

422. *Trochalopteron phœniceum*, GOULD.

Ianthocincla, apud GOULD, Icon. Av., pl. 3—BLYTH, Cat. 497—HORSF., Cat. 302—*Crateropus puniceus*, BLYTH—*Tilipho*, Lepch.—*Repcha*, Bhot.

THE CRIMSON-WINGED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Above, plumage rich olive-brown, rufous on the wings; tail dusky black above, each feather tipped with bright orange, the lateral ones most broadly so; the feathers on the sides of the crown, and over the eye, margined laterally with black, forming a superciliary streak; eye-streak, ear-coverts, sides of the neck, outer edge of primaries, of the terminal portions of the secondaries, and of the longest tertiaries, crimson; the secondaries black internally, and partially margined with light grey; beneath, as the upper plumage, but paler, and tinged with ruddy; tail beneath almost entirely dull-orange.

Bill black; legs livid brown; irides red-brown. Length $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; extent $10\frac{1}{2}$; wing $3\frac{1}{2}$; tail $4\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{5}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{2}{10}$.

This richly-plumaged Laughing-thrush is found in the S. E. Himalayas, and also in the Khasia hills. It is tolerably abundant in Sikhim, and frequents the zone from 4,000 to 6,000 feet or so. A nest and eggs, said to be of this bird, were brought to me at Darjeeling, the nest made of roots and grass, and the eggs, three in number, pale blue, with a few narrow and wavy dusky streaks.

The two next birds belong to a peculiar type, and are the only representatives of the genus found in Southern India, where they, as was to be expected, are confined to the summits of the highest mountain ranges.

423. *Trochalopteron cachinnans*, JERDON.

Crateropus, apud JERDON, Cat. 87, with figure—BLYTH, Cat. 598—HORSF., Cat. 298—*Crat. Lafresnayii*, DELESSERT—C. Delesserti, LAFRESNAYE.

THE NEILGHERRY LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Above olive-brown; the head dusky black; eye-brows, lores, and eyelids, white; ear-coverts rufous; beneath, the chin

white; the rest of the body bright rufous, olivaceous on the flanks and lower tail-coverts.

Bill black; legs dusky greenish; irides fine red. Length $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{6}{10}$; tail 4; bill at front $\frac{7}{10}$; tarsus $1\frac{3}{8}$.

This noisy bird is abundant in all the woods on the summit of the Neilgherries, and its loud laughing call is often heard when the bird itself remains unseen. I have found it nowhere else than on the Neilgherries, but it very probably will be found on the top of the Pulneys, Animalies, and other high ranges of Southern India.

Like others of the genus, it lives in small scattered flocks, foraging about the thick brushwood. It often wanders apparently alone, though at no great distance from the flock, with whom it keeps up a communication as a signal of the direction it is going, or, perhaps, of the abundance of food obtained. On being watched they hop and climb up the stems and thick branches of the nearest tree, never however ascending to the tops of trees. They feed partly on the ground, and partly on bushes; and their chief food appears to be fruit, especially that of the *Physalis peruviana*, so perfectly acclimatized on the Neilgherries; but they occasionally eat caterpillars and other insects. The nest is made of roots and moss, and the eggs are blue, with a few brownish spots.

I was in error in stating in my Illustrations of Indian Ornithology that the eggs were white, for, on the occasion alluded to, I mistook the bird (of which I had only a hurried glance); it was the *Pomatorhinus Horsfieldii* whose nest I then obtained, as I had afterwards several opportunities of confirming.

424. *Trochalopteron Jerdoni*, BLYTH.

Garrulax, apud BLYTH, J. A. S., XX. 522.

THE BANASORE LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Above olivaceous; the head bluish, passing to dull ashy on the nape; white supercilia; lores black, less developed than in *cachinnans*; fore-neck and breast pale ashy, passing to whitish on the ear-coverts; middle of the abdomen rufous; flanks and under tail-coverts olivaceous.

Bill black; legs horny; irides red. Length $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{7}{10}$; tail $3\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus $1\frac{3}{8}$.

This Laughing-thrush is very closely allied to the last, differing chiefly by the ashy breast, and some few other particulars. I procured it near the top of the Banasore peak, a high hill at the edge of the Ghats separating Malabar from the Wynaad, at an elevation of from 5,000 to 6,000 feet. Its voice is very like that of its Neilgherry congener, but more subdued. I did not hear it in Coorg, nor in any other part of the Wynaad, but I have no doubt that it will be found on some of the higher elevations along the range of Western Ghats.

The two next species also differ from all in their mode of coloration, and, to a small extent, structurally, and they exhibit some affinity for *Actinodura*, and also, though more distantly, to the *Malacocircus* group.

425. *Trochalopteron lineatum*, VIGORS.

Cinclosoma, apud VIGORS, P. Z. S., 1831—BLYTH, Cat. 599—HORSF., Cat. 300.

THE STREAKED LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Head and back olivaceous ashy, the feathers of the head and neck centred with reddish brown; wings chesnut; tail the same, more or less olivaceous, and with a broad ashy-white tip, preceded by a narrow dark band, and obsoletely barred (most distinctly seen beneath); ear-coverts rufescent; lores, and over the eyes, whitish; beneath the plumage is mixed ashy and rufescent, lighter and more ashy on the chin and throat; lower abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts, olivaceous; the feathers of the back and of the neck and breast white-shafted; and the feathers of the breast and lower parts are all edged with olive ashy.

Length $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{1}{4}$; tail $3\frac{3}{4}$; bill at front $\frac{9}{16}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{4}$.

This species has not been found in the Sikhim Himalayas, but extends from Nepal to Cashmere, where Adams says that it is not rare. He found it living in flocks, very tame, and with a low chattering note. Hutton says that it is seen in pairs, or four or five together. He found the nest, either in a low bush, or the sides of a bank, loosely constructed of grass, stalks, and roots, and with usually three eggs, whose color he does not mention.

426. *Trochalopteron setafer*, HODGSON.

Cinclosoma, apud HODGSON, As. Res. XIX.—Garr. imbricatus, BLYTH, J. A. S., XII., 951*—BLYTH, Cat. 500—HORSF., Cat. 299.

THE BRISTLY LAUGHING-THRUSH.

Descr.—Above rufescent brown, darker on the head, and more rufous on the wings and tail; rump and flanks olive-green; tail rufescent, its feathers broadly subterminated with dull black, and the extreme tip whitish; feathers of the crown, nape, and neck, slightly margined with dull olive-green, and with shining black shafts, and these feathers and those of the back slightly rigid to the feel; lores albescent; beneath, rufescent olive-brown, more inclining to rufous than the upper parts, and the ear-coverts, sides of neck, and all the under parts are more or less white-shafted, chiefly towards the tips of the feathers; the primaries are inconspicuously margined with grey, and the secondaries with yellowish olive.

Bill and feet brown. Length $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing 3; tail 4; bill at front $\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$.

This curious species shows some affinities for *Acanthoptila*, placed by Hodgson in the *Malacocircus* series, both by its more lengthened bill and the spinous character of the plumage. It has only as yet been sent from Nepal and Bootan, but it will probably be found in Sikhim. Hodgson states that the stomach of this bird is very thick, almost like a gizzard.

No other species of this genus appear to be recorded, except one from China, said by Blyth to be very *Malacocircus*-like. *Psophodes* of Australia appears to belong to this family, near the present series, and indeed has been placed in it by Bonaparte; and this Ornithologist also classes next to it the peculiar Malayan genus *Lophocitta*, *Vanga cristata* of Griffith's Cuvier, which appears to have some affinity for *Thamnocataphus*. The European *Dysornithia infansta*, usually placed among the Jays, perhaps belongs to this family and section, but most of the African *Crateropi* come nearer the *Malacocircus* group.

* Blyth's *imbricatus* agrees with the description of *setafer*, but Hodgson appears to have mixed up specimens of both species, for he sent specimens of the last bird as *setafer*, as I am informed by Mr. Blyth.

We have next in order two genera which differ somewhat, both in structure and habits, from the others of this family, but which, nevertheless, appear to belong to it. They are more arboreal in their habits, less social and noisy, and they appear to have some affinities for the *Leiotrichinæ*, and analogies for the Jays.

Gen. ACTINODURA, Gould.

Syn. *Ixops*, Hodgs.—*Leiocincla*, Bl.

Char.—Bill moderately long and compressed, rather slender, slightly curved; nostrils linear, basal; rectal bristles few and weak; wings short, rounded, 5th, 6th, and 7th quills about equal; tail long, graduated; tarsus moderate, stout; lateral toes unequal; anterior claws long, moderately curved; hind toe with the claw strong and well curved. Plumage copious, dense, and silky; wings barred; tail obscurely banded; head crested.

This genus was considered by Hodgson to be a link between *Sibia* and *Cinclosoma*. Bonaparte in his *Conspectus* placed it next to *Malacocircus*, but afterwards removed it to the *Garrulax* series. Blyth, Horsfield, and Gray all recognise its affinity to this family, and I think it may be considered to lead from *Trochalopteron* to *Malacocircus*. There are only two species known.

427. *Actinodura Egertoni*, GOULD.

P. Z. S., 1836—BLYTH, Cat. 501—HORSF., Cat. 307—*Ixops rufifrons*, HODGSON—*Leiocincla plumosa*, BLYTH—GOULD, *Birds of Asia*, pl.—*Ramnio-pho*, Lepch.

THE RUFOUS BAR-WING.

Descr.—Crown and nape soft brown, passing into ashy pink on the crest; forehead deep red-brown; ear-coverts silky ashy brown; back, rump, shoulder of wing, and coverts, red-brown; primaries, except the first three, barred with black on a reddish ash ground; the secondaries and tertiaries with narrow dark bars on a more rufous ground; tail dark ruddy brown, faintly barred with dusky (except the two central tail-feathers), and white tipped; beneath pale rufescent, tinged with ashy on the neck and breast, and with red-brown on the throat.

Bill light horny; legs pale brown; irides brown. Length 9 inches; wing $3\frac{3}{4}$; tail 5; bill at front $\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus 1.

The rufous Bar-wing is found from Nepal, to the hill ranges of Assam and Sylhet. It is very common near Darjeeling, from 3,000 to 6,000 feet or so, associates in small flocks, wandering from tree to tree, and carefully examining the foliage and branches, never descending to the ground, and feeding both on fruit and (especially) on insects.

Horsfield gives Afghanistan as a locality, but I have no doubt that Griffith's specimens were from the Khasia hills, where I found it far from rare.

428. *Actinodura nipalensis*, HODGSON.

Cinclosoma, apud HODGSON, As. Res. XIX., subsequently Ixops,—BLYTH, Cat. 502—HORSEF., Cat. 308—*Ramnio-pho*, Lepch.

THE HOARY BAR-WING.

Descr.—Plumage above rufescent brown, with an olivaceous tinge; head and nape, with the full soft crest, pure brown, the centre of each feather, hoary; ear-coverts and cheeks dark grey; a black moustache from the lower mandible, bounding the ear-coverts beneath; the greater coverts black; the wings castaneous, with numerous cross bars of black, and the quills externally and at tip black; tail also castaneous, with numerous black bands, except the two middle tail-feathers; the inner web quite black, and the tip white, broadly ended with pure black; beneath, rufescent ashy with a yellow tint; the flanks, thighs, vent, and under tail-coverts, of the same color as the back.

Bill dusky horny; legs pale fleshy brown; irides brown. Length 8 inches; extent 10; wing $3\frac{3}{4}$; tail $3\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus $1\frac{2}{5}$.

The Hoary Bar-wing replaces the last species at higher elevations, being found from about 7,000 to 10,000 feet and upwards. It has only been procured in the S. E. Himalayas, in Nepal, Sikhim, and Bootan. It may be said to be still more arboreal than the last, for it is frequently seen perched on the very tops of moderate-sized trees. It feeds chiefly on insects, and I found it, on Mt. Tongloo, feeding on the various insects that infest the flowers of the

Rhododendrons. As I did not obtain the nest, either of this or of the last species, I presume that they build on high trees.

Gen. *SIBIA*, Hodgson.

Syn. *Alcopus*, Hodgson—*Heterophasia*, Blyth, partly.

Char.—Bill rather long, slender, gently curved, barely hooked at the tip, and almost entire; nares lateral, lengthened; wings moderate, rounded; tarsi stout, moderately long; toes moderate, lateral toes unequal, hind toe broad and large; nails acute, moderately curved.

The form of the birds of this genus is slender, and the bill is more lengthened and attenuated than in most of the members of this family. The tongue, moreover, is forked and slightly brushed, somewhat as in *Phyllornis*. Gray includes it in the *Pycnonotinæ*, or Bulbuls, as Bonaparte formerly did, near to *Hypsipetes* (the most slender billed of the Bulbuls); and McLelland, indeed, described one species as a *Hypsipetes*. Blyth, however, described this very species as an *Actinodura*; and, taking their strong legs and feet as the most important character, I quite agree with Hodgson, Blyth, and Horsfield, in placing *Sibia* next to *Actinodura* in this family, of which it may be considered a tenuirostral or Melliphagous type, as Hodgson asserts.

There are two forms in this genus, to one of which Cabanis, and Gray, following him, have given the generic name *Malacias*, but I shall not adopt it here; and, moreover, if the genus is to be divided, I would retain *Sibia* for the species classed by Cabanis as *Malacias*, and apply Blyth's prior name of *Heterophasia* for the long-tailed species.

429. *Sibia capistrata*, VIGORS.

Cinclosoma, apud VIGORS, P. Z. S., 1831—BLYTH, Cat. 514—HORSEF., Cat. 314—*S. nigriceps*, HODGSON—Cinclos. melanocephalum, ROYLE, List of Birds—*Sambriak-pho*, Lepch.—*Sesigona*, Bhot.—*Sibya*, Nepal.

THE BLACK-HEADED *SIBIA*.

Descr.—Head above, cheeks, and ear-coverts, black; nape pale rufous; back brownish grey in the middle, deep rufous posteriorly

and on the upper tail-coverts; tail rufous, black at the base (except the central feathers, which are rufous grey), with a subterminal broad band of black, tipped grey; the inner webs rufous; neck in front, breast, and upper part of the abdomen, pale rufous; the rest deep rufous.

Bill black; legs yellowish brown; irides brown. Length 9 to 10 inches; extent 11; wing 4; tail 5; bill at front $\frac{1}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{8}$.

The black-headed *Sibia* is found throughout the whole Himalayas, from Simla to Bootan, and is one of the most abundant birds about Darjeeling. It is found from 4,000 feet to 8,000 feet, but most common about 7,000 feet. It frequents the highest trees, climbing up the larger branches, and clinging round and below the smaller branches, almost like a Wood-pecker, or Nuthatch.

It is often seen alone, or in pairs, but occasionally in small parties; and is constantly uttering its twittering call, which Hutton syllabizes as *titteeree*, *titteree*, *twceyo*, often answered by one at some little distance. It is very fond of concealing itself in the thick masses of Epiphytic plants found on all lofty trees in Sikhim, and its favorite food is the fruit of the Epiphytic *Andromeda* so abundant about Darjeeling; it occasionally, however, picks insects from moss, or crevices of the bark.

I on one occasion saw it at Kursion, 4,500 feet high, in winter, climbing up and down the thatched roof of a bungalow. Hutton procured the nest at Mussooree, made of coarse grass, moss, wool, and roots; and the one egg he got was pale bluish-white, with rufous freckles.

430. *Sibia picaoides*, HODGSON.

J. A. S., VIII., 38—BLYTH, Cat. 508—HORSF., Cat. 312—*Heterophasia cuculopsis*, BLYTH—*Malchea-pho*, Lepch.

THE LONG-TAILED SIBIA.

Descr.—Above greenish fuscous, slightly darker on the forehead; lores black; wings dusky, with a large white wing-spot formed by the middle third of the outer webs of four of the secondaries; tail dusky, with broad white tip; beneath dark ashy, paler on the belly.

Bill and legs blackish; irides red-brown. Length 14 inches; extent 14; wing $4\frac{3}{4}$; tail $8\frac{3}{4}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{10}$.

This curious looking bird is the type of Blyth's *Heterophasia*, which, as he says, has a very cuculideous appearance altogether. It differs from the more common species in its longer bill, longer wings, and gently lengthened tail, as well as in its mode of coloration; and, if other species are discovered resembling it, will deserve separation. It bears towards *S. capistrata* much the same relation as *Volvocivora silens* does towards *V. Sykesii*.

It has only been found in Nepal, Sikhim, and Bootan. I found it not uncommon near Darjeeling at about 4,000 feet of elevation, associating in flocks of six or seven, and flying from tree to tree, feeding both on fruit and insects, and keeping up a continual whistling sort of call.

Two other species of *Sibia* are on record; one from Assam, *S. gracilis*, McLell., which I found rather common on the Khasia hills at about 5,000 feet high; and *S. melanoleuca*, Tickell, from Tenasserim. They both belong to the type of *Capistrata*.

The bird described and figured by Nicholson in the Proc. Zool. Soc. for 1851, page 195, as *Artamus cucullatus*, has much the aspect of *Sibia gracilis*. Its habits, as described, are certainly not those of *Artamus*, or any similar bird; but, unless it be a *Sibia* or allied form, I know not where else to class it. I shall here transcribe the account of the bird from the work above quoted. It is said to be from India, but the locality is not mentioned. The Tailor-bird described in the previous page was from Western India, Rajcote and Surat.

"Head large; bill strong, narrow, and sharp, gently arched on the culmen; a distinct notch near the tip of upper mandible; gape wide; tongue horny and divided at the point; nostrils basal, small; eye rather small; iris of a silvery colour, tinged with yellow; wings rounded; first quill very short, third longest, second, third, and fourth quills emarginate on outer web; tail short, and nearly even at the end, of twelve feathers, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long; tarsus strong; hallux and claw stronger than the other toes, and as long as the inner toe, and has a large pad at its base; the outer toe is shorter; the claws are much hooked; plumage is soft and loose.

"*Colours*.—The whole top of the head is covered with a cap of black. Bill lead-colour at base and black at the point. The chin, the breast, and all underneath white; the body all above of a leaden colour. Quills and tail of a light black, edged with light on both webs; the outer web of the outer tail-feather is white, as well as the tips of the first five on each side. Feet and legs black. Male: weight $6\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Length from bill to tip of tail $7\frac{2}{3}$ inches. Alar extent 10 inches.

"Contents of stomach were a few grains of *Holcus spicatus* and the exuviae of insects.

"These birds are only found in very thick jungles among the brushwood, where they are always moving about, and are shot with great difficulty, and even then, if not killed outright, they are so tenacious of life, that they creep into the first hole or crevice they come to. The only note I ever heard was like 'chick, chick.' I think they are residents, but the few I have seen just appear and are lost again in a moment, so that I know little of their habits; the one figured here had one leg and both wings broken, and still crept into the hole of a jerboa-rat, from which I dug it out dead."

The next bird is a very interesting form which appears to unite the *Garrulax* group with the Babblers; and also resembles *Sibia* in the form of its bill. It resembles *Trochalopteron setafer* in the general character of its plumage, and specially in the black and spiny shafts of many of the body feathers, whilst it is more like *Malacocircus* in its bill and general structure, and Hodgson classed it with the members of that genus.

Gen. ACANTHOPTILA, Blyth.

Char.—Bill moderately long, compressed, very gently curved, pointed, entire; rictal bristles few and small; wings feeble, much rounded; tail long, broad; tarsus moderately long, stout; lateral toes nearly equal; claws moderately curved; plumage with black and shining shafts.

431. *Acanthoptila nipalensis*, HODGSON.

Timalia, apud HODGSON, As. Res. XIX.—BLYTH, Cat. 789—HORSF., Cat. 320—*T. pellotis* and *T. leucotis*, HODGSON.

THE SPINY BABBLER.

Descr.—Above brown; chin, throat, neck, and upper breast, rufescent; the lower part of the breast, belly, and vent, albescent, shaded with brown, and passing into brown on the flanks, thighs, and under tail-coverts; cheeks pure white; outer webs of the primaries pale; the plumage generally with black and somewhat spiny shafts to the feathers.

Bill and legs dark plumbeous; irides hoary blue. Length 10 inches; extent 10; wing 4; tail 5; bill at front $\frac{7}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{7}{8}$.

This highly interesting bird appears to be rare, having only been sent from Nepal, and I did not procure it in Sikhim or in the Terai. Nothing is recorded of its habits.

The next group is that peculiarly Indian one the Babblers. It includes several more or less marked types of form, the most typical of which appears to be only found in the continent of India and Ceylon, and is one of the few generic types quite peculiar to the plains of India. The birds composing this group are all gregarious, somewhat garrulous, chiefly ground feeders, and mostly familiar birds. They construct a loose nest of twigs, and all lay blue eggs.

Gen. MALACOCIRCUS, Swainson.

Syn. *Timalia*, Auct.

Char.—Bill short or moderate, much compressed, rather deep, curving from the base, barely hooked at the tip, entire; commissure slightly curved; gonys ascending; nostrils apart; a few short pale rictal setæ; wings short, much rounded, 4th, 5th, and 6th quills nearly equal and longest; tail moderately long, broad; tarsus stout, scutellate; feet rather large; claws moderately curved.

The birds composing this genus resemble one another so closely that they are with difficulty recognised as distinct. The frontal plumes are broad and round, but slightly rigid. They are clad in sombre earthy grey, more or less mixed with rufescent, and striated, and were formerly, by some authors, referred to the Mynas. One or more species are to be found in every part of the plains of India, and it is the type alluded to above as being perhaps the most characteristic form in this geographical district.

432. *Malacocircus terricolor*, HODGSON.

Pastor, apud HODGSON, J. A. S., V., 771—*M. Bengalensis*, BLYTH, Cat. 790—*M. canorus*, L., apud HORSF., Cat. 318—*Sat bhai*, H. i. e., the seven brothers—*Chatarhia*, Beng.—*Pengya maina*, H., in the Upper Provinces.

THE BENGAL BABBLER.

Descr.—Above brownish ashy, paler and somewhat cinereous on the head and neck; browner on the back, where the feathers are faintly pale shafted; quills brown, with outer webs paler, and narrowly bordered with ashy; tail reddish brown, faintly barred, and the outer feathers tipped with pale whitey brown; beneath pale ashy brown on the throat and breast, the feathers very faintly edged and shafted lighter; abdomen, vent, and under-tail-coverts, pale fulvescent.

Bill horny brown; irides pale yellow; legs dingy or fleshy yellow. Length 9 to 10 inches; extent 13; wing $4\frac{1}{2}$; tail $4\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$.

This species very closely resembles *M. striatus* of Ceylon, excepting that all its colors are less brought out, the cross rays on the tail being faint and inconspicuous, barely discernible on the tertiaries, and not at all on the secondaries; it has a very weak tinge of fulvous on the abdominal region, whilst the Ceylon bird is deeper ferruginous. The closed wing of *striatus* shows more ashy, the bill too is a trifle longer, and more gradually curved.

The Bengal Babbler is found throughout all Bengal proper, extending south to Goomsoor, and perhaps further westward, through the Terai of Nepal to the Dehra Doon; and as far as the Nerbudda at all events in Central India. "It is," says Pearson, "a most abundant and conspicuous species in Bengal and Nepal. It is the *Sat bhai*, or seven brothers, of the natives, so called from being always found in a company of about that number. It is one of the chattering, noisiest birds in India, squeaking and hopping about, now on the ground then upon a tree, the flock being constantly on the move; when one starts, all the rest follow it, one after the other, making generally but a short flight of not more than forty or fifty yards at a time, and when alighted

they hold a sort of consultation, hopping and chattering about all the time, till, after a few minutes, they move up to another tree, and so on for the greater part of the day, rarely staying for more than half an hour in the same place: they feed on insects."

I may add to this that this bird becomes more rare to the eastwards, and I did not observe it at Cachar.

433. *Malacocircus griseus*, GMELIN.

Turdus, apud GMELIN—BLYTH, Cat. 792—HORSF., Cat. 319—*Timalia*, apud JERDON, Cat. 92—JERDON, Ill. Ind. Orn., pl. 19—*M. affinis*, JERD.—*Khyr*, H.—*Chinda* or *Sida*, Tel.—*Kalli-kuravi*, Tam., i. e., Hedge-bird—*Fouille-merde* of the French in India (Vieillot)—*Dirt-bird* popularly in the South of India.

THE WHITE-HEADED BABBLER.

Descr.—Head, lores, and nape, fulvescent or dirty whitish; plumage above darker brown than in the last, the feathers with pale shafts; quills not barred; tail brown, very faintly barred, and the outer feathers tipped pale; beneath, the chin and throat are mixed brown and ashy, conspicuously darker than the neighbouring parts, each feather being ashy at the base, and with a dark band, tipped paler; as the pale tip gets worn away, the dark tinge becomes more apparent; from the breast the rest of the lower parts are pale fulvescent, inclining to rufescent.

Bill yellowish; irides yellowish white; legs fleshy yellow. Length 9 inches; wing 4; tail 4; bill at front $\frac{1}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{4}$.

The chief distinguishing marks of this species are the whitish head, and the dark throat, both of which contrast strongly with the neighbouring parts. It is found throughout the whole Carnatic, extending northwards into the Northern Circars, and westwards into the neighbouring portion of the table land, to a greater or less distance. Either this, or a very closely allied race (*M. affinis* of my Illustrations of Indian Ornithology, text to plate 19) is found in the south of Malabar.

It is extremely common and abundant in the Carnatic, and is to be found in every hedge, avenue, and garden. Like the others of its genus it always associates in families of six, seven, eight, or

more; even in the breeding season the parent birds feeding in company with their former companions. One may be seen suddenly dropping to the ground from some tree, and is followed in succession, though perhaps not immediately, by each of the flock. They hop about, turning over fallen leaves, and examining all the herbage around the base of trees, a very favorite spot, or on a hedge side, never venturing to any distance from cover, being aware of their tardy powers of flight. They are occasionally seen seeking insects or grain, from heaps of dung, whence they have received their common denomination, as well from the French (Fouille merde) as from the English (Dirt-bird), who are on this account prejudiced against them. They generally feed at some little distance apart from each other, but now and then, if a richer prize than usual is spied out, two or more will meet and struggle for it; and now and then one of them will make a clumsy flight after a grasshopper seeking safety by its wings, and not unfrequently eluding its awkward pursuer. On being driven from the ground, or leaving it from choice, their hunger being satisfied, they fly up to the nearest tree, hopping and climbing up the larger branches, and if you happen to be watching them they do not stop till they have reached the top, or the opposite side, whence they fly off in single and extended file as before. They often appear to pick insects off the branches of trees. They are familiar, if undisturbed, feeding often close to houses, but if watched or followed, they become circumspect, disperse, and hide themselves. Their cry is a loud sibilous or whispering sort of chatter, which they repeat all at once, sometimes when feeding, or when any unusual sight attracts their attention, and often without any apparent object at all. They have no song. Their flight is slow and laborious, performed by a few rapid strokes of the wings alternating with a sailing with outspread pinions. I have often found the nest of this bird, which is composed of small twigs and roots, carelessly and loosely put together, in general at no great height from the ground; it lays three or four blue eggs. I have found them breeding at all times from January to July, and even later, but do not know if they ever have two broods in the year. The black and white crested Cuckoo, (*Coccyzus melanoleucos*) appears to select this bird