

blasted, and continued the incubation till the young ones were hatched, when it was accidentally destroyed. The nest is made with grass, roots, and hairs; and the eggs, four or five in number, are bluish white, spotted with purplish brown.

480. *Thamnobia Cambaiensis*, LATH.

Sylvia, apud LATHAM—BLYTH, Cat. 966—HORSEF., Cat. 429—*M. fulicata*, apud TICKELL—*Th. scapularis*, HODGS.—*Saxicoloides erythrus*, LESSON (the female), and *Cinnyricinclus melasoma*, LESSON (male.)

THE BROWN-BACKED INDIAN ROBIN.

Descr.—The male has the back, wings, and upper tail-coverts, dusky olive-brown; the wings and the tail black; the lores, ear-coverts, and lower plumage also black; a white wing spot as in the last; the vent and centre of belly deep chesnut. The female is sooty-brown throughout, except the chesnut beneath.

Dimension of the last nearly, or a trifle smaller. The Brown-backed Robin is found throughout all Central and Northern India, up to the base of the Himalayas, and as far as the Punjab. It is found at Nagpore, Mhow, Saugor, Chota Nagpore, and Midnapore, and thence throughout northwards. It differs in no wise in its habits from the last. Theobald found the nest in holes of trees and banks, made of grass, and almost invariably with cast snake-skins; and the eggs were greenish-white, ringed and spotted with pale reddish.

To this series of the Shama, Dayal, and Robins, belong several African forms, but it does not appear to be developed further in Malaya. *Thamnolea*, *Cercotrichas*, and *Dromolea* of Cabanis are African groups, a few of them coloured like the Shamas, others like the Dayals, and some more like *Thamnobia*, to which last genus several African birds are referred. *Turdus Madagascariensis*, figd. Pl. Enl. 557, 1, appears very like a *Copsychus*.

The next group, that of the Chats, have the bill short and stout, a short tail, and wings of mean length. They frequent bushy places and cultivated land, occasionally seize insects on the wing, and sometimes sing while hovering in the air.

Gen. PRATICOLA, Koch.

Syn. *Rubetra*, Gray.

Char.—Bill short, straight, somewhat wide at base, strongly curving at tip, which is faintly notched; nostrils concealed by tufts of hairs and plumes; strong rictal bristles; wings moderate, 4th, 5th, and 6th quills nearly equal and longest; tail moderate, nearly even; tarsus moderate, longish; feet moderate; claws slightly curved, slender.

This genus has been instituted for the Whin-chat and some allied birds, which are usually smaller than the true *Saxicolæ*, and differ in some other points, and they more affect wooded and cultivated country. It includes two or three minor divisions. The first and third peculiar to India, the second common to Europe, Africa, and Asia, and containing several representative species.

481. *Pratincola caprata*, LINN.

Motacilla, apud LINNÆUS—*Mot-sylvatica*, TICKELL—*Sax. fruticola*, HORSE.—*S. bicolor* (male), and *S. erythropygia* (female), SYKES, Cat. 90 and 92—JERDON, Cat. 105 (in part)—BLYTH, Cat. 995—HORSE., Cat. 433—*Sax-melaleuca*, HODGSON—*Pidha*, and *Kala pidha*, H.—*Kumpa nalanchi*, Tel., *i. e.*, Bush Robin.

THE WHITE-WINGED BLACK ROBIN.

Descr.—Male black; a longitudinal band on the wings, the rump and the upper tail-coverts, and the middle of the lower part of the abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts, white. When newly moulted, the black is fringed with brown edgings, which gradually get worn away. Female dusky brown, the feathers edged paler, with a rufous rump and upper tail-coverts; beneath pale reddish brown, albescent on the throat and vent; abdomen slightly streaked; vent and under tail-coverts tinged with rufous.

Length about 5 inches; wing $2\frac{3}{4}$; tail $2\frac{2}{10}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{8}$; tarsus $\frac{7}{8}$.

Bill black; legs brown-black, irides deep brown.

This Bush-chat is common over all India, frequenting bushy ground, hedges, gardens, and the like, but not found in forests or

jungle. It extends to Burmah and the Malayan countries, and even to the Philippines. It has the usual habits of the tribe, darting down to the ground from its perch, usually on the top of a bush or branch of a tree, and, having secured an insect, returning to its seat. It has a pleasant song, which Blyth compares to that of the English Robin, but more uniformly plaintive. It is rather a favorite cage-bird in Bengal. Tickell got the nest in a bush, made of grass, with three pale greenish white eggs, sprinkled equally throughout, with brown spots.

482. *Pratincola atrata*, BLYTH.

J. A. S. XX., 177—JERDON, Cat. 105 (in part).

THE NEILGHERRY BLACK ROBIN.

Descr.—Very similar to the last, larger. No gradation of size has been observed between this and the last species. Length $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{1}{2}$; tail $2\frac{1}{4}$; tarsus $\frac{9}{10}$.

In my Catalogue I did not distinguish this specifically from the last, but called attention to the difference of size between it and the low country one, *P. caprata*. This species is very common on the Neilgherries as well as the upland hilly regions of Ceylon, frequenting the skirts of woods, bushes, and gardens; and it gets the name of Hill-robin from its familiar habits. I have seen the nest of this bird several times, always on banks, on the road side, neatly made of moss, roots, and hairs, and with usually three or four eggs, bluish-white, with brown specks and spots.

The next group comprises the Whin-chat of Europe and several allied species.

483. *Pratincola Indica*, BLYTH.

J. A. S. XVI., 129—BLYTH, Cat. 997—HORSF., Cat. 434—Sax. rubicola, SYKES, Cat. 89—JERDON, Cat. 104—*P. saturator*, HODGSON—*Adavi kampa nalanchi*, Tel., i. e., Jungle Bush-robin and *Adavi-kampa-jitta*, i. e., Jungle Bramble-bird.

THE INDIAN BUSH-CHAT.

Descr.—The male, in summer plumage, has the whole head and neck, back, wings, and tail, black; the back and wings edged with

pale rufous; wing spot, rump, and upper tail-coverts, white; breast and lower parts, bright ferruginous, deep on the breast, paler on the flanks and belly, and albescent on the vent and under tail-coverts; a demi-collar of white almost meets on the nape, dividing the black of the head and neck. In winter plumage the black is almost replaced by earthy brown; the rump and upper tail-coverts are ferruginous brown; the lores, ear-coverts, and chin, however, are always more or less black; the white wing spot is less prominent; the whole lower parts are dull ferruginous, albescent on the under tail-coverts; and the demi-collar is deficient or rusty. The female resembles the male in winter dress, being brown above, margined with paler brown, and rufescent towards the tail; but the chin and throat are white, and there is a white supercilium. The wing spot too is a little sullied.

Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{3}{4}$; tail $1\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus $\frac{9}{10}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{8}$. Bill and legs black; irides deep brown.

This species, which was first discriminated by Mr. Blyth, differs from the English bird chiefly by the paler tint of the lower plumage, the deeper hue being confined to the breast, by the white demi-collar extending further backwards, in the black of the throat not descending so low in the breast, and in the female having the chin and throat white, instead of pale brown. The wing, too, is somewhat longer than in the European bird. Strickland once considered the Indian bird identical with his *P. pastor* from Africa, but Horsfield in his Catalogue places the two as distinct.

The Indian Whin-chat is only a winter visitant to India, coming in about the end of September or beginning of October. It is found throughout all India, extending to Assam, Burmah, and Tenasserim, but has not yet been noticed in Ceylon. Buchanan Hamilton in his MSS. Notes, says that in the Bhagulpore and Gya districts it remains all the year, building in thickets of reeds, but he has doubtless not discriminated it from the next species, which I found a resident in those districts. It is probably Pallas' *Mgt. rubicola*, of Central Asia, which breeds, he says, in deserted rat-holes, laying its eggs on the bare ground, or under fallen trees. It frequents bushes in the plains, hedges, and cultivated fields, but

avoids the vicinity of villages; hence called the *Jungle Bramble-robin* by the Telingas, in contra-distinction to the familiar *P. caprata*. It feeds on various insects, taking them on the ground from a low perch. Many of the males have assumed their summer plumage before they leave the North of India. I have seen it in every part of the country except the more wooded parts of the Malabar Coast, and it is never seen in thick or lofty jungle.

484. *Pratincola leucura*, BLYTH.

J. A. S. XVI, 474—BLYTH, Cat. 998—*Khar-pidda*, H., at Monghyr.

THE WHITE-TAILED BUSH-CHAT.

Descr.—Male, above black with the usual white wing patch; the breast bright rufous in the centre; sides of neck, breast, and lower parts, pure white; the four outer tail-feathers wholly white on their inner webs, except the tip of the two outermost, and the pair next the centrals (which are wholly black) have the greater portion of the inner web also white. The female is brown above, the feathers edged paler, with a smaller white wing-spot, but no white on the tail; beneath earthy white, tinged rufous on the breast. In winter the dorsal feathers are more or less edged with brown.

Length 5 inches; wing $2\frac{1}{2}$; tail 2; bill at front $\frac{7}{16}$; tarsus $\frac{1\frac{1}{2}}{16}$.

This White-tailed Bush-chat, till lately, had only been procured in Sindh, whence it was sent by Sir A. Burnes to the Museum of the Asiatic Society, and it is figured in his drawings. I found it far from rare at Thyet-myo in Upper Burmah, frequenting grassy churrs on the Irrawaddy, but never the low jungles that lined the banks. Somewhat to my surprise I found it most abundant in the Gangetic valley, from Rajmehal to Monghyr, frequenting fields and long grasses. It is a permanent resident, and breeds here; for I found the young birds just flown in April, but did not succeed in procuring the nest. On referring to Buchanan Hamilton's MSS. Notes I find that he has confounded it with the last, for, writing of *rubicola*, he says that he found

them breeding in the Bhagulpore and Gya districts, making their nests among thick tufts of grass, but whether attached to the grass, or on the ground, he does not state. He gives the native name as *Kat-pidda*.

485. *Pratincola insignis*, HODGSON.

J. A. S. XVI., 129.

THE LARGE BUSH-CHAT.

Descr.—Male (in summer dress) above black; throat, sides of the neck, upper tail-coverts, a large patch on the wings, the base of the primaries, and most of the large coverts, white; the breast bright ferruginous; belly white, slightly tinged with ferruginous.

Bill and feet black. Length $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{1}{2}$; tail $2\frac{1}{4}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{8}$.

It is very similar to *P. rubicola*, but larger, differs in having a white throat, and also in the much larger wing spot. This species of *Pratincola* has only as yet been found in Nepal, and probably comes from the most Northern districts, perhaps, as Mr. Blyth hints, from Tibet. I did not observe it at Darjeeling.

Besides the *Pratincola rubicola*, and *P. rubetia* of Europe, *P. pastor*, of Africa (placed as *sybilla*, Gmelin, in Bonaparte's *Conspectus*), *P. Hemprichii*, Ehrenb., and *P. salax*, Verreaux, also from Africa, belong to this genus and section.

The next species differs slightly in its mode of coloration, longer tail, which is slightly rounded, stronger bill, and short tarsi.

486. *Pratincola ferrea*, HODGSON.

J. A. S. XVI., 129—BLYTH, Cat. 1000—HORSF., Cat. 436—*Sarrak-chak-pho*, Lepch.

THE DARK GRAY BUSH-CHAT.

Descr.—Male, above darkish ashy grey; the feathers centred with blackish, lighter and less streaked on the rump; lores and ear-coverts black, and a white supercilium; tail black, with a narrow edging of white externally, and the outer pair of feathers (which are $\frac{1}{4}$ inch shorter than the centre ones) are partially albescent; wings blackish, with white wing-spot usually concealed;

secondaries slightly edged with whitish; beneath white, tinged with earthy rufescent on the breast and abdomen. The female is wholly brown above, passing to ferruginous on the upper tail-coverts, and partially on the tail-feathers; beneath, paler earthy brown, rufescent on the flanks and lower tail-coverts, and whitish on the throat.

Bill black; feet brown-black; irides brown. Length $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing $2\frac{3}{8}$; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{16}$; tarsus nearly 1.

The Grey Bush-chat is found throughout the whole extent of the Himalayas, and is tolerably common about Darjeeling. It frequents the skirts of forests and brushwood, perches on shrubs or low trees, and descends to the ground to pick up insects. It also occasionally takes one from a leaf. It has a very pleasing song; breeds in holes in banks, making a nest of moss, leaves, or grass and roots; and lays 3 or 4 eggs, pale blue, with numerous pale brownish spots.

The next bird is somewhat related in form to *Pr. ferrea*, but differs in some points, and especially in its mode of coloration, so that I have thought it necessary to give it separate generic rank.

Gen. RHODOPHILA, Jerdon.

Char.—Much as in *Pratincola*, but the bill longer, deeper, barely depressed at the base; nostrils longitudinal, slightly impended by some nareal tufts; rictus strongly bristled; wing moderate or rather short, rounded; 1st quill short, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graduated, 4th longest, 5th and 6th nearly equal to it; tail moderate, distinctly rounded; tarsus moderate; feet moderately long, toes slender; hind toe and claw lengthened.

This form approaches that of *Prat. ferrea*, but the bill is still less depressed, and the tail more distinctly rounded. The coloration, too, is peculiar, as are its thicket-loving habits: and the sexes, moreover, are presumed to be alike.

487. *Rhodophila melanoleuca*, JERDON.

THE BLACK AND WHITE BUSH-CHAT.

Above, with lores, and checks pure glossy black; beneath pure white.

Bill and legs black; irides dark brown. Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{3}{4}$; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{16}$; tarsus not quite $\frac{3}{4}$.

I first procured this bird in dense swampy rose-thickets in Purneah, near the banks of the Ganges, when beating for game; and subsequently observed it along the reedy edge of some of the rivers in Eastern Bengal and Cachar. Mr. W. Blanford obtained it in Burmah, in long Elephant grass, and I doubt not it will be found in similar situations throughout Lower Bengal and the countries to the Eastward. It is with difficulty dislodged from the thick coverts it frequents; and quickly returns to its shelter. It is probably, from the structure of its feet, a ground feeder, like the rest of this family.

It is possible that some of the Oceanic *Saxicolæ* of Prince Bonaparte, which he named *Oreicola*, may belong to the same type. One of these is *Sax. melanoleuca*, Müll., black above and white beneath, but this has a white wing-spot, and ear-spot. Another is *S. luctuosa*, Müll., black above and white beneath, but the wings varied with white; and *S. pyrrhonota*, Müll., has the back rufous. All three are from Timor. *Lanius silens*, Shaw, of which Bonaparte makes his genus *Sigelus*, perhaps should come near this last form, which appears to have some affinities for *Curruca*.

The next group are rather larger birds than the Chats, with longer and more slender bills, longer wings, and a somewhat square tail. They chiefly belong to the more barren regions of Asia and Africa, frequenting the open plains, and most of them are migratory in India, breeding probably in Central Asia. They breed on the ground in some convenient nook, laying four or five eggs, bluish white, with ferruginous speckles.

Gen. SAXICOLA, Bechstein.

Bill moderate, slender, straight and compressed, very slightly inflected, with a blunt notch; nostrils apert; rictal bristles feeble or wanting; wings moderately long, pointed; the 1st short, 2nd half an inch shorter than the 3rd, 4th, and 5th, which are equal and longest; tail moderate, even, or very slightly rounded; tarsus long, strong; feet moderate.

This genus, as here restricted, comprises two groups; one, with pied plumage, of which *S. leucura* of Southern Europe may be

considered the type; and the Wheat-eats. Some of the first group are placed by Bonaparte under *Dromolæa* of Cabanis.

488. *Saxicola leucuroides*, GUERIN.

Mag. de Zool. 1843—*S. opistholeuca*, STRICKLAND—*S. leucura*, apud BLYTH, J. A. S. XVI. 137—BLYTH, Cat. 974—figd., JARDINE, Contrib. to Ornithology.

THE INDIAN WHITE-TAILED STONE-CHAT.

Descr.—Sooty black; the thigh coverts, lower abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts, white; the upper tail-coverts and the greater part of the tail also white, the lateral feathers tipped with black for not quite half an inch, the middle feathers for about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The female is said to be of a duller and browner hue.

An immature bird described by Blyth formerly as the supposed female, has the head, neck, breast, wings, and two centre tail-feathers, dusky brownish black; a patch of deep black on each jaw; breast, belly, rump, and tail-coverts white, except for about half an inch at the end.

Bill and legs black; irides dark brown. Length $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches; wing $3\frac{3}{4}$; tail $2\frac{5}{8}$; bill at front $\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus 1.

This species differs from true *S. leucura* (*S. cachimans*, Temm.), with which it was at first confounded, in being less robust, and the bill and feet smaller; in the lateral tail-feathers being all black tipped, and in the white being less pure.

This fine Stone-chat is not uncommon about Mhow in Central India, in the cold weather, and I have seen it on the banks of the Nerbudda, near Mundleysur, but nowhere else. It frequents bushes on the plains, but also comes into Cantonments, and may be seen seated on the hedges or on the low trees bordering the roads. It descends to the ground to feed on insects, returning to its perch. I saw a plain brown-plumaged bird in company with it, on more than one occasion, but I did not procure it.

This species probably extends throughout the North-West Provinces, having been killed near Agra, and in Sindh. In summer it doubtless migrates to Tibet and Central Asia.

489. *Saxicola picata*, BLYTH.

J. A. S. XVI., 131—BLYTH, Cat. 75—HORSE., Cat. 439.

THE PIED STONE-CHAT.

Descr.—Whole head, neck, and upper breast, back, and wings, black; the rump, upper tail-coverts, and all the lower parts from the breast, white; tail white, except the terminal two-thirds of the two central feathers, and the tips of the others, which are black. Length $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{5}{8}$; tail $2\frac{3}{4}$; bill at front $\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus 1. Bill and legs black.

This species has the black somewhat deeper, and the white purer than in the last, of which it has much the size and proportion.

The pied Stone-chat has only been found in the Upper Provinces of India, and in Sindh; also in Afghanistan. Adams observed it in Sindh, frequenting gardens, and also in the Punjab. It is probably only a winter visitant.

The next bird is very similar, but differs in having the head white instead of black.

490. *Saxicola leucomela*, PALLAS.

Motacilla, apud PALLAS—BLYTH, Cat 976—HORSE., Cat. 438.

THE WHITE-HEADED STONE-CHAT.

Descr.—Crown of the head greyish white; the rump and upper tail-coverts, and all the lower parts, from the top of the breast white; rest of the upper part, neck, and breast, black; tail black, with the base of the central feathers, and all the lateral ones, white; the outer-most tipped with black, and part of the outer-web also black. Young birds have the white cap more or less tinged with dingy greyish brown.

Bill and legs black; irides dark brown. Length $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{3}{4}$; tail $2\frac{3}{4}$; bill at front barely $\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{8}$.

This bird differs somewhat from Temminck's *S. leucomela*, (*S. tugens* of Lichtenstein), found in the South of Europe and North Africa, which is said to have the lower abdomen and under tail-coverts rufous. Our bird has been found in the Upper Provinces

of Hindostan, during the cold weather only, and is common in Afghanistan. *S. aurita*, Temm., is another European species.

The next group is that of the Wheat-ears, by some separated as *Enanthe*.

491. *Saxicola oenanthe*, LINN.

Motacilla, apud LINNÆUS—BLYTH, Cat. 980—GOULD, Birds of Europe, pl. 90.

THE WHEAT-EAR.

Descr.—Male, above ashy, with a brown tinge; the rump and upper tail-coverts white, and a white supercilium; lores and eye streak black; wings dusky, edged with brown; tail with the two central feathers black for the terminal two thirds, the rest white; the outer feathers black tipped; under surface pale rusty brown, albescent on the belly and under tail-coverts; under wing-coverts blackish with white edgings.

The female is ashy-brown above, wings dusky brown, tail black tipped. In winter the feathers are broadly edged with rufous, most conspicuous on the wing-coverts and tertiaries.

Length nearly 7 inches, extent 11; wing 4; tail $2\frac{3}{4}$; bill at front not quite half; tarsus more than 1.

The Wheat-ear is found, according to the season, over Europe, Northern Africa, and part of Asia. I got a specimen near Mhow, in the cold weather, and it is known to be found, though rarely in the Upper Provinces. It is a larger bird than the black-throated Wheat-ear, which it otherwise somewhat resembles, and has a much stronger bill and legs.*

492. *Saxicola deserti*, RUPPELL.

TEMMINCK, Pl. Col. 359—*S. atrogularis*, BLYTH, J. A. S. XVI., 130—BLYTH, Cat. 977—HORSE., Cat. 440.

THE BLACK-THROATED WHEAT-EAR.

Descr.—Above pale isabelline, greyish on the crown and nape, and a whitish eyebrow; rump and upper tail-coverts buffy white;

* The name of Wheat-ear is supposed to be an imitation of its call *wheet-jur*, but Mr. Blyth considers that the English names of Stone-chat and Wheat-ear have been transposed.

tail white at base, the rest black; chin, throat, lores, and ears, pure black, extending down the sides of the neck to the shoulder; wing black, with a white patch on the bend of the wing; beneath, pale isabelline, the lower tail-coverts buffy white.

Bill and legs black; irides brown. Length nearly 7 inches; wing 4; tail $2\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{8}$; bill at front $\frac{1}{2}$.

The Black-throated Wheat-ear is nearly affined to *S. stapazina* of Arabia, S. Europe, and Africa, from which it differs in having the upper parts less rufous, and in the greater extent of the black of the neck. It is common at Mhow, in the cold weather, frequenting stones and bushes in the open plains. It is also tolerably common in the Upper Provinces of India, in Sindh, the Punjab, and Afghanistan.

A nearly allied species is *S. philothamna*, Tristram, figured in the Ibis for 1859. Various other species of this group are found in Africa, some of them extending to the South of Europe, and Western Asia. One, *S. lugubris*, has the white head and black body of *leucomela*, and the tail rufous, like a *Ruticilla*.

The two last species of this series are remarkable for having no white at the base of the tail.

Gen. CERCOMELA, Bon.

Char.—Bill moderate, slender, straight, tolerably curving at the tip, and barely notched; rictal bristles small but distinct; wings as in *Saxicola*, 2nd quill a trifle longer; tail somewhat lengthened; feet stout, middle toe not elongated, hind toe rather long.

This form of Stone-chat differs from *Saxicola* in its more sober and dull tints, and in the tail not being partly white.

493. *Cercomela melanura*, RUPP.

Saxicola, apud RUPPELL—TEM., Pl. col. 257, f. 2—BLYTH, J. A. S. XVI., 131.

THE BLACK-TAILED ROCK CHAT.

Descr.—Of an uniform ashy brown tint above, paler on the throat and breast, and passing to whitish below; under tail-coverts white; the tail and upper coverts black.

Length 6 inches; wing $3\frac{1}{2}$; tail $2\frac{3}{8}$; tarsus $\frac{7}{8}$. Bill blackish; legs black.

Among the drawings of Sir A. BURNES is one of a Saxicoline bird, procured, in Sindh, which Mr. Blyth identifies with Rüppell's bird, which is a native of N. E. Africa and Arabia.

494. *Cercomela fusca*, BLYTH.

Saxicola, apud BLYTH, J. A. S. XX., 523, and XXIV., 188—BLYTH, Cat. 1907.

THE BROWN ROCK-CHAT.

Descr.—Above light fuscous brown or rufous olive, tinged with fawn color on the back; tail dark sepia brown, obsoletely banded, as seen in a strong light; beneath rufescent fawn or dull ferruginous.

Bill and legs black, irides deep brown. Length $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{6}{10}$; tail $2\frac{3}{10}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{10}$; bill at front nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

This plain-colored Stone-chat, colored somewhat similarly to *Mirafra phœnicura*, is found at Saugor, Bhopal, and Bundelcund, extending towards Gwalior and the N. W. Provinces. It is a permanent resident at Saugor, and I have always found it on the sandstone hills there, among the rocks, cliffs, and loose stones, never coming to the cultivated ground below, and rarely found on the trap-hills that occur in close proximity to the others. It feeds on the ground, on various coleopterous insects, ants, &c. Mr. Blyth remarks that it approaches in color *Saxicola infuscata* of S. Africa. It forms an easy transition to the Redstarts, the next group.

Pr. Bonaparte gives two other species of this genus from Palestine and Arabia, *S. lypura*, Ehr., and *S. asthenia*, Bonap. *S. erythraea*, Ehr., from Palestine, should also, perhaps, be classed here. *S. infuscata* and *S. baroica*, Smith, from S. Africa, appear allied, though the Prince makes of them a separate division, *Agricola*. If *Bradornis* of A. Smith belongs to the *Saxicolinæ*, it probably should be placed not far from these last birds.

Two other African genera of Saxicoline birds are recorded by Bonaparte, viz. *Campicola*, and *Pogonocichla*. *Sialia*, containing the Blue Robins of America, and the Australian genera, *Petroica* and *Erythrodryas*, appear to appertain to this sub-family, or at

all events to represent them respectively in N. America and Australia.

We next pass to birds more sylvan in their habit, viz., the Redstarts and Robins, most of which perch more freely on trees than the Stone-chats. Still many are partial to rocks and buildings, and nidificate in their crevices. Certain among them of still more retired habits, *Larvivorinæ*, Blyth (in lit.), are peculiar, or nearly so, to the Himalayas and part of Central Asia; and these have sometimes been classed apart, but they are placed together by Gray and Bonaparte, and cannot, I think, be well separated. The well known Robin and Redstart of Europe are the types of this sub-family.

Sub-fam. RUTICILLINÆ.

They are distinguished from the true Stone-chats by a more slender beak, somewhat longer tarsi and feet; and their coloration is peculiar. Most have more or less rufous on the tail, (hence the name of *Phenicura*,) also on the lower parts, and the prevalent hue of the upper plumage is ashy grey, dull black-blue in a few. Their tail is somewhat longer than in most of the Chats, and many have the habit of shaking and flirting it continually, hence the names given it in several languages, both Native and European. The sexes ordinarily differ in plumage, though the female sometimes is said to assume the plumage of the male. They have a pleasing song, usually delivered from the top of a building or rock, or tree. They nestle in holes in trees, or buildings, or on the ground, and the eggs of most known are blue; of one, at least, pure white. They are found chiefly in the temperate parts of the Old World; and the Himalayan district, and adjoining part of Tibet, is peculiarly rich in species.

Gen. RUTICILLA, Brehm.

Syn. *Phenicura*, Swains.

Char.—Bill rather short, straight, slender, slightly notched; rictus nearly smooth; wings moderately long, pointed; 1st primary about one-third the length of the 4th; 5th and 6th equal and longest; tail moderate, even, or slightly rounded; tarsus long, slender, nearly smooth; feet moderate; lateral toes nearly equal, hind toe not much lengthened; claws slender, moderately curved.

The Redstarts form a very natural group of birds, chiefly found in the northern and temperate parts of the Old World, and a few migrating to the tropics in winter. Only one species is found in the plains of India, but a considerable number occur in the Himalayas, chiefly as winter visitants perhaps; and others occur in Western Asia and Africa.

495. *Ruticilla phænicura*, LINN.

Motacilla, apud LINNÆUS—GOULD, Birds of Europe, pl. 95—*R. tithys*, apud HUTTON, J. A. S. XV., 780—BLYTH, Cat. 984—HORSE., Cat. 467.

THE EUROPEAN REDSTART.

Descr.—Narrow frontal band black, behind this a broad white patch, continued as a line over the eyes; lores, ear-coverts, throat, and upper part of breast, black; the rest of the body above brownish-ashy; wings dark brown; beneath, the rump, and upper and under tail-coverts, and tail (except the two centre feathers which are dark brown), bright ferruginous, albescent on the middle of the belly.

The female is olive-brown above, paler below, and with a rufous tinge on the abdomen; rump and tail, as in the male, but less bright. She is said, however, sometimes to assume the full male plumage. In the newly-moulted bird the white of the head is more or less concealed by dark terminal edgings to the feathers, and the black of the throat and breast has whitish edgings.

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

The European Redstart has been found, but rarely, in the N. W. Provinces and Afghanistan. One was sent from Saharunpore to the Museum at the India House by Dr. Jameson. It is a summer visitant to Europe, where it breeds in holes of trees and buildings, and its eggs are beautiful verditer-blue; it retires to Northern Africa in winter.

496. *Ruticilla phænicuroides*, MOORE.

P. Z. S. 1854, pl. 57—HORSE., Cat. 468—BLYTH, Cat. 984—(in part).

THE ALLIED REDSTART.

Descr.—A narrow band on the forehead, lores, ear-coverts, throat and head, black; crown, neck, back, and upper wing-coverts, ashy, with a rufous tint, the ash palest on the crown; wings brown, with the edges of the exterior webs paler; from breast to vent, under wing-coverts, rump, upper and lower tail-coverts, and the tail (except the two middle feathers which are brown) rufous red.

Bill and legs black. Length nearly 6 inches; wing $3\frac{1}{4}$; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{8}$; tarsus $\frac{7}{8}$.

This species is exceedingly close to *R. phœnicura*, but differs in wanting the white on the forehead, in the black color of the breast extending lower down, in the 1st primary being longer, and the 2nd shorter than in that species, and the 6th is nearly as long as the 5th, whilst, in *phœnicura*, it is fully $\frac{1}{4}$ inch shorter. It has only been found in the extreme N. W. Provinces of India, Sindh, and Afghanistan.

497. *Ruticilla rufiventris*, VIEILLOT.

Enanthe, apud VIEILLOT—*R. indica*, BLYTH, Cat. 986—*R. nipalensis*, HODGS., apud MOORE, HORSE., Cat. 470—*Phœnicura atrata*, apud JARD. and SELBY, Ill. Orn., pl. 86, -f. 3—SYKES, Cat. 90—JERDON, Cat. 108—*Thir-thira*, H. i. c., Quaker or trembler—*Thirtir-kampa*, in N. W. Provinces—*Phir-ira* and *Jal-girdi*, Beng.—*Nuni-budi-gadu*, Tel., i. e., Oil-bottle bird.

THE INDIAN REDSTART.

Descr.—Crown dark ashy-grey; lores, ear-coverts, neck, throat, breast, back and upper wing-coverts, black, with greyish edges to the feathers; wings dusky brown; the primaries margined with pale rufous, the secondaries with dull grey, forming an inconspicuous patch; under wing-coverts, flanks, belly, rump, upper and lower tail-coverts, and tail (except half the inner and a little of the outer webs of the two middle tail feathers near the tip, which are brown), bright cinnamon rufous. The female is brown above, with the edges of the wings, the abdomen, and under tail-coverts, pale rufous; below, dusky on the throat and breast, changing to clear

light rufous on the abdomen, and under tail-coverts; rump and tail, as in the male.

Bill black; legs brown black; irides brown. Length 6 inches; extent $10\frac{1}{2}$; wing $3\frac{1}{2}$; tail $2\frac{7}{10}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{16}$; tarsus nearly 1.

The Indian Redstart is very regular in its appearance in the plains of India, from the end of September to the first week or so of October, according to the locality. It is generally spread throughout the country, to the extreme south of the peninsula, but has not been observed in Ceylon; frequenting groves of trees, orchards, gardens, and the vicinity of old buildings, walls, and houses, and it is often seen perched on the roof of a house. It feeds on the ground, on various insects. It has a most peculiar quivering motion of its tail, especially when seating itself on its perch after feeding; hence some of the native names. I never heard of its breeding in this country, and I cannot help thinking that Col. Sykes must have been mistaken when he mentions that "a pair built their nest in an out-house constantly frequented by my servants, and within reach of the hand." It was more probably a *Thamnobia*.

498. *Ruticilla Hodgsonii*, MOORE.

P. Z. S., 1854, pl. 58—HORSF., Cat. 471—*Phæn. Reevesii*, apud BLYTH, J. A. S., XII., 963—*R. erythrogastra*, apud BLYTH, Cat. 983 (in part)—*Thar-capni*, Nep.

HODGSON'S REDSTART.

Descr.—A narrow band on the forehead, lores, ear-coverts, throat, and breast, black; the fore-part of the crown clear white, much narrower than in *R. phanicura*; hind part of crown, neck, back, and upper wing-coverts, fine ash, lightest on the crown; wings dusky brown; the outer half of the basal half of the secondaries white, forming a wing patch, from the breast to vent, under wing-coverts, rump, upper and lower tail-coverts, and tail (except the inner and outer margins of the two middle feathers, which are dusky brown), bright rufous red.

The female has the usual colors of this genus, like the female of the last; but may be distinguished by a general puffy appear-

ance, by the relative length of wing, and by the under parts being more grey and less rufescent.

Bill and legs black. Length $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{3}{8}$; tail $2\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus $\frac{7}{8}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{16}$.

This Redstart has been found in Nepal, Bootan, and other parts of the Himalayas, but only, I suspect, in winter. It probably breeds in some parts of Central Asia. I only procured one female of this species when at Darjeeling, and this was during the winter.

499. *Ruticilla erythrogastra*, GULDENSTADT.

Motacilla, apud GULDENSTADT—*Mot. ceraunia*, PALLAS—GOULD, *Birds of Asia*, pl. 50—HORSEF., *Cat.* 472—*R. grandis*, GOULD, *P. Z. S.*, 1849—BLYTH, *Cat.* 983 (in part)—*R. Vigorsii*, MOORE (the female).

THE WHITE-WINGED REDSTART.

Descr.—Male with a narrow band on the forehead, the lores, ear-coverts, throat, fore-part of breast, back, wing-coverts, and apical portion of the primaries and secondaries, deep black; crown of head, back of neck, and basal portion of the primaries and secondaries, white, the white on the head being tinged with silvery grey; breast, belly, vent, rump, upper and lower tail-coverts, and tail, rich dark rufous.

Bill and legs black. Length 7 inches; wing $4\frac{1}{4}$; tail 3; tarsus 1; bill at front $\frac{7}{16}$: the 4th primary is equal to the 5th and a little longer than the 6th.

This large Redstart has been found in Bootan, Nepal, Kumaon, and Cashmere, chiefly in the higher regions of the Himalayas, rarely lower than 10,000 feet. It is found in summer in the Caucasian hills, frequenting the gravelly hollows of torrents, and breeding in bushes. One pair was seen by Dr. Stewart, near Landour, by the side of a stream, and it is said to frequent mountain streams only, like *Chamorrornis leucocephala*.

500. *Ruticilla aureora*, PALLAS.

Motacilla, apud PALLAS—HORSEF., *Cat.* 474—BLYTH, *Cat.* 983 (in part)—SCHLEGEL, *Faun. Japon*, pl. 21—Phœn. *Reevesii*, GRAY, and MCLLELLAND, *P. Z. S.*, 1839—*R. leucoptera*, BLYTH.

REEVES' REDSTART.

Descr.—A narrow band on the forehead, lores, ear-coverts, throat, fore-part of breast, back, upper wing-coverts, apical and basal portion of the secondaries and tertiaries, and the two middle tail feathers, black; the latter changing to dusky brown; exterior margin of the outer tail feathers, and apical margin of the rest dusky brown black; medial portion of both webs of the secondaries and tertiaries, white; crown of head and back of neck slaty ash, rather whitish above the ear-coverts, and on the nape; breast, abdomen, under wing-coverts, upper and lower tail-coverts, and the tail, deep rufous.

The female is brown above, the wing patch rufescent white; beneath rufescent, upper and lower tail-coverts and the tail (except the medial feathers which are dusky brown), rufous.

Bill and legs black. Length $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing $2\frac{7}{8}$; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{8}$; tarsus rather more than $\frac{3}{4}$.

This Redstart has only been found in the more eastern portion of the Himalayas, in Bootan, coming south into the hill ranges of Assam, during the cold season. In the summer it is found in Siberia, Japan, and probably through great part of China.

501. *Ruticilla schisticeps*, HODGSON.

GRAY, Cat., Birds of Nepal, App. p. 153—HORSEF., Cat., note to p. 307.

THE SLATY-HEADED REDSTART.

Descr.—Side of head and neck, black; wings and tail, black; top of head pale slaty blue; throat, and a large patch on each wing, white; lower part of breast and abdomen rufous chesnut. Length 6 inches; wing $3\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus $\frac{1\ 0\ 1}{1\ 2}$; bill at front $\frac{4}{12}$.

From Nepal. Rare.

502. *Ruticilla nigrogularis*, HODGSON.

MOORE, P. Z. S., 1854—HORSEF., Cat. 477.

THE BLACK-THROATED REDSTART.

Descr.—Crown of head slaty blue, lightest on the forehead; lores, ear-coverts, throat, back of neck, back, upper wing-coverts, two middle tail feathers entirely, and the rest (except the basal

portion) black; wings blackish brown; the scapulars, outer edges of the secondaries, and under wing-coverts, white; breast, belly, flanks, rump, upper and lower tail-coverts, and base of tail (except the two middle feathers) bright chesnut; vent and under tail-coverts mixed with white.

Bill and legs black. Length 6 inches; wing $3\frac{3}{8}$; tail $2\frac{3}{4}$.

From Nepal. This species is nearly allied to the last, but differs in having the throat black instead of white.

503. *Ruticilla frontalis*, VIGORS.

Phœnicura, apud VIGORS—GOULD, Cent. Him. Birds, pl. 26, f. 1—BLYTH, Cat. 982—HORSE., Cat. 478—Ph. tricolor, HODGSON.—R. melanura, LESSON—*Tak-tirri-phi*, Lepch.

THE BLUE-FRONTED REDSTART.

Descr.—Top of head, back, throat and breast, dusky cyaneous, with terminal brown edgings; forehead, and above the eyes, lazuline blue; wings dusky blackish; rump, upper tail-coverts, and under parts, bright rufous; tail feathers rufous, with black tips, except the two middle ones, which are wholly black. The female is brown above, paler below, and rufescent on the lower belly and flanks; the rest as in the male.

Bill black; legs brown; irides brown. Length $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; extent 11; wing $3\frac{1}{2}$; tail 3; bill at front $\frac{3}{8}$; tarsus 1.

This species, as well in its coloration, as in its habits and haunts, approximates somewhat to the next group, that of the Blue Robins of India.

This pretty Redstart is found throughout the Himalayas, and also in the Khasia hills. It is very common at Darjeeling, in the winter only, extending from 4,000 feet to 8,000 feet. It is found on roads in the more open parts of the forest, and in cleared ground. When alarmed it flies into the thick under-wood. It feeds on the ground on various insects.

504. *Ruticilla cœruleocephala*, VIGORS.

Phœnicura, apud VIGORS, P. Z. S., 1830—GOULD, Cent. H. Birds, pl. 25, f. 2—BLYTH, Cat. 988—HORSE., Cat. 476.

THE BLUE-HEADED REDSTART.

Descr.—Top of the head pale whitish blue; lores, ear-coverts, throat, breast, back, rump, upper tail-coverts and tail, black; wings dark brown, the scapulars, and outer edges of the secondaries, white; the under wing-coverts, belly, and vent, whitish.

Bill and legs black. Length 6 to $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{1}{4}$; tail $2\frac{3}{4}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{8}$; tarsus about 1; 4th, 5th, and 6th quills about equal. The female is probably similarly colored to the male.

In this species the typical rufous tail is entirely absent, some of the feathers of the rump, in winter only, having a rufous tinge. Bonaparte makes of it the genus *Adelura*, but strangely joins with it certain Fly-catchers.

This prettily-colored Redstart is found throughout the whole extent of the Himalayas, from the N. W. Provinces to Bootan, but appears more common in the N. W. Himalayas, and I did not procure it at Darjeeling, nor has it been yet observed there; but it will probably be found in the interior of Sikhim, at higher elevations.

505. *Ruticilla fuliginosa*, VIGORS.

P. Z. S., 1831—BLYTH, Cat. 989—HORSF., Cat. 479—Ph. plumbea, GOULD—Rut. simplex, LESSON—Ph. rubricauda and P. lineoventris (the female), HODGSON—*Suradum parbo-pho*, Lepch.—*Chuvia nakki*, Bhot.

THE PLUMBEOUS WATER-ROBIN.

Descr.—Male uniform dusky cyaneous; wings dusky blackish, margined with cyaneous; vent, upper and lower tail-coverts, and tail, dark ferruginous. The female is much paler ash above, and still paler below; from the throat to the vent, each feather spotted with white, and margined with dusky, and then pale ash; wings brown, spotted with white on the coverts; tail white at its base, extending to near the tip on the outermost tail feathers; the rest brown; upper and lower tail-coverts also white.

Bill black; legs vinaceous brown; irides dark brown. Length $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; extent 9; wing nearly 3; tail 2; bill at front $\frac{5}{8}$; tarsus $\frac{7}{8}$.

The coloration of this bird, especially that of the female, is very peculiar, and indeed unique in this group, and the sexes would hardly be recognised as belonging to the same species. It probably ought to form a distinct type. Hodgson classed it with *Chæmorrornis*, with which it agrees in the shorter and somewhat rounded tail, as also in its habits; but the wings are proportionally longer, and the bill shorter.

This plumbeous Redstart is found throughout the Himalayas, the Khasia hills, and, according to Griffiths, all the hill ranges between Assam and Burmah. In Sikhim it is common from 1,300 feet to 5,000 feet or so, and is a permanent resident there. It lives entirely along rivers and mountain torrents, and may often be seen on a wet and slippery rock, just above a boiling rapid; it climbs up the wet rocks with great facility, and every now then alighting on a rock, it spreads its tail, but does not vibrate it like some of the Redstarts. It is a pugnacious little fellow, and often gives battle to the little *Enicurus Scouleri*, which delights in similar spots, and it generally drives its antagonist away. Its flight is rapid and direct. It feeds on various aquatic insects and larvæ, some kinds of which are always found just at the edge of the water, and which a wave often leaves behind it on the rock.

Griffiths in his private journal states that he observed and shot it in Kaffiristan, while it was "examining a wall for insects, and fluttering about the holes in it."

Gen. CHÆMORRORNIS, Hodgson.

Differs from true *Ruticilla* by its more rounded wings and tail, and by the intense ruddy hue. Sexes alike.

506. *Chæmorrornis leucocephala*, VIGORS.

Phenicura, apud VIGORS, P. Z. S., 1830—GOULD, Cent. Him. Birds, pl. 26, f. 2—BLYTH, Cat. 99.—HORSEF., Cat. 480—*Gir-chaondia*, Hind.—*Kali-pholia* at Mokuun Ghat—*Mati-tap-pho*, Lepch.—*Chubia-mati*, Bhot.

THE WHITE-CAPPED REDSTART.

Descr.—Frontal band, lores, ear-coverts, throat, neck, breast, back, wings, and tips of the tail feathers, black; abdomen, rump,

upper and lower tail-coverts, and more than two-thirds of the tail, deep rich chesnut; crown of head and nape, pure white.

Bill black; legs vinaceous brown; irides dark brown. Length $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; extent 12; wing 4; tail 3; bill at front $\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{4}$.

This very handsome Redstart is found throughout the Himalayas, from the extreme N. W., Affghanistan and Kaffiristan, to the Khasia Hills in the south east; and, according to Griffiths, still further towards Burmah. In Sikhim it occurs from a level of 1,000 feet, to 5,000 feet, but it is only a winter resident, going northwards to breed. It is found on the banks of rivers and streams, but does not affect the rapids of torrents so much as the last bird, preferring the more level and shingly rivers, and picking up insects at the brink of the water. I did not observe it flirting or spreading its tail so much as Hutton represents it to do. Its flight is moderately strong, but more wavy than that of the last.

Among other recorded species of Redstart are *R. tithys*, of Europe; *R. erythroprocta*, Gould, from Western Asia, and *R. rufogularis*, Moore, figd. in P. Z. S., 1854, pl. 59, found in Affghanistan, and which, perhaps, may occur in our North-western limits.

The following birds differ somewhat from the Redstarts both in coloration and structure, but are too intimately connected with them to be separable, some of the group, viz, the Blue-breasts, (*Cyanecula*) having the tail of *Ruticilla*. The group comprises several distinct forms, some of them peculiar, or nearly so, to the Himalayas and adjoining parts of Asia; others spread over Europe, Asia, and Northern Africa. The Robin belongs to this group, and is the best known European form. They agree among themselves in having a rather slender, straight bill, of mean length, more or less compressed, very feebly notched at the tip, and slightly deflected, with the ridge of the upper mandible very slightly elevated between the nostrils, and the gape very feebly bristled. The legs and feet are lengthened, and rather slender, and the claws are elongated and very slightly curved. The wings vary somewhat in structure, some having these organs more rounded than others, and the tail is either square or very slightly rounded.

They are mostly ground birds, feeding on insects, but fond of shelter; some frequenting thickets, others, long grass; a few being more arboreal. They usually nidificate on the ground.

Gen. LARVIVORA, Hodgson.

Bill as noticed above; wings moderate, strong, 1st quill short, 3rd, 4th, and 5th quills about equal and longest; tail rather short, and the feathers slightly mucronate at the tip, even, or nearly so; tarsus long, slender, nearly smooth; toes long slender; claws long, moderately curved, much compressed.

507. *Larvivora cyana*, HODGSON.

J. A. S., VI., 102--BLYTH, Cat. 993—HORSEF., Cat. 481—*Phœnicura superciliaris*, JERDON, Cat. Suppl. 190—*L. brunnea*, HODGS. (the female)—*Manzhul-pho*, Lepch.

THE BLUE WOOD-CHAT.

Descr.—Above dusky indigo-blue, with a white superciliary streak; lores and ears black; beneath bright rufous (the feathers all dusky blue at their base), albescent towards the vent and under tail-coverts; thigh coverts cross-barred with blue and white.

The female, according to Hodgson, is brown above; white beneath; cheeks, breast, and flanks rusty.

Bill dusky; legs pale fleshy; irides brown. Length 6 inches; extent 10; wing 3; tail 2; tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{1}{2}$.

This bird is nearly related both to *Ianthia* and *Calliope*, with which genus Mr. Blyth formerly classed it, and I described it as a *Phœnicura*. Its shorter tail, lengthened legs, as well as partly the coloring, tend towards *Brachypteryx* in the *Myiotherine* group.

The blue Wood-chat is found in the Himalayas, from Cashmere to Sikhim, and in the cold weather extending, but in very small numbers, to the plains, for it has been procured near Calcutta. It is also an inhabitant of the Neilgherries and Ceylon; and I once killed it among some brush-wood in a large mangoe-grove at Nellore. Whether this bird had come from the Himalayas, or the Neilgherries, it is impossible to say, but from the season at which I procured it, viz., the end of March, it was probably migrating northwards.

I do not know if it is a permanent resident on the Neilgherries, but rather think that it is.

It frequents open forests in the hills, perching low, and descending to the ground to pick up insects. Hodgson says, that "from the number of insects' nests and larvæ he found in its stomach, he has given the generic name." Dr. Adams found it in the forests of Cashmere, and remarked that it had the habits of a Redstart. Some specimens have the white superciliary mark very short, stopping at the eye; in others it extends far beyond it. Hodgson at first stated that the sexes were alike, but he afterwards described the female as differing in her plumage. A second species of *Larviva* has been noticed by Mr. Swinhoe from China.

Gen. IANTHIA, Blyth.

Syn. *Nemura*, Hodgson.

Char.—Bill short, slender, straight, rectal bristles rather long; wings rather long; 4th and 5th quills equal and longest; 3rd and 6th nearly equal; tail almost even, moderate, slightly mucronate; tarsus long, slender; toes and claws long and slender.

This genus comprises a few birds, the males of which are blue above, and more or less rufous beneath; the plumage soft, silky and lax, but copious. They are very nearly allied to the true Robins, *Erythaca*, but differ in their more delicate make, longer wings, longer toes and claws; and the sexes differ in coloring. They are all foresters and shy, and, as far as I have observed, insectivorous; but Mr. Hodgson states that they sometimes eat pulpy berries.

508. *Ianthia cyanura*, PALLAS.

Motacilla, apud PALLAS—*Nemura rufilata*, and *N. cyanura*, HODGSON—JARDINE, Contrib. Ornith. Pl.—BLYTH, Cat. 1002—HORSE, Cat. 464—*Erythaca Tytleri*, JAMESON—*Mangzhil-pho*, Lepch.

THE WHITE-BREADED BLUE WOOD-CHAT.

Descr.—Male above prussian-blue, brightening and inclining to ultramarine on the forehead, over the eyes, on the shoulder and rump; the lower parts are white, confined to a narrow streak

on the throat and foreneck; the breast more or less brown, and the flanks bright ferruginous.

The female is pale brown, with a trace of blue on the shoulder, a greyish blue supercilium; margins to the tertiaries, rump, upper tail-coverts, and tail, blue, as in the male, but much lighter; sides of the neck and breast pale olive-brown; the middle of the belly, lower tail-coverts, and the middle line of the throat white; the flanks ferruginous as in the male.

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

This very prettily plumaged bird is found throughout the Himalayas from the N. W. to Sikhim. It is only a winter resident in Sikhim, however, and I suspect throughout the hills also. It is said to be common in China, Central and Northern Asia, and in Japan. It is very numerous about Darjeeling in the cold weather, from 4,000 feet upwards. It keeps to the forests, perches low on small trees and brushwood, and descends to the ground to feed on insects of various kinds. It is not unfrequently seen feeding on the bridle paths and roads. The name *Manzhil-pho* is properly applied to this species, which is a well known bird, but it is given indiscriminately to other species of this genus, to *Larvivora*, and even to the blue Fly-catchers, *Cyornis* and *Muscicapula*.

509. *Ianthia hyperythra*, BLYTH.

J. A. S., XVI., 132—BLYTH, Cat. 1001—HORSF., Cat. 465.

THE RUSTY-THROATED BLUE WOOD-CHAT.

Descr.—Male, upper parts deep indigo-blue, brightening to ultramarine above the eyes and on the shoulder; wings and tail black, the feathers outwardly edged blue; beneath dark yellowish ferruginous, confined to a narrow streak on the middle of the throat and foreneck; lower tail-coverts, and centre of the lower parts of the belly, white.

The female is a rich brown olive; the tail blue as in the male; the rump lighter and more greyish; there is also a little blue on the shoulder, and a greyish blue supercilium; the lower parts are tawny brown, or subdued fulvous; the lower tail-coverts white.

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

This bird, which differs from the last by the deep ferruginous on the lower plumage, as also by the deeper blue of the upper parts, and in the shorter tail, has only been procured from Nepal and Sikhim. It appears to be very rare, and is probably a migratory species also.

510. *Ianthia superciliaris*, HODGSON.

MOORE, P. Z. S., 1854—HORSEF., Cat. 483—I. flavolivacea, HODGSON (the female)—Erythaca, apud BLYTH, Cat. 1003.

THE RUFOUS-BELLIED BUSH-CHAT.

Descr.—Male, above deep indigo or cyaneous; wings dusky black or brown, the outer edges margined with cyaneous, and rufous on the shoulder; the primaries also faintly margined with rufous, and the secondaries with cyaneous; lores and cheeks black; a white superciliary streak extending from the nares to the back of the neck; beneath rufous; middle of the belly white.

The female is olive-brown above; wings and tail brown, the former margined with rusty olive; white superciliary streak not so clear as in male; beneath dull pale rufous, inclining to oil yellow, the middle of the lower belly and vent partially white.

Bill black; legs pale horny-brown; irides brown. Length nearly 6 inches; wing $3\frac{5}{16}$; tail $2\frac{3}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{16}$.

This species has been classed as a *Tarsiger*, but its coloration is quite that of the present genus. Blyth at one time made it a true Robin (*Erythaca*), but he has since located it here. It is remarkable for the great length of its hind claw. This bird greatly resembles in its mode of coloration *Larvivora cyana*. It is rare in Nepal and Sikhim. I got two or three specimens at Darjeeling, but did not observe it myself. It has hitherto been only procured in the S. E. Himalayas.

Gen. TARSIGER, Hodgson.

Syn. *Sericornis*, Blyth.

Char.—Bill straight, slender; gape rather wide, distinctly ciliated; wings moderate; 5th quill longest, 4th and 6th sub-equal to it;

tail moderate, barely rounded, conspicuously mucronate; tarsus long, very slender, smooth; feet rather large, middle toe elongate, hind toe rather large; claws long, slender, moderately curved. This genus differs from the two last by its more slender bill and less rounded tail. The coloration, too, is peculiar and unique.

511. *Tarsiger chrysæus*, HODGSON.

P. Z. S., 1845, 28—JARDINE, *Contrib. Orn. pl.*—BLYTH, *Cat.* 994—HORSEF., *Cat.* 482—*Manshil-pho*, Lepch.

THE GOLDEN BUSH-CHAT.

Descr.—Male, head, nape, sides of neck above, and back, olive-green; a stripe through the eyes, widening at the ears, black; superciliary streak, rump, tail, and whole lower surface, deep golden yellow; tail with a broad black tip and the two centre feathers black; wings dusky, edged with olivaceous, some of the greater wing-coverts deeper black, edged with yellowish.

The female is olivaceous above, the orbits whitish; beneath oil yellow; supercilium dull yellow; wings dusky, edged with olive, and the tail olive-brown; the inner webs of all, except the centre pair, dull golden yellow; two central feathers dusky, and part of the inner web of the next pair also dusky.

Bill dusky above, deep fleshy yellow beneath; irides dark brown. Length $5\frac{3}{4}$ th inches; extent 9; wing $2\frac{3}{4}$; tail $2\frac{1}{4}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{4}$ nearly.

This very beautiful bird has only been procured in Nepal and Sikhim. It is not uncommon near Darjeeling, and is a permanent resident, I believe. It is found in the valleys, from 3,000 to 5,000 feet chiefly, keeps to the forest amongst thick underwood, and feeds on the ground on insects. Hodgson says: "It is shy, solitary, and bush-loving. It breeds on the ground, making a compact saucer-like nest of moss, under the roots of a tree or a stone, and the eggs are verditer-blue."

Gen. CALLIOPE, Gould.

Char.—Bill of moderate length and strength; wings moderate, 1st quill very short, 2nd equal to 7th; tail very slightly rounded,

the outer feathers being a little shorter than the penultimate pair; tarsus moderately long, stout, the feet large, hind toe long; claws long, not much curved.

This form is closely allied to *Larvivora*, but differs by its longer and more rounded tail.

512. *Calliope Kamtschatkensis*, GMEL.

Turdus, apud GMELIN—BLYTH, Cat. 992—HORSEF., Cat. 485—*Mot. calliope*, PALLAS and TICKELL—C. *Lathani*, GOULD, Birds of Europe, pl. 118—*Gunpigora*, Beng.—*Gangula*, in Nepal.

THE COMMON RUBY-THROAT.

Descr.—Above olive-brown; beneath dull whitish; a band above and below the eyes, whitish; intermediate space black; feathers of the throat somewhat scaly and stiff, light scarlet or ruby red, with silvery edges, more or less surrounded with black, the breast ashy, flanks bright olive-brown, and belly whitish; axillaries slightly rufescent.

The female has in general no trace of the ruby throat, which is whitish, and the lores brown; but some old females have a tinge of the ruby colour.

Bill horny brown; irides dark brown; legs livid or purplish. Length 6 inches; wing 3; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{8}$.

This pretty bird is found chiefly in Northern and Central India. I never saw it south of the Nerbudda, except once, on boardship, a little south of Bombay, where one took refuge in the month of November. It is most common in Bengal and the Eastern side of India, and is a cold weather visitant only. It extends throughout Central and Northern Asia as far as Kamtschatka, whence it was first brought; and it has been occasionally killed in Europe. In its manners it is shy, solitary, and silent; haunts thickets and underwood, and feeds on the ground on various insects. It is said especially to frequent the covered plantations of the Betel-vine.

513. *Calliope pectoralis*, GOULD.

Icones Avium, pl.—BLYTH, Cat. 991—HORSEF., Cat. 486—*Bradybates*, apud GRAY, Genera of Birds.

THE WHITE-TAILED RUBY THROAT.

Descr.—General color dark brownish ashy, with a white supercilium; lores black, and a small moustachial spot white; the breast and sides of the throat black, and the chin and the middle of the throat and upper part of the neck bright glistening crimson; the belly, vent, and under tail-coverts, white, ashy on the flanks and mixed with dusky on the under tail-coverts; tail white on the basal half, except the centre pair, and white tipped; also some white on the outer-web of the outermost feathers. In winter the black of the breast is broadly edged with grey, and the red of the throat is less intense; the back too is not so dark. The female is plain olive-brown, paler on the breast, and whitish on the throat and belly; supercilia pale rufescent, there is much less white at the base of the tail, and the terminal spots are light rufescent.

Bill dusky; legs pale reddish brown; irides dark brown. Length 6 inches; wing barely 3; tail $2\frac{3}{4}$; bill at front nearly $\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{8}$.

The tail is more graduated than in the last species, and the wings are more rounded. It is found throughout the Himalayas, from Cashmere to Siklim. I saw it at Darjeeling, where not common, frequenting thick brush-wood, and coming to the road to feed on insects. Adams found it at high elevations, among rocks and precipices, in the N. W. Himalayas. I quite recently procured one specimen, and saw others, frequenting long grass jungle, not far from the banks of the Ganges at Caragola Ghat. It came to the small foot paths, especially near the edge of water, to feed. It is only a cold weather visitor at Darjeeling, but may probably breed in the interior.

Gen. CYANECULA, Brehm.

Char.—Bill rather short, slightly conic, straight; wings moderate, 3rd and 4th quills equal and longest, 5th a little shorter, 2nd equal to 6th, tail rather short, nearly even; tarsus moderately long; claws very slightly curved.

The Blue-throats differ from the other members of this section by their firmer wings, and plumage generally, the wings being somewhat more pointed, and the tail is sub-even, and somewhat fan-shaped, the feathers scarcely, if at all, mucronate, and bright rufous at

its base, thus reverting towards the Redstarts. The throat has more or less bright azure blue in the males.

There appear to be four or five nearly allied races or species inhabiting Europe, Asia, and the North of Africa; and there is some doubt as to which of the races the Indian bird belongs. It is generally allowed that the birds that visit India during the cold weather, most closely resemble those of Northern Europe, as distinguished from the race of Middle and Southern Europe, which visit England occasionally. Bonaparte, however, made it distinct, as indeed Blyth formerly did.

514. *Cyaneula suecica*, LINN.

Motacilla, apud LINNÆUS—BLYTH, Cat. 981—HORST., Cat. 484—SYKES, Cat. 94—JERDON, Cat. 109—*C. succicoides*, HODGSON—Motac. cœrulecula, PALLÆ—*C. indica*, BONAP—*Huseni-pidda*, H.—also *Nil kunthi*, H. in the North.—*Gunpigera* and *Gurpedra*, Beng—*Dumbak*, Sindh.

THE INDIAN BLUE-THROAT.

Descr.—Above pale olive-brown, the feathers of the crown slightly centred darker, and with a whitish supercilium; lower parts whitish; the under tail-coverts more or less tinged with rufescent; throat and breast bright shining azure-blue, the former generally mingled with whitish along the middle, and having a large ferruginous spot in front of the neck; below, and bordering the azure of the breast, is a narrow blackish band, then a narrow whitish band, and below this again a broad ferruginous band; the upper tail-coverts are brown, mingled with ferruginous; tail rufous, the two centre feathers, and the tips of all the others, dark brown.

Bill dusky horn, the gape yellow; legs brownish; irides dark brown. Length nearly $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing 3; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$; extent $9\frac{1}{4}$ tarsus $1\frac{1}{10}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{10}$. Female a little smaller.

Young males have much less blue on the breast, which is often confined to a moustachial streak on either side, and a comparatively narrow gorget; they have also scarcely any tinge of ferruginous on the throat and breast, the former being chiefly of a dull

white, but there is never the pure silky-white pectoral spot of *C. Wolfsi* of Southern Europe. The females have commonly the throat and fore-neck dull white, encircled with dusky spots, which are more developed in old females, and these have sometimes a tolerably broad dusky gorget, mingled with a little blue.

The Indian Blue-throat is found over all India in suitable localities. It is migratory, leaving for the North at the end of the cold weather, March and April. This species appears to visit the North of Europe and Northern and Western Asia in summer, and is described as being a pleasing songster, breeding in moss on the ground, and laying four or five eggs of a greenish color. It is found in India, in open country, in hedge-rows, gardens, fields of pulse and *Cucurbitaceæ*, corn fields, and reeds or long grass, especially near water. In gardens it haunts the pea-rows, beans, and any thick cover; and it feeds on the ground, running along and picking up various insects. It makes its way very adroitly through thick reeds, and when observed it tries to conceal itself. When feeding it occasionally displays its rufous tail, and sometimes jerks it up, but does not quiver it like the Redstarts. I have seen it feeding close to houses in various parts of Central India.

The allied species are, besides *C. Wolfsi*, already referred to, *C. cyane*, Eversman, of Eastern Siberia, which ought to occur in China; *C. dichrosterna*, Cabanis, from Arabia; and *C. major* from Abyssinia.

Besides the well known European Robin, one or two species from Japan have been classed under *Erythaca*, but it appears doubtful if they really belong to this group of birds. Mr. Blyth would class the Nightingale here, but it appears to me to associate more naturally with the birds of the next sub-family.

Sub-fam. CALAMOHERPINÆ, Grass-warblers.

The following birds comprise a series of plain plumaged species, of mostly small size, frequenting reeds, long grass, and other thick coverts near the ground. They may be said to grade from the last group by *Cyanecula*, which has the habits of the Reed-warblers. They nestle on the ground, or among reeds, and feed entirely on insects. They are most developed in the temperate and warmer

parts of Europe, Asia, and Northern Africa, migrating southwards in winter. They are part of the *Calamoherpinae* of Bonaparte, and of the *Sylvinae* of Gray. One only is known to breed on the plains, and one on the Hills: but the last species recorded are probably permanent residents on the Himalayas. Their feet are less fitted for terrestrial habits than those of the last sub-families. They approximate the Wren-warblers by *Horeites*, and also *Phyllopneuste* and *Phylloscopus* through *Irorornis*, and the smaller *Acrocephali*.

Gen. ACROCEPHALUS, Naumann.

Syn. *Calamoherpe*, Boie.

Char.—Bill Thrush-like, moderate or rather long, straight, very slightly deflected and notched; a few short, but stout, rictal bristles; wings moderately long, somewhat pointed, 1st quill minute, 3rd and 4th about equal and longest; tail rounded, of moderate length; tarsus somewhat lengthened, feet moderate, claws long, slightly curved, hind claw much curved.

515. *Acrocephalus brunnescens*, JERDON.

Agrobates, apud JERDON, Cat. 113—BLYTH, Cat., 1078—HORSE. Cat. 515—Malacocircus abnormis, HODGSON—A. arundinaceus, apud BLYTH, olim—*Bora-jitta*, Tel.

THE LARGE REED-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above light olive-brown, darkest on the wings and tail, and lightest on the rump; beneath, and eyebrow, with a tinge of olive-yellow; the chin pure white; wings and tail beneath cinereous; plumage soft and silky.

Bill dark brown, fleshy at base beneath; legs horny brown; irides dull greenish yellow. Length $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{3}{4}$; tail $3\frac{1}{4}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{10}$; tarsus $1\frac{2}{10}$; extent $10\frac{3}{8}$. Female somewhat smaller.

This species is very similar to the European *A. arundinaceus*, or *Sylvia turdoides*, Temm., but differs in being something smaller, in the first long primary being 3-16th shorter than the next, and the 3rd, if any thing, longer than the 2nd, whereas in the European analogue the 1st long primary is, if any thing,

longer than the 2nd. The wing too is longer, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in the European bird, and it is more intense in its color; in both the first primary is very minute.

The larger Reed-warbler is found in most parts of India in the cold weather; for it is only a winter visitant. It extends into Assam, Arracan, and China, in some parts of which latter country it most probably breeds. It frequents high reeds and grasses, high grain fields and gardens, where it hunts among the pea-rows, beans, and other vegetables. It clings strongly to the stalks of grain, and makes its way adroitly through thick grass or bushes, concealing itself when observed and being with difficulty driven out. It feeds on small grasshoppers, ants, and other insects. I have heard it occasionally utter a harsh clucking kind of note. The European bird is said to have a charming song, to make a neat nest among reeds, and to lay four or five greenish white eggs with grey and brown speckles.

516. *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, BLYTH.

J. A. S., XVIII., 815—HORSF., Cat. 517—*A. montanus*, BLYTH, Cat. 1079—*Sylvia montana*, SYKES, Cat. 78—and JERDON, Cat. 123—*Salic. arundinacea*, HODGSON—*Podena*, H.—*Tik-tikki* of Mussulmans—*Tikra*, Beng.—*Kumpa-jitta*. Tel.

THE LESSER REED-WARBLE ER.

Descr.—Above olive-brown, with a pale supercilium, beneath whitish, tinged with pale earthy brown.

Bill dusky, fleshy at base beneath; legs red brown; irides yellow brown. Length 6 inches; wing $2\frac{1}{10}$; bill at front $\frac{1}{10}$; tarsus $\frac{2}{10}$.

This bird so closely resembles the *A. salicaria* of Europe, that Mr. Strickland, at one time, pronounced it to be the same. It differs, however, besides in some proportions of the quills, in having less brown tint above and on the breast and flanks, and in the bill being less compressed, though vertically deeper. It has the same proportions of the quills as the last species, and thus differs from *A. montana* of Java, the 1st quill being very minute and pointed, and the 2nd equal to or longer than the 6th.

The lesser Reed-warbler is found in bushy and grassy ground on the Neilgherries and West Coast, also more rarely in the Carnatic, in Central India, and in Bengal, to Nepal and Assam. Blyth says that it is not met with in the wilder marshy district about Calcutta, but chiefly in gardens. It is migratory in the plains, but breeds in some parts of the Himalayas. Hutton found the nest, which was a round ball of dry grasses; the eggs three in number, pearl-white, with minute scattered specks of rufous, chiefly at the larger end. Its note, he states, is "a sharp *titick titick*, resembling the sound made by a flint and steel." He further states that many leave the hills in May without breeding, so they probably go still further north.

517. **Acrocephalus agricolus**, JERDON.

Sylvia, apud JERDON, 2nd Suppl. Cat. 124 bis—BLYTH, Cat. 1081—HORSF., Cat. 518—*Yerra kumpa jitta*, Tel.

THE PADDY FIELD WARBLER.

Descr.—Above pale rufous brown, brightest on the rump; wings brown, edged with rufous; tail dull brown; beneath whitish tinged with fulvous, and brownish on the flanks.

Bill brown, paler beneath; legs brown; irides yellow brown. Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{1}{2}$; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{4}{10}$; tarsus $\frac{9}{10}$.

This Warbler is a good deal smaller than the last, with a considerably smaller bill, and a more rufous tone of coloring. It is also very like *A. salicaria* of Europe, but differs in having the same proportion of primaries as *A. brunescens*.

I first found this species in growing paddy fields in Nellore in the cold weather, and in reedy ground near tanks in Central India. It is also found in the vicinity of Calcutta, and in various parts of India to Nepal and Affghanistan. Like the others it feeds entirely on insects. It is migratory in India, going north to breed.

Mr. Blyth remarks that these Indian species of Reed-warblers tend to approximate *Phylloscopus*, in the form of wing, and are less aquatic in their habits than their European congeners.

Gen. ARUNDINAX, Blyth.

Bill wide at the base, not much compressed, of moderate length; tip well deflected, and very slightly notched; wings rather short,

1st quill nearly half the length of the 2nd, which is a little shorter than the 3rd and 4th, which are equal and longest, and the 5th is nearly as long; tail somewhat long, much graduated, the feathers narrow; tarsus moderate, stout; feet strong; claws lengthened, moderately curved.

The peculiar form has quite the general aspect of *Acrocephalus*, but differs in its much wider bill, and the form of the wing. Some class it along with *Megalurus* and *Chætornis*, but its somewhat more lengthened wing, and broad, little compressed, bill, are against this view, whilst its colors are quite those of *Acrocephalus brunnescens*, to which its general resemblance is so strong that I at first passed it over.

518. *Arundinax olivaceus*, BLYTH.

Phragmaticola olivacea, BLYTH, apud JERDON, 2nd Suppl. Cat. No. 113 bis—BLYTH, Cat. 1075—HORSEF., Cat. 514.

THE THICK-BILLED REED-WARBLER.

Descr.—Uniform olive-brown above, a little rufescent towards the tail; throat whitish, and the rest of the under parts tinged with fulvous brown; lores pale.

Bill dark brown above; fleshy yellow at base of lower mandible; legs pale horny red, and toes fleshy grey; irides hazel. Length 8 inches; wing $3\frac{1}{4}$; tail $3\frac{3}{4}$; bill at front $\frac{9}{16}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{10}$; extent $10\frac{1}{4}$.

I first procured this species in the Carnatic near Nellore, where, however, it is not very common; and Mr. Blyth subsequently obtained it tolerably abundant in the vicinity of Calcutta. It has also been procured in the Nepal Terai, and in Tenasserim, and probably frequents suitable localities over most parts of India. I presume that like the last it is migratory.

Gen. DUMETICOLA, Blyth.

Char.—Bill straight, as in *Cinclus*, but shorter, stout, compressed, strongly notched at the tip; gape smooth; tail rounded, moderate; wings short, the first three somewhat graduate, 4th longest and

5th sub-equal; tarsus moderate, stout; toes and claws long, not much curved; plumage puffy and full.

This genus is not separated from *Acrocephalus* by Bonaparte and Gray, but differs by its spotted breast and more cincline bill.

519. *Dumeticola affinis*, HODGSON.

Salicaria, apud HODGSON, GRAY, Zool. Misc., and Cat. Nep. Birds—GRAY, Genera of Birds, pl. 49, f. 2.—*D. thoracica*, BLYTH, J. A. S., XIV. 584—BLYTH, Cat. 1087—HORSF., Cat. 520.

THE SPOTTED REED-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above dark olive-brown, with a faint ruddy tinge on the lower part of the back; throat, and above the lores, white, passing into ashy on the breast, which, with the fore-neck, is marked with largish round dusky spots; lower parts, and sides of breast, plain brownish ashy; the middle portion of the belly white; the flanks fulvescent brown, and the under tail-coverts dark clive brown, with whitish tips.

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

This bird has only been procured in Nepal, and no notice of its habits or haunts is on record.

Besides the European species casually alluded to above, there are a few others of this group found in Europe, Asia, and Africa, *Acrocephalus montanus* from Java, several of the same genus from Japan, and others from China, North Africa, and Australia; *Calamodyta* and *Luscinopsis* comprise several species of Southern Europe and North Africa; *Luscinia*, containing the Nightingale of Europe, and a nearly affined species from Eastern Europe and Persia, *L. Major*, Bonap., is placed among the Robins by many authors; but its coloration and general habits appear to me to entitle it to a place in this group. *Aedon*, comprising *Sylvia galactodes* of Europe, and others, is placed by Gray next the Nightingale, but some of the species appear to me to belong to the *Timalinæ*, or at all events to the short-winged Warblers; and some of the species of *Erythropygia*, A. Smith, of Southern Africa (placed as a synonym

of *Aedon* by Bonaparte), even approximate *Eurycercus* in their mode of coloration.

The next group comprises the Grasshopper Warblers, and some affined forms, corresponding to the section *Locustelleæ* of Bonaparte. Their plumage is striped or lark-like above, and they frequent reeds and grass. The European species make their nests among reeds.

Gen. LOCUSTELLA, Gould.

Char.—Bill of moderate length, slender, straight, compressed, barely deflected at the tip, which is slightly notched; wings long, with the 1st quill minute; 2nd nearly equal to the third, which is longest; tail moderate, rounded or graduated; hind claw very long, much curved.

520. *Locustella certhiola*, PALLAS.

Turdus, apud PALLAS—*Locustella Raii*, GOULD, apud BLYTH.

THE LESSER REED-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above pale olive-brown, all the feathers centred dark brown; tail uniform brown, tipped pale, especially as seen from below; beneath white, tinged with earthy brown on the neck, breast, and flanks; lower tail-coverts fulvescent white, with narrow longitudinal striæ. In the spring moult the lower plumage is at first a somewhat rich yellow.

Bill dusky above, pale beneath; irides hazel; legs fleshy brown. Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{1}{4}$; tail $2\frac{1}{8}$; bill at front 11 mill.

I first found this bird in long grass in the neighbourhood of Mhow, in Central India, during the rains, and Mr. Blyth then considered it to be identical with the European *Locustella Raii*. He subsequently procured it from Lower Bengal, not far from Calcutta; and I quite recently obtained it near Monghyr, and also observed it in other places along the Ganges, and it probably will be found in suitable localities throughout India. From the specimens then procured, towards the end of March and beginning of April, Mr. Blyth was led to doubt their identity with the English bird. On comparing it with Temminck's description of *L. certhiola*, it

appears to me to correspond sufficiently well, the pale tip to the tail, one of the distinguishing points of the latter from *S. locustella*, being distinctly present, in which however it agrees with the next bird. It is, possibly, a distinct species, and in that case I would propose the name of *LOCUSTELLA TEMPORALIS*.

This bird frequents long grass and grain, and is with some difficulty procured, as it always tries to conceal itself among the long grass; and, when flushed, takes but a very short flight, again hides itself, and is with difficulty dislodged. It probably breeds in this country. It feeds entirely on insects.

521. *Locustella rubescens*, BLYTH.

J. A. S. XIV., 582—BLYTH, Cat. 1084

THE RUDDY REED-WARBLER.

Descr.—Back ruddy-brown, with blackish centres to the feathers; crown dusky olive; sides of neck and breast olivaceous; throat and belly white, fulvescent brown on the sides of the neck, flanks, and under tail-coverts; some of the latter brown, tipped white; rump and tail dark ruddy-brown, all the outer feathers tipped with grey and obsoletely barred; wing-coverts edged with olivaceous, and the quills with ruddy-brown; tips of tertaries slightly albescent; a narrow whitish line from bill to occiput.

Bill dusky horn, pale beneath; legs light brown; irides hazel. Length $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{1}{2}$; extent $7\frac{3}{4}$; tail 2; tarsus $\frac{7}{8}$; bill at front 12 mill.

This interesting bird has been found frequenting reeds and long grass in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, in the cold weather only. It probably extends into other parts of Lower Bengal, Assam, and the Burmese countries. I got one specimen in a reedy tank near Jounpore, in March 1848. Mr. Blyth suggested that this species may be the *Sylvia certhiola* of Pallas, from Northern Asia; but Temminck's description, I think, applies better to the previous species.

Some Australian forms appear to belong to this section, which is not very distinct from the last.

The three following genera differ from the previous ones by their shorter and more rounded wings, and thus lead to the next

sub-family, *Drymoicinae*. They are mountain forms, peculiar to the Himalayas, and some of them are classed by Gray and Bonaparte with the latter group. In their habits they resemble *Acrocephalus* and *Locustella*.

Gen. TRIBURA, Hodgson.

Syn. *Pseudoluscinia*, apud Blyth.

Char.—Bill straight, moderately compressed, culmen distinctly raised, acute at the base and notched; gape smooth; wing short, rounded and feeble, 3rd, 4th and 5th quills about equal; tail lengthened, graduated; tarsus stout and smooth; hind toe short.

Blyth considers that this form is nearly allied to *Locustella*. *Salicaria cinnamomea*, Rüppell, is considered to belong to it.

522. *Tribura luteoventris*, HODGSON.

P. Z. S., 1845, p. 30, and J. A. S., XIV., 583—BLYTH, Cat. 1086—HORSF., Cat. 521.

THE PLAIN BROWN REED-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above uniform olive-brown; beneath paler, except the flanks, which are slightly rufescent; throat, and middle of the breast and belly, yellowish, inclining to whitish.

Bill dark horny above, pale below; legs light brown. Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing 2; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front 11 mill; tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Gray in his *Genera* places this bird as a *Calamodyta*. From the Cachar of Nepal.

Gen. HORORNIS, Hodgs.

Char.—Bill feeble, slender, compressed, with rictal hairs scarcely perceptible, distinct in some; wings moderately short, the 4th and 5th quills equal and longest; tail short, broad, much graduated, tarsus long and strong; feet moderate.

This genus was considered, by its founder, to have the general form of *Tribura*, (with some of the characters of *Horeites*) and indeed was placed as a sub-genus of the former. Gray, in his *Genera*, placed the species under *Regulus*, and Dr. Gray, in his last list of *Genera*, and Bonaparte, place it next *Abrornis*. Their habits are not recorded, and, in their mode of coloration they are allied to *Tribura*, but with a tendency towards the Tree-warblers.

523. **Horornis fulviventris**, HODGSON.

P. Z. S., 1845, p. 32.

THE FULVOUS-BELLIED HILL-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above olive-brown, below sordid luteous, the flanks shaded with olive; chin, and line over the eye, albescent.

Bill dusky brown; legs fleshy grey. Length $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches; wing not 2; tail $1\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus $\frac{1}{10}$ ths.

From the Cachar of Nepal.

524. **Horornis flaviventris**, HODGSON.

P. Z. S., 1845, p.

THE YELLOW-BELLIED HILL-WARBLER.

Above olive-green, beneath pale yellow; chin, and line over the eye albescent.

Bill dusky-brown; legs fleshy. Length $4\frac{3}{8}$; wing not quite 2; tail $1\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus $\frac{1}{10}$.

From the Cachar region of the hills of Nepal.

525. **Horornis fuliginiventer**, HODGSON.

P. Z. S., 1845, p. 31.

THE SMOKY HILL-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above dusky olive-brown, diluted into a dusky greenish cast below.

Bill and legs dark. Length 5 inches; wing $2\frac{1}{4}$; tail 2; tarsus $\frac{7}{8}$.

Hodgson says "perhaps more probably a *Tribura*." From Nepal.

526. **Horornis fortipes**, HODGSON.

J. A. S., XIV., 584.

THE STRONG-FOOTED HILL-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above olive-brown, below pale ochraceous brown, approaching to albescent. Length $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches; wing $2\frac{1}{16}$; tail $1\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus nearly 1 inch.

From Nepal.

All these species appear to be rare, and only found in the higher regions of the Himalayas. I was not fortunate enough to procure any specimens when at Darjeeling.

Gen. HOREITES, Hodgson.

Syn.—*Nivicola*, Hodgs., J. A. S., XIV., 586.

Char.—Bill slender, short, straight, barely bent down at tip, slightly notched; wings as in *Prinia*; tail moderate, rounded, broad and soft; tarsus long; toes moderate; middle toe longer than in *Prinia*; nails slender, less curved.

This genus appears to be the hill representative of the *Prinia* of the plains, from which they chiefly differ in their more ambulant toes, and broader and shorter tail, but, at the same time, are more nearly allied in colours and habits to the grass warblers. Blyth at one time considered that they had some of the characters of *Tesia*, which Bonaparte also latterly classed with the *Drymoicinæ*.

527. *Horeites brunneifrons*, Hodgson.

J. A. S., XIV., 585—BLYTH, Cat. 819—HORSEF., Cat. 499—*Nivicola schistilata*, HODGS.?—*Liklik-pho*, Lepch.

THE RUFIOUS-CAPPED HILL-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above olive-brown, slightly redder on the wings and tail; cap red-brown; below, pale ashy, with a white central streak.

Bill dusky above, pale fleshy beneath; legs light-brown; irides brown. Length $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches; wing $1\frac{3}{4}$; extent $6\frac{1}{4}$; tail $7\frac{5}{8}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{8}$; tarsus $\frac{3}{8}$.

Hodgson says these birds are only found, in Nepal, in the Northern region, near the snows, living among brushwood, and feeding on the ground. I observed it only on the top of Tonglo, 10,000 feet high, among brushwood.

528. *Horeites pollicaris*, HODGSON.

J. A. S., XIV., 585.

THE STRONG-CLAWED HILL-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above dark olive, beneath and eye-brow yellowish; legs and bill fleshy grey. Length $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $1\frac{5}{8}$; tail $1\frac{5}{8}$; bill $\frac{7}{8}$; tarsus $\frac{1}{16}$.

This species is said to have a large hind claw, and a slender *Regulus*-like bill. Blyth suggests that it may be the young of *H. brunneifrons*.

From the same locality as the last.

529. *Horeites major*, HODGSON.

MOORE, P. Z. S., 1854.

THE LARGE HILL-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above olive-brown reddish, on the wings; tail rounded, and of a dusky brown, the outer webs fringed with olive-brown; cap red-brown; a yellowish ferruginous superciliary streak extending over the ear-coverts, which are ruddy brown above, ashy beneath; throat, sides of neck, centre of breast, and abdomen, ashy white; sides of the breast and flanks olive-brown.

Bill dark horny, fleshy at the base beneath; feet yellowish. Length 5 inches; wing $2\frac{1}{2}$; tail $2\frac{1}{10}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{8}$; tarsus $\frac{1}{10}$.

This species has a comparatively larger bill, and longer wing than the others of the genus, and also stronger feet. From Nepal.

I obtained two species, apparently of this genus, on the Khasia hills, from 5,000 to 6,000 feet of elevation. They frequent the grassy hills, hiding themselves with celerity, and in their habits closely resemble *Locustella*.

Sub-fam. DRYMOICINÆ, Wren-Warblers.

Bill moderately long and compressed; wings short, rounded; tail long, more or less graduated; legs and feet moderately strong.

This group comprises a considerable series of birds, highly characteristic of the Indian region, but found throughout the warmer portions of the old world, and very abundant in Africa, a few species only extending to the South of Europe, and several to Australia. They are mostly of diminutive size: and, except in a remarkable Australian group, of dull plumage. They chiefly frequent bushy ground, hedge-rows and the like, a few only being found in tree jungle, and a few in long grass. They are active and sprightly in their habits, and are somewhat garrulous, but few of them capable of what could be called a song. They feed exclusively on insects, which they pick off leaves or branches

occasionally from the ground. The nests of some are remarkable for the ingenuity with which they are made; and the eggs are red in some, white with red spots in others, and in many blue, pure, or with blotches.

The *Drymoicinæ* form part of the *Malurinæ* of Gray, and the section *Drymoicinæ* of Bonaparte's *Calamoherpina*. Blyth, at one time, classed them as portion of the great Timaline series; but their less social habits, and other points, tend, in our opinion, to keep them distinct, but with strong analogies for that group. They appear to grade into the Grass-warblers by *Horeites*, and into the Tree-warblers by *Neornis*.

Gen. ORTHOTOMUS, Horsfield.

Char.—Bill long, slender, rather wide at the base, nearly entire, straight, very slightly deflexed at the tip; a few weak rectal bristles; wing short, feeble, much rounded, 5th and 6th quills equal and longest; tail narrow, feeble, typically short and rounded, or graduated, the two centre feathers elongated in some; tarsus moderately long, stout; feet short; hind toe short; claws moderately curved, compressed.

This genus comprises the Tailor-birds, which sew leaves together to form their nest. They are natives of India, and the Malayan peninsula is especially rich in species. They form a group of small species, generally green above, with more or less ferruginous on the head, and with somewhat the manners of the Wrens. They have a remarkably loud chirp.

530. *Orthotomus longicauda*, GMELIN.

Motacilla, apud GMELIN—BLYTH, Cat. 815—HORSEF., Cat. 492—*Orth. Bennettii*, SYKES, Cat. 80—and JERDON, Cat. 114—*O. lingoo*, SYKES, (the young)—*O. sphenurus*, SWAINSON—*Sylvia ruficapilla*, HUTTON—*S. guzurata*, LATHAM—*O. sutoria* and *O. patia*, HODGSON—*Phutki*, H.—*Tuntuni*, Beng.—*Patia*, Nepal.—*Likku-jitta*, Tel.

THE INDIAN TAILOR-BIRD.

Descr.—Crown rufous; nape somewhat cinereous, with a tinge of rufous; back, scapulars, rump, and upper tail-coverts, yellowish

olive-green; wings brown, edged with green; tail narrow, light brown with a green tinge, and the outer feathers on each side with a narrow white tip; beneath white, with a concealed black spot on each side of the throat, formed by the bases of some of the feathers, and only seen at times.

Bill dark horny above, pale fleshy beneath; legs fleshy; irides reddish-yellow. Length, male $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing nearly 2; tail $3\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus nearly $\frac{9}{10}$.

There are four dark brown hairs arising from the nape, two on each side. In the male the two centre tail feathers are much elongated, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches or so longer than the next pair, and the rest are rounded and slightly graduated. The female is barely 5 inches long; tail 2. In some specimens (especially in those from Ceylon) the ashy nape is inconspicuous, being nearly overlaid with rufous, and passing into the green of the back; and Ceylon birds appear to have the bill also somewhat longer than those of continental India.

The well known Tailor-bird is found throughout all India, from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin and Ceylon, and extending into the Burmese countries. It is most common in well-wooded districts, frequenting gardens, hedge-rows, orchards, low jungle, and even now and then the more open parts of high tree jungles. It is usually in pairs, at times in small flocks, incessantly hopping about the branches of trees, shrubs, pea-rows and the like, with a loud reiterated call; and picking various insects, chiefly ants, cicadellæ, and various small larvæ, off the bark and leaves, and not unfrequently seeking them on the ground. It has the habit of raising its tail whilst feeding and hopping about, and at times, especially when calling, it raises the feathers and displays the concealed black stripe on its neck. The ordinary note of the Tailor is *to-wee-to-wee-to-wee*; or as syllabized by Layard *pretty-pretty-pretty*; when alarmed or angry, it has a different call. It is a familiar bird, venturing close to houses, but when aware that it is being watched, it becomes wary and shy.

The Tailor-bird makes its nest with cotton, wool, and various other soft materials, sometimes also lined with hair, and draws together one leaf or more, generally two leaves, on each side of the nest, and stitches them together with cotton, either woven by itself,

or cotton thread picked up; and after passing the thread through the leaf, it makes a knot at the end to fix it. I have seen a Tailor-bird at Saugor watch till the Dirzee (native tailor) had left the verandah where he had been working, fly in, seize some pieces of thread that were laying about, and go off in triumph with them; this was repeated in my presence several days running. I have known many different trees selected to build in; in gardens very often a Guava tree. The nest is generally built at from two to four feet above the ground. The eggs are two, three, or four in number, and in every case which I have seen, were white, spotted with reddish brown, and chiefly at the large end. Col. Sykes says that the eggs are crimson, but he has probably mistaken the nest and eggs of *Prinia socialis*, which last are sometimes brick-red throughout.

Hodgson suspects that there are two species confounded under one name, as he has on several occasions got unspotted blue eggs from a Tailor-bird's nest. These were probably those of *Prinia gracilis*, the eggs of which are blue. Layard describes one nest made of cocoon fibre entirely, with a dozen leaves of Oleander drawn and stretched together. I cannot call to recollection ever having seen a nest made with more than two leaves. The bird and its nest are very well figured in Guerin, *Magasin de Zoologie*, for 1839.

Pennant, in his *Indian Zoology*, gives the earliest, though somewhat erroneous, account of the nest of the Tailor-bird. He says, "The bird picks up a dead leaf, and, surprising to relate, sews it to the side of a living one." Hutton gave the first authentic account of the bird and nest in the *J. A. S.*, II., 504. The Tailor-bird described and figured by Forbes, in his *Oriental Memoirs*, appears to be a species of *Nectarinia*. Nicholson's supposed new species (*P. Z. S.*, 1851), *O. agilis*, which, he says, often selects the Brinjal (*Solanum esculentum*) to build in, is of course the same as our bird.

A very closely allied species exists in the *O. phyllorapheus* of Swinhoe from China. This species is said to drop its lengthened central tail feathers at the autumnal moult, when they are succeeded by others of the usual length.

531. *Orthotomus coronatus*, JERDON and BLYTH.

P. Z. S., 1861, p. 200—*Sing-kansel*, Lepch.

THE GOLD-HEADED TAILOR-BIRD.

Descr.—Forehead and top of head golden fulvous; lores, ear-coverts, occiput and nape ashy; a narrow pale yellow stripe over the eye; back and wings pale olive-green; chin, throat, breast, and narrow stripe down the middle of the abdomen, milky white; flanks, lower part of abdomen, under tail-coverts, and lining of the wings, pale canary yellow; quills internally, and tail dusky, edged with greenish; the two outer tail-feathers with the inner web white.

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

The bill in this species is somewhat depressed throughout, and flat on the culmen.

I procured specimens of this new species of Tailor-bird from the vicinity of Darjeeling, where it occurs in the warmer valleys. A nest and eggs were brought to me, said to be those of this bird, similar to that of the last, but not so carefully made; the leaves were loosely attached and with fewer stitches. The eggs were two in number, white with rusty spots. It exceedingly resembles the description of *O. cucullatus*, Temminck, from Sumatra, but there are points of difference, viz. the presence of a yellowish superciliary streak, and the white on the tail, in our bird; and the locality alone would warrant the probability of the two being distinct.

Moore has published a monograph of this genus in the Proceedings Zoological Society for 1854. Other species on record are as follows: *O. edela*, Temm., P. C. 599, 2, (*sepium*, Raffles) from Malacca and Sumatra; *O. ruficeps* Lesson, and *O. atrogularis* Temm., from Malacca and Borneo; *O. flavo-viridis*, Moore (*edela*, apud Blyth), very common at Malacca; *O. cineraceus*, Blyth, (*sepium*, Lafresnaye), also from Malacca; *O. longirostris*, Swainson; *O. Derbianus*, Moore, the giant of the group; and others.

Gen. *PRINIA*, Horsfield.

Char.—Bill moderately long, very slender, straight, entire; rictal bristles distinct; tail much graduated, rather long, of ten or twelve feathers; feet much as in *Orthotomus*.

This genus differs from *Orthotomus* by its shorter and more slender bill, more lengthened and graduated tail, and coloration. In habits it differs but little, and some of them are quite Tailor-birds as regards the nest.

With ten tail-feathers.

The first species differs from the others in its longer toes and claws, especially the posterior one; also in its mode of coloration.

532. *Prinia flaviventris*, DELESSERT.

Orthotomus, apud DELESSERT—BLYTH, Cat. 813—HORSEF., Cat. 494.

THE YELLOW-BELLIED WREN-WARBLER.

Descr.—Head, with lores and ear-coverts, dark ashy; back, wings, and tail, dull olive-green; the quills dusky brown; chin, throat, and breast, white; the abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts, bright canary yellow.

Bill black, fleshy at the base beneath; legs deep yellow; irides reddish yellow. Length $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; wing $1\frac{7}{8}$; tail nearly 3; tarsus $\frac{1\frac{3}{8}}{1\frac{3}{8}}$; bill at front $\frac{1}{2}$.

This pretty little bird is found, within our province, in the Nepal Terai, and thence through Bengal to the Sunderbuns, extending into Assam, Sylhet, all the Burmese countries, and the Malayan Peninsula. It is abundant in the high grass jungles throughout Lower Bengal, especially near the Ganges, where I have frequently seen it, when beating for game. It is not found, that I am aware of, in forest or tree-jungle. It makes its way through the thick grass and reeds, with great facility, and is generally seen in small parties. It is certainly not found in the Neilgherries, as stated by Delessert, nor, I believe, in Southern India; but an allied species has been lately noticed in Western India. Tickell describes the nest to be "pensile," but quite open, being a hemisphere with one side prolonged, by which it is suspended from a twig. The eggs are bright brick-red, without spot.

533. *Prinia Adamsi*, JERDON.

Prinia, No. 127—ADAMS, List of Birds, P. Z. S., 1858.

THE WHITE-BELLIED WREN-WARBLER.

Descr.—"Above greenish, the tail tipped with white; cheeks, throat and breast, whitish yellow; belly and vent white, tinged with yellow; tail long, graduated.

"Bill black; legs long, yellow.

"Found at Poonah in cornfields." This is evidently a nearly allied species to the last, but apparently distinct, wanting the ashy head and the pure white breast of the last bird; its haunts also appear to be similar. As Dr. Adams appears to be a faithful observer, I have ventured to include this bird on his authority alone.

A nearly allied species to the two last, *Pr. sonitans*, Swinhoe, occurs in China, and of this the eggs are described as 'strangely red.'

534. *Prinia socialis*, SYKES.

SYKES, Cat. 78—JERDON, Cat. 116—BLYTH, Cat. 811—HORSF., Cat. 493—*Phutki*, H.—*Relu-jitta* Tel.—*Pit-pitta*, H. in the South.

THE DARK-ASHY WREN-WARBLER.

Descr.—Head and back dark-ashy; quills and tail reddish brown, the latter with a dusky band near the tip, and the outer feathers with a small white tip; beneath, rufescent whitish, the flanks rufous.

Bill black; legs deep yellow; irides orange buff. Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{1}{10}$; tail $2\frac{5}{10}$; bill at front not quite $\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus nearly $\frac{2}{5}$.

This bird is found throughout Southern India only, and Ceylon, and I have not seen it to the north of the Godavery. It frequents long grass and reeds, sugar-cane fields, and occasionally low jungle mixed with grass. It is found on the Neilgherries, to about 6,000 feet or so, very abundant in bushy ground mixed with grass. It is active and restless, making its way adroitly through the reeds or bushes, with a loud reiterated note, something like that of the Tailor-bird, but louder. Col. Sykes remarks "has the same ingenious nest, the same habits and note, and feeds in the same

manner as *Orthotomus longicauda*." I have found the nest on several occasions, and verified Col. Sykes' observations, but it is not so neatly sewn together as the nest of the true Tailor-bird, and there is generally more grass and other vegetable fibres used in the construction. The eggs are usually reddish white, with numerous darker red dots at the large end, often coalescing, and sometimes the eggs are uniform brick-red throughout.

535. *Prinia Stewarti*, BLYTH.

J. A. S., XIV., 455—BLYTH, Cat. 812—*Kala-phutki*, H.

STEWART'S WREN-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above dark ashy, brown on the wings, and rufescent on the tail, with a faint subterminal dark band (as seen from above); throat white; the rest of the body beneath pale rufescent, darker on the flanks, and rusty on the vent and under tail-coverts.

Bill black; legs deep yellow; irides buff. Length $5\frac{2}{10}$ inches; wing $1\frac{8}{10}$; tail $2\frac{3}{4}$; bill at front not $\frac{7}{18}$; tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$.

Mr. Blyth got some specimens of this bird from Agra, and at first considered them distinct from *P. socialis*, to which it is certainly very closely allied. He has since been inclined to consider them the same, but having observed this bird, and obtained specimens at Mhow, in Central India, I am fully convinced of its specific difference. It has a considerably smaller and lighter body, when seen fresh, than *socialis*, and probably would not weigh much more than half of the latter bird; the tail is proportionally longer, the dark tip more diffused and less defined, and the vent and under tail-coverts are decidedly darker than in the other, as indeed are the whole colors of the bird; the bill is smaller and feebler, and the feet are smaller. Its geographical distribution too is against the identity.

This species ranges from the Nerbudda northwards through Central India to Agra and the N. W. Provinces; but does not extend far eastwards, I think, as I did not see it at Saugor. At Mhow I found it frequenting gardens and hedges, hunting among peas and other vegetables; and, like the rest of the tribe, occasionally descending to the ground for its food, which consisted of ants and other small insects.

Prinia familiaris, Horsfield, the type of the genus, belongs to this section.

With twelve tail-feathers.

536. *Prinia gracilis*, FRANKLIN.

P. Z. S., 1831—BLYTH, Cat. 809—Orthot. lingoo, SYKES, according to BLYTH.

FRANKLIN'S WREN-WARBLER.

Descr.—Slightly rufescent olive above, tinged greyer on the head and neck; the wing feathers dusky, edged externally with rufous brown; under parts silky white, tinged with yellowish fulvous on the flanks, and faintly on the sides of the neck; tail brown, albescent greyish beneath, with a subterminal dark band, and whitish tips, most conspicuous on the under surface.

Bill black; legs fleshy yellow; irides deep amber; orbits fleshy red. Length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; extent $5\frac{1}{4}$; wing $1\frac{3}{4}$; tail 2; bill at front $\frac{4}{10}$; tarsus $\frac{1}{8}$.

This little Warbler is found in Central and Northern India. It was first procured and described by Franklin; and I found it abundant on the Vindhian Mountains near Mhow, and in jungles close to Saugor. It frequents tree forest, and has the usual habits of the genus. It often has its forehead colored yellow by the pollen of flowers which it has been searching for minute insects. I found its nest, at Saugor, very like that of the Tailor-bird, but smaller, made of cotton, wool, and various soft vegetable fibres, and occasionally bits of cloth, and I invariably found it sewn to one leaf of the *Kydia*, so common in the jungles there. The eggs were pale blue with some brown or reddish spots, often barely visible. This is perhaps the Tailor-bird described by Lieut. Gifford, J. A. S., II., 648 "light brown above, dirty white below, 4 inches long, called *Phutki*." Hodgson's blue Tailor-bird's eggs may have been of this species, or the next one.

537. *Prinia cinereo-capilla*, HODGSON.

Moore, P. Z. S., 1854.

HODGSON'S WREN-WARBLER.

Descr.—Crown of head grey, the shaft and margins of the feathers being darker, nareal and frontal plumes, a streak over and

beyond the eye, and the whole under parts rufescent, brightest on the flanks and thighs; lores and upper part of the ears, greyish; nape, back, rump and wings bright rufous brown, the tips of the latter dusky; tail the same as the back, paler beneath, with a terminal dusky band, and rufescent-white tips.

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

This species is closely related to *P. gracilis*, but appears to differ by the deeper rufous brown of the upper plumage, by the more rufescent lower plumage, and by the presence of a superciliary stripe. It is an inhabitant of the Nepal Terai and lower hills, and is probably Hodgson's Tailor-bird, with blue eggs; it may be also Lieut. Gifford's, alluded to under the last species.

538. *Prinia Hodgsoni*, BLYTH.

J. A. S., XIII., 376—BLYTH, Cat. 808—HORSE, Cat. 496—*P. gracilis*, apud JERDON, Cat. 117.

THE MALABAR WREN-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above dark ashy grey, brownish on the wings and tail, the latter with a subterminal dark band, tipped white on the outer feathers; beneath white, slightly tinged with fulvescent, greyish on the edge of the neck and breast.

Bill black; legs yellow; irides buff. Length 4 inches; wing $1\frac{8}{10}$; tail $1\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{5}{8}$; tarsus $1\frac{1}{10}$.

This is the smallest species of the group. It is found in Southern India, and also, it is said, in Nepal and Bootan, but perhaps, at that time, not discriminated from the last species. It frequents tree jungle. I have seen it all through the Malabar Coast, the Wynnad, the slopes of the Neilgherries, and more rare on the Eastern Ghats, and in wooded valleys at the Northern termination of the Table Land.

Pr. rufescens, Blyth, from Burmah, is a nearly allied species. Several other *Prinia* are recorded from Malayana, but whether belonging to this genus as now restricted, I know not. Among these are *P. olivacea*, Raffles, *P. icteria*, Strickland, and *P. Stricklandi*, Bonsp., from Java and Sumatra.

Gen. CISTICOLA, Lesson.

Char.—Bill rather short, slender, gently curving from the middle, entire at tip; wings short, ample; 1st quill small, 3rd, 4th, and 5th equal and longest, 2nd equal to 7th, shorter than the 6th; tail of twelve feathers, somewhat rounded, short; tarsus long; feet rather large with the lateral toes nearly equal and the hind toe long, the claws lengthened, especially the hind one, only slightly curved.

This genus differs from *Prinia* by its shorter, deeper bill, shorter tail, and less curved claws. It is a small group, of very nearly allied species, from the south of Europe, Asia, and Africa, extending to Australia. They are tiny birds, with a streaked plumage, and frequent chiefly grass and reeds.

539. *Cisticola schænicola*, BONAPARTE.

GOULD, Birds of Europe, pl. 113—*Prinia cursitans*, FRANKLIN, P. Z. S., 1831—BLYTH, Cat. 821—HORSE., Cat. 503—JERDON, Cat. 122—and JERDON, Ill. Ind. Orn., pl. 6—*C. sub-himalayana*, HODGSON—*Ghas ka-phutki*, or *Ghas ka-pit-pitti*, Hind., *i e.*, Grass *Prinia*—*Yedru-jitta*, Tel.—*Kher-ghusa* H. at Bhagulpoie—*Tuntunia* at Monghyr.

THE RUFIOUS GRASS-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above rufous brown, all the feathers broadly centred dark brown; rump plain rufous; quills dusky, narrowly edged with brown; tail with the two central feathers pale brown, darker in the middle, and pale tipped; the others all dark brown, deeper towards the end, and with a broad whitish tip; plumage beneath rufescent white, nearly pure white on the chin and throat, and more rufescent on the flanks; tail beneath cinereous at the base, then pale rufous with a black bar, and a broad white tip, in some uniform dusky cinereous.

Bill dusky brown above, fleshy beneath; irides pale olive-brown; legs fleshy. Length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{1}{8}$; tail $1\frac{5}{8}$ to nearly 2; bill at front not quite 9 mill; tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$.

This bird is now considered identical with the European one, and is also spread over the greater part of Africa. It is found in every part of India, frequenting long grass, corn, and rice fields. It makes its way adroitly through the grass or corn, and often descends to the ground to pick up insects; but I do not think that it habitually runs along, as the name given by Franklin would imply, but it rather makes its way through the grass, or reeds, partly hopping and partly flying. When put up, it takes a short jerking flight for a few yards and then drops down into the grass again. It feeds on ants, larvæ of grasshoppers, and various other small insects. As Blyth remarks, "it may commonly be observed to rise a little way into the air, as is the habit of so many birds that inhabit similar situations, repeating at intervals a single note, *jih, jih*. During the breeding season the male bird may be seen seated on a tall blade of grass pouring forth a feeble little song. The nest is made of delicate vegetable down, woven into the stems of a thick clump of grass, and forming a compact and very beautiful fabric, with a small entrance near the top; and the eggs are four or five in number, translucent white, with reddish spots. It has been noticed that whilst the hen is laying, the male bird builds the nest higher.

540. *Cisticola erythrocephala*, JERDON.

BLYTH, J. A. S., XX., 523—BLYTH, Cat. 1935.

THE RED-HEADED GRASS-WARBLER.

Descr.—General hue rufous or ferruginous, deepest on the crown, darker on the rump, and brightest on all the lower parts; back olive-brown with black medial streaks to the feathers and wings and tail dusky brown, the former margined with olive-brown, and the latter very slightly tipped or margined round the extremity of the feathers with pale brown.

Bill dusky, fleshy beneath; legs fleshy yellow; irides pale brown. Length 4 inches; wing 2; tail $1\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus $\frac{8}{10}$; bill at front 9 mill.

This species differs from the last in its shorter and less graduated tail.

I have only procured this interesting species of *Cisticola* in one locality, *viz.*, in some open grassy ground, interspersed with

bushes, close to the head of the Carcoor Pass, leading from Wynaad into lower Malabar; but I have no doubt that it will be found in suitable localities all through the Wynaad, Coorg, and the Western Ghats. It has a most peculiar loud chuckling, ventriloquising note, sometimes uttered on the wing, or from a bush, and it frequently completely deceives you as to its whereabouts. It is so loud as to draw your attention at once.

The next species appears to have somewhat similar habits.

541. *Cisticola Tytleri*, BLYTH.

J. A. S.

THE CREAM-COLORED GRASS-WARBLER.

Descr.—The whole head, face and lower parts fulvous white; superciliary line, nape, and back, rusty; wings earthy brown, the feathers edged pale; rump uniform pale brown; tail dark brown, both above and below, very narrowly tipped with white.

Such is the coloration of specimens presented to the Asiatic Society by Colonel Tytler. One I procured at Dacca, differs a good deal; it has the head and upper parts pale rufous throughout, but not nearly so pale as the specimen described; the face and lower parts whitish, tinged with brown yellow.

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

Tytler first obtained this species at Dacca, and noticed its distinctness from the common one. He states that he found it in long grass jungle, excessively wild in its habits, and difficult to approach. I observed it in the same locality, but in bushy ground, and I did not hear its note. I think that Blyth is right in considering Tytler's specimens as young; but from the observations I made, and the only good specimen I secured, I am inclined with Tytler to consider it distinct from *C. erythrocephala* of the Wynaad, though allied, both in coloration and habits.

A nearly allied species appears to exist in China, *Cist. tinnin-abulans*, Swinhoe, which is described as 'jerking about high in the air, whilst uttering its strange tinkling notes.'

The next bird is one whose generic location is somewhat doubtful. It exactly resembles *Cisticola* in its coloration and habits, but is a much larger bird, and I propose to give it distinct

generic rank. Many of the so-called African *Drymoicæ*, figured by Rüppell, appear to approximate it very closely, and are probably co-generic with it. Such are *D. robusta*, *D. lugubris*, and *D. erythrogenys*, Rüppell; also A. Smith's *D. natalensis*, and perhaps others from the same country, and also from Australia.

Gen. GRAMINICOLA, Jerdon.

Char.—Bill moderate, rather stout, compressed; culmen curved; some rather stout rictal bristles curving outwards; wings very short and much rounded; tail of twelve feathers, much graduated and broad; tarsi stout, of moderate length; hind toe not lengthened; claws long, slender, very slightly curved.

This form differs from *Cisticola* in the less elongated hind toe, and the more strongly curved beak, with prominent rictal bristles.

542. **Graminicola Bengalensis**, JERDON.

THE LARGE GRASS-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above, the head and back deep brown, the feathers edged with tawny fulvous; rump dark fulvous; wings with bright fulvous edgings to the feathers of the wing-coverts; the quills edged with yellowish brown; tail deep brown, with indistinct brown edging, obsoletely barred and broadly white-tipped, this being continued a short distance along the outer edge of the outermost feathers; beneath white, tinged with fulvous on the neck, breast, and flanks; under-tail-coverts slightly olivaceous.

Bill reddish horny; irides yellow brown; legs fleshy yellow. Length $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches; wing $2\frac{1}{4}$; tail 3; bill at front $\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus 1.

Some specimens have the upper parts almost black, mixed with white over the eye and on the nape, but whether this is seasonal, or the effects of age, I am not aware. I first observed this bird in high grass on the banks of the Ganges, but did not procure specimens. I shot several, however, in Cachar, where it appeared to be tolerably abundant. It frequents high grass, in pairs, occasionally three or four together; now and then taking a short flight, and rapidly concealing itself when it alights.

Gen. DRYMOIPUS, Bonap

Char.—Bill short or of moderate length, nearly entire, rather deep at the base; culmen moderately curving; rictus bristled; wings very short and rounded, the first three quills nearly equally graduated, 4th and 5th longest; tail graduated, long, of ten feathers, the feathers obtuse; tarsus long; feet moderate; claws moderately curved.

The genus *Drymoipus* was instituted by Bonaparte for the Asiatic *Drymoica*. It differs from *Prinia* in its shorter, deeper, less slender bill, more developed rictal bristles; and they usually frequent low bush cover rather than tree jungle. The species have usually been classed under *Drymoica*, but Bonaparte has separated the Indian species from the African ones, and though unaware in what points they differ, I shall follow Mr. Blyth's example, and keep them distinct.

543. *Drymoipus inornatus*, SYKES.

SYKES, Cat. 79—JERDON, Cat. 118—BLYTH, Cat. 804—HORSF., Cat. 510—*P. macroura*, FRANKLIN—*P. Franklinii*, BLYTH, Cat. 805 (in part)—*Prinia fusca*, HODGSON—*Lota-kun-jitta*, Tel.—*Niong-pho*. Lepch.

THE COMMON WREN-WARBLER.

Descr.—Head and back greyish brown, with an olivaceous tinge on the head and hind neck; wings brown, edged pale rufous; tail rufous or brownish, with a terminal dark spot, and the centre tail feathers obsolete banded; a whitish supercilium, and whitish lores and chin; beneath whitish with a faint fulvescent tinge; thighs pale ferruginous brown.

Bill dusky brown above, yellowish or fleshy at the base beneath; legs fleshy yellow; irides brownish yellow. Length 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $1\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{9}{10}$; tail $2\frac{3}{4}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{8}$, tarsus $\frac{9}{10}$.

Horsfield, in his Catalogue, has joined Sykes and Franklin's species, which last Mr. Blyth had already united to Hodgson's *fusca*. Under his number 510 he has placed specimens from Col. Sykes, from Mr. Hodgson and from Bengal; and I have no doubt, has carefully compared them together. On examining my notes,

I find specimens described from Southern India, from the Himalayas, and Ghazee-pore, which, on the whole, agree very well with each other; and the few slight differences apparent may depend on age, or on the more or less abrasion the feathers have undergone. Blyth, who at one time considered them distinct, in the J. A. S., XVIII., 12, note, declared his belief that the two were identical, and that *inornata* was the worn and abraded plumage of *macroura*. On a previous occasion, when contrasting the supposed two species, (J. A. S. XVI.) I imagine that he had the next species in view; and Hodgson, in his original description of *fusca*, had at that time probably not distinguished the next species. When freshly moulted, the sub-terminal dark band of the tail has more the character of a large spot, and the whitish tips are then more conspicuous, but, by abrasion, become lost and the spot appears as a band. In no case does the wing ever come up to 2 inches, more generally $1\frac{3}{4}$. The tail of course accidentally varies much length.

The common Wren-Warbler is found throughout India in low jungles, bushy ground, hedgerows, in cultivated ground, and even in gardens. It is generally in pairs, occasionally in small flocks, flying incessantly from bush to bush, hunting for insects, and every now and then descending to the ground. It has a rather loud monotonous note, *twee-twee-twee*; and occasionally one perches himself on the top of a bush, and gives a sort of feeble; but sprightly, twittering song. Its flight is feeble, struggling as it were, by jerks, and, when pursued, they conceal themselves in the thick bushes. I have found the nest and eggs repeatedly, usually in a thorny shrub, at about three or four feet from the ground. The nest is very neatly woven with grass, nearly globular, with a hole at the side, and lined with some soft down, generally that of the *Calotropis gigantea*, and sometimes with feathers. It is firmly fixed to some of the thorny twigs of the bush, and it is impossible to remove it without cutting the supporting branches. The eggs are from two to four, bright pale blue, with large blotches of purplish brown, one of the most beautiful eggs I know. I imagine that the nest described by me, under 118 of my Cat., probably refers to the next species.

This species probably extends to Ceylon, but Mr. Layard describes the nest as built among reeds, the tops of which it draws together into a dome over the nest. As stated above, I have always found the nest in a thorny shrub.

Mr. Blyth, J. A. S., XI., 883 and XVI., 459, described a Drymoica as *D. Jerdoni*, Cat. 803, from specimens sent by myself from Southern India, which he has since absorbed into *D. longicaudatus*, stating that this supposed species was founded on a rather large specimen with abraded plumage. This specimen is still in existence, though rather in a dilapidated state; and on examination of it, I am by no means certain of its identity, but shall not separate it till other specimens are obtained. It appears to me very similar to some Ceylon birds, which Mr Blyth doubtfully considered identical with *D. inornatus*. It appears intermediate in form between that species and *D. sylvaticus*.

544. *Drymoipus longicaudatus*, TICKELL.

J. A. S., II.—*P. macroura*, apud JERDON, Cat. 119—*D. nipalensis*, HODGSON, apud MOORE, P. Z. S., 1854, p.—*D. fusca*, HODGSON (in part), and *D. Franklinii*, apud BLYTH, J. A. S., XVI.,—and Cat. 805 (in part)—*D. Jerdoni*, BLYTH?

THE LONG-TAILED WREN-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above pale rufous brown; wings dusky, margined with bright rufous brown; tail rufous brown, paler beneath and distinctly rayed, with a terminal dusky band, seen most conspicuously above; the tips pale, not white; the whole under parts pale rufescent or lutescent, deeper on the flanks, and inclining to olivaceous.

Bill brown, pale fleshy at base of the lower mandible; legs fleshy brown; irides brownish orange. Length 5 to 6 inches according to length of tail; wing $1\frac{1}{4}$; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 and more; tarsus $\frac{1}{6}$; bill at front 11 mill.

A specimen from Cashmere, in the Museum, As Soc., is very pale throughout, the chin and throat more conspicuously white, and the bill darker and slightly shorter. Moore's description and measurements accord pretty exactly with those of mine; and I

have little doubt that Blyth's bird is the same. Compared with *D. inornatus*, it has always a more rufous tint above, more fulvescent tint beneath, the tail feathers are browner, the wings and tail are more distinctly marked with rufous, and the tail is considerably longer.

The long-tailed Wren-Warbler, like the last, is spread through India, but is only found in the more wooded and jungly districts. I have killed it on the Malabar Coast, on the Vindhian Mountains, and in Lower Bengal; and it has been procured in Central India, and Nepal. I have very little doubt that the nest and eggs described in my Catalogue under *P. inornata*, belonged to this species. I found it in a low bush on the edge of a water-course among some paddy fields in Malabar, near Trichoor. The nest was deep, cup-shaped, one side slightly raised where it was fixed to the bush, made of grass, well woven without any lining, and contained four pale blue eggs without any marks. Some nests, however, in the Museum, Asiatic Society, marked as of this species, correspond well with the nest and eggs of *D. inornatus*, as described above.

545. *Drymoipus sylvaticus*, JERDON.

Prinia, apud JERDON, Cat. 120—BLYTH, Cat. 799—HORSF., Cat. 508—*Konda lotakun jitta*, Tel.

THE JUNGLE WREN-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above olive-brown; superciliary streak and beneath white, tinged throughout with yellowish; tail obsoletely barred, with a narrow subterminal dark band, tipped with white, except on the central tail-feathers.

Bill black; legs dark fleshy yellow; irides orange buff. Length 6 inches; wing $2\frac{4}{10}$; tail $2\frac{7}{10}$ to 3; bill at front 12 mill.; tarsus 1. The bill is strong, as are the feet and legs.

This species is only found in Southern India, in low jungle in the Carnatic, in thin tree jungle on the Eastern Ghauts, and in the more open parts of the forest on the Malabar Coast, ranging up the slopes of the Neilgherries to 4,000 feet. It is generally in small flocks, has a loud reiterated note, and one is usually perched on the very top of a bush or low tree, apparently as a sentinel.

I found the nest in low jungle near Nellore, made chiefly of grass, with a few roots and fibres, globular, large, with a hole at one side near the top, and the eggs white, spotted very thickly with rusty red, especially at the thick end. Nearly allied species are *D. validus*, Blyth, from Ceylon, and *D. polychrous*, Temm., from Java (*Suya Blythii*, Bonap.)

546. *Drymoipus neglectus*, JERDON.

Prinia, apud JERDON, 2nd Suppl. Cat., 121 bis—BLYTH, Cat. 801—HORSEF., Cat. 509—*D. sylvatica*, apud BLYTH, J. A. S., XVI., 458—*Tot-rungi*, H in Central India

THE ALLIED WRIN-WARBLER.

Descr.—Plumage greenish ashy brown, but with a decided tinge of rufous throughout; beneath whitish, strongly tinged with olive fulvous; tail very faintly barred.

Bill dusky above, fleshy beneath; legs dingy fleshy; irides amber colour. Length nearly 6 inches; wing $2\frac{3}{8}$; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3; bill at front $\frac{4}{10}$; tarsus $\frac{9}{10}$.

This species chiefly differs from *D. sylvaticus* in its more rufescent tinge throughout. I obtained my specimens from the jungles skirting the base of the Eastern Ghats and from the Vindhian range near Mhow; and Mr. Blyth observed it in open bushy ground near tree jungle, N. W. of Midnapore, in straggling flocks of a dozen or more. It has also been procured in the N. W. Provinces, and it is Tickell's species, from Central India, J. A. S., 1848, p. 301, where he describes the nest and eggs, which are very similar to that of *sylvatica*, the eggs being described as fleshy white, with patches and scratches as of dried blood, darker spots showing through the shell. "Its note," says Mr. Blyth, "was a long continued and rapid repetition of the sound *twit, twit.*"

Gen. SUYA, Hodgs.

Syn. *Decurus*, Hodgs — *Drymoica*, pars. Auct.

Char.—Bill stout and compressed; gape with strong rictal bristles; tail of ten feathers, very long and much graduated; otherwise as in *Drymoipus*.

This is a mountain group of birds of rather larger size, and stouter form than the *Drymoipi* of the plains, with the tail very much lengthened. The plumage is obscurely striated, or rather with lateral pale edges to the feathers more or less developed, and the frontal feathers are inclined to be stiff.

547. *Suya criniger*, HODGSON.

As. Res. XIX., 183—BLYTH, Cat. 798—HORSEF., Cat. 504—Trochalopteron? ADAMS, P. Z. S., 1858, p. 486, No. 125—*Suya*, Nepal—*Dang prim-pho*, Lepch.—*Shik-shillik*, Bhot.

THE BROWN MOUNTAIN WREN-WARBLER.

Descr.—Above dusky olive-brown (with pale lateral margins to the feathers, often, however, entirely abraded), somewhat darker on the cap, paler on the tail, which is faintly banded throughout, and with subterminal dusky spots and whitish tips; below rufescent yellow, shaded on the breast and flanks with brownish; lining of the wings buff.

Bill dusky black; legs fleshy grey; irides pale brown. Length nearly 8 inches; extent 7; wing $2\frac{3}{8}$; tail $4\frac{1}{2}$; bill at front $\frac{7}{10}$; tarsus $1\frac{5}{8}$. The female is a little smaller.

This bird is entirely confined to the Himalayas, from Cashmere to Sikhim. It is found among low bushes and brushwood, chiefly, from a moderately low elevation up to 7,000 feet, and upwards. It seeks its food on the ground, and lives on various small insects and larvæ. It makes a large, loosely constructed nest of fine grass, the opening near the top a little at one side, and lays three or four eggs of a fleshy white, with numerous rusty red small spots, tending to form a ring at the large end. It is not common about Darjeeling, but appears more so in the N. W. Himalayas. Hutton says "It delights to sit on the summit of tall grass, or even of an oak tree, from whence it pours forth a loud and long continued grating note, like the filing of a saw."

548. *Suya fuliginosa*, HODGSON.

Decurus fuliginosus, HODGS., GRAY, Zool. Misc., and Cat. of Birds of Nepal—HORSEF., Cat. 505.

THE DUSKY HILL-WARBLER.

This species differs from *S. cinioer.* in having a more robust bill which is entirely black, the feathers of the breast being dusky black, with rufescent-white shafts and tips. The legs are also shorter.

This species has only been sent from Nepal; it is intermediate to the last and the following species: and, as the next species, which is common about Darjeeling, is not included in Hodgson's list of Nepal birds, it is possible that an imperfect specimen of *atroregularis* was so named by Hodgson.

549. *Suya atroregularis*, MOORE.

P. Z. S., 1854—HORSF., Cat. 506—*Prim-pho*, Lepch.—*Shik-shillik*, Bhot.

Descr.—Above dusky olive-brown, or dusky brown, distinctly darker and cinereous on the head and neck; edge of wing at the shoulder, and under-wing coverts buff; primaries margined with buffish, and secondaries with rufescent brown; a whitish streak extending from the base of the lower mandible to the end of, and under, the ear-coverts; chin, throat, sides of neck and breast, black; the feather of the latter centred with white; the flanks and sides of abdomen mixed grey-brown and rufescent; vent olivaceous buff; thighs buffy rufous; tail paler than the back, without perceptible terminal band; the feathers narrow.

Bill horny brown; legs pale fleshy brown; irides yellow brown. Length $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $1\frac{1}{8}$ to 2; tail 4; bill at front $1\frac{4}{8}$; tarsus 1.

This black-breasted Wren-Warbler is not uncommon about Darjeeling, frequenting brushwood, among which it generally conceals itself, now and then coming out, and, seated on the top of some shrub, uttering a harsh grating note. It makes its nest of fine grass and withered stalks, large, very loosely put together, globular, with a hole near the top, and lays three or four eggs, entirely dull Indian red color. It has been sent from Nepal as well as from Sikhim, and I lately procured on the Khasia hills.

The next bird has been separated by Mr. Blyth as the type of another genus.

Gen. BURNESIA, Blyth.

Bill very slender, rictal setæ minute and fine; tail graduate; legs long; plumage distinctly streaked; of small size and delicate form; otherwise as in *Drymoipus*.

One species is found in India, and others apparently in Africa.

550. *Burnesia lepida*, BLYTH.

Drymoica, apud BLYTH, J. A. S., XIII., 376; and XVI., 460—BLYTH, Cat. 807—HORSE, Cat. 507—*Khur-phootki*, II. at Monghyr—*Door*, Sindh.

THE STREAKED WREN-WARBLER.

Descr.—General color light olive-grey above, each feather having a medial dusky streak, broader on those of the crown and back; wings light dusky-brown; the feathers margined with olive-grey, and the tail throughout distinctly, but obsoletely, banded above with narrow transverse duskyish lines, below pale, with whitish tips and a sub-terminal dusky band, or rather spot, on the inner web of each feather; the under parts throughout are greyish white; the lores, and a slight supercilium, of the same hue.

Bill plumbeous^{*} above, carneous below; legs pale carneous-yellow; irides light yellowish brown. Length $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; wing $1\frac{3}{4}$; extent $5\frac{1}{2}$; tail $2\frac{5}{8}$; tarsus $\frac{5}{8}$; bill at front $\frac{3}{8}$.

This streaked Warbler has hitherto been only found along the banks of the Hooghly and the Indus. Mr. Blyth found it in the former locality, where says he, "It inhabits low scrub intermixed with tufts of coarse sedgy grass, growing in sandy places by the river side, and it frequently flies out to feed among the thin herbage growing along the margin of the sand-dunes." I found it not rare in Tamarisk scrub, on some large churrs on the Ganges, at Monghyr.

Dr. Gould, who observed it near Kurrachee, says, "It frequents marshy bushes at the sea-side, in Scinde; it is difficult to find and shoot, for it runs among the roots, and now and then it perches on a twig, and gives forth a wheezy feeble song, and then drops again into the thickets." It is also figured among the drawings of Sir A. Burnes, who found it in the same locality as Dr. Gould.

It appears very similar to *Malurus gracilis*, of Rüppell; and *M. clamans*, Rüppell, may be another species of the same group. Mr. Blyth pointed out to me that it was very possibly this species noticed on the Indus by Lieut. Wood* in the month of July, 'nestling on the half-drowned islands, hanging its neatly constructed little nest to the top of a flexile grass stalk, and rearing its young in security, where all is flooded beneath and around it.'

The next species belongs to a different type, and has been named *Franklinia* by Mr. Blyth.

Gen FRANKLINIA, Blyth.

Char.—Bill stout, compressed, deep; culmen moderately curved towards the tip; wings short; tail broad, moderately lengthened, and graduated, of twelve feathers, white-tipped; tarsi and feet stout.

This small group, composed of one Indian, and perhaps one African species, has much the habits and make of a small *Malacocercus*, or *Chatarrhæa*.

551. *Franklinia Buchanani*, BLYTH.

Prinia, apud BLYTH, J. A. S., XIII., 376—*P. rufifrons*, JERDON, Cat. 121—BLYTH, Cat. 806—*Pr. brunnifrons*, HODGSON.

THE RUFOUS-FRONTED WREN-WARBLER.

Descr.—Forehead and head pale rufous; plumage above greenish ashy; beneath white; tail brown, all the feathers except the two central ones, broadly terminated by white, more broadly so on the outermost feathers.

Bill brown above, yellowish beneath; legs fleshy; irides pale orange buff. Length $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; wing $2\frac{2}{10}$; tail $2\frac{2}{10}$; bill at front 10 mill.; tarsus $\frac{1}{10}$.

This little Wren-Warbler, of all the group, has most of the manners of the *Malacocerci*. It is always in flocks of six, eight, or more, is wary, and flies before you from bush to bush with a low chirping whistle. I have found it in low thorny jungle in the

* Journey to the Source of the Oxus, p. 101.