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ILLUSTRATIONS
OF
INDIAN ORNITHOLOGY.

BY

T. C. JERDON, Esq.

MADRAS MEDICAL ESTABLISHMENT

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MADRAS.

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APRIL, 1846



ORD. INSESSORES.

TRIBE—SCANSORES.

GEN. BUCCO.

PLATE XXVI.

BUCCO VIRIDIS,

GREEN BARBET.

Synon.—*B. Viridis*, L., Jerd. Cat. No. 217 in part—*Le Barbu vert*, Buff—*Le Barbu de Mahé*, P. F.

THE genus *Bucco*, as at present limited, is a well marked one, and appears confined to India and the Eastern Isles. Green is the predominant colour, both of the upper and lower surface, varied, according to the species, about the head and neck, with other colours, sometimes most brilliant.

The present species belongs to a small group, of which there are at least three species in continental India, distinguished by the plain brown and white markings of the head and neck. They abound in all the large forests, where their loud voice *Köturr*, *K'turr*, *Koturr*, may be heard ringing through the woods for a vast distance, throughout most of the day. They feed chiefly on fruit, also on insects; and, like parrots and woodpeckers, intermediate to which they appear to be, they breed in holes of trees, laying, I am informed, three or four white eggs. They are almost always seen singly, a pair, however, being usually not being far from each other.

The species figured on the plate is chiefly found in the woods on the Neilgherries, but also here and there in the forests of Malabar, chiefly in the higher portions of the Ghauts. Its note is hardly so loud as that of its more common congener of the Malabar forests, viz. *B. Zeylanicus*. Its flight, as indeed is that of all the species, is rapid, direct, and somewhat undulating. It perches generally on lofty branches of trees, and on a wood being beaten for game, several of these may be seen winging their way over the tops of the trees to a more secure spot.

I suspect that the call of this bird, or of the *B. Zeylanicus*, was mistaken for that of *Nyctiornis Athertoni* by the discoverer of that bird, as related in Jardine and Selby's Ill.

Orn. pl. 58 ; for it is described as being exactly the call of a *Bucco*, whilst that of the *Nyctiornis* is a loud rolling whistle. I have also heard the call of the *Bucco* by moonlight ' occasionally, but never that of the *Nyctiornis*.

I add a description of the Green Barbet. Head and neck above brown, sometimes tinged or rather edged with greenish ; superciliary stripe, mark from the gape extending over the ears, throat and neck, yellowish white, the feathers of the lower part of the neck edged with brown ; rest of the plumage bright green, darkest above, and paling beneath ; bill, and naked skin round eye, brown ; tarsus leaden colour ; quills brown on the inner web only, except the first three which are edged with green.

Length about $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, of wing 4, tail $2\frac{1}{2}$, tarsus 1. bill (at front) $\frac{1}{2}$ ths, (at gape) $1\frac{1}{2}$ ths.



1 P h m

1 P h m

ORD. RAPTORES.

FAM. BUTEONIDÆ.

GEN. BUTEO.

PLATE XXVII.

BUTEO RUFIVENTER,

RUFOUS BUZZARD.

Synon.—*B. Rufiventer*, Jerdon Cat.—No. 21 bis. Suppl.

I have only obtained this species of Buzzard on the Neilgherries, where indeed it is very rare, as I only procured two specimens, one of which was seated on the edge of a swamp, and the other on a solitary tree on the side of a hill. It does not appear to frequent woods. The stomach of one I procured contained the remains of a lizard. I have occasionally seen one of the kind seated near the lake of Ootacamund, and a marsh in the neighbourhood, and fancy that it occasionally at least feeds on frogs.

I know nothing else of its habits, nor even if it is a permanent resident on the hills. In plumage it is closely allied to Hodgson's fine *Buteo canescens*, my *longipes*.

Male.—Brief description of its plumage. Above pale brown, each feather edged with rufous, especially on the head and neck; rump and upper tail coverts uniform brown; tail pale rufous, with narrow brown bars, the last widest; quills grey brown, white on the inner web with brown bars, except at the tip, beneath nearly pure white, forming a conspicuous broad white patch on the centre of the closed wing; cheeks and throat whitish, each feather centred rufous brown: rest of plumage beneath bright rufous or chesnut, barred with white; thigh coverts darker and not barred. Irides brown—cere and legs yellow.

Length about 21 inches, wing 15, tail 8, bill (at gape) $1\frac{1}{2}$, tarsus $3\frac{1}{4}$, wings reach nearly to the end of the tail.



be-mard, hth

beve-mop-bend

FALCO TEREGRINATOR.

ORD. RAPTORES.

FAM. FALCONIDÆ.

GEN. FALCO.

PLATE XXVIII.

FALCO PEREGRINATOR,

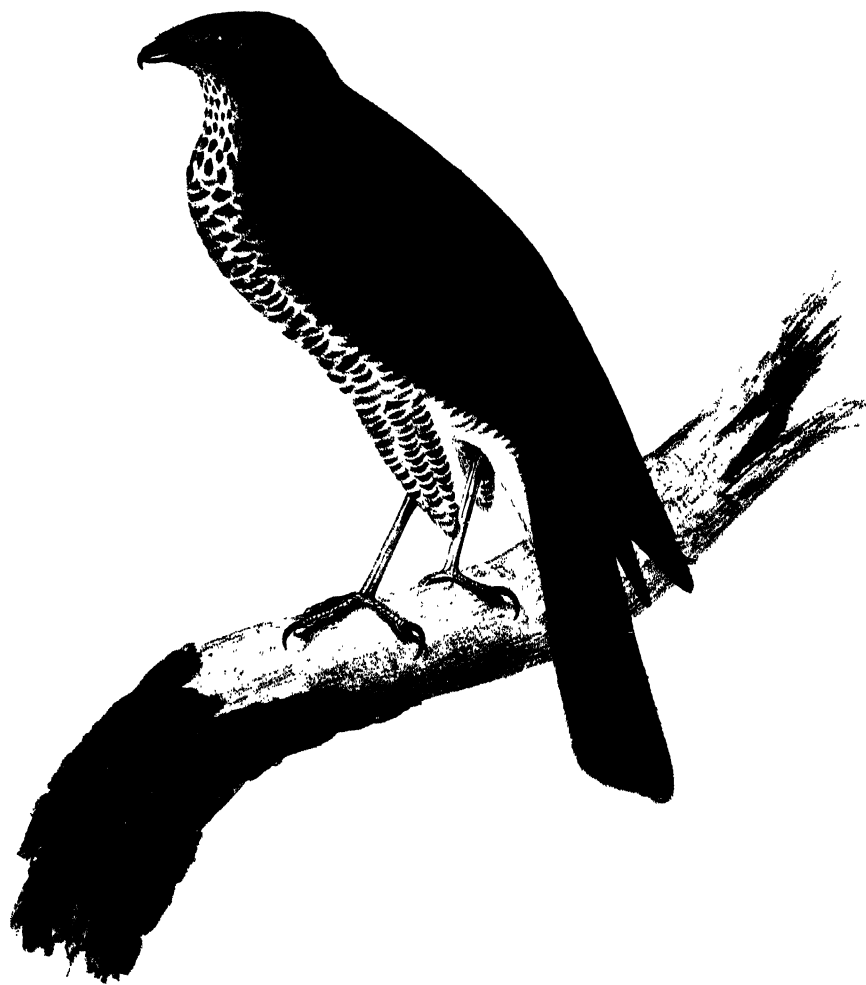
THE SHAHEEN FALCON.

Synon.—*F. Shaheen*, Jerdon Cat. No. 29, and Ill. Ind. Orn. Pl. xii. q. v.

At Plate XII. of the present work I gave a figure of the male of the present fine Falcon, under the name of *F. Shaheen*. It is only quite recently, since indeed the publication of Mr. Gray's list of the Raptores of the British museum, that it has been ascertained by British Ornithologists to have been described by Sundevall, a Swedish Naturalist who visited Calcutta, under the name now applied to it. I am much inclined to consider that the figure of the Falcon in the Pl. Enl. 469 was taken from a *Shaheen*, but this is said to have been European, and the *Shaheen* has not to my knowledge been hitherto enumerated, except in the Fauna of India, though I have little doubt that it extends far west, throughout Asia at all events.

The present figure was taken from a living trained female in my possession, that had completed one moult. The subsequent changes consist in the whole of the spots on the lower surface gradually disappearing, and in the upper plumage becoming lighter, and more slaty in hue.

Dimensions of a female are as follows: length about $18\frac{1}{2}$, wing $13\frac{1}{2}$, tail $6\frac{1}{4}$. With reference to the *addendum* at the end of my first Number, I may state that the *F. gullatus* there alluded to is not the Shaheen.



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100000

ORD. RAPTORES.

FAM. ACCIPITRINÆ.

GEN. ACCIPITER.

PLATE XXIX.

ACCIPITER BESRA.

THE ADULT BESRA HAWK.

For Synon.—vide Plate IV.

The accompanying is another representation of a bird previously figured, but in a different state of plumage, and has moreover the advantage of having been figured from the living bird, a female, after her first moult. Shikarees state that it does not vary except in intensity of shade from the plumage exhibited in future moults.

I am confident that it will prove to be a distinct and well marked species. The specific name *minutus* of Latham, I believe, was originally given to a species killed in Malta, most probably an African one; and the Malayan *virgatus*, with which it is supposed identical by Strickland, is a very distinct, though nearly allied species. For an account of dimensions, habits, &c. see Plate IV. of the present Illustrations.



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ORD. RAPTORES.

FAMILY STRIGIDÆ.

GENUS STRIX.

PLATE XXX.

STRIX CANDIDA.

LONG-LEGGED GRASS OWL.

Synon.—*S. Longimembris*—Jerdon, Cat. No. 38, *S. Candida*, Tickell, *S. Javanica* apud Blyth.

When I named this Owl as new, I had only met with a single specimen, which was shot on the Neilgherries near Coonoor. Since that time I have obtained other specimens, in the Nellore district, once in long grass when hunting for florikin, and again among long reeds in the dry bed of the tank at Yeroor, which had been fired to drive out some wild hog we were in search of.

On comparing it again with Tickell's description I find it agrees well enough, except as to the tarsi, which are said to be 'denuded,' but I imagine that he only meant it as comparatively so with *flammeus*, and as he especially mentions the fact of its being found only in long grass, I have now little doubt that they are identical, and have accordingly adopted his name. Mr. Blyth appears to think it may have been the species mentioned by Latham as *S. Javanica*, Gm. and de Wurmb, but I doubt much if it be the original species from Java. It was known to Buchanan, but Mr. Blyth has not obtained it from Bengal as yet.

The present figure was taken from a living specimen.

I add a description. Upper plumage generally brown, mixed with yellow, and spotted with white. Beneath white, tinged with ochreous, and spotted with brown. Face white, with a dark spot at the inner angle of the eye. Quills and tail barred with buff and brown; some of the secondaries blotched with white; bill pink, legs reddish brown. Irides dark brown, lower part of the tarsus nearly denuded of feathers.

Length about 17 inches, of wing 14, tail $5\frac{1}{4}$, tars. $3\frac{1}{16}$, middle toe $2\frac{1}{4}$, extent of wings 46.

The species of Owl figured by Dr. A Smith in his Zoology of South Africa as *S. Capensis* much resembles this in colours and structure.



ORD. INSESSORES.

FAM. MERULIDÆ

SUB-FAM. BRACHYPODINÆ.

GEN. BRACHYPODIUS—BL.

PLATE XXXI.

BRACHYPODIUS POIOICEPHALUS.

WHITE-EYED BULBUL.

Synon—*Brachypus Poioicephalus*.—Jerdon, Cat. No. 70.

I only once procured this species of Bulbul in forest at the foot of the Persia pass leading from Malabar into Wynaad.—It was feeding in small flocks on the tops of high trees, and I found had been eating berries.

Lord A. Hay procured one specimen at the foot of the Coonoor pass, and Captain Roberts of the 36th N. I. showed me a drawing of this bird, which he had procured on the West coast.

It is somewhat allied in colours to the *Brachypus eutilotus* of Jardine and Selby, which it further resembles in the copiousness of its rump feathers, and Mr. Blyth has classed them in the same genus.

Description.—Crown of head, occiput, and throat, bluish grey, forehead siskin green; back, wings, and lower plumage oil green, lighter towards the vent; rump feathers light yellowish green, broadly barred with black; tail with the centre feathers greenish grey, lateral feathers black at base terminated with grey; under tail coverts light grey. Irides bluish white; bill and legs greenish.

Length 7 inches, wing 3, tail $2\frac{1}{4}$ tars. $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, bill (at front) $\frac{1}{4}$ ths.

Mr. Blyth, in a paper in the Journal Asiatic Society for 1845, page 546, has reviewed all the Indian *Brachipodinae*, and has formed the genus *Brachipodius* (p. 576) for this and 4 or 5 other species.



Comstock lith.

Printed by Henry Booth

MUSCICAPULA SAPHIRA Blyth

ORD. INSESSORES.

FAM. MUSCICAPIDÆ.

GEN. MUSCICAPULA.

PLATE XXXII.

MUSCICAPULA SAPPHIRA.

SAPPHIRE HEADED FLYCATCHER.

THE vast addition to the species of *Muscicapidae* made of late, especially in India, having required a revision of the whole group, Mr. Blyth has recently* adopted several new genera, to one of which the subject of the present plate appertains. Mr. Blyth approximates it to the *Siphya* of Hodgson, from which, says he, it differs in its small size, and feeble legs and toes. I consider that its nearest affinity is with the group *Cyornis* of Blyth.

I add Mr. Blyth's description of the present bird, which was procured from the hill station of Darjeeling. Colour of the upper parts rich dark purplish blue, inclining to ultramarine on the rump and upper tail coverts; forehead and crown vivid smalt blue; the lores black; foreneck and breast rich purple, with a broad median line of deep and bright ferruginous; flanks greyish, the belly and forepart of the wings underneath, with the axillaries, white; alars and tail black, edged with blue externally; bill and feet black.

Length 5 inch—wing $2\frac{1}{2}$ —tail $1\frac{7}{8}$ ths—bill to gape $\frac{9}{16}$ ths—tarsus $\frac{5}{8}$ ths.

* Journ. As. Soc. 1843, page 239, &c



R. L. P. 1891

Engraved by Reeve Brothers

OTIS AURITA.



Picus Cordeatus

ORD. RASORES.

GEN. OTIS.

PLATE XXXIII.

OTIS AURITA.

THE BLACK FLORIKIN.

Synon.—*Otis Aurita*—*Passarage Bustard*—Latham, No. 13, perhaps *O. Indica*?—*O. fulva*—Sykes—*O. Bengalensis*, apud Lesson—but not of older Authors—*O. Gularis*—Do.

MAJOR Franklin and Colonel Sykes in their Catalogues of the birds of Central India and the Deccan, having pronounced the common *Florikin* of India to be a distinct species from the Black one, I entered at some length, in my Catalogue of the birds of Southern India, into the reasons which led me to conclude that the views entertained by these writers were erroneous, and showed that the *Black Florikin* was nothing more than the cock-bird in the summer or breeding plumage. Since that article was written, I have had considerable additional experience, and every thing has tended to corroborate that opinion, and I may state, not only in my own estimation, but in that of almost every sportsman of experience with whom I have conversed on the subject. Some gentlemen were at first inclined to doubt this change, fancying it an anomaly, but when I pointed out that many of the birds of England underwent a similar periodical change, and that the *Golden Plover* assumed every summer a plumage nearly identical with that of the *Black Florikin*, they no longer hesitated to concur in my views.

My reasons for believing the Black and the common *Florikin* to be one and the same bird, may be here briefly recapitulated.

1stly. All *Black Florikin* hitherto examined have been male birds.

2ndly. The *Black Florikin* agrees exactly in size, and comparative dimensions, with the male of the common *Florikin*, as described fully by Colonel Sykes, but more especially in the length of wing, and acumination of the primary quills, the points insisted on by him, and most correctly so, as the essential points of difference from the female.

Illustrations of Indian Ornithology.

3rdly. Some black feathers are in general to be found on every cock-bird, not however always noticeable till the feathers of the abdomen are pulled aside; and this mottling with black varies from a feather or two to so many that the bird would be considered by sportsmen a *Black Florikin*.

4thly. I have watched the progressive change in birds at Jalnah, where a few couple always remain and breed, from the garb of the female to the perfect *Black Florikin*, and back again from this the nuptial plumage, to the more sober livery of the rest of the year.

5thly. I have seen more than one specimen of the cock-bird in the usual grey plumage, which from some cause or other had not as usual dropped the long ear feathers, but these had, in conformity with the change in the system causing this alteration of plumage, become white.

These reasons will I trust be considered sufficient to convince the most sceptical sportsmen of the identity of the common and *Black Florikin*. Other testimony might be brought forward in support, but I shall only cite that of Lieut. Foljambes, in a brief paper in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, who, from observations in Guzrat, where they appear very numerous, states it as his belief that they are the same bird, but that the Black one is only met with in Guzrat during the monsoon, which as we shall soon see is the breeding season.

Although I believe that a few couples remain and breed in many parts of the country, yet there is, I think, no doubt that the great body of them migrate to the Peninsula at the beginning of the cold weather in October, and remain till March or April, when they disappear for the purpose of breeding. Where this takes place can only be conjectured, but it is most likely in the Central and North-Western Provinces of India. Guzrat, according to Mr. Foljambes, is certainly one locality, as he expressly says that they abound, even during the monsoon, and that the Black ones are then common. In the Deccan, about Jalnah, the few that remain breed towards the latter end of the monsoon in August, September, and even as late as October. By this time the heavy rains have brought up a high growth of grass, and in many of the fields the grain is high. In the few instances in which I have heard of the *Florikin* breeding in the Carnatic it has been much later, viz. in November, December and January, for here, owing to the late monsoon, which only commences in October, the grass attains no height till November.

In the neighbourhood of Jalnah, I have found the cock-birds commencing to assume the Black plumage at the end of April and beginning of May, and have shot

Illustrations of Indian Ornithology.

them with the long black ear-tufts just commencing to sprout, hardly any other black feathers being observable. In other instances I have noticed that these ear-tufts did not appear till the bird had assumed a mottled appearance from the number of black feathers. During this season the females are remarkably shy and wary, and though I knew of many instances where they were flushed from their eggs, I but seldom procured a hen-bird, whilst the cock-birds were nearly as easily procurable as at any other season. Though I have been informed by native Shikarees, that they have seen the black bird occasionally in company with the hen at this time, and walking round her whilst she was sitting on her eggs, I am yet inclined to believe that the cock-birds withdraw from the society of their mates soon after incubation has commenced. I judge this from the circumstance that I have always noticed a large proportion of male birds in the first batch that have arrived in the beginning of the cold weather, and the hen-birds in larger proportion afterwards; from which I conclude that the cock-birds impelled by the *vis migrationis*, have forsaken their mates who had not yet brought up their broods, and were consequently unable to undertake so early the emigration southwards. I remember well that in 1837, when at Trichinopoly, a great proportion of the birds brought in by the Shikarees at the beginning of the season were not only cock-birds, but very many of them in fine black plumage, though most of them had commenced the change to the usual grey tints.

The *Florikin* lays three or four eggs of a thick stunted ovoid form, very obtuse at the larger end, and of a dark olive colour.

The *Florikin* frequents long grass in preference to any other situation. It is, however, often to be met with in grain fields, in fields of Cotton, and Dholi; and in the Carnatic so much in those of the grain called *Warragoo*, as to be called in Tamool *Warragoo Koolé*, or *Warragoo Fowl*. It feeds chiefly in the morning, and is then easily raised, but during the heat of the day it lies very close, and is often flushed with difficulty. I have known an instance of one being killed by a horse walking over it. Now and then an exceedingly wary one is met with, which runs to a great distance, and takes wing well out of shot. When walking or running it raises its tail, as is represented on the drawing, the lateral feathers diverging downwards, whilst those of the centre are the most elevated, as is seen in domestic fowls, &c., forming what Swainson calls an *erect* or compressed tail. The chief food of the *Florikin* is grasshoppers. I have found also blister beetles, (*Mylabris*) *Scarabæi*, Centipedes, and even small lizards. When flushed suddenly it utters a kind of sharp quirk, or note of alarm, and it is said also to have a feeble plaintive chirp or piping note, when

Illustrations of Indian Ornithology.

running or feeding. Its flesh is very delicate, and of excellent flavour, and it is the most esteemed here of all the game birds. Its pursuit is consequently a favorite sport, and from the open nature of the ground it frequents, it is well adapted for being hawked. I have killed it occasionally with the *Luggur*, but generally with the *Shaheen*, and have already (at Plate xii) given an account of the manner of hunting it. Should the *Shaheen* miss her first stoop, I have seen the *Florikin* accelerate its speed so greatly, that the falcon was unable to come up with it again under 600 yards or so. I have seen one struck dead by the *Wokhab*, *Aquila Vindhiana*; I had slipped a *Luggur* at it, which was in hot pursuit, though at some little distance behind, when two of these Eagles came down from a vast height, and joined in the chase. One of them made a headlong swoop at it, which the *Florikin* most skilfully avoided, only however to fall a victim to the talons of the other, which stooped almost immediately after its confederate, and dashed the poor bird lifeless to the ground. It had not, however, time to pick it up, for I rode up, and the Eagles soared off most unwillingly, and circled in the air long above me. The *Florikin* had its back laid open the whole length. The *Luggur* on seeing the Eagles join the chase, gave up at once and returned to the falconer's fist.

The *Florikin* is occasionally snared by some of the bird-catchers, but as this is a very uncertain process for catching a bird of such wandering habits, the gun is had resort to in general, and considerable numbers are brought into the markets in the districts where they abound—and fetch from half a rupee to a rupee each.

The *Florikin* is called by the Mussulmans of Southern India *Churx*. Latham I see gives this name, calling it *Churrus* and *Cirris*, which indeed is much the pronunciation of the word. In the Telinga language it is sometimes called, I am informed, *Kāmi-lēdi-pitta*, but generally *nela-nemili*, or ground Peacock; the Malratta name, *Tun-mōr*, having exactly the same meaning, and in Hardwicke's notes (says Latham) the *Otis Bengalensis*, also called *Florikin* in Bengal, and *Churx* in Hindustani, is called in Sanscrit *Trīna mayara*, (properly *Trina mayūra*) which means grass Peacock. Its Tamool name I have already given. Its name in Canarese is *Kun-nowl*, which has much the same signification. It appears that the Bengal sportsmen apply the word *Florikin* only to the large *O. Bengalensis*, since named *deliciosa* by Gray, and *Himalayanus* by Vigors; and they call our bird the *leek*, or lesser *Florikin*. The origin of the word *Florikin* is not exactly known, but I have heard that either it, or *Flanderkin*, was the old English name for the little bustard of Europe. Latham gives, on the authority of various drawings, the Native name *Oorail*, which I have not heard; *Chulla Churx*, *Ab-*

Illustrations of Indian Ornithology.

luk-cherui, which means *Pied bird*, and *Flercher* in English. This latter is, I think, evidently of the same origin as *Florikin*. Others (says he) call it the *Passarage Plover*, which is the name applied to it in Pennant's *Hindostan*, where there is a figure of it. In one drawing it was called *Tok-dar*; which, however, is the name of the Bustard, *O. Nigriceps*. An indifferent figure of the *Black Florikin*, in a state of change, is given at Plate X. of the *Zoology of the Voyage of Belanger*. Lesson, the author of the article, says that he does not know a figure of the adult *O. Aurita*, (though it had been previously I believe figured in Jardine and Selby's *Illustrations of Ornithology*) and that a specimen did not exist in the public collections of Paris. He also asserts its identity with *O. Gularis* and *Bengalensis* of the French Museum, and of some modern authors, and then says, "Thus the *Otis Bengalensis* is evidently only the *O. Aurita* without its ear tufts (palettes). It is the *Like* of the Hindoos." I know not on what authority he alleges this. On referring to Latham's account of *O. Bengalensis*, he gives its height 22 inches, and weight 12 to 14lb, &c. &c., so there can, I think, be very little doubt that the *O. Aurita* is not intended. Buffon too calls it (the *Bengalensis*;) the *Churge* or *L'Outarde Moyenne des Indes*, expressly because it is intermediate in size between the great and little Bustard of Europe.—Latham's *Black Headed Bustard*, No. 6, is perhaps meant for our bird.

I shall now give a short description of both male and female.

Length of the male bird from 18 to 19 inches—wing about 8—tail 4—tarsus barely 4—bill (at front) $1\frac{3}{8}$ ths—weight 16 to 18 oz.

When in full breeding plumage, the head ear-tufts, neck, medial wing coverts, and lower plumage are deep black; chin, lower part of hind neck, and a large patch on the wing, white; the rest of the plumage dark brown, mottled with fulvous; the first three quills dusky brown, the remainder light fulvous yellow, barred and mottled with brown. The ear-tufts usually three in number on each side, and four inches long, rise from the lower portion of the ear coverts.

Irides pale yellowish, clouded with dusky. Bill dusky above, with the edges of the upper and all the lower mandible yellowish. Legs and feet dirty whitish yellow.

The female measures from $19\frac{1}{2}$ to 21 inches—wing $9\frac{3}{4}$ —tail nearly 5—tarsus $4\frac{1}{4}$ —bill (at front) $1\frac{1}{2}$ —weighs 20 to 24 oz.

The prevalent color of her plumage is pale fulvous yellow, the feathers on the head, back, wings and tail, clouded and barred with deep brown—those on the head almost quite brown; foreneck with two irregular interrupted streaks, increasing on lower neck, and breast, lower plumage thence being unspotted and almost white;

Illustrations of Indian Ornithology.

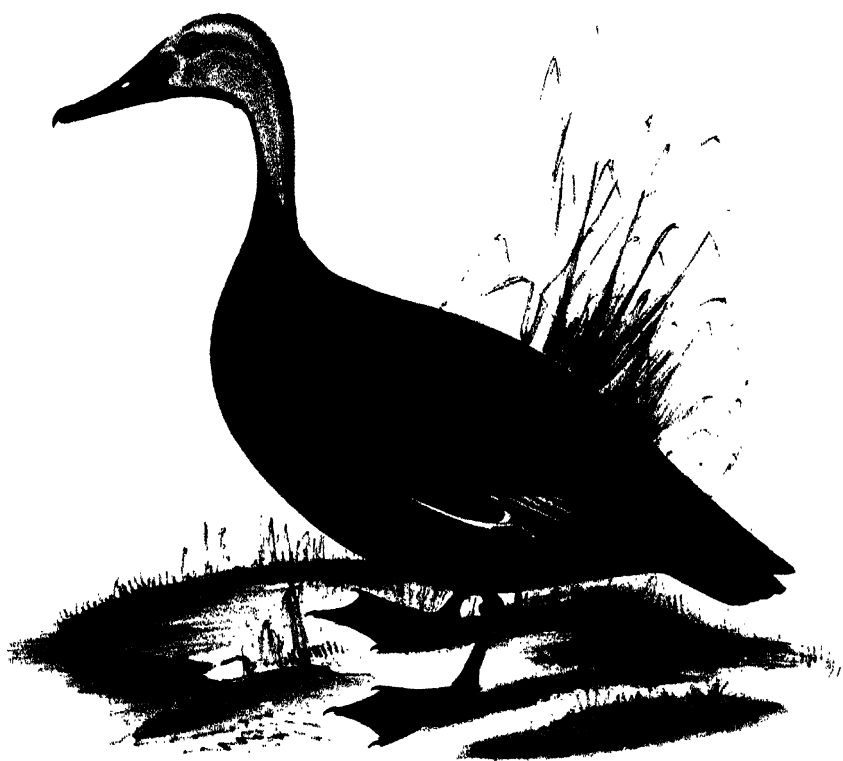
hind neck finely speckled with brown; chin and throat white. First three quills almost entirely dark brown, the subsequent ones fulvous, barred with brown; wing coverts with only a few small bars of brown.

The male in winter plumage differs from the female only in always (I believe) having the shoulders and part of the wing coverts partially white, and in the under wing coverts being dark brown, whilst in the female they are pale fulvous, some lengthened feathers of the sides alone being brown in her.

The down at the base of all the feathers is pale pink, and the feather of the wing when freshly moulted, have a beautiful bloom on them, partly pink, and partly greenish. The quills are much narrowed, and in the male exceedingly acuminate, sometimes ending in a point almost as fine as that of a needle, as Colonel Sykes first pointed out; and this, with the smaller dimensions of wing, tarsus, &c., will always point out to the sportsman the sex of the bird he has shot. Colonel Sykes also mentions that the feathers of the back and scapulars are triangular at the point.

The *Florikin* of Southern India has, I see, been lately placed in a new sub-genus of *Otis*, named *Sypheotides* by Lesson, a division, which the smaller size of the male, its ear-tufts, and other peculiarities perhaps would warrant us in adopting. I have not seen any account of a similar difference between the sexes of any of the African small Bustards, and in the European little Bustard as well as in the large Bustards of Europe and India, the male bird is much the largest of the two.

I see it mentioned in Yarrell's *British Birds*, that the little Bustard of Europe also undergoes a periodical change in the breeding season, assuming a black collar on the neck, with a white gorget and ring.



ANAS CARYOPHYLLACEA.

ORD. NATATORES.

FAM. ANATIDÆ.

GENUS ANAS.

PLATE XXXIV.

ANAS CARYOPHYLLACEA.

PINK HEADED DUCK.

Syn.—*A. Caryophyllacea*, Latham Ind. Orn.—*Le Millouin à cou rose*.—Lesson, *Traité*, No. 40.

I inserted this Duck in my Catalogue of Indian Birds on the authority of some Shikarees at Jahnah, who described it accurately as being a rare visitant to that neighbourhood. Lesson inserts it in his '*Traité*' as existing in the Paris Museum, though Swainson* says he had never heard of a specimen dead or alive in England.

Since my Catalogue was published I have obtained two specimens, one from the Nellore district, and the other (in imperfect plumage) in the Madras Market. It must however be considered a very rare kind, even in the North of India, as Mr. Blyth has but seldom procured it. Latham says that it is common in Oude, and lives generally in pairs, is often kept tame, and becomes tolerably familiar. I should be glad if any Sportsmen would communicate to me instances of its occurrence here.

I add a description—head, cheeks, sides, and hind neck, pale pink or rose colour; the rest of the plumage of a glossy reddish brown, somewhat paler beneath; speculum and inner webs of quills pale reddish fawn; edge of the wing white; some of the tertiaries lengthened and glossy green—bill red—legs leaden.

Length about 24 inches—Wing $10\frac{1}{2}$ —Tail 4—Tarsus $1\frac{4}{10}$ th—Bill at gape $2\frac{1}{2}$.

* *Animals in Menageries*, p. 277.



ORD. INSESSORES.

FAM. BRACHYPODINÆ.

GEN. PYCNONOTUS.

PLATE XXXV.

PYCNONOTUS XANTHOLÆMUS.

YELLOW THROATED BULBUL.

In the second Supplement to my Catalogue of Indian Birds just published, I have described this Bird, which was brought me from the Eastern range of Ghauts dividing Cuddapah from the Nellore district, by some excellent hill Shikarees to whom I am indebted for more than one novelty. They describe it as frequenting the densest woods in elevated valleys, and assert that it lives chiefly on fruit of various kinds. The name they apply to it is *Konda poda pigli*, or hill bush bulbul, the name *poda pigli* being always applied to *Pycnonotus flavirictus* (my *Tricophorus virescens*).

I have not seen specimens from any other part of the country.

Description—crown of head yellowish green; throat and fore-neck pale yellow; upper plumage ashy, tinged with green, especially on wings and tail; beneath pale ashy, under tail coverts and lower tibial plumes, yellow; tail feathers, except the centre ones, tipped with whitish, the external most broadly so—Bill black; legs and feet dark plumbeous; irides said to be red.

Length nearly 8 inches—wing $3\frac{9}{10}$ th—Tail $3\frac{1}{2}$ —Tarsus $\frac{9}{10}$ th—Bill at front $\frac{1}{10}$ th—at gape $\frac{8}{10}$ th.



ORD. RASORES.

FAM. TETRAONIDÆ.

GEN. PTEROCLES.

PLATE XXXVI.

PTEROCLES QUADRICINCTUS.

PAINTED ROCK-GROUSE.

FEMALE.

A FIGURE of the male bird, with a full account of its habits, having already appeared at Plate X. of the present work, I can only add here, that it is said to be identical with the bird from Western Africa. I have had this bird in confinement for a few days, and its call when alarmed was very grouse-like.

Description.—Plumage generally ochreous yellow, (the feathers when fresh moulted having a strong tinge of pink) spotted and barred with dark brown; beneath pale ashey, finely barred with brown; quills as in the male bird.



ORD. INSESSORES.

FAM. BRACHYPODINÆ.

GEN. BRACHYPUS.

PLATE XXXVII.

BRACHYPUS RUBINEUS.

RUBY THROATED BULBUL.

Synon.—*Brachypus Gularis*.—Gould, Proc. Zoo. Soc.—1835.

I HAVE only found the Ruby Throated Bulbul in Malabar, generally in open glades of the forest, and in the neighbourhood of water, frequenting trees and bushes in small flocks, and feeding on various fruits and berries. It is certainly a rare bird, though I have seen it in one or two collections made in Malabar and Travancore.

Sometime ago I suggested to Mr. Blyth that it may have been Gould's species *Gularis*, described from Travancore, but the description of the throat is omitted, probably through mistake, as the specific name is derived therefrom. Mr. Blyth in his synopsis of the Brachypodinæ, before alluded to,* has made a new genus for this and Horsfield's *Turdus dispar*, (which closely resembles our bird) under the name of *Rubigula*.

Description.—Head and cheeks pure glossy black; plumage above, yellowish green; chin spot black; throat of a beautiful shining ruby red, the feathers divided, and somewhat bristly; rest of the plumage beneath, yellow; quills with their inner webs dusky, bill black, legs greenish dusky, irides light yellow.

Length about $6\frac{1}{2}$ —wing 3—tail $2\frac{1}{4}$ —tarsus $\frac{1}{8}$ ths.

* I. A. S. 1845, p. 576.



A. F. Smith

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ORD. INSESSORES.

TRIBE CONIROSTRES.

FAM. ALAUDINÆ.

GEN. MIRAFRA.

PLATE XXXVIII.

MIRAFRA ERYTHROPTERA.

RED WINGED LARK.

Synon.—*Mirafra Javanica*? Jerdon, Cat. No. 189.

WHEN I compiled my Catalogue I placed this Lark, though with doubt, as the *M. Javanica* of Horsfield, that bird having been included in Franklin's Catalogue, and as it answered tolerably well to the brief description. I think it is probably the variety of Latham's *Aggia Lark*, No. 49, described after a drawing of Hardwicke's, and said to weigh $9\frac{1}{2}$ drachms. Since that time, however, I have thought it advisable to separate it as a new species, and Mr. Blyth fully agrees with me in doing so, and has already described it under that name in the Journ. Asiat. Soc.*

The Red Winged Lark is tolerably common in low jungles in the neighbourhood of Jalnah, and generally through the Deccan. I never saw it south of Bellary nor on the West Coast, nor in the Carnatic, until a short time ago, when I observed it in some low jungle at the very base of the Eastern Ghats, and my Shikarees have procured me specimens from the hilly regions, where they say it abounds. It is never, that I am aware of, found in the open plains, nor does it frequent gardens, like the more common species, *M. Affinis*. I may remark here, that I found this latter the common species, within a mile or less of the spot where I first observed *Erythroptera* in the Carnatic, but not one did I see encroaching on the ground of the other. The Red Winged Lark perches frequently on shrubs, whence it occasionally rises a short distance, and descends again with outspread wings, its bright rufous quills glittering

Illustrations of Indian Ornithology.

in the sun. When observed it hides itself behind a bush, and if followed, soon contrives to conceal itself from the sportsman.

Description.—Above dusky reddish brown, the feathers edged with fulvous; beneath fulvous white, the breast spotted with brown; feathers of the head lengthened and rufous; chin, throat, and superciliary streak, white; quills bright ferruginous on both webs, except at the tip, which is dusky brown; tail dark brown, the feathers edged with lighter, and the outermost one white on its external web. Bill horny brown—irides brown—legs and feet fleshy yellow.

Length about $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches—wing $3\frac{2}{10}$ ths—tail $2\frac{1}{10}$ ths—tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$ ths, bill at front

This and another species are called in Teloo goo *Eeli jitta*, the present one, distinguished by its smaller size, being called *chinna eeli jitta*. The name is derived from their note, which in both species is a kind of prolonged whistle. The nearly allied species, *M. Affinis*, differs in having the quills rufous on the outer web, and the basal half only with a deep margin of the same, in its shorter tail, and differently formed bill. It is exceedingly abundant in the West Coast, and throughout the Carnatic, frequenting open spaces in the jungles, gardens, &c. &c. Mr. Strickland considers that this may be the *Alauda Malabarica* of the older authors, described from Sonnerat's voyage, plate 113, fig. 1; and I accordingly inserted it in the 2d supplement to my Catalogue just published,* under that name; but having again compared the description, I agree with Mr. Blyth in applying this term to the crested lark, *Alauda deva* of Sykes, which is not uncommon on the Malabar Coast, and shall retain the name of *Affinis*, already indeed published by Mr. Blyth. ¶

* Madras Journal of Literature and Science, No. 31.



