

VI.—DRAFTS FOR A FAUNA INDICA.

(Comprising the Animals of the Himalaya Mountains, those of the Valley of the Indus, of the Provinces of Assam, Sylhet, Tipperah and Arracan, and of Ceylon, with occasional Notices of Species from the neighbouring Countries*.) By ED. BLYTH, Curator of the Asiatic Society's Museum, &c. &c.†

No. 1. The *Columbidæ*, or PIGEONS and DOVES.

Order IV. GYRATORES, *Pr. Bonap.* GEMITORES, *McGillivray*.

THIS consists but of a single family, that of the Pigeons,

Fam. COLUMBIDÆ,

which subdivides into three marked subfamilies, viz. *Treroninæ*, or arboreal fruit pigeons; *Gourinæ*, or ground pigeons; and *Columbinæ*, or ordinary pigeons and doves.

Subfam. TRERONINÆ.

The members of this group are eminently frugivorous and arboreal, scarcely ever descending to the ground, and some perhaps never, unless to drink‡; and in general they are of a green colour, which renders them difficult to discern amid the foliage of trees. They are distinguished from other pigeons (with the sole known exception of *Ectopistes carolinensis*) by having constantly fourteen tail-feathers instead of twelve§. In form of

* The object of publishing the present series of Monographs of various groups of animals, is to elicit, as much as to impart, information that might be incorporated in a general work now in preparation; and it is therefore earnestly requested that observers, interested in the subject, will favour the author with any additional facts or corrections that may occur to them, and that they will also endeavour to settle any questions that are still at issue, and, in short, to render the future conspectus of Indian animals as complete as circumstances will permit of. In the class of Birds, it may be here remarked, that any information on the nidification and colour of the eggs of species generally, and of the song-notes of the smaller *Insessores*, will be particularly acceptable. [The notes marked T. have been supplied by Capt. Tickell, and those marked H.E.S. by Mr. H. E. Strickland.]

† From the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, no. 169.

‡ An individual of *Treron bicincta* has been seen feeding on the ground, but such instances are extremely rare. *Vide* also description of *Tr. nipalensis*.

§ Perhaps, however, certain of the ground pigeons may also have more than twelve tail-feathers, which remains to be ascertained. In the domestic breed of *fan-tails*, the number is abnormally multiplied to as many as thirty or more. It is very remarkable, that of the two species of *Ectopistes*, which are nearly allied to each other, one should have fourteen tail-feathers, while the other, the celebrated passenger-pigeon of North America, should possess but the usual number—twelve. This fact was observed and recorded by the Prince of Canino.

bill, they present a gradation from the strongest beak that occurs throughout the order, to a feeble organ, soft and tumid to near its tip, which alone is corneous ; but the gape, especially in the latter case, is very capacious. The tarsi are short, stout, and more or less feathered ; and the toes (except in one subgenus) are remarkably broad-soled, and are furnished with strong and sharp claws, commonly much-hooked ; hence they have great power of clasping, or holding on to the small branches of trees, while straining to pluck the fruit or berries from the terminal sprays ; so that, when feeding, these birds may be commonly observed to lean over and downward so far as to be inverted, and then draw themselves back by the unaided muscular strength of the extremities. The flight of all is powerful and rapid. Three strongly-marked genera occur, numerous species of which inhabit the warm regions of the Old World, Australia, and Polynesia ; but from America they are wholly excluded.

Genus TRERON, Vieillot : *Vinago*, Cuvier. (*Hurrial* and *Hurruwa*, H. ; *Hurtel*, Beng. ; *N'goo*, Arracan.) The HURRIALS.

In this genus may be observed the gradation in form of bill that has been adverted to in its full extent ; but all the strong-billed species are here included. The plumage is blent and glossless, and almost without exception of a lively green, varied with ashy, and with a stripe of bright yellow on the wings margining their coverts ; while the males are commonly further adorned with a deep maroon hue* on the mantle, and with orange, or orange and lilac, on the breast. Irides crimson, with a blue ring encircling the pupil†. The voice a melodious deep-toned whistle, considerably prolonged and varied in different cadences. Nidification as in most other arboreal doves and pigeons, and two white eggs produced, of a somewhat less elongated shape than in common pigeons. Except in the pairing season, these birds collect in small, or moderately large flocks, on the topmost branches of high jungle trees, where, if one can be descried and is shot at, two or three will commonly fall, that had eluded observation from the similarity of their colouring to that of the foliage. They subsist on fruits and berries of all kinds, and during the season especially on the small figs of the *Ficus indica* and *F. religiosa* ; and they have likewise been observed “devouring the blossoms and newly-formed fruit of the mangoe

* This hue, in different shades of vinous or claret-colour, occurs in a great number of *Columbidæ*, and has been remarked to be almost peculiar to the tribe.

† A partial exception to this occurs in *Tr. nipalensis* only, among the Indian species ; at least, the only two living specimens of this bird which I have seen had dark red-brown irides, with a blue inner circle. Mr. Hodgson describes them as—“outer circle of the iris orange-red, inner circle blue.”

and tamarind trees." Their flesh is esteemed for the table, but the skin requires to be removed, this having a strong bitter taste ; and hanging them up for a day or two, when the season will permit of it, improves them much for culinary purposes.

It is necessary to distinguish three well-marked subgenera, as follow :—

A. *TORIA* (since altered to *Romeris*), Hodgson. Distinguished by the great strength and vertical depth of the corneous terminal portion of the beak, which, in the typical species, is continued back to beyond the feathers of the forehead. The eyes are surrounded by a naked space.

TR. *NIPALENSIS* : *Toria nipalensis*, Hodgson, As. Res. xix. 164. (*T'horya*, quasi *rostrata*, of the Nepalese.) Green, yellowish below and towards the tail ; the crown of the head ash-coloured ; mantle of the male deep maroon-red, and a faint tinge of fulvous on the breast ; primaries and their larger coverts black, the latter margined with yellow ; middle tail-feathers green, the rest with a blackish medial band and broad gray tips ; lower tail-coverts cinnamon-coloured (more or less deep) in the male ; subdued white, marked with green, in the female. Bill greenish-white, with a large vermilion spot occupying the membrane at the lateral base of the mandibles ; legs also vermilion ; irides deep red-brown, with a blue inner circle ; and orbital skin bright green. Length, $10\frac{3}{4}$ inches by 17 inches ; closed wing $5\frac{3}{4}$ in.

This bird inhabits the central and lower hilly regions of Nepal, and more abundantly those of Assam and Arracan, spreading southward to the Tenasserim provinces and Malay peninsula. It also occurs in the hilly districts of Bengal, but rarely strays into the plains, though specimens are occasionally met with even near Calcutta. Mr. Hodgson states, that "it is not very gregarious ; adheres to the forests ; feeds chiefly on soft fruits ; and prefers the trees to the ground, but without absolute exclusiveness of habit in that respect."

Most closely allied and hitherto confounded with it is *Tr. aromatica* of Java, and I believe of the more eastern portion of the Malayan Archipelago generally (the *Col. curvirostris*, and the female, *C. tannensis*, of Gmelin)*. The latter differs by having a bright yellow beak, greenish at sides towards base, and the nude skin at the sides of its base is apparently blue, fading into a blackish tint in the dry specimen ; while in *Tr. nipalensis* the vermilion colour fades to amber ; the anterior half of the crown is much more albescent ; the fulvous tinge on the breast much stronger ; the maroon colour of the back is more extended ; the

* Mr. G. R. Gray's figures of the beak, &c. of a species of Hurrial to which he applies the name *aromatica*, in his illustrated work on the genera of birds, refer to a species of the following section of this genus.

longest tertiaries are greenish-dusky instead of green; and the lower tail-coverts are of a deeper cinnamon colour. Lastly, the corneous portion of the upper mandible scarcely extends quite so far back as in *Tr. nipalensis*; and a curious and marked distinction consists in the Indian species having the inner web of its third primary sinuated, as in the Hurrials of the next section, while its closely allied Javanese representative exhibits no decided trace of such a character*. In a third species which I refer to this section, the *Tr. Capellei*, Temm.† (common near the Straits of Malacca), the beak is lengthened by the prolongation of its soft and tumid basal portion becoming, as remarked by Mr. Strickland, "almost vulturine in form;" while the size of the bird is considerably larger, and, it may be added, that the sinuation of the interior web of its third primary exists, but not to the same depth as in *Tr. nipalensis*.

B. Typical TRERON. Hurrials with the beak moderately robust, much less so than in the preceding section, its corneous portion occupying the terminal half, or thereabouts. There is no bare space round the eyes, and the tail is squared. Sinuation of the third primary well-developed in eight species examined, and probably therefore throughout the group.

TR. PHENICOPTERA: *Col. phænicoptera*, Latham: *C. militaris*, Temm.: *C. Hardwickii*, Gray (figured in Griffith's Animal Kingdom, viii. 299): *Vinago militaris*, Gould's Century, pl. 58 ‡. Green. The neck all round, with the breast, bright yellowish-green, having a shade of fulvous; cap, sides of base of neck, and the abdominal region ash-gray, the belly with generally some admixture of green, more or less developed, and there is a green

* This character of the sinuation of the middle of the inner web of the third primary appears to be variable. I have before me two specimens of what I consider the true *aromatica*, both obtained at Malacca, but the male bird presents no trace of such a sinuation, while in the female it is strongly marked. I think therefore that the supposed distinctness of *nipalensis* and *aromatica* requires further confirmation, the differences in colour being very slight.—H.E.S.

† *Treron magnirostris*, Strickland, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. 1844, p. 116, and doubtless *Vin. giganteus* of Raffles, mentioned in the 'Catalogue of Zoological Specimens' appended to Lady Raffles' 'Life of Sir Stamford Raffles,' p. 674, though not the bird referred to in the note attached, which is probably a *Carpophaga*.

‡ Mr. G. R. Gray identifies this bird with *Col. Sti. Thomæ* of Gmelin, to which name he assigns the precedence; but I decidedly think that he is mistaken in so doing. I perceive also that in Griffith's 'Animal Kingdom,' *Col. Sti. Thomæ* is referred to *militaris* of Temminck; this last-named author having stated that *C. Sti. Thomæ* occurs in India.

[The *Columba Sti. Thomæ* was so named from occurring in the island of St. Thomas, on the west coast of Africa, and is undoubtedly distinct from any Asiatic species. It is probably referable to the female of *T. calvus*, Temm., or of *T. crassirostris*, Fraser.—H.E.S.]

tinge on the forehead; shoulder of the wing lilac in the male, and a trace of the same in the female; greater wing-coverts margined with pale yellow, forming an oblique bar across the wing; terminal two-fifths of the tail ash-gray above, albescent underneath, and its medial portion blackish underneath, and deeply tinged with green above; tibial plumes (extending partly down the tarse) and central abdominal feathers between the tibiae bright yellow; vent mingled white and green; and lower tail-coverts maroon, with white tips. Beak whitish; the feet deep yellow. Length $12\frac{1}{2}$ by 22 inches, and of closed wing 7 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

This is one of three closely-allied species, each having its peculiar habitat; and it is intermediate in its colouring to the two others, namely *Tr. viridifrons*, nobis, of the Tenasserim provinces, and *Tr. chlorigaster*, nobis, of Peninsular India. *Tr. viridifrons* is distinguished by having the anterior half of the head and the medial portion of the tail of the same (and as bright) yellowish-green as the breast, though somewhat less fulvescent; that of the tail being *well-defined*, and contrasting strongly both with the gray tip and also with the gray coverts impending the tail, so that this green appears as a very conspicuous broad caudal band: the throat also is not weaker-coloured, as in *Tr. phaenicoptera*. *Tr. chlorigaster*, on the other hand, has the whole under parts green; no trace of green upon the tail, except at its extreme base, and the whole cap and ear-coverts are ashy, devoid (in fine males at least) of the slightest tinge of green on the forehead. These are, in fact, three osculant races, which, if commonly inhabiting the same districts, would doubtless intermix and blend, like *Coracias indica* and *C. affinis*, and likewise certain of the Kalidge pheasants (*Gallophasis*); but within their own proper range of distribution, each continues true to the colouring which distinguishes it from the others. To term them local varieties of the same species, would not merely imply that the three are descended from a common origin, but also that *such* changes of colouring are brought about by difference of locality; a notion which is inconsistent with the fixity and regularity of markings we observe in either race, over an extensive and diversified range of country. *Tr. phaenicoptera* is a very abundant species in Bengal, Assam, Sylhet, Nepal, and all Upper India, its range extending southward at least to the foot of the mountains of Central India, where it would seem to be equally common with the next, and intermediate specimens are met with even in Lower Bengal. In Arracan it does not appear to have been met with, but further southward, in the Tenasserim provinces, it is represented by its other near affine, *Tr. viridifrons**.

* Capt. Hutton writes me word from Mussooree, that *Treron phaenico-*

TR. CHLORIGASTER, nobis, Journ. As. Soc. 1843, p. 167 : *Tr. Jerdoni*, Strickland, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. 1844, p. 38 : *Vinago phœnicoptera v. militaris* of Southern India, *Auctorum*. Similar to the last, except in the particulars already mentioned. It replaces *Tr. phœnicoptera* in the Peninsula of India, and specimens are occasionally met with in the vicinity of Calcutta. These three species have the feet of a deep yellow colour, whereas in all the other Asiatic Hurrials they would appear to be bright red.

TR. BICINCTA : *Vinago bicincta*, Jerdon, Ill. Ind. Orn. pl. 21 ; Madras Journal, 1840, p. 13 (the male) ; and *V. unicolor*, Jerdon, *ibid.* (the female) : *V. vernans*, var. Lesson's *Traité*. (*Chota Hurrial*, Hind, Bengal.) Green : the forehead and throat brighter and more yellowish, as are the whole under-parts of the female, passing in both sexes to bright pale yellow towards the vent ; occipital region ash-gray ; a stripe of yellow along the wing, formed by the margins of the greater and outer coverts ; tail gray above, with a blackish medial band on all but its middle feathers ; beneath blackish, tipped with grayish-white ; and its lower coverts cinnamon-coloured in the male, and mingled dusky-ash and buffy-whitish in the female. The male is further distinguished by having a large buff-orange patch on the breast, and above this a lilac band, broader at the sides. Bill greenish-glaucous ; and the legs deep pinkish-red. Length 11 or 12 inches by 20, or nearly so ; and of wing generally about 6 inches, rarely as much as $6\frac{1}{2}$.

This beautiful species is common to all India, but would seem to be more numerous in Lower Bengal than in the Peninsula ;

ptera is "common in the Deyrah Doon, but never mounts into the hills, where it is replaced by *Tr. sphenura*. Many of the Doon birds," he adds, "have come to be regarded as hill species, from their commonly occurring in collections made by residents at the different hill stations. Such collectors however entertain one or more *shikarrees*, who start off sometimes to the Doon, sometimes to the interior of the mountains, just as they happen to remember or to want any bright-coloured bird ; and when the collection is brought in, the collector never dreams of asking where the birds were shot, but puts them all down together as 'a collection from the hills.' Nepal being further to the south-east than Mussooree, a greater elevation may be required to produce the same temperature that we have ; so that birds which with us are found *only* in the warm valley of the Doon, may *perhaps* in Nepal rise to a certain elevation on the mountains !" Capt. Tickell adds, that "*T. phœnicoptera* is very common throughout the high stony barren parts of Singhbhoom, and in the Mautbhoom district, confining themselves to the hurgoolur and peepul trees. They breed in the thick damp forests to the southward towards Sumbulpoor, during the rains, at which time not a single specimen is to be found in these parts. The Oorias sell numbers of the young ones, which are taken to Calcutta." All that I have seen with the Calcutta dealers were from the neighbourhood, and chiefly adults newly taken with bird-lime.

and it occurs plentifully in Nepal, Assam, Sylhet, Tipperah, Arracan and the Tenasserim provinces. In Bengal, however, it is much less numerous than *Tr. phænicoptera*, and the flocks of the two species do not commingle. I once found its nest, half-way up a small mahogany tree, in the Calcutta Botanic Garden. The eggs, of a somewhat less lengthened form than in pigeons generally, measured an inch and a quarter in the long diameter. I have also obtained the young, which resemble in colouring the adult female. The voice is much the same as in *Tr. phænicoptera*.

Mr. G. R. Gray has erroneously identified this bird with *Tr. vernans* (L.), common in the Malay countries. The latter differs in its smaller size, having the wing but $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; in the male having the entire crown and throat gray, instead of green; in the very much greater development of the lilac colour above the orange of the breast, this enveloping the whole neck, whereas in *Tr. bicincta* it is confined to a band above the breast; and in the tail being gray above, with a blackish *terminal* band, and slight grayish extreme tips to the feathers; whereas *Tr. bicincta* has a broad whitish terminal band to the tail, as seen underneath, and which appears of a dull ash-colour above. No two species can be more obviously distinct*.

TR. MALABARICA: *Vinago malabarica*, Jerdon, Ill. Ind. Orn. (Art. *V. bicincta*): *V. aromatica*, apud Jerdon, Catal. (the male); and *V. affinis*, Jerdon, *ibid.* (the female): also *V. aromatica* of Southern India, Jardine's Nat. Libr., *Columbidæ*. This bird exactly resembles *Tr. nipalensis* in size and colouring, except in having a yellower throat in both sexes; but is at once distinguished by the very different form of its beak, and by having no naked space round the eyes; the buff tinge on the breast of the male is also more decided, and its legs are 'lake-red.' The female may be distinguished from that of *Tr. bicincta* by the ash-colour of its forehead and entire crown, and by its unspread tail being wholly green above.

Mr. Jerdon's specimens of this bird were obtained on the western coast of the Peninsula, and at the foot of the Neilgherries. I have never seen it from Northern India; but to the eastward it inhabits Assam†, Sylhet, Tipperah, and appears to be equally common with *Tr. nipalensis* in the island of Ramree, Arracan.

* I killed a specimen of *Tr. bicincta* some years ago in Singhbhoom, when firing into a flock of the common Hurrial; and I have more than once remarked in a flock of the latter, smaller individuals, which I have no doubt were interlopers of this species. It is exceedingly rare here, for I have never obtained another specimen.—T.

† It is figured among Dr. McClelland's drawings of the birds of Assam.

There is a nearly allied species in the Nicobar islands, *Tr. chloroptera*, nobis, which differs in its superior size, having the wing 7 inches, instead of 6 to $6\frac{1}{4}$; and in the male having a large portion of the fore part of its wing green instead of deep maroon; its breast also is less tinged with fulvous, and the forehead more albescent.

Columba pompadora, Gmelin, founded on pl. 19 and 20 of Brown's Zoology (1776), should be another nearly allied species, inhabiting Ceylon; but as both figure and description represent the back to be green instead of maroon, like the rest of the mantle, and as it is also described as "smaller than the turtle-dove," it clearly cannot be *Tr. malabarica*, and is probably a sort of representative (as regards its diminutive size) of *Tr. olax* of the Malay countries*.

C. SPHENURUS, Swainson: *Sphenocercus*, G. R. Gray. Hurrials with cuneiform tail, of which the central feathers are, in some species, much elongated beyond the rest, and their prolonged tips attenuated, with the basal two-thirds or more of the bill soft and tumid, and with the soles of the toes narrow, whereas in the preceding sections they are particularly broad and flat: a nude livid space surrounds the eyes, but less developed than in the first section; and the curious character observable throughout the preceding group, of having the inner web of the third primary abruptly sinuated, does not exist in the present one. These birds are exclusively mountaineers, inhabiting the hill-forests, and are remarkable for the music of their notes.

TR. SPHENURA: *Vinago sphenura*, Vigors, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1831, p. 173; Gould's Century, pl. 57: *Kokla* or *Kokhela*, H. (a name also applied to the next species). Very similar in colouring to *Tr. nipalensis* and *Tr. malabarica*, but larger, and at once distinguished by its cuneiform tail; by the greater development of the soft basal portion of its bill; also by the green colour tinged in the male with buff of its crown; by the considerable diminution of the maroon colour on the mantle of the male, especially on the back, the posterior scapularies, the tertiaries, and the great wing-coverts being green; and by having but a slight pale yellow margin to only the great coverts of the wing. Tail green above, with an ill-defined subterminal dusky band to its outer feathers, and uniform dull albescent-gray underneath; its lower coverts long, and of a pale rufous-buff hue in the male, yellowish white with green centres in the female, as are likewise the short outer ones of the male; breast of the latter deeply tinged with buff. In the female, the subterminal dusky band on

* I have no doubt of the identity of *pompadora* and *malabarica*. Brown's description is drawn up from the sketch of a native artist, and great accuracy cannot therefore be expected.—H.E.S.

the three outer tail-feathers is much better defined. Irides coloured as usual; the bill, and nude skin around the eye, livid, and legs coral-red. Wing 7 to $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches; middle tail-feathers $5\frac{5}{8}$ inches.

This species inhabits the Himalaya, and is, I believe, more abundant in the south-eastern portion of the chain, as in Nepal and at Darjeeling, though it is also common at Simla. Capt. Hutton writes from Mussoorie—"This species is very numerous in the hills from April to June, when, having reared its young, and the rains having set in, it becomes scarcer, and gradually disappears during the rainy season. The nest is in high trees, composed of dried twigs, a mere platform; and the eggs are two, and white. I heard the first *Kooklah* this year on the 12th of April." It is greatly prized by the natives as a cage-bird, on account of its singularly prolonged and varied musical note, which is an improvement upon that of *Tr. phoenicoptera* and its allies. A few are even brought in cages to Calcutta, and sell at a high price as song-birds. I have heard the notes of both this and the next species, which I think are absolutely similar: they bear some resemblance to the human voice in singing, and are highly musical in tone, being considerably prolonged and modulated, but always terminating abruptly; and every time the stave is repeated exactly as before, so that it soon becomes wearisome to an European ear*.

TR. CANTILLANS: *Vinago cantillans*, nobis, Journ. As. Soc. xii. 166: *Col. aromatica*, var. A, Latham. Size and proportions of last, but the green colour replaced by a delicate pearl-gray, with a slight tinge of green here and there, more especially on the under-parts: forehead and throat whitish; the crown and breast of the male tinged with ruddy or weak maroon; and the mantle marked, as in *Tr. sphenura*, with deeper maroon: a slight yellowish-white outer edging to the greater wing-coverts. Irides as usual in this genus, or having a crimson ring encircling a violet one: bill and bare skin around the eye glaucous-blue,

* *Tr. sphenurus*. This bird, the *Kookoo-fo* of the Lepchas at Darjeeling, is there exceedingly common, but is not so extensively gregarious as the common Hurrial of the plains. They frequent the highest trees, feeding on their berries, and running along the branches with great agility. The male has a most agreeable note, exactly resembling the music of a pastoral reed or pipe. It breeds in June and July, making a large nest in high trees, deeper than that of the common doves and wood pigeons. Bill pale livid blue, nearly white at tip, and pale clear cobalt basally. The young resemble the female; and the ruddy tinge of the back and small wing-coverts of the male is not assumed until the second year.—T.

I have observed this red to be less developed in some specimens, but still suspect that more or less of it would be obtained at the first moult.—E.B.

and legs and toes reddish-carneous. The female I have not yet seen. Length 13 by 21 inches; closed wing 7 inches.

This species occurs in the north-west Himalaya, as about Simla, and is, I believe, rare in Nepal. I kept one alive for some time that was stated to have been brought from Agra, whither it had no doubt been carried from the hills. Can it be a variety only of the last?

TR. APICAUDA, Hodgson (mentioned in Mr. G. R. Gray's Catalogue of the Ornithological Specimens in the British Museum). Nearly allied to *Tr. oxyura* of the Malay countries, from which it is at once distinguished by the pale yellow margins of its great wing-coverts, forming two narrow longitudinally oblique bars on the wing. General colour green, more yellowish towards the tail and on the under-parts, and tinged in the male with russet on the crown and breast; primaries dusky black; tail with its middle feathers greatly prolonged beyond the rest, and their elongated portion much attenuated; its colour gray with a medial blackish band, obsolete on the middle pair of feathers, which at base are yellowish-green. Bill evidently glaucous-bluish, and legs red. Length of wing $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and of middle tail-feathers 8 inches or more, passing the next pair by about 3 inches.

Inhabits the south-eastern Himalaya and the hill-ranges of Assam, being tolerably common at Darjeeling.

Genus *CARPOPHAGA*, Selby (1835): *Ducula*, Hodgson (1836): *Dukul*, or *Dunkul*, H. The *DUNKULS*.

These fruit pigeons are mostly of large size, with broad-soled feet and strong hooked claws, much as in the typical *Hurrials*, and a slender, generally somewhat lengthened bill, having the terminal third only of its upper mandible corneous, and the plumage of the chin advancing very far forward, underneath the lower mandible. In a few species the base of the upper mandible expands to form a fleshy knob. Wings, in all the typical species, adapted for powerful flight. The plumage of the head, neck and under-parts, and in some species throughout, is blent and glossless, and mostly of a delicate gray, or a vinous hue, with never the peculiar burnish on the sides of the neck so general among ordinary pigeons; but many species have the upper parts, wings and tail shining metallic green, which in some is bronzed or coppery, in others varied with rich steel-blue; hence several are among the most showy of the pigeon tribe; others, however, being simply black and white, though all are alike handsome when viewed in the fresh state, from the delicate beauty of the irides, bill, feet, and any nude skin about the head, the exquisite colouring of which is lost in the dry specimen. These birds are more especially developed in the great Oriental Archipelago, where

the species are very numerous, two only occurring in India, and others in Australia and Polynesia. They are gregarious, like the Hurrials, and keep exclusively to the great forests, more especially to those of upland districts: and it would appear that they do not generally lay more than a single egg, and certain species invariably but one; in which respect they resemble the celebrated Passenger Pigeon of North America (*Ectopistes migratoria*). At least three subgenera occur, at the head of which may be placed *Lopholaimus*, G. R. Gray, founded on the *Col. antarctica*, Shaw (v. *dilopha*, Temm.), of Australia; then follow the ordinary Dunkuls, of which the two Indian species are characteristic; and finally a short-winged type, with bill and feet as in the former, and colouring as in the division *Chalcophaps* (of the next subfamily), to which I apply the appellation *Dendrophaps*.

C. INSIGNIS: *Ducula insignis*, Hodgson, As. Res. xix. 162: *Carp. cuprea*, Jerdon, Madr. Journ. 1840, p. 12, and subsequently referred by him to *Col. badia*, Raffles, *ibid.* 1844, p. 164. (*Dukul*, Nepal; *Dunkul*, H.) Head, neck and under-parts pale ruddy lilac-gray; the throat albescent; and crown pure cinereous in some specimens, in others tinged with ruddy; back and wings deep vinaceous-brown; the rump and upper tail-coverts dusky-cinereous, and the lower tail-coverts buffy-white; tail dusky, with its terminal fourth dull ashy above, and albescent as seen from beneath. Bill, circle of eyelids and legs intense sanguine, except the tip of the bill and the claws, which are horn-coloured; orbital skin livid; and irides "hoary or blue-gray," according to Mr. Hodgson, "red," as stated by Mr. Jerdon. Length 20 inches by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet (Hodgson), 19 by 26 inches (Jerdon); of wing $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and of tail 8 inches. Weight a pound and a half. "The female," remarks Mr. Hodgson, "is a fourth smaller than her mate, wants almost wholly the rich vinous tint of the male, and is generally more obscurely coloured."

This diversity of colouring of the sexes reminds us of the Hurrials; and it may be remarked, that the general tints are not very different from those of *Treron cantillans*. The species inhabits the Himalaya and the Neilgherries; and Captain Phayre has obtained it in the Ya-ma-dong mountains, which separate Arracan from Pegu. It appears to keep always to a more elevated region than the next species, as near the snow line of the Himalaya; and Mr. Hodgson states that it is "almost solitary" in its habits*.

* *Carpophaga insignis*. Of this fine species I killed a female (one of a pair, the male of which escaped) at Kursiong, towards the end of the month of June. It is not common. The pair were perched on a small tree on the summit of the hill, feeding on berries, with which the crop of the

The *Col. badia*, Raffles (v. *capistrata*, Temm.), of the Malay countries, would appear to be very closely allied in its colouring, but considerably inferior in size; the two are regarded as distinct by Mr. G. R. Gray.

C. SYLVATICA: *Col. sylvatica*, Tickell, Journ. As. Soc. ii. 581: *C. ænea* of India, *Auctorum*; but not of Raffles, Linn. Trans. xiii. 316. (*Dunkul*, H.; *Pyoon-ma-dee*, Arracan.) Head, neck and under-parts pearl-gray, purer on the crown and breast, and tinged elsewhere (and occasionally on the crown) with ruddy-vinaceous; back, wings, rump and tail shining coppery-green, with a dash of gray on the large alars, and greenest upon the tail; under tail-coverts dark maroon; chin and immediately around the base of the bill white. "Irides and orbits lake-red; bill slaty, at base above red, at tip bluish-white; legs lake-red," (Jerdon). Another observer describes the irides to be "deep pink;" but Captain Tickell writes: "Eyes orange; feet rose-coloured; bill horny, bluish over the nostrils." Length 18 or 19 inches; expanse $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet; closed wing 9 inches to $9\frac{1}{2}$, and tail 6 inches to $6\frac{1}{2}$; sexes alike.

"This fine species," remarks Mr. Jerdon, "is found in all the lofty forests of the west coast, single, or in small parties of three or four. It has a single, low, plaintive note." Captain Tickell, in his 'List of Birds collected in the Jungles of Borabhúm and Dholbhúm,' states that it is "common in some parts, preferring the open and large-timbered tracts. They are wild and difficult of approach, and go generally in small parties of four or five. The voice is deep, and resembles groaning." I have never seen it from the Himalaya, but it is very abundant in the hill regions of Assam, Sylhet, Tipperah, and Arracan; also in the Tenasserim provinces; and the Asiatic Society has received it from Java. A writer in the 'Bengal Sporting Review' (no. 2. p. 89) observes, "The habits of this handsome bird are strictly arboreal; it is seldom seen but in the depths of the jungle; is gregarious, like the Hurrials, but is only a cold-weather resident in the eastern districts of Bengal, and breeds elsewhere*. It makes its appearance in November, and leaves towards the end of March. Its favourite food consists of the bijer plum (*Zizyphus Jujuba*), and a jungle berry, called by the natives *Anygootah*. When wounded it evinces more spirit than the *Columbidæ* appear generally to possess; erecting the feathers of its head and neck, and

female was filled. Voice a deep short groan, repeated—'woo-woo-woo.' Length of this female 17 inches by 27 inches in spread of wing; wing 9 inches. Irides pearl-gray; bill dull lake, with blackish tip; legs dull lake. Back, scapularies and wing-coverts full deep vinous ash-gray washed with cupreous, the latter pervading the tips and edges of the feathers.—T.

* Mr. Frith found a nest of this bird in the Garrow hills.

buffeting with its wings the hand that captures it. The note is harsh, not unlike the croaking of a bull-frog*.”

There are several closely allied species: *C. ænea*, as figured (i. e. the head) by Mr. G. R. Gray in his illustrated work on the ‘Genera of Birds,’ has a large round knob at the base of its upper mandible, of which the Indian species never presents the slightest trace; and a beautiful specimen before me, from Borneo (?), exhibiting this knob, differs also from the Indian species in several other particulars†. Another, from the same region, exactly resembles the Indian species, except in its inferior size, having the wing but 8 inches, and the rest in proportion; this is doubtless the *C. ænea* of Raffles’s list, described as “exceeding 15 inches in length”; so that in Sumatra there would appear to be closely allied diminutives of both the Indian species‡. *C. perspicillata* of Java and the Moluccas also approximates a good deal, but is readily enough distinguishable.

Of the third great genus of fruit-eating pigeons, *Ptilinopus*, also largely developed in the Eastern Archipelago and Polynesian isles, no Indian species has been discovered; the *Pt. Elphinstonii* of Sykes (seemingly) appertaining to the same group of ordinary pigeons as the British Cushat or Ring-dove.

[To be continued.]

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

A Natural History of the Mammalia. By G. R. WATERHOUSE, Esq., of the British Museum. Illustrated with engravings on wood and coloured plates. London, H. Baillière.

THE first volume of this excellent work, in which every species in the class Mammalia will be described in detail, is now completed. The author is already favourably known to the public by various monographs, and by papers in this Journal, on the Rodentia, Marsupialia and other animals. His former connexion with the Zoological Society and his present position in the British Museum (where he is

* *C. sylvatica*. I have found these birds only in one part of my district, —in the jungles bordering on Midnapore. They were in a party of eight or ten, perching on detached trees, in a wide plain of jungle-grass. The notes are deep and ventriloquous. By the Oorias it is called *Sona Kubootra*, or Golden Pigeon; it is also termed *Burra* (or Great) *Hurrial*.—T.

† It seems to be the “Sumatran Pigeon, no. 12,” of Latham.

‡ The true *Columba ænea* of Linnæus is founded on the *Palumbus moluccensis* of Brisson, whose figure and description perfectly accord with the Indian bird, though it is stated to be from the Moluccas. The knob-fronted species will stand as *C. myristicivora*, Scop. (*C. globicera*, Wagl.), founded on Sonn. Voy. Nouv. Guinée, pl. 102. Mr. Gray erroneously applies the name *myristicivora* to Sonn. pl. 103, which is the *bicolor* of Scopoli.—H.E.S.



Blyth, Edward. 1847. "VI.—Drafts for a Fauna Indica." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 19, 41–53.

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raliter crenato-striatis.—Length $\frac{3}{10}$ ths of an inch; breadth $\frac{1}{10}$ th of an inch. Pl. IX. fig. 3.

Exactly resembling a *Fusus corneus* in miniature, but evidently a full-grown shell, and well-characterized by its peculiar sculpture. No described species of *Fusus* can be confounded with it. We dredged it in fifty fathoms between Fair Isle and Fitful Head. On showing the specimen to Mr. Jeffreys, he recognized it as the *F. albus* of his manuscripts*.

6. *Astarte crebricostata*, sp. nov. Pl. IX. fig. 4.

We have applied this name provisionally to a remarkable *Astarte* of which several single valves, not very fresh, were dredged up on the west coast of Zetland. They evidently belong to a species very distinct from any European form with which we are acquainted. These valves are ovate, oblique, very depressed, with numerous (thirty), very prominent, narrow, elevated, regular, transverse ridges which become obsolete anteriorly, where they are interspersed by slightly oblique striæ. The margin is crenate. The largest valve measures 1 inch $\frac{2}{10}$ ths in length and the same across.

7. *Astarte borealis*.

We dredged in fifty fathoms water on the Ling Bank off the west coast of Zetland a valve of this well-known species, so fresh that we cannot doubt that it is a living inhabitant of our northern seas.

[To be continued.]

XIII.—DRAFTS FOR A FAUNA INDICA. By ED. BLYTH,
Curator of the Asiatic Society's Museum, &c. &c.†

[Continued from p. 53.]

Subfam. GOURINÆ, *Ground Pigeons*.

THE great series of ground pigeons and ground doves presents a marked gradation in form and character from genera allied (excepting in the form of the feet) to the *Carpophagæ* and *Ptilinopodes* of the preceding subfamily, to others which exhibit a nearer relationship to the species of the next subfamily. The size also varies remarkably, as both the largest and smallest pigeons known are comprised in this group; some attaining the magnitude of a hen-turkey, while others are scarcely bigger than a sparrow. These birds are of a shorter, more full, and grouse-like figure than that of other pigeons, having the wings more or

* Lieut. Thomas, R.N., has lately dredged it near the Orkneys.

† From the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, no. 169.

less rounded, and even bowed or hollowed in some instances ; the tarsi comparatively elongated, and the toes long and adapted for ground habits. Some even much resemble partridges in their mode of life ; but even these, for the most part, prefer the cover of low brush-wood (as do also many partridges), the haunts of different species varying ; and other genera are completely sylvan in their abode, feeding on the ground, more especially on fallen fruits and berries. Such are the magnificent Gouras, or great crowned pigeons (*Goura coronata* and *G. Stoursii*) of the Moluccas and New Guinea, which in their plumage and colouring approximate *Treron cantillans* and *Carpophaga insignis* ; and the elegant hackled ground pigeons (*Calenas*), one of which (*C. nicobaricus*) abounds in the forests of the Malay peninsula, and in the Nicobar, Andaman and Cocos isles, thus almost verging on the eastern boundary of the territory whose fauna we here treat of. The general resemblance of this bird to *Ptilinopus* is striking in the living specimens of both ; and from what I have observed of it in confinement, I have great reason to doubt the current statement that it ever lays more than two eggs, the number so usual in the pigeon family : indeed I think there is present reason to be sceptical of the statements that any pigeon lays more than that number ; though it is certain that several of the *Gourinae* are clad with down at an early age, and follow their parents soon after they are hatched. The only Indian species is among the least characteristic of the tribe, so much so, that it requires some knowledge of its various Australian affines to comprehend its classification in the present group. It ranks under

CHALCOPHAPS, Gould (apparently a sylvan subgenus of *Phaps*, Selby, exemplified by the common Bronze-wing of Australia).

CH. INDICA : *Columba indica*, Linn. : *C. pileata*, Scopoli : *C. javanica* (?), *cynocephala* et *albicapilla*, Gmelin : *C. cyanopileata* et *griseocapilla*, Bonnaterra : *C. superciliaris*, Wagler. (*Rám-G'hoogoo* and *R'háj-G'hoogoo*, Bengal ; *Gyo-nyo*, Arracan.) Back and wings emerald-green, glossed with aureous ; the feathers distinct and scale-like ; neck, breast and under-parts vinaceous-brown, paler below, and of a duller hue in the female ; two broad dusky bars alternating with grayish-white on the rump ; tail dusky in the male, its outermost and penultimate feathers whitish-gray, with black subterminal band ; primaries dusky ; forehead of the male white, passing as a supercilium over the eye ; the crown of the head ash-gray ; a white bar near the angle of the wing ; and lower tail-coverts ashy, the longest brown-black ; inside of the wings reddish cinnamon-brown. The female has a grayish-white forehead much less developed than in the other sex, and a narrow whitish supercilium ; crown of the head rufescent ; no white bar at the shoulder of the wing ; the tail

tinged with ferruginous; and the neck and under-parts are browner than in the male. Irides dark; bare skin around the eyes deep purplish-carneous, as are also the legs; and the beak is bright coral-red, except towards the nostrils, where somewhat dusky. Length $10\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $17\frac{1}{2}$; and of wing $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches to $5\frac{3}{4}$.

This beautiful ground-dove is common in thick jungly situations, and especially among dense bamboos throughout the country; and it is equally abundant in the Malayan Archipelago. A writer before-cited remarks,—“The rapidity of flight it exhibits exceeds that of any bird I am acquainted with, except perhaps the brief decisive swoop of some of the smaller *Falconidæ*: as in the progress of the latter there is no apparent motion of the wings, but gliding along a few feet from the ground, diverging or rising just sufficiently to clear intervening obstacles, the ground-dove skims with an arrow-like swiftness, and is come and gone in an instant, scarcely giving the eye time to detect what has crossed the field of vision. When settled on the ground, however, it shows no unusual degree of fear, and may be approached near enough to notice its motions and brilliancy of colouring. Bare spots about the roots of large trees, particularly of the tamarind, appear to be favourite resorts; and a pair will be occasionally found sunning themselves, arranging their plumage and scraping up the earth, and beating up the dust with expanded wings, after the manner of the *Rasores* upon an old *b'heetah*—the artificially raised mound of a deserted village. They soon become reconciled to confinement; and the voice is plaintive and monotonous like an oft-repeated low tone on a distant flute*.” The nest of this species I have never seen, but am informed that it is built in low thorny trees and often in bamboo jungle: the eggs are two in number; and one taken from the oviduct (April 30th) measures just an inch long by three-quarters of an inch across, and is of a less pure white than those of ordinary pigeons and doves†.

There is a nearly allied species in Australia, the *Col. chrysoclora*, Wagler, which Mr. G. R. Gray conceives to be the true *Col. javanica* of Gmelin. One character by which it may always be readily distinguished, is the total absence of white on the fore-

* “*Columbidæ* of the Eastern Districts.”—Bengal Sporting Review, No. 4, 1845.

† *Chalcophaps indicus* is common in the deep forests, always in the vicinity of streams, and generally upon the ground in the shelter of beds of reeds and rank grass. When flushed it takes a short but exceedingly rapid flight, alighting as abruptly with a sudden plunge into the herbage, so that it is a most difficult bird to shoot. Its favourite food consists of the seeds of the castor-oil plant.—T.

head of both sexes*. The rapidity of flight so remarkable in the Indian species, as compared with our other *Columbidæ*, is equally observable in other subgenera of *Phaps*, which might include even *Peristera* of Swainson†.

Subfam. COLUMBINÆ.

This consists of the ordinary pigeons and doves, the characters and habits of which are familiar to all. They are mostly arboreal, though many of them feed much on the ground, chiefly on grain and oleaginous seeds; some of the species also nipping the young sprouts of vegetables. They fall into two principal and nearly allied series, those of the pigeons and the doves; the latter subdividing into several well-marked groups.

Genus COLUMBA, Linn. (as restricted). PIGEONS. (*Kubbooter*, H.; *Paira*, B.)

These are of comparatively large size, and generally more robust in make, with square or subquadrate tail. The Indian species fall into two subgenera, viz. rock pigeons and wood pigeons; the former exemplified by the common house pigeon, the latter by the common Cushat of Europe.

ROCK PIGEONS. In these the tarse is rather longer, and the toes are better adapted for walking on the ground. They rarely, if ever, perch on trees, except under peculiar circumstances, as when a dove-cot of domestic pigeons is placed near a tree, with large and conveniently shaped boughs, in which case the pigeons will commonly resort to the latter to sit and roost, but never to form their nests. In the wild state it is probable that they never perch at all, retiring to roost and nestle in caverns and small hollows of rocks or sea-cliffs, in the absence of which they select buildings that offer suitable recesses, breeding in the capi-

* It is I think very doubtful whether *C. chrysochlora* be really distinct from *indica*. The absence of white on the forehead is probably due to the specimens being immature.—H. E. S.

† A curious pigeon, in the guise of a *Pterocles*, is figured among the drawings prepared under the superintendence of the late Sir Alexander Burnes and Dr. Lord, marked *Fahktuk* (i. e. *Facktah* or dove, *Hind.*) from Cabul, which should be sought for in the Scindian deserts. Total length about a foot, the wing $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and tail pointed and *Pterocles*-like, extending nearly 2 inches beyond the tips of the wings; tarsi and toes, which, though rudely drawn, would appear to be those of an ordinary pigeon, naked and of a pink colour. Bill dusky, being also apparently that of an ordinary pigeon, and rather slender. General colour light isabelline, with darker margins to the feathers of the mantle and wings; neck, breast and underparts plain, the breast rufescent, and the belly and lower tail-coverts whitish; the outer tail-feathers would appear to have black tips; irides crimson. Should this hereafter be verified and constitute (as seems probable) a new genus of *sand-doves*, having the habits of the Gangas or Sand-grouse, it might bear the name *Psammœnas Burnesii*.

tals of pillars and whatever other convenient nooks they find. Hence, when unmolested, these house pigeons soon become familiarized with man, and require little encouragement to merge into the domestic condition.

C. INTERMEDIA, Strickland, Ann. and Mag. N. H. 1844, p. 39: *C. ænas* of India, *auctorum*: *C. ænas*, var., from Tartary, Wagler. (*Jalalaya*, H.; *Parwa*, Mahr.; *Golah* of the pigeon dealers.) (INDIAN ROCK PIGEON.) The common wild blue pigeon of India is most closely allied to the European *C. livia*, but is of rather a deeper slaty-gray, with invariably a deep ash-coloured rump; whereas *C. livia* has as constantly a pure white rump: there appears to be no other distinction between them, unless it be that the play of colours on the neck is finer in the Indian bird. The same difference in the colour of the rump is observable in the domestic pigeons of the two countries, whenever these tend to assume the normal colouring; for the tame Indian pigeons are as clearly derived from the wild *C. intermedia* as those of Europe are from *C. livia*.

Colour slaty-gray, darker on the head, breast, upper and lower tail-coverts and tail, which last has a blackish terminal band not well-defined; nuchal feathers divergent at their tips, and brightly glossed with changeable green and reddish-purple; two black bars on the wing*; the primaries tinged with brownish, and the outer-

* In some specimens, particularly among the semi-domestic, slight dusky streaks occur on the shafts of the lesser wing-coverts, which, in the latter, are often much more developed, spreading across the feathers and spotting the whole wing; such birds much resembling (except in the rump not being white) a race of wild pigeons that are abundantly brought at times to the London markets—all of them shot birds; but the latter have not, in addition, the two black bands on the wing well-defined, as seems to be regularly the case with this variety of *C. intermedia*. Moreover, in the English bird, the spotting of the lesser wing-coverts does not occur on the shafts of the feathers, but partly margins each web, excepting near the edge of the wing, where the feathers are unspotted. I suspect that the wild rock pigeons of the south of England are mostly of the kind alluded to, which may be designated *C. affinis*; while those of North Britain, and it would seem of Europe generally, are true *C. livia*.

Here, again, we have three closely-allied species, analogous to the three yellow-footed Hurrials, *Treron viridifrons*, *Tr. phænicoptera*, and *Tr. chlorigaster*; and if they are to be regarded as mere varieties of the same, what limits can be assigned to the further variation of wild species? *Col. leucnota* is but a step more removed, and I doubt not would equally merge and blend with the others in a state of domesticity. Equally allied are—*Treron sphenura* and *Tr. cantillans*; *Tr. apicauda* and *Tr. oxyura*; and if we grant also some variation of size, we have *Tr. bicincta* and *Tr. vernans*; *Tr. malabarica* and *Tr. chloroptera*; *Turtur chinensis* and *T. suratensis*; *T. meena* and *T. auritus*, &c. &c., which might be regarded as local varieties of the same, and we might thus go on reducing species *ad infinitum* with no useful definite result, but to the utter confusion of all discriminative classification. However closely races may resemble, if they present absolute and constant

most tail-feather having its external web gradually more albescent to the base. Irides brownish-orange, the lids bluish-white; bill black, with a white mealiness at the tumid base of its upper mandible; and legs reddish-pink. Length 13 by 23 inches; of wing $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Mr. Jerdon rightly remarks—"The blue pigeon abounds all over India, being occasionally found in the more open spaces of jungles, especially in rocky districts and in the neighbourhood of water-falls; but more generally in the open country, inhabiting walls of villages, pagodas, wells, and any large buildings, and breeding chiefly in old walls." Another observer, writing of it in the eastern districts of Bengal, remarks: "Large colonies of these birds inhabit every moogur, mhut*, and mass of ruins in the country, where, in company with the (house) mynah and (rose-ringed) parroquet, they multiply to a vast extent; and the more so, as being held in religious veneration by some, and in special favour by all natives, their destruction is prevented wherever there exists the power. They are so devoid of timidity, that even in the midst of crowded cities, they will build on the cornices in the open verandahs of inhabited houses. When this takes place in the dwelling of a native, their tenure is secure; as their making such selection is looked upon as a happy omen, and their dismissal as the sure forerunner of evil fortune. Pairs frequently take up their quarters among the domestic pigeons of the dove-cot; indeed it is not an easy matter to prevent their doing so, and intermingling the breed. In the cold weather they flock and frequent the paddy-stubble in large numbers†." Capt. Hutton informs me that this bird "is found in Affghanistan, where, as in many parts of India, it builds in wells and ruined buildings: the *kazeezes*, or Artesian wells of Affghanistan, are sometimes crowded with them. They occur also in the Doon, and are known as the common blue pigeon. At Mussoorie, I have only seen them in the cultivated fields, low down on the sides of hills, in warm situations‡."

Being the original stock of the domestic pigeons of India, some notice of the latter should here be introduced. I have not, however, paid much attention to the several varieties; the more choice

differences, whether of size, proportions or colouring, and if they manifest no tendency to grade from one to the other, except in cases of obvious intermixture, we are justified in considering them as distinct and separate; and more especially if each, or either, has a wide range of geographic distribution, without exhibiting any climatal or local variation.

* Rude Hindoo temple.

† India Sporting Review, No. 4, 121.

‡ *Columba intermedia* is exceedingly common in Chota Nagpore, breeding in all the steep lofty rocks of that country.—T.

of which are, besides, kept chiefly by the Moguls in the Upper Provinces, and it is there that observations should be recorded of them. A chapter is devoted to the rearing of pigeons in the *Ayeen Akbaree*, and a number of breeds or races enumerated; but nothing definite can be understood of their distinguishing characters. The different kinds are chiefly esteemed for performing sundry aerial evolutions, and returning at once from any height at an accustomed signal. But to quote the work cited: "There are also many other beautiful pigeons, which, although they neither wheel nor tumble in the air, yet perform many pleasing tricks; amongst these are the following:—The *Kowkh*, which seems to say the words *yak-roo*. The *Luckeh* [*fantail*], whose cooing is very agreeable, and he carries his head with astonishing pride and stateliness. The *Lowtun*, who upon being shaken, and then put upon the ground, jumps about with strange convulsive motions." [This may be seen at any of the Calcutta bird-dealers; shaken two or three times in the hand, and the head more especially, the poor bird tumbles about in a fit for some seconds, when the owner recovers it by blowing hard in its face. They are chiefly black and white and bare-legged, with a crested occiput, but present no other marked distinction.] "The *Kehrnee*, who has such amazing affection for his hen, that when he has flown out of [human] sight, if she is exposed in a cage, he instantly drops down upon it: they descend either with both wings spread, or with one open, or else with both shut. The *Ruhteh* is a pigeon famous for carrying letters; but any pigeon may be taught to do this. The *Neshwaree* ascends in the air till he is out of sight, and remains so [*i. e.* absent?] for a day or two, after which he alights on the ground. There are also many other kinds that are valuable only on account of their beauty, such as the *Sherazee**, the *Shushtree*, the *Shashenu*, the *Jougeeah*, the *Rezehdehn*, the *Muggessee*, the *Komeree*, and the *Gowlah*; the last [or *intermedia* in its natural state] is a wild pigeon, of which, if a few are taken, they are speedily joined by a thousand others of their kind. There are people who obtain a livelihood by sending these pigeons to feed abroad, and making them vomit up the grain, by giving them water strongly impregnated with salt. A pigeon is said to live to the age of thirty years." Among the kinds commonly bred about Calcutta are fine *Powters* (*Gulla-p'hoola*†), both feather-legged and bare-legged; *Fantails* (*Luckah*) of indisputable merit, but poor helpless monstrosities, except in the eyes of connoisseurs, some of

* *Sarajoo*, Beng. A large black pigeon, with white rump, quills and under-parts from the throat; generally very true to this colouring.

† 'Swollen throat,' or, literally, *full gullet* (*gula*).

which have at least thirty-six tail-feathers*, and races with an occipital top-knot (*Nuns*), are common ; but I have seen nothing like the variety commonly bred by English *fanciers*, and the races generally are less pure (at least in Lower Bengal), with their peculiarities not so strongly brought out ; unless in the instance of the *fantails*, and sometimes *powters*, which are as preposterous caricatures of the wild race, as the most extravagant admirer of Nature's freaks of the kind could reasonably desire, and as undeniably curious in showing what domestication can produce.

C. LEUCONOTA, Vigors, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1831, p. 22 ; Gould's Century, pl. 59. (HOODED ROCK PIGEON.) Size and form of last, the wings a trifle longer : cap, comprising the throat and ear-coverts, ashy-black ; neck, rump (as in *C. livia*) and the entire under-parts white, with a faint shade of ashy, except on the rump, deepest on the lower tail-coverts ; interscapularies, scapularies and wings light brownish-gray, purer pale ashy on the medial coverts of the wings ; the primaries dull blackish towards their tips, the secondaries broadly tipped with dusky, and the tertiaries and their coverts having a subterminal dusky band and broad grayish tips, producing a series of three short bars, successively smaller to the front, and a trace of a small fourth band anteriorly ; tail and its upper coverts ashy-black, the former having a broad grayish-white bar, occupying the third quarter from the base of its middle feathers, and narrowing and curving forward to reach the tip of its outermost feathers. Bill black, legs pinkish-red, and irides yellow. Common on the rocky heights of the Himalaya, inhabiting near the snow line.

According to Capt. Hutton, there are two races, if not species, confounded under *C. leuconota*, viz. the true *leuconota*, as figured by Gould, with the white of the *hind-neck* spreading a considerable way down the back, and which (he informs me) is found only "far in the mountains ;" and another, of which the description wholly corresponds with the Nepal and Darjeeling specimens which have served for the above description, and which Captain Hutton states "inhabits the Doon all the year, but is there called 'Hill Pigeon,' while the other is known to collectors as the 'Snow Pigeon.' The Doon bird flies in small flocks during summer from the hills to the Doon in the morning, and returns to the hills in the evening." If there be really any difference, however, between the birds adverted to, I suspect it must be merely one of age.

Subgenus PALUMBUS, Kaup. WOOD PIGEONS or CUSHATS. These have feet well adapted for perching, and a shorter tarse than in the preceding section, which also is more feathered

* While drawing up this notice, I visited the bird bazaar, and counted thirty-four feathers in a tail which was obviously imperfect.

towards the knee. They nidificate and habitually perch on trees*.

C. PALUMBUS, Linn. (EUROPEAN WOOD PIGEON.) Upper parts brownish-gray, the head, cheeks, throat, rump and upper tail-coverts pure ashy, paler on the lower tail-coverts; fore-neck and breast vinaceous-ruddy, weaker on the belly, and albescent towards the vent; nape and sides of the neck and shoulders glossed with changeable green and reddish-purple, the former predominating above, the latter below; and upon each side of the neck a great patch of subdued white, in general largely developed, very rarely reduced to a mere trace; coverts forming the edge of the wing and impending the winglet white, as is also the exterior margin of each primary; tail gray at base, becoming blackish at its tip. Bill orange, with a white mealiness at the tumid base of its upper mandible; feet red, and irides light yellow. Length 17 by 30 inches, and wing $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

This well-known European species inhabits the north-western Himalaya, as about Simla, and in the Alpine Punjab.

C. (?) ELPHINSTONII: *Ptilinopus Elphinstonii*, Sykes, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1832, p. 149: a *Carpophaga*, apud G. R. Gray. (NEILGHERRY WOOD PIGEON.) "Upper parts fuscous-brown, the head, neck and lower parts ashy; nape black, the feathers marked with a white spot at tip; interscapularies ruddy; neck and breast glossed with emerald-green, the rump with ashy; first, second, third, fourth and fifth primaries having their outer web emarginated. Irides ochre-yellow." Length 15 or 16 inches.

I have had no opportunity of examining this fine species, but from the above description of its plumage, translated from Colonel Sykes's brief Latin definition, I cannot help doubting exceedingly the propriety of arranging it as a *Carpophaga*, and as strongly suspect that the present is its true systematic station†. Colonel Sykes describes it to be "a rare bird in the Dukhun, met with only in the dense woods of the ghauts. Not gregarious. Stony fruit found in the stomach. Sexes alike. Flight very rapid. The lateral skin of its toes is very much developed." Mr. Jerdon has only noticed it "in the dense woods on the summit of the Neilgherries, in small parties, or single. It is a retired and wary bird. I found various fruits," he adds, "and small shells in its stomach."

C. PULCHRICOLLIS, Hodgson (mentioned in Mr. G. R. Gray's

* It should be remarked, that the European *C. anas* is completely intermediate to these two groups in its form, colouring, habits and nidification; breeding sometimes in the cavities of trees, sometimes in rabbit-burrows.

† Mr. Blyth is right in this surmise; *C. Elphinstonii* being a true *Columba*, not a *Carpophaga*. The lateral skin of the toes is not more developed than in *C. palumbus*.—H. F. S.

Catalogue of the specimens of *Columbidae* in the British Museum). (ASHY WOOD PIGEON.) Considerably smaller than the two preceding species; and general colour dusky-gray, much paler and faintly tinged with lake below, more or less whitish towards the vent, and subdued white on the lower tail-coverts; tail blackish; head, cheeks and ear-coverts pure light ashy, passing to whitish on the throat; the sides of the neck and breast brightly glossed with the usual changeable green and reddish-purple, the former predominating; and above this the feathers are somewhat rigid and black at base, with broad isabelline tips whitish at the end, forming a large patch on each side confluent behind. Corneous portion of the bill apparently pale yellow, and legs probably pink, but fading to amber in the dry specimen, of which colour are also the claws. Length of wing $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 inches. Common in the wooded region of the eastern Himalaya.

C. PUNICEA, Tickell, Journ. As. Soc. xi. 462*. (POMPADOUR WOOD PIGEON.) General colour deep vinaceous-ruddy, weaker below, and most of the feathers margined with glossy changeable green and amethystine-purple, the former colour prevailing on the neck and sides of the breast, the latter elsewhere: whole top of the head, including the occiput, whitish-gray; alars and caudals blackish; the primaries tinged externally with gray; upper and lower tail-coverts nigrescent; bill yellow at tip, its basal half blackish in the dry specimen; "irides orange with a red outer circle; feet dull lake." Length about 16 inches, of wing 8 inches, and tail 7 inches.

This handsome pigeon inhabits the hill forests of Central India, also those of Assam, and would appear to be tolerably common in the island of Ramree, Arracan. I have never seen it from the Himalaya†.

C. HODGSONII, Vigors, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1832, p. 16: *C. nipalensis*, Hodgson, Journ. As. Soc. v. 122‡. (SPECKLED WOOD

* Type of *Alsocomus*, Tickell.

† *C. punicea*. Length 16 inches by 2 feet spread; wing $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Bill greenish-yellow, with basal half livid. Iris amber-yellow in an orange-red circle. Legs and feet dull lake. The female is similar to the male, but rather smaller and duller in plumage. This species is not uncommon to the south of Singbhoon, going in small parties of four or five, and always along the banks of rivers which are shaded by large forest-trees. Up and down these noble avenues, which the green shades of mingling boughs above, and the clear rippling stream below, preserve at all hours and seasons pleasantly cool, these pigeons fly, rarely taking when disturbed to the more open tracts distant from the stream. In January 1842 I killed five specimens on the Bytarnee river in Singbhoon. They were feeding principally on the jamoon. These birds feed chiefly in the morning and again at evening, and during the heat of the day roost on the uppermost branches of the huge derris trees, common in that country. They are wary and difficult of approach.—T.

‡ Type of *Dendrotreron*, Hodgson.

PIGEON.) Above dark vinaceous-ruddy, with white specks on the medial coverts of the wing ; head and upper part of front of neck cinereous, with a vinous tinge in some specimens ; rump, upper and lower tail-coverts dusky-ash ; tail ashy-black ; the great alars brownish-dusky, the first three primaries having a slight whitish outer margin in some specimens ; exterior wing-coverts grayish ; nape, sides of neck and lower parts vinaceous-ruddy at base of feathers, margined (more broadly on the side of each feather of the breast) with vinous-gray, which increases in quantity upwards, till the surface of the plumage appears solely of this hue, while the dark vinous tint predominates more and more towards the belly ; the red portion of each feather appears thus as an obtusely pointed spot upon those of the breast, and on the feathers of the neck is darker and acutely pointed, being there uniformly edged with the pale ashy margin. Bare orbital space livid ; bill purplish-black ; "irides hoary or gray-white ; legs and feet black-green to the front, yellowish elsewhere ; claws clear lively yellow." Length about 15 inches by 25 or 26 inches in alar expanse ; wing 9 inches to $9\frac{1}{4}$. "Female," according to Mr. Hodgson, "rather less, and differing in having the bluish-gray of the head less pale and clear, and in wanting almost entirely the purplish tinge which adds so much beauty to certain parts of the plumage of the male, as especially the upper part of his back and the lower part of his belly."

"This elegant species," continues Mr. Hodgson, "is found in the woods of the valley of Nepal. It is very shy, seldom or never entering the cultivated fields for the purpose of feeding, but keeping almost always to the woods, and living upon their produce, in the shape of grass, seeds or berries." It would seem to be not uncommon near Darjeeling : and Captain Wroughton informs me, that it is also tolerably numerous about Simla and Mussooree, where it frequents the pine forests on the higher mountains, as Whartoo and the vicinity of Kotghur. They are generally seen in flocks of six or seven, which are particularly shy and difficult of approach.

C. Hodgsonii is nearly allied to *C. arquatrix* of Southern Africa ; but is at once distinguished from that bird by its blackish bill, by the gray upon its head and neck, and by the reduced development of the nude space surrounding the orbits. Another allied African species is the *C. guinea*, Linn. (*v. trigonigera* of Wagler).

[To be continued.]



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XXIV.—DRAFTS FOR A FAUNA INDICA. By ED. BLYTH,
Curator of the Asiatic Society's Museum, &c. &c.*

[Continued from p. 108.]

The DOVES

Are generally smaller and more delicately formed, with the tail commonly more or less lengthened and graduated, this latter character attaining a high degree of development in certain groups of them. The nearest approach to the wood-pigeons is exhibited by the North American passenger doves (*Ectopistes*, Sw.), which are especially characterized by having a long, much graduated and sharp-pointed tail, and powerful wings, of which the first two primaries are equal and longest; they have the true pigeon-like play of colours on the sides of the neck. The African *Ena capensis* has been generally placed near *Ectopistes*, but (so far as can be judged from drawings) would appear rather to approximate certain of the *Macropygia* of the Eastern Archipelago, as *M. Reinwardtii*. To the last-named group one Indian species appertains.

MACROPYGIA, Swainson: *Coccyzura*, Hodgson. (CUCKOO-DOVES.)

The species of this division are remarkable for their very broad, long and much graduated tail, and general Cuckoo-like figure. They chiefly inhabit the great Eastern Archipelago, a single species occurring in the Himalaya, and another in Australia. For the most part they are confined to rocky upland forests, and subsist much on berries, often descending to the ground to pick up fallen mast and fruits; upon being disturbed, their great broad tail shows to much advantage as they rise. The species of the Archipelago are very injurious to the pepper and other spice plantations; and their flesh is highly esteemed for the table, from the fine flavour said to be imparted to it by the various aromatic berries on which they feed.

M. LEPTOGRAMMICA: *Col. leptogrammica*, Temminck, Pl. Col. 248: *Coccyzura tusalia*, Hodgson, Journ. As. Soc. xiii. p. 936. (RAYED CUCKOO-DOVE.) Upper parts dusky, with numerous narrow rufous bars on the mantle, wings, rump and upper tail-coverts; tail more obscurely barred in the male; forehead, chin and throat whitish, tinged with lake; the occiput, neck and breast dull pale vinaceous, glossed (less brightly on the breast) with changeable green and amethystine-purple; lower parts yellowish-albescent, the under tail-coverts pale buff; all but the four middle tail-feathers ashy, with a broad black subterminal band;

* From the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, no. 169.

and above this band the exterior web of the outermost tail-feather is whitish. Female having the tail barred with narrow rufous cross-lines, like the rest of the upper parts; and the fore-neck and breast are similarly rayed with alternate dusky and pale buff. The tail-feathers, more especially of the female, have their inner webs rufous at base. Bill black; cere, orbits and legs red. Wings $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 inches; middle tail-feathers the same, the outermost $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The above descriptions are taken from a fine characteristic male and female; considerable variation of plumage occurring, as many specimens are in different degrees intermediate. This bird inhabits the Eastern Himalaya, and is common at Darjeeling.

TURTUR, Selby. (The TURTLE-DOVES.) (*G'hoogoo*, Bengal; *Fachtah*, H.; *Gya*, Arracan.)

Small and delicately formed tree-pigeons, with the tail moderately graduated or merely rounded, having always broad gray or grayish-white tips to its graduating outer feathers; neck devoid of iridescent gloss. They feed chiefly on the ground, upon grain, small pulse and oil-seeds; assemble in small flocks except when breeding, and generally prefer groves and coppices which intersperse the open country, coming much into gardens, where sometimes they may be seen nearly as familiar as domestic pigeons. In such situations they breed abundantly, constructing the slight platform-nests common to all arboreal *Columbidæ*; and in warm climates they have no special season for propagation, but produce alike at all times of the year, the same as domestic pigeons. As compared with the large true wood-pigeons, these birds are certainly much more terrene in their habits*; but they grade towards the wood-pigeons in *Turtur picturatus* (*T. Dufresnii*) of the Isle of France, which however is a true turtle-dove, having merely a larger bill than its congeners. Their geographical range is confined to the old world, inclusive of Australia, and the only Australian species (*T. humeralis*) is coloured like the *Geopeliæ*; which last are indeed but a subgenus of the present group, consisting of smaller and more slender-formed species, with delicate rayed plumage, and which are confined in their distribution to the Malay countries and Australia†.

* They resemble the generality of more dove-like *Gourinæ* (as do also the rock-pigeons) in having the outer toe shorter than the inner, which, accordingly, would indicate a terrene propensity.

† *G. striata* (v. *Col. sinica*, *malaccensis*, *bantamensis*, &c.), common in the Malay countries, appears also to inhabit the Mauritius. Living specimens are occasionally brought to Calcutta, where I have kept both it and *T. humeralis*; and being thus familiar with both, I do not agree with Messrs. Gould and G. R. Gray in making a *Geopelia* of the latter. It serves, however, to show the immediate connexion of the two subgroups.

G. humeralis agrees with *G. striata* in having the first primary suddenly

T. RISORIUS: *Col. risoria*, Linn. (*Kālhāk*, *Kāhālāk*, *Kahalaki*, or *Pānr G'hoogo*, Beng.; *Dhor Fachtah*, S. India.) (GRAY TUR-TLE-DOVE.) Uniform light gray-brown; the edge of the wing and lower tail-coverts pure ashy, somewhat deeper on the latter; head delicate pale vinous-gray, whiter on the forehead and throat; the nape and under-parts less ashy and more vinaceous, passing to light grayish towards the vent; a narrow black half-collar on the hind-neck; primaries dusky, with slight whitish margins bordering their tips; and closed tail uniform with the back above, all but its middle feathers successively more distinctly marked with black about the middle, passing into grayish on the basal half, and to white on the terminal, successively more strongly pronounced. Irides crimson; bare orbital skin white; bill black; feet dark pinkish-red. Length 13 inches by 20 or a trifle less; wing $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or sometimes rather more.

Common and generally diffused, frequenting hedges and trees in the neighbourhood of cultivation, and even low bush-jungle: it inclines more to be gregarious than the other species. To the eastward however it seems to be unknown in Arracan. According to Mr. Strickland, the identical species occurs in Northern Africa; and it is likewise stated to inhabit the south-eastern part of Europe, as Hungary, Turkey, and the islands of the Lower Danube*. In Southern Africa it is replaced by a nearly-allied species, the *Col. vinacea*, Gmelin, to which Mr. G. R. Gray refers *T. erythrophrys* of Swainson, while Mr. Strickland identifies the latter with *T. risorius*, and considers *T. semitorquatus* of Swainson to be the *vinacea*†. Mr. Gray, again, does not mention *semitorquatus* of Swainson, but gives *semitorquatus*, Rüppell, as distinct from either. *T. vinaceus* is distinguished from *T. risorius* by its generally much darker colour, by having the under tail-coverts whitish instead of deep ash, by its much broader black nuchal semi-collar, and by its winglet and primary coverts being dusky instead of pale ash-gray. It is also rather smaller than the Indian species; in which respect, and in the breadth of the nuchal half-collar, the common tame cream-coloured (or pale buff-backed) doves, which are abundantly bred in captivity both in Europe and in India, agree with the South African rather than with the wild Indian species. As for Swainson's two alleged species, I can identify neither of them satisfactorily; his figure

narrowed on both webs near the tip (a character which does not exist in *Turtur*), and I therefore consider *humeralis* to be a true *Geopelia*.—H. E. S.

* Bull. de l'Acad. des Sciences de Saint Pétersburg, 1837, No. 46; as quoted in the Rev. Zool. par la Société Cuvérienne, 1838, p. 293.

† Vide Strickland in Ann. & Mag. N. H. 1844, p. 38; Gray's illustrated 'Genera of Birds'; and Swainson's 'Birds of West Africa,' vol. ii., Nat. Libr.

of *T. erythrophrys* is evidently faulty in the colouring; but he speaks of "the belly, flanks, vent and under tail-coverts" as "clear cinereous," which should distinguish it from *T. vinaceus*, while its "broad black semi-collar, margined by a narrow cinereous line," instead of a slight grayish-white one, should equally separate it from *T. risorius*; again, "the orbits are naked and rich red," which applies to neither of them: his *T. erythrophrys* has the wing 7 inches, and his *T. semitorquatus* only $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, both the Indian and South African species being in this respect intermediate. *T. semitorquatus* has, further, "the belly, vent, thighs and under tail-coverts cinereous-white," which agrees sufficiently with some specimens, apparently females, of *T. vinaceus*, the (presumed) males having at least the abdomen scarcely paler than the breast; but, "above all, the inner toe is one-twentieth of an inch longer than the outer," whilst "in *erythrophrys* this proportion is almost reversed, or at least the inner toe is not even equal to the outer." In both the Indian and South African birds the inner toe is shorter than the outer*.

Besides the common cream-coloured domestic race, a small albino variety is frequently bred in cages, in different parts of India, with wing measuring $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 inches; but its form of tail and other proportions are as in *T. risorius* and *T. vinaceus*. This bird is often interbred with the cream-coloured race, producing offspring of intermediate size and shade of colouring†. The *coo* of *T. risorius* somewhat resembles the sound *cuckoo*, pronounced slowly and with a pause between the syllables, the second being much prolonged and at first rolled. It may not unfrequently be heard in moonlight nights.

T. HUMILIS: *Col. humilis*, Temminck: *Asiatic Pigeon*, Latham. (*Serotee Fachtah*, Hind.; *Golabee*, or rose-coloured, *G'hoogoo*, *Támákhüree*, or copper-cup, and *I'tkūiyá*, or brick-coloured—Dove, Beng.; *Goodko*, *G'hoogoo*? i. e. Dove, Scinde; *Gyoleng-bya*, Arracan.) (RED TURTLE-DOVE.) Much smaller and of a less elongated form than the last; general colour fine

* Notwithstanding these apparent inconsistencies, I have no doubt that *erythrophrys* = *risorius*, and *semitorquatus*, Sw. = *vinaceus*. The breadth of the nuchal collar, and even the apparent nakedness of the orbits, greatly depend on the stretching of the skin in preparing the specimen. I have an Indian specimen of *risorius* which exhibits a wide ring of bare skin round the eyes, solely from their being filled with too much cotton. In this specimen the wing measures 7 inches, as in the description of *erythrophrys*. My specimens of *vinacea* from South Africa have the inner toe (including the claw) conspicuously longer than the outer, as is stated of *semitorquatus*.

N.B. The *Turtur semitorquatus* of Rüppell is a distinct species, much like *risorius*, but larger and otherwise different.—H. E. S.

† The "Jungle Pigeon" of Latham would seem to be merely a domestic variety of this kind.

vinous-red, weaker below; the head ash-gray, paler towards the forehead, and whitish on the chin; a black half-collar on the nape; the rump and upper tail-coverts dusky-ash; vent and lower tail-coverts white, the former tinged with ashy; middle tail-feathers ash-brown; the rest successively more broadly tipped with white, which spreads up the whole exterior web of the outermost feather, and their basal two-thirds (more or less) blackish; margin of the wing gray for the anterior half; the primaries and their coverts dusky, and the secondaries grayish-dusky. Irides dark brown; bill black; legs purplish-red. Length $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and of wing $5\frac{1}{4}$. Female rather smaller. The young nearly resemble the adults of *T. risorius*, except in their much smaller size, their general darker colour, especially upon the head, and in wholly wanting the vinaceous tinge: in this state of plumage they doubtless constitute the supposed small race of *T. risorius* mentioned by Major Franklin.

The Red Turtle-dove is generally diffused over the country, though much less numerous than the gray one. It also keeps more to cover, frequenting groves and high thick hedges. Its coo is short and grunt-like.

T. SENEGALENSIS: *Col. senegalensis*, Linn.: *C. cambaiensis*, Gmelin: *C. aegyptiaca*, Latham: *C. maculicollis*, Wagler:—figured, but not well, and much over-coloured, in Denon's 'Egypt.' (*Tortroo Fachtah*, Hind.) (NECKLACED TURTLE-DOVE.) Brown above, the wing-coverts (except towards the scapularies) pure light gray; winglet, primaries and their coverts dusky, the secondaries tinged with gray; head, upper part of neck and breast pinkish-vinaceous, paler below, and passing to white on the belly and lower tail-coverts; the sides of the neck anteriorly (and meeting imperfectly in front) adorned with a large patch of furcate feathers, black at base, with a round rufous spot on each tip; in the living bird, these hardly appear at all when the neck is drawn in; and unlike the preceding species, there is no bar or other marking on the nape; tail graduated to the depth of an inch, and its feathers attenuate a little towards their tips; the middle tail-feathers are brown; the rest white for the terminal half, or nearly so, and black for the remainder. Irides dark, with a white inner circle; bill blackish; legs lake-red. Length 10 inches or $10\frac{1}{2}$ by 14 inches; closed wing 5 inches.

This delicate little species abounds in most parts of the peninsula, also in Western and Upper India generally, and it inhabits the Rajmehal and Monghyr hills in Bengal; but in Lower Bengal I have never seen or heard of it wild, nor does it appear to occur in the Himalaya or in the countries to the eastward. In the peninsula, according to Mr. Jerdon, "it abounds both in low jungles and near villages and cantonments, being found especially

towards the north in every garden, and frequenting stable-yards, houses, &c." Like *T. risorius*, it is common to India and North Africa; and Mr. Strickland states that it "inhabits the Turkish burial-grounds at Smyrna and Constantinople, which are dense forests of cypress-trees. It is strictly protected by the Turks, and it was with some difficulty," he adds, "that I could obtain a specimen. It was perhaps originally introduced there by man, but now seems completely naturalized*." The coo of this species is low, subdued and musical, a dissyllabic sound repeated four or five times successively, and of which its Hindoostanee name *Tortroo* is a sort of imitation†.

T. SURATENSIS: *Col. suratensis*, Gmelin, founded on *la Tourterelle de Surate* of Sonnerat: *C. tigrina*, Temminck: *C. turtur*, Linn., var., figured in Griffith's 'Animal Kingdom,' viii. 290. (*Chitroka Fachtah*, Hind.; *Chanral G'hoogoo*, or *Telia G'hoogoo*, Beng.; *Kangskiri*, Bhagulpore; *Chitla*, Upper Provinces; *Lay-byouk*, Arracan.) (SPECKLED TURTLE-DOVE.) Above blackish or dusky, each feather having two pale rufous terminal spots, which latter enlarge and spread up each side of the feather, upon the wing-coverts, the blackish contracting to a central streak, with broad pale vinaceous lateral borders; edge of the wing light gray; head grayish, tinged with vinaceous, which latter prevails on the breast and under-parts, passing to white on the belly and under tail-coverts; a broad half-collar on the nape, consisting of black feathers divergent at the tips, each tip ending in a small round white spot; tail broad and graduated to the depth of an inch and a half or more, each feather attenuating towards its tip; the middle tail-feather brown, the outermost grayish-white for nearly the terminal half, having the rest black, and the other tail-feathers successively intermediate in their colouring. Irides dark hazel, surrounded by a reddish *sclerotica*; beak dull leaden-black; legs dark purplish-red. Length 12 inches by $16\frac{1}{2}$; of wing $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; female rather less.

A very familiar species, and generally diffused both throughout India and in the Malay countries, coming very much into gardens even of large towns. It abounds even more than *T. risorius* in the vicinity of Calcutta, where it inhabits every patch of garden; *T. risorius* keeping generally a little away from houses. Its coo is musical and pleasing. Mr. Jerdon mentions having "seen a nearly albino variety once or twice of a pinkish-white colour throughout." This species has been erroneously identified with

* Proc. Zool. Soc. 1836, p. 100.

† African and European specimens are larger than the Indian ones, the wing measuring $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches. I have one from the Cape of Good Hope, identical with a Turkish specimen, and more rufous on the back than the Indian bird.—H. E. S.

the *T. chinensis* (*Col. chinensis*, Scopoli, vel *C. risoria*, var. B, Latham), founded on *la Tourterelle grise de la Chine* of Sonnerat, by whom it is correctly figured. The latter is distinguished by its larger size, having the wing and tail respectively six inches long; by the deep ash-colour, instead of white, of its lower tail-coverts; and especially by having the back and wings plain unspotted dark brown, with merely a slight tinge of gray at the bend of the wing only; the spotting of the nape is precisely similar. This bird inhabits China, and the Society possess a specimen of it from Chusan.

T. MEENA: *Col. meena*, Sykes, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1832, p. 149: *C. agricola*, Tickell, Journ. As. Soc. ii. 581: very closely allied to, if not identical with, *C. orientalis*, Lath., founded on *la Tourterelle brune de la Chine* of Sonnerat, which is certainly also *C. gelastis*, Temminck, Pl. Col. 550. (*Kullah Fachtah*, Hind.; *Sám G'hoogoo*, Beng.; *H'hulgah* of the Mahrattas; *Gyo-pein-doo-ma*, Arracan.) (FOX-COLOURED TURTLE-DOVE.) Vinaceous-brown, lighter on the belly; more or less ruddy, ashy, or even duskyish above; the rump and upper tail-coverts deep gray; vent and lower tail-coverts lighter gray; crown and forehead more or less ashy, passing to whitish towards the bill; throat also whitish in some specimens; on the sides of the neck a patch of black feathers, margined with grayish-white, forming a series of three or four lines of the latter hue; scapularies, and a greater or less proportion of the wing-coverts, black, broadly margined with rufous all round their tips; coverts of the secondaries pale bluish-ash, at least in some specimens; winglet and primaries with their coverts dusky, the primaries slightly edged with whitish; tail dusky-ash, its outer feathers successively more broadly tipped with whitish-ash, whiter on the outermost and beneath; irides orange. Length about $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches; of wing commonly 7 inches.

This bird is also pretty generally diffused throughout India, and occurs upon the Himalaya as a summer visitant, arriving in pairs towards the end of March, as I am informed by Capt. Hutton. Mr. Jerdon observed it to be tolerably abundant in the forests of Goomsoor, south of Cuttack, associating in flocks of various sizes. It is enumerated by Mr. Elliot, he adds, as found in the Southern Mahratta country, but was not observed by himself in the forest of Malabar. In the Himalaya, and in the eastern countries of Assam, Sylhet and Arracan, it appears to be plentiful, inhabiting alike the hills and plains; and it is common in the Bengal Soonderbuns. A Javanese specimen is rather large, and very dull-coloured; less vinaceous underneath, with more gray on the head, and less rufous margining the feathers of its mantle, than in any Indian specimen I have seen; never-

theless, the species is probably identical*. It is nearly allied to *T. auritus*, Ray (*Col. turtur*, Linn.), of Europe, which it resembles in its manners and in its coo, but is distinguished by its superior size; "orange irides instead of yellow; by the whole head (in some), neck, shoulders, breast and belly being richer vinaceous; in the back and rump being ash, and vent and lower tail-coverts light cinereous," &c. The specimens of *T. auritus* from India and China, mentioned by Latham, may accordingly be presumed to have been of the present species. Another nearly-allied dove would seem to exist in *la Tourterelle cendrée de l'Île de Luçon* of Sonnerat, upon which are founded *Col. cinerea*, Scopoli, and *C. turtur*, var. C, of Latham. Living specimens of the present species, and of the gray, red and speckled turtle-doves, also of the ground dove and of *Treron phœnicoptera* and *Tr. bicincta*, are almost always to be seen for sale at the shops of the Calcutta bird-dealers.

Memorandum.—The only known Indian Pigeons now wanting to the Museum of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, are *Columba Elphinstonii* and Himalayan specimens of *C. palumbus*; also females of *Treron cantillans* and of *Carpophaga insignis*; and good specimens of *Col. leuconota* are acceptable, as also of *C. pulchricollis*. Of species that require verification, there remain the *Treron pompadora* of Ceylon, and *Psammœnas Burnesii* of the Western Deserts (?). Also *Col. malabarica*, Lath. (*Colombe brame* of Temminck), founded on *la Tourterelle de la côte de Malabar* of Sonnerat. Size of *Turtur risorius*; head, back and wing pale ash-gray; the neck and breast weak vinous-gray; belly white; some oval black spots on the greater wing-coverts; tail marked with white as in the other Turtle-doves; bill, irides and feet red. Whether the Indian *Carpophagæ* ever lay more than a single egg in each nest is also a subject for investigation.—E. B.

April 4, 1846.

* This Javanese bird is certainly *T. orientalis* (Lath.) and *gelastis* (Temm.), the former of which names holds precedence for the species.

The Indian bird may safely stand as *Turtur orientalis*. To its synonyms may be added that of *Columba ferrago*, Eversmann, 'Addenda ad Pallasii Zoographiam Rosso-Asiaticam,' Casan, part iii. 1842, p. 17, from which it appears that this species extends northwards as far as Songaria.—H. E. S.



Blyth, Edward. 1847. "XXIV.—Drafts for a fauna Indica." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 19, 179–186.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/037454809494507>.

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