

S U P P L E M E N T  
TO THE  
H I S T O R Y  
O F  
B R I T I S H B I R D S .

BY  
WILLIAM YARRELL, F.L.S. V.P.Z.S.



ILLUSTRATED WITH WOOD-ENGRAVINGS.

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PREFACE TO THE SUPPLEMENT.

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IN order, as far as practicable, to make the original edition of the History of British Birds equal to the second, this Supplement, containing figures and descriptions of the species obtained since the publication of the first edition, has been prepared.

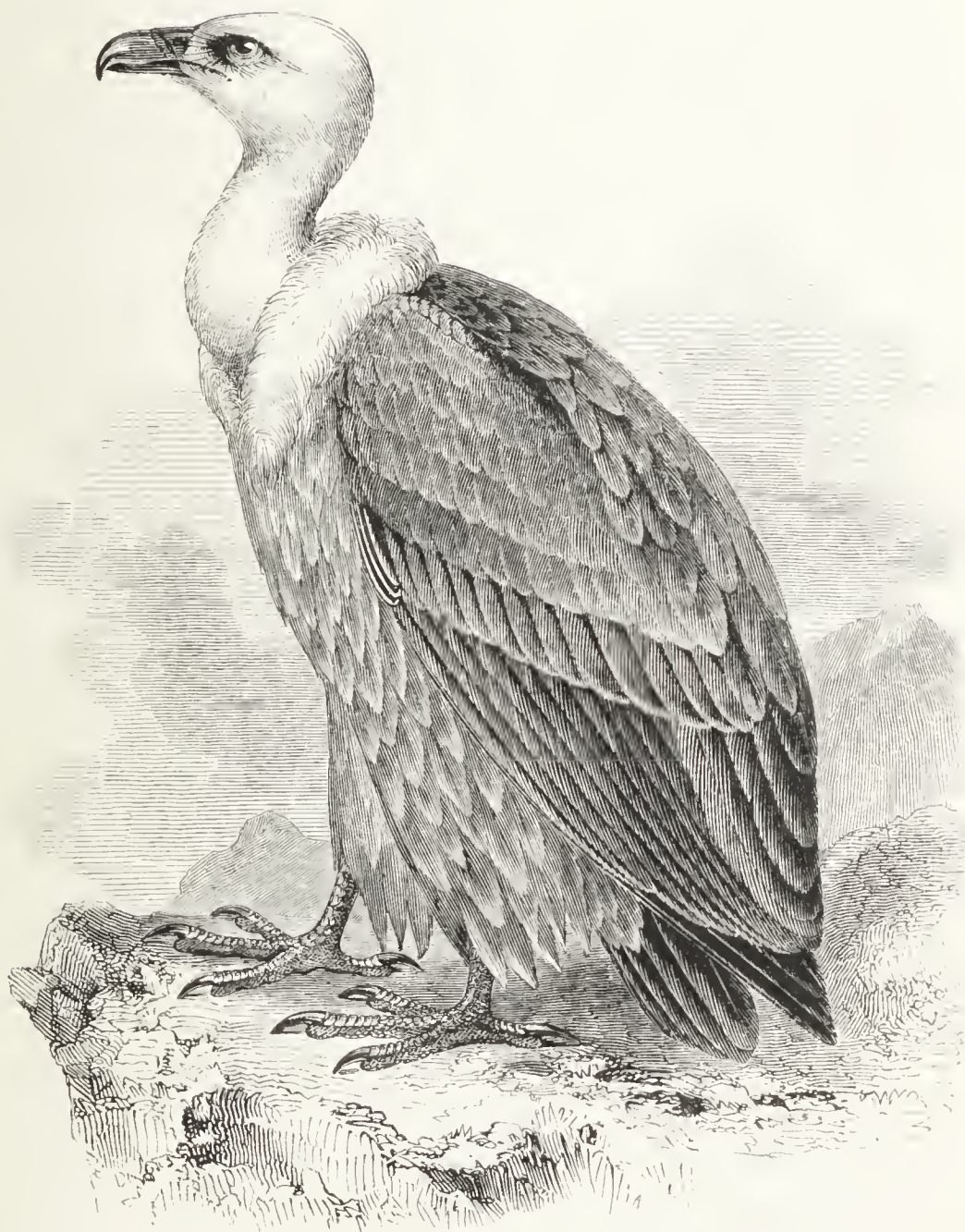
Ryder Street, St. James,  
Oct. 1845.

SUPPLEMENT  
TO THE  
HISTORY OF BRITISH BIRDS.

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*RAPTORES.*

*VULTURIDÆ.*



THE GRIFFON VULTURE.

## THE GRIFFON VULTURE.

*Vultur fulvus.*

- Vultur fulvus*, *Griffon Vulture*, GOULD, Birds of Europe, pt. ii.  
 „ „ *Vautour Griffon*, TEMMINCK, Manuel d'Ornithologie, vol. i. p.  
 5. vol. iii. p. 3.  
*Vultur fulvus*, *Fulvous Vulture*, HARVEY, Fauna of Cork, p. 4.  
 „ „ *Griffon Vulture*, THOMPSON, Annals of Nat. Hist. vol. xv.  
 art. 31.

VULTUR. *Generic Characters.* — Beak strong, thick and deep, base covered with a cere ; upper mandible straight until it reaches the point, where it is hooked abruptly ; under mandible straight, rounded, and becoming narrower towards the point. Head naked or covered with short down. Nostrils naked and pierced diagonally in the cere. Feet very strong, furnished with claws slightly hooked ; the middle toe very long, and united at the base to the external toe. Wings long ; the first quill-feather short, the fourth the longest.

I AM indebted to the kindness of Admiral Bowles for the first notice of the capture in Ireland of the Griffon Vulture, of which the engraved figure on the preceding page is a representation. In the autumn of 1843, while Admiral Bowles was in command on the Cork station, on his visiting Lord Shannon, at Castle Martyr, near the Cove of Cork, he saw there this Vulture which had been caught by a youth on the rocks near Cork Harbour, in the spring of that year. The bird had been brought to Castle Martyr for sale, and was purchased by Lord Shannon's game-keeper for half-a-crown. The bird was full grown ; the plumage perfect, without any of the appearances consequent upon confinement ; there was no reason to suspect that the bird had escaped from any ship ; it was very wild and savage, and was in perfect health. Not long afterwards, Mr. Thompson observes in the Annals of Natural History already quoted, "his Lordship politely offered the bird to Mr. Ball for the collection in the Garden of the Zoological Society, Dublin ; but before

arrangements were completed for its transmission it died. The specimen was, by the directions of Lord Shannon, carefully preserved and stuffed, and placed at the disposal of Mr. Ball, who has added it to the collection in Trinity College, Dublin. It is in adult plumage."

This species of Vulture, of large size and proportionate strength, possesses also great sustaining powers of flight, and has, as might be expected, a very extended geographical range. It is found in Germany, France, on the Pyrenees, and in Spain, particularly the rocky country about Aragon, and is common both there and at Gibraltar. It is included by Polydore Roux in his *Birds of Provence*, and is found in Sardinia, Italy, Silesia, Dalmatia, Albania, the Grecian Archipelago and Candia. The Zoological Society of London possess specimens sent from Tangiers and Tunis, and it is known to inhabit Algeria, Egypt, and other parts of the African Continent.

It is one of the characters of the Vultures generally, that unless pressed by extreme hunger, they seldom attack living animals, but appear to prefer carrion and putrefying substances; and when fed to repletion are so sluggish and inactive as to be easily captured. The late Drummond Hay, Esq., the representative of the British Government at Tangiers, in a communication to the Zoological Society of London on the *Birds of North Africa*, says of this Vulture, "I shot this bird as he rose heavily from the top of a high rock, near Cape Spartel on the north coast, where he had been gorging himself with the body of a dead kid. The species is rare in these parts." They build on high and almost inaccessible rocks, but are observed to descend to and frequent open plains in winter. In Sardinia, and in some other countries, this Vulture makes a large nest, of three or four feet in diameter, on

high trees, and lays two or sometimes three elongated white eggs, nearly as large as those of the Goose.

The following description is taken from a fine living specimen in the Garden of the Zoological Society in the Regent's Park. The beak from the curved point to the cere is of a yellowish white horn colour; the cere itself bluish black; the irides reddish orange; the head, neck, and circular ruff of dull whitish down; the lanceolate feathers below the circular ruff, the plumage of the upper surface of the body and the wing-coverts, light yellowish brown; the shaft of each feather of light wood brown; the primaries and tail-feathers dark clove brown; the lower part of the neck in front, and the upper part of the breast dull white, mixed with light brown; under surface of the body reddish yellow brown; the smaller under wing-coverts light brown; the large under wing-coverts almost white; the legs and toes lead colour; the claws black; the anterior portion of each toe covered with six large scales, the remaining portion and the legs reticulated.

A specimen in the Museum of the Zoological Society, sent by Sir Thomas Reade from Tunis, measures in its whole length from the point of the beak to the end of the tail-feathers three feet eight inches; from the anterior bend of the wing to the end of the longest quill-feather twenty-seven inches; the length of the middle toe and claw five inches.

RAPTORES.

FALCONIDÆ.



THE SPOTTED EAGLE.

*Aquila navia.*

	<i>Rough-footed Eagle,</i>	LATH. Syn. v. i. p. 37.
	<i>Spotted Eagle,</i>	"    "    "    38.
<i>Aquila navia,</i>	"    "	GOULD, Birds of Europe, pt. xiv.
<i>Falco navius,</i>	<i>Aigle criard,</i>	TEMM. Man. d'Ornith. vol. i. p. 42.
"    "	"    "	"    "    "    vol. iii. p. 23.

For the particulars of the occurrence of this interesting addition to the ornithology of the British Islands, I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Robert Davis, Jun., of

Clonmel, who sent me also a coloured drawing made from the bird, and from which the representation here given was copied.

“This specimen,” observes Mr. Davis, “which is the property of my friend Samuel Moss of Youghal, county of Cork, was shot in the month of January of the present year, 1845, on the estate of the Earl of Shannon, and was at the time in a fallow field devouring a rabbit. Another bird similarly marked, but reported to have been of a lighter shade of brown, was shot at the same place within a few days, but was unfortunately not preserved; both had been noticed during the two previous months sweeping over the low grounds in the neighbourhood, which is near Youghal, and between Castle Martyr and Clay Castle.”

This Eagle, very similar in its appearance to our well-known Golden Eagle, but almost one third smaller in size, inhabits the Apennines and other mountains of central Europe. It is *le petit Aigle ou Aigle tacheté* of the Animal Kingdom of Baron Cuvier, who mentions that it was so tractable as to be employed in Falconry, but would only attack small or weak animals, and was otherwise deficient in courage. M. Vieillot includes this species in his Birds of France, and mentions that it preys upon pigeons, rats, and particularly upon ducks, from which latter circumstance it had been called *anataria*. It builds on high trees, laying two whitish eggs, slightly streaked with red, and it feeds on small quadrupeds and birds.

This species has been killed in Belgium, and is included by MM. Meyer, Brehm, and Naumann in their histories of the Birds of Germany; it is found also in Russia and Siberia, but not, I believe, in Denmark, Sweden, or Norway.



South of the countries of Europe first mentioned, this Eagle is found in Provence, according to Polydore Roux and M. Schembri; and M. Savi includes it in his Birds of Italy. M. Malherbe says this species inhabits the centre of Sicily. One nest was discovered, containing two Eaglets and a mass of bones and skeletons of rabbits and reptiles; but that which created the greatest surprise was to find, underneath this large nest, seven nests of the Tree Sparrow, containing eggs and young birds; and these little Finches seemed to apprehend no danger in establishing themselves thus near the habitation of so formidable an enemy.

This Eagle is not found in Malta, but is said to inhabit North Africa, and is included by M. Savigny in his Birds of Egypt under the name of *Aquila melanætos*.

M Ménétries, the Russian Naturalist, in his catalogue of the zoological subjects obtained by him in the vicinity of Mount Caucasus, says, page 27, "I killed on the mountains of Talyche an adult example of this species, which had almost entirely lost the spots observed upon it when it is young."

*Aquila nœvia* has been obtained by B. Hodgson Esq. in Nepal, and by Mr. Blyth near Calcutta; skins were in the collection made by Mr. Ewer in the north-western province of the Bengal territory, and also in that of Major Franklin.

The young bird in its first year has the bill of a dark bluish horn colour, becoming lighter in colour towards the base, the cere yellow; irides hazel; the whole head, neck, back, wings, and tail dark chocolate brown; the tips of all the small and large wing-coverts marked with a crescentic patch of pale wood-brown; the tertials, upper tail-coverts and tail-feathers the same; under surface of the

body dark brown, the feathers of the thighs and legs varied with paler brown lines; the legs feathered down to the tarsal joint; the toes yellow, reticulated for a portion of their length, but ending with four large and broad scales; the claws nearly black.

The young bird in its second year, as figured by Mr. Gould in his *Birds of Europe*, is more uniform in its colour than the bird here represented, but has some of the smaller wing-coverts, the greater coverts, and the tertials tipped with light brown; the general colour dark reddish-brown.

An adult bird had the neck, back, wing-coverts, and tail reddish liver-brown; the head, both above and below, rather lighter in colour, the feathers of the upper part of the head and neck lanceolate; the primaries almost black; under surface of the body very little lighter in colour than the back; all the feathers white at the base; legs, toes, and claws as in the young birds.

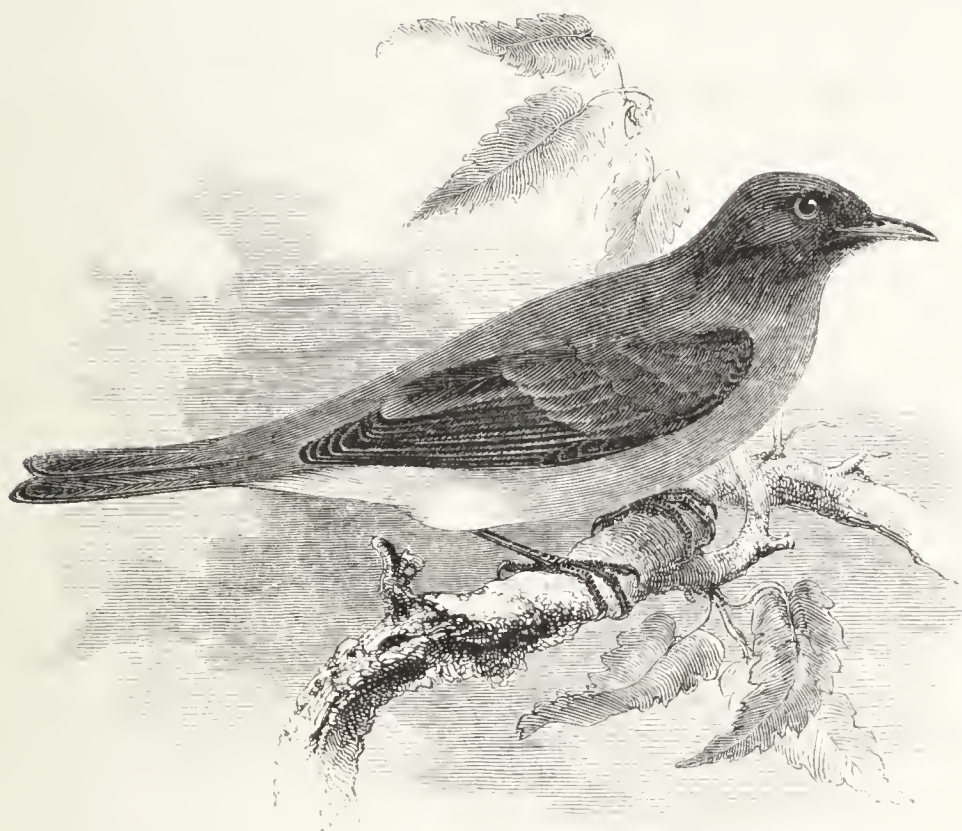
The whole length twenty-seven and a half inches, the wing from the anterior joint twenty-three and a half inches; the fourth and fifth quill-feathers nearly equal in length, but the fifth rather the longest in the wing. The wings when closed reach to the end of the tail.

Willughby in his *Ornithology* has accurately described this species at page 63, under the name of the *Morphno congener* of Aldrovandus, and adds, that "this bird took the name of *Morphnos* from the spots of the feathers, whence also it may in Latine not unfitly be called *nævia*."

The young bird is the *Falco nævius* and *maculatus* of Gmelin.

INSESSORES.  
DENTIROSTRES.

MERULIDÆ.



## GOLD-VENTED THRUSH.

### *Turdus aurigaster.*

<i>Turdus aurigaster,</i>		VIEILLOT Encyclop. Method. p. 657.
	<i>Le Cuddor,</i>	LE VAILLANT, Ois. d'Afrique. vol. iii. p. 46. pl. 147. f. 2.
<i>Turdus chrysorhæus,</i>	„	TEMM. Plan. Color.
„	„	LESSON, Man. d'Ornith. t. 1. p. 231.
	<i>Gold-vented Thrush,</i>	LATHAM. Gen. Hist. v. 5. p. 82. sp. 75.
<i>Hæmatornis</i>	„	SWAINSON, Class. of Birds, v. 2. p. 228.
<i>Pycnonotus</i>	„	THOMPSON, Ann. Nat. Hist. vol. 15. p. 308.

IN the month of January 1838, this rare African Thrush was shot at Mount Beresford, three and a half miles from Waterford, by a lad while out shooting Blackbirds; he considered it a hen Blackbird, and sold it to Dr. Robert Burkitt of Waterford, who skinned and preserved it; the

sex, however, was not noted. In 1843 Dr. Burkitt sent the specimen to Wm. Thompson, Esq., for exhibition in the Natural History Section of the British Association, then about to hold a meeting at Cork, and the subject is noted in the Published Report of the thirteenth meeting, in that part of the volume devoted to the Transactions of the Sections, page 71.

Dr. Burkitt has most kindly allowed me the use of his bird for my work on the present occasion, and the figure at the head of this subject, and the description to be added, were taken from this British killed specimen.

But little is known of the habits of this species by the various authors whose names and works are here quoted. By Le Vaillant, who has given a coloured representation of the male, it is stated that Klaas, the faithful companion of his travels, shot this species on the banks of the Grootvis river, in the Caffre country. This example, which was found to be a male, was accompanied by another of the same species, but Le Vaillant's fellow-traveller having only a single barrelled gun, the other bird, which was probably a female, escaped while he was reloading. They afterwards saw no more birds of this species, not even the female in question, although they searched the district in which the male was killed for several days.

Dr. Latham, in the fifth volume of his General History, when noticing this species, observes, that in the collection of Sir J. Anstruther are several drawings of this bird, where it is called the Bulbul (Nightingale) of Calcutta; but the bird thus referred to by Dr. Latham, which is figured in Brown's Illustrations of Zoology, plate 31, though somewhat resembling Le Vaillant's bird, is yet a different species, as comparisons of the figures and descriptions appear to me to prove. These African and Indian

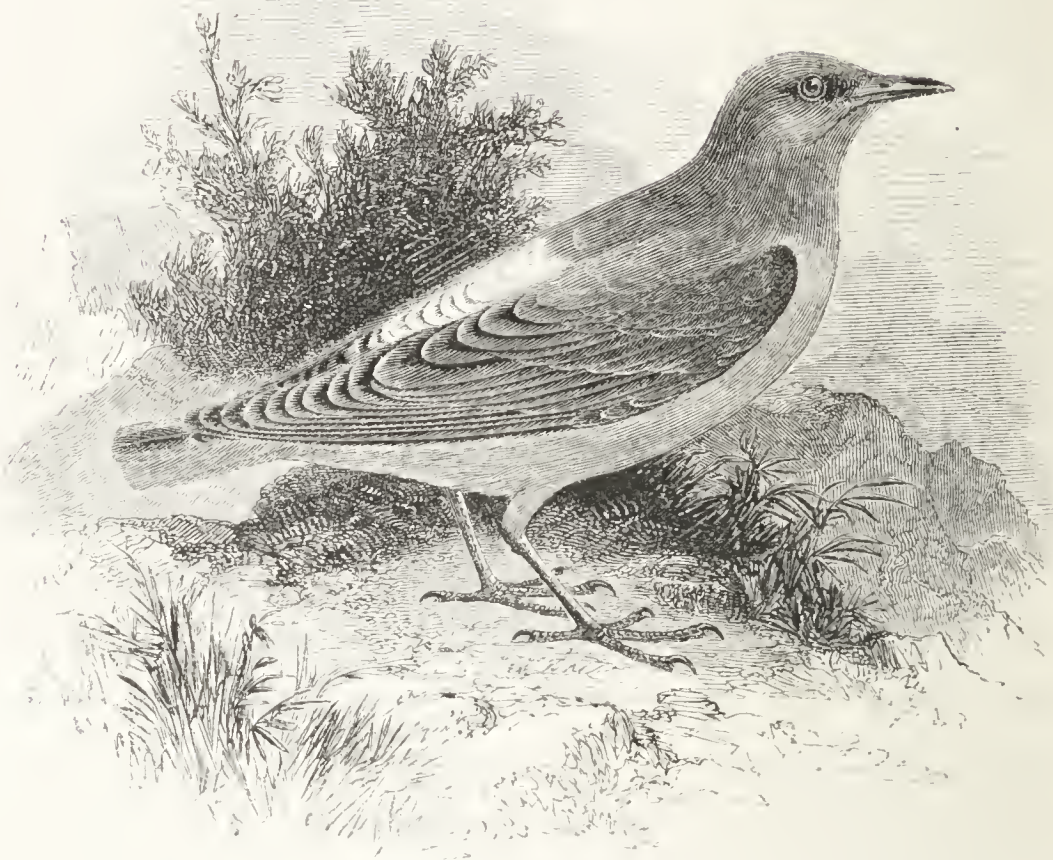
Thrushes have been grouped to form various genera ; the African species included by Mr. Swainson in his genus *Hæmatornis*, appear to be closely allied in characters to those of the genus *Ixos* of M. Temminck, as given in the fourth part, or volume of his Manual, page 606, one species of which, called *Ixos obscurus*, has, according to M. Temminck, been found in Andalusia, where it is said to be common, and that it also inhabits North Africa. Of this bird I have seen a drawing in the possession of Mr. Gould, and, from the representation, this species has all the appearance of belonging to the same group as the *Ixos plebeius* of Dr. Ruppel, found in North Africa, and those of Le Vaillant from South Africa. Of the habits of the Culdor, or Gold-vented Thrush, as before mentioned, nothing is known that I am aware of.

The beak black ; the irides probably dark brown ; the head, neck, back, wings, and tail-feathers, uniform umber brown ; the feathers on the forehead and crown slightly elongated, forming a crest when elevated, the plumage of the whole head being a shade darker in colour than those of the body ; throat and neck in front clove brown, becoming lighter on the breast, and passing into a dull white on the belly ; vent and under tail-coverts brilliant king's yellow ; legs, toes, and claws, black. The whole length of the bird seven and a half inches ; the wing, from the anterior joint to the end of the longest quill-feather, three and a half inches ; the first quill-feather very short, about one inch in length ; the second three-quarters of an inch longer than the first, but shorter than the third : the fourth feather the longest in the wing ; the tail very slightly forked.

INSESSORES.

DENTIROSTRES.

MERULIDÆ.



## THE ROCK THRUSH.

*Petrocincla saxatilis.**Petrocincla saxatilis*, Rock Thrush, VIGORS, Zool. Journ. v. 2, p. 396.

" " " " GOULD, Birds of Europe, pt. ii.

*Turdus* " Merle de Roche, TEMM. Man. d'Ornith. vol. i. p. 172, v. iii.  
p. 102.

PETROCINCLA. *Generic Characters*.—Beak stout, straight, the ridge arched towards the point. Nostrils basal, round, partly covered with hairs. Wings of moderate length; the first quill-feather very short, the third the longest, the second a little shorter than the third. Feet of moderate size, rather strong. Tail-feathers equal at the end.

THE beautiful specimen of the Rock Thrush figured above, was obtained on the 19th of May 1843, by Mr.

Joseph Trigg who shot it at Therfield near Royston, in Hertfordshire, while it was sitting on an ash tree in the evening of the day mentioned. I saw the specimen before it was skinned for preservation by Mr. John Norman of Royston, and received the first notice of the occurrence from my friend Thomas Wortham, Esq., whose influence with Mr. Trigg obtained for me the loan of the bird for my use in this work, and I beg to return my best thanks to all the parties, for the opportunity thus afforded me of figuring and describing the first example of the Rock Thrush that has been known to occur in this country. I have now very recently heard of another specimen shot by a gamekeeper, who not aware of the interest attached to such a bird, saved only the head and neck, but this portion having been shown to a gentleman conversant with ornithology, the species was identified without difficulty from its peculiar colouring.

The habits of this Thrush, and the localities it prefers, induced M. Temminck in his Manual, to separate it and some others of the same character, from the true Wood or Sylvan Thrushes, and to include them in a distinct and separate section. Mr. Vigors, carrying out this view still farther, proposed for this group of ground Thrushes the generic title and characters here adopted, and named the Rock Thrush as the typical species of his new genus. These birds inhabit rocky and mountainous countries, their stout legs and short tails, as compared with the Wood Thrushes, enabling them to traverse rough ground with ease. They frequent the wildest parts of rocky countries, and are found in summer on the Uralian mountains, the Alps and Pyrenees; they inhabit Germany, France, Switzerland and the Tyrol; they are found in several parts of Spain, particularly the rocky districts about Aragon; they

breed also in Provence and in the north of Italy, retreating as winter approaches, to Sicily, Turkey, the Grecian Archipelago, and have been killed on very high mountains in Algeria.

The male bird is an excellent songster, his notes resembling those of the Blackcap Warbler, and this bird has been known to live five years in confinement, singing even at night if a candle was placed near the cage. In its natural state, the Rock Thrush is a very shy bird, and difficult of approach, avoiding pursuit, and settling on the upper parts of pointed rocks, from which it is able to command the view all around. The pair make their nest in a fissure of the rock, or among the loose rough masses at the base, and M. Temminck states that the nest is constructed of moss, in which four eggs are deposited of a greenish blue colour, without spots.

I have followed Mr. Vigors in placing this bird near the Alpine Accentor, and the similarity in some of their habits will be obvious. The Rock Thrush feeds upon insects and berries.

The male bird has the beak black, the irides hazel; the whole of the head and the neck all round bluish grey; upper part of the back the same, but passing into brown on the scapularies; the greater part of the back white, varied with a few bluish grey feathers; upper tail-coverts dark brown; tail-feathers chestnut brown, the two in the middle rather darker in colour than the others; wings and wing-coverts dark brown, almost blackish brown; the greater wing-coverts and the secondaries tipped with white; the whole of the under surface of the body, and under tail-coverts light chestnut brown or bay; legs and toes dark reddish brown.

The whole length of the bird seven and a half inches;



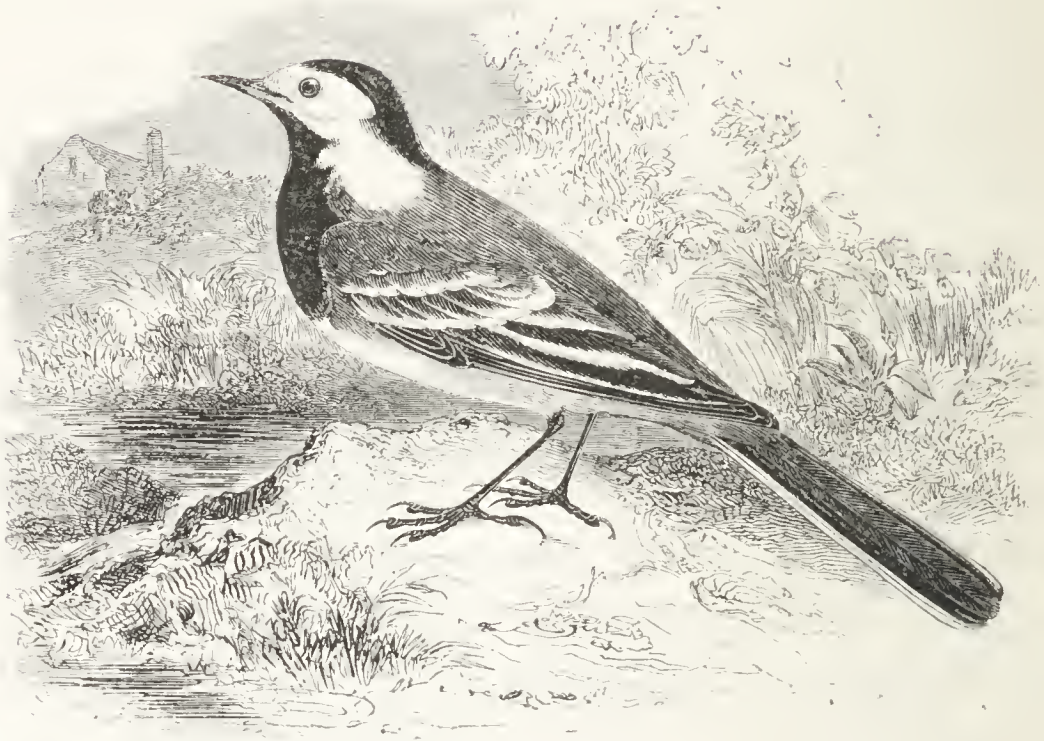
the wing from the anterior joint to the end of the longest quill-feather four inches and three quarters.

The female has all the upper surface of the body of a dull brown; on the back are some large white spots edged with brown; throat and sides of the neck pure white, some of the feathers occasionally varied with ash-brown; all the other under parts reddish white, with fine transverse lines at the end of each feather; tail light bay, the two middle feathers ash-brown.

Young birds of the year, according to M. Temminck, differ remarkably. All the upper parts light ash-brown, each feather terminated with a spot of greyish white. Quill-feathers tipped with white; wing-coverts edged with grey and tipped with white; tail red, tipped with white; under part of the body something like that of the adult female, but more varied with white, which is again intersected with brown lines.

INSESSORES.  
DENTIROSTRES.

MOTACILLIDÆ.



## THE WHITE WAGTAIL.

*Motacilla alba.*

*Motacilla alba*, *White Wagtail*, GOULD, *Birds of Europe*, pt. xix.  
 „ „ *Bergeronette grise*, TEMM. *Man. d'Ornith.* vol. i. p. 255; vol. iii.  
 p. 178.

THE belief expressed in the first edition of this work, that attention being directed to the subject, the White Wagtail would be occasionally found in this country as a summer visiter, has been verified in several instances. It happened that late in the month of May 1841 my friend Mr. Frederick Bond found two pairs of this White Wagtail frequenting the banks of the reservoir at Kingsbury, and succeeded in shooting three of the birds, two males and a female, and very kindly gave me one of the males. In the spring of 1842 a specimen was shot near Carlisle,

which is now in the possession of T. C. Heysham, Esq., and during the month of April 1843 I received one and heard of two others that were obtained by Mr. James J. Tratham, in the vicinity of Falmouth. Mr. Bond also told me, in the spring of 1843 that he had again seen one example near the Kingsbury Reservoir.

That this species is the true *Motacilla alba* of Linneus the coloured figures and descriptions of Swedish and other continental authors, leave no room to doubt, and when the subject has been further investigated, it will probably be found that the present species, the true *Motacilla alba*, and therefore called the White Wagtail, is only a summer visiter to Britain, while many of the better known Pied Wagtail remain with us all the year; their numbers, however, receiving an increase by visitors from the continent every spring. A. E. Knox, Esq., who is well located on our southern coast for observations on the migratory birds, and bestows time and great attention to the subject, says, that wagtails arrive on the coast of Sussex by the beginning of March, and generally during a gentle wind from the south. It is probable that both species on their arrival are less distinct in colour than they are afterwards at a later period, and Mr. Knox observes that the Pied Wagtails on their arrival are farther advanced towards the plumage peculiar to the breeding-season, than those which have remained in this country all the previous winter. The permanent pearl grey or light ash grey of the whole of the back in the White Wagtail being the most obvious distinction.

The habits of the two species in this country are probably very similar, or rather it may be more correct to say have not as yet been distinguished, and I quote M. Temminck's manual for those of the continental *Motacilla alba*, where it

is stated that it inhabits meadows in the vicinity of streams of water, villages, and old houses. Its food consists of insects of any sort and in any stage of their existence; the nest is placed among grass in meadows, in a fissure of decayed buildings or rocks, or under the arch of a bridge, where five or six eggs are deposited of a bluish white colour, spotted with black. This species is found in summer as far north as the Arctic Regions. Professor Nilsson says that it appears in Sweden in April, and leaves in October. It is spread over the whole of the European continent, and is found also on several of the islands of the Mediterranean, namely Corfu, Sicily, Malta and Crete. Mr. Gould, in his account of this species in his *History of the Birds of Europe*, says, that it is common in Africa and on the high lands of India.

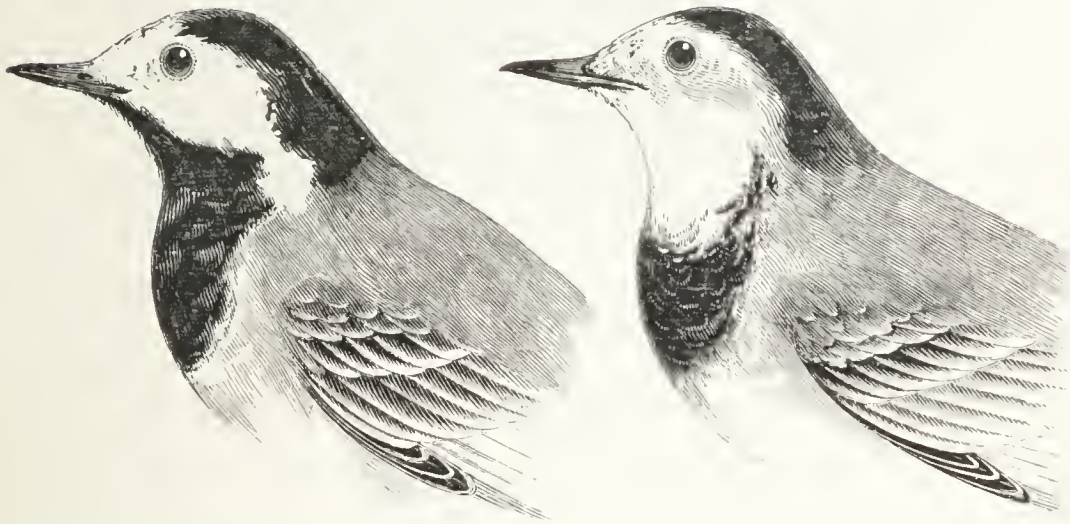
In the adult male in summer the beak is black, the forehead, region of the eyes, and part of the side of the neck as low as the wing, pure white; top of the head, and a square patch at the back of the neck, black; the scapularies, all the back and upper tail-coverts pearl grey or very light ash grey; wing primaries, tertials, and wing-coverts nearly black with broad outer margins of white; the two outside tail-feathers on each side white, with a narrow line of black on the inner margin; the other tail-feathers black; the chin, neck in front, and the upper part of the breast black; under surface of the body white; legs, toes, and claws, black.

The whole length seven inches and three-eighths; the wing from the anterior bend rather more than three inches: and this bird always appears rather smaller than the Pied Wagtail.

The female, according to M. Temminck, has the forehead and cheeks dull white; the black colour at the

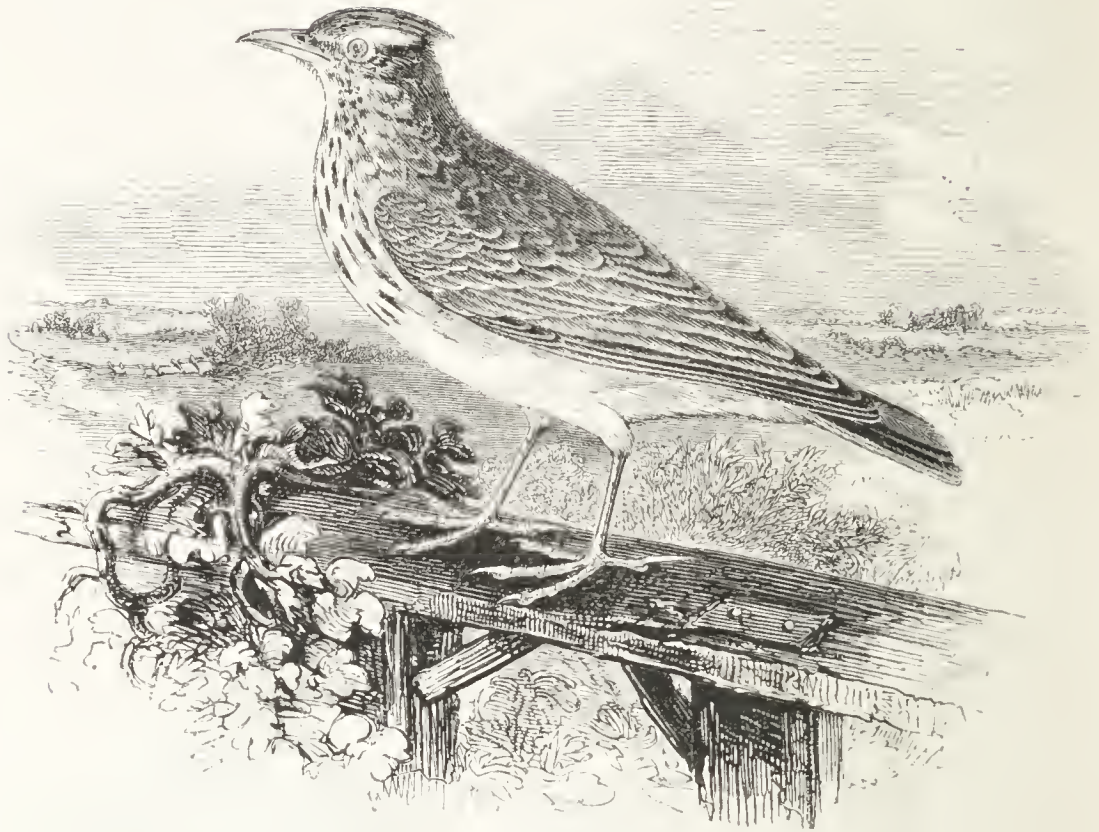
occiput covers less space, and the edges of the wing-coverts incline to a greyish white.

The vignette below represents the male bird in the plumage of summer and winter—and renders a description of the plumage in winter unnecessary, the white chin and neck in front being the principal difference,



INSESSORES.  
CONIROSTRES.

ALAUDIDÆ.



## THE CRESTED LARK.

*Alauda cristata.*

*Alauda cristata*, *Crested Lark*, GOULD, *Birds of Europe*, pt. xix.

„ „ *Alouette cochevis*, TEMM. *Man. d'Ornith*, vol. i. p. 277.

THE following letter referring to the occurrence of this species in Ireland, appeared, with a characteristic figure, in the *Dublin Penny Journal* of February 27th, 1836, vol. iv. No. 191, page 276, to the Editor—“ Sir, in a shooting excursion a few weeks ago, I killed, near Taney, a curious species of Lark, of which the above is a sketch. The bird was about seven inches long, like the common Lark, *Alauda arvensis*, in form; but differing from it in having

a longitudinal crest, consisting of ten feathers, in the form of a truncated cone, reclining backwards. Its head and bill were rather large in proportion to its size. The latter was of a horny white, (colour) and slightly curved at the end. A band, darker than the colour of the breast, ran round the throat, and joined the rufous brown of the back. The general colour of its breast and belly was a dusky white, mottled with brown; the wing-feather edged with white and rufous. Its tail was long, and consisted of twelve stiff feathers, edged with a whitish yellow. Its hind toe and nail were remarkably long. I searched the Naturalist's Cabinet, and the Zoological Journal, in vain, for a description of this little bird. When not looking for it, however, I accidentally met with one in Buffon. He describes it under the name of 'Le Cochevis ou la grosse alouette huppée,' as well as its specific designation of '*Alauda cristata*.' He mentions it as an inhabitant of Italy, France, Germany, Poland, and Scotland; but does not say that it is found in England or Ireland, yet I am convinced I have frequently met them in the furrows and meadows of Dublin. (Signed) W. R."

Since the publication of this notice a specimen has been killed in Sussex, and by the kindness of the gentleman who now possesses it, I am enabled to give a figure and description from this example.

When publishing his fine work on the Birds of Europe, Mr. Gould was not aware that any record existed of the occurrence of this species in the British Islands, and remarks that "this is the more singular as from the circumstance of the Crested Lark extending its range to many parts of the coast which are opposite our own, and from its being particularly common in the fields and plains round Calais, it might pass and repass to Dover at will.

Our personal observation of this bird while on the Continent, leads us to regard it as a much more solitary bird than the Sky Lark, to which in its general aspect it bears a close resemblance. The Crested Lark is said to congregate in flocks occasionally; but when we observed them they were scattered over the country in pairs, very frequently in the vicinity of the main roads."

Pallas describes this species as visiting Siberia and Russia in summer, and M. Nilsson includes it with a good coloured figure in his Fauna of Scandinavia. Buffon speaks of it, as before mentioned, as inhabiting Poland; and it is included by various authors among the birds of Germany. It is rare in Holland and Belgium, seen in the latter named country about October on its passage south. M. Vieillot says "it is resident all the year in France, and frequently shows itself about the entrance of villages, or on low walls or coverings of low houses. Its song is sweet and agreeable, and is continued till the month of September. The female makes her nest on the ground in cultivated fields, it is constructed very like that of the Sky Lark, and she deposits four or five eggs of a light ash colour, spotted with light and dark brown." They feed on insects of various sorts, worms, and grain, and the writer remembers when travelling some years since from Calais to Paris, seeing one or two of these birds occasionally picking, like our sparrows, at the horse-dung dropped in the road, flying off, on the approach of a carriage, to the road-side, settling on the foot-path or perching on any low rail till the vehicle had passed, and then returning to renew their search.

The Crested Lark is found in Switzerland, Italy, Turkey, Greece, and Asia Minor; it is found also in Spain, North Africa, Sicily, Crete, and in Egypt.



The beak of the Crested Lark is thicker, stronger, and more curved than that of the Sky Lark, brown along the ridge and at the point, but paler on the sides and at the base; the crown of the head reddish brown, with a few feathers elongated, forming a crest and pointing backwards; irides hazel; from the eye passing over the ear coverts a streak of buffy white; ear-coverts and back of the neck dark brown; back, wing-coverts and wings brown, the shaft and central portion of each feather dark brown; the wing-coverts and tertials edged with buffy white; the two middle tail-feathers nearly uniform light brown; the outer tail-feather on each side light brown, with a buffy-white outer margin; the other tail-feathers dark brown. The chin white; neck in front, breast and under parts pale yellow brown; the breast and flanks streaked with darker brown; legs, toes, and claws, pale brown. The whole length of the bird six inches and three-quarters; length of wing from the anterior bend to the end of the second quill-feather, which is the longest, four inches and one-eighth; length of beak along the ridge seven lines; the tarsus one inch; the hind toe and claw nine lines.

Mr. Gould mentions that the females of this species are smaller than the males, and have a shorter crest.

INSESSORES.  
CONIROSTRES.

STURNIDÆ.



## THE RED-WINGED STARLING.

*Agelaius phoeniceus.*

<i>Sturnus predatorius,</i>	<i>Red-winged Starling,</i>	LUBBOCK, Faun. of Norfolk, p. 36.
”	”	WILSON, Amer. Ornith. v. iv. p. 30.
<i>Icterus phœniceus,</i>	”	BONAP. SYN. p. 52.
<i>Agelaius,</i>	<i>Red-winged Maize-bird,</i>	SWAINS. and RICH. Faun. Bor Amer. v. ii. p. 280.
<i>Icterus,</i>	<i>Red-winged Blackbird,</i>	NUTTALL, Man. v. i. p. 169.
<i>Agelaius,</i>	<i>Red-winged tarling,</i>	AUD. Birds of Amer. v. iv. p. 31.

AGELAIUS. *Generic Characters.*—Bill shorter than the head, stout, straight, conical, tapering to an acute point. Nostrils basal, oval, with a small operculum. Wings of moderate length, with the outer four quill-feathers nearly equal. Tail rather long, rounded. Legs and feet strong.

“ A SPECIMEN of the Red-winged Starling of America (*Sturnus predatorius*) came into the possession of J. H. Gurney, Esq., in a fresh state, during June 1842 ; and was said to have been shot near Rollesby Broad, and to have had another of the same species in company with it. It was a male bird, in good condition and in almost adult plumage ; the stomach full of the remains of beetles.”

“ I have detailed these circumstances, as it seems probable, if these points were so, that these foreign visitants intended to nest here. Wilson says they resort to low grounds where reeds and alders grow for that purpose, and that the bird in America is often termed Marsh Blackbird or Swamp Bird.”

Of the occurrence of this species, new to our Catalogue of British Birds, as here mentioned by the Rev. Richard Lubbock, a record appeared in the *Zoologist*, vol. i. p. 317, and I received an early notice from J. H. Gurney, Esq., of Norwich, who purchased the specimen, and has most kindly sent it up to London for my use in this work. The figure at the head of this subject was drawn and engraved from that bird.

I have also, through the influence of F. Bond, Esq., been favoured with the loan of another example of this species which was shot among the reeds at Shepherd's Bush, a swampy situation about three miles west of London, on the Uxbridge-road, where an extensive tract of land, from which brick-earth has been dug out, is overgrown with reeds. This specimen was shot in the autumn of 1844.

Wilson, the American ornithologist, quoting Edwards, refers to another specimen “ shot in the neighbourhood of London many years ago ; and on being opened its stomach was found to be filled with grub-worms, caterpillars and beetles.”

The range of country in the western hemisphere frequented by this species, and over which it migrates, extends from Mexico on the south, to a great distance up the Missouri, westward and northward, and to Labrador and Newfoundland on the east.

Mr. Audubon remarks, "The Marsh Blackbird is so well-known as a bird of the most nefarious propensities, that in the United States, one can hardly mention its name, without hearing such an account of its pilferings as might induce the young student of nature to conceive that it had been created for the purpose of annoying the farmer. That it destroys an astonishing quantity of corn, rice and other sorts of grain, cannot be denied; but that before it commences its ravages, it has proved highly serviceable to the crops, is equally certain."

Flocks of these birds, most formidable by their numbers, assail the various corn crops whenever they are in a state to afford them food. After the corn is gathered the profuse gleanings of the old rice, corn and buck-wheat fields supply them abundantly. Later in the season they assemble around the corn-cribs, and in the barn-yards, greedily and dexterously picking up every thing within their reach, and Mr. Bullock mentions having seen them very numerous and bold near the city of Mexico, where they followed the mules to steal a tithe of the barley with which they were fed. The accounts of this bird by Wilson, Audubon and Nuttall are interesting.

Dr. Richardson's observations on the Red-winged Starling, in the *Fauna Boreali-Americana*, are as follows:—

"This showy, but destructive bird winters in vast numbers in the southern districts of the United States, and in Mexico, frequenting swampy places, and roosting at night among the reeds. It begins to enter Pennsylvania towards

the end of March, but seldom reaches the Saskatchewan before the beginning of May, and it does not pass beyond the fifty-seventh parallel. On its first arrival in the fur-countries it feeds on grubs; but as soon as the grain sown in the vicinity of the trading posts begins to germinate, it associates itself with the Saffron-headed Maize-birds and Boat-tails, and is occupied the whole day in tearing up and devouring the sprouting plants, returning to the work of devastation as often as driven away. It breeds in swampy places, in Pennsylvania in the beginning of May, and on the Saskatchewan about the twentieth of June. Its eggs are of a pale bluish white, with a circle of spots and streaks of dark liver-brown round the thick end, one or two scattered spots of the same colour, and some faint blotches of purplish grey."

Some of the habits of this American bird being observed to resemble some of those of our well-known Starling, obtained for it the name of Red-winged Starling, in illustration of which, Mr. Audubon, in his recently completed work on the Birds of America, in seven volumes, royal 8vo., says, "Towards evening they alight in the marshes by millions, in compact bodies, settle on the reeds and rushes close above the water, and remain during the night, unless disturbed by the gunners. When this happens, they rise all of a sudden, and perform various evolutions in the air, now gliding low over the rushes, and again wheeling high above them, preserving silence for awhile, but finally diving suddenly to the spot formerly chosen, and commencing a general chuckling noise, after which they remain quiet during the rest of the night."

The Yarmouth specimen, a male, has the bill shining black; the irides dark brown; the head, neck, scapulars, and the space between them, black; the feathers below the

neck edged with reddish brown; the feathers covering the anterior bend of each wing red, the lesser wing-coverts orange yellow and bounding the red; wings and tail black, the greater coverts edged with buffy brown; the tail rounded in form, the outer three feathers on each side being graduated; all the under surface of the body black; legs, toes, and claws, shining black.

The specimen killed at Shepherd's Bush is the older male bird of the two, and has lost all the buffy margins from the feathers of the back, scapulars, and greater wing-coverts; the whole of the plumage, except that on the bend of the wing, being of one uniform glossy black.

The whole length of the male nine inches; the wing from the anterior bend four inches and a half.

Mr. Audubon describes the female as much smaller, with upper parts dark brown, the feathers edged with light brown; some of the smaller wing-coverts tinged with red; wings and tail blackish brown, the feathers margined with brownish red, the first row of small coverts and secondary coverts narrowly tipped with whitish; a yellowish band over the eye; lower parts longitudinally streaked with dusky whitish, the fore neck strongly tinged with dull carmine. The young similar to the female, but without red on the small wing-coverts or throat, the latter part with the sides of the head being pale yellowish brown.

INSESSORES.  
SCANSORES.

CUCULIDÆ.



THE GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO.

*Cuculus glandarius.*

		<i>The Great Spotted Cuckoo,</i>	EDWARDS, Glean. pl. 57.
<i>Cuculus glandarius,</i>	"	" Cuckoo,	LATHAM'S Syn. v. 2. p. 513.
		<i>Pisan</i> "	" " v. ii. p. 520.
"	"	" <i>Spotted</i> "	GOULD, Birds of Europe, pt. xiii.
"	"	<i>Coucou Geai ou tacheté,</i>	TEMM. Man. d'Ornith. vol. iii. p. 274.
"	"	" " "	" Pl. Color. 414.

“THE *Cuculus glandarius*, or Great Spotted Cuckoo, was taken near Clifden in the county of Galway last winter.

I have seen the specimen, which is the property of Mr. Creighton of Clifden. As it is the first noticed occurrence of this bird in the British Islands, you will oblige me by making it known through the medium of the Annals of Natural History; yours very truly, R. BALL.” Such is the notice of the occurrence of this bird published in the summer of 1843, and Mr. Ball has lately been kind enough to ascertain and send me the particulars which follow. The Cuckoo was taken by two persons walking on the island of Omagh, where, pursued by Hawks, it flew for refuge into a hole in a stone fence, or wall, was taken alive and lived for four days (attempt being made to feed it on potatoes.) The inhabitants had never seen any bird like it before. It was taken about Christmas, 1843. The bird when chased by the Hawks appeared fatigued, weak, and emaciated, as if after a long flight, such as Woodcocks on their first arrival. The specimen has been presented to Trinity College, Dublin, and is now in the Museum.

This species inhabits Senegal and North Africa. Our countryman Edwards, in his notice of the subject of his 57th Plate, says, “I suppose this bird to be an alternate inhabitant of the southern parts of Europe, and the northern parts of Africa; since it was shot on its supposed passage, on the rock of Gibraltar, in Spain, by an English officer there, who sent it to his brother, Mr. Mark Catesby, of London, who obliged me with it, to make what use I thought proper.”

M. Malherbe, when noticing this species in his Ornithological Fauna of Sicily, says, he has frequently received it from Spain, and Brisson calls it *Cuculus Andalusiaë*. It is included among the birds of Provence by Polydore Roux; M. Vieillot includes it also in his Faune Française, and



mentions that in different years many examples have been taken in Languedoc. M. Brehm, Meyer, and Nauman, notice its occasional appearance in Germany.

One name used by Dr. Latham for this species, as quoted at the head of this subject, is the Pisan Cuckoo, in reference to which it is stated "that a male and female of this bird were found near Pisa, in Italy, where they made their nest, laying four eggs, sat on, and hatched them. It was observed that this species had never made its appearance there before; nor was it known from whence these birds came." M. Savi includes it in his Birds of Italy, and it is found in Sicily, Egypt, and Syria.

Mr. Gould in his well known work on the Birds of Europe, says, that the true habitat of this species is the wooded districts skirting the sultry plains of North Africa, but those that pass the Mediterranean find a congenial climate in Spain and Italy. Opportunities are still wanting to confirm the most interesting of its habits.

The adult male bird has the beak bluish black; the irides yellow; the head and cheeks dark ash colour, the feathers on the top and back of the head considerably elongated, forming a conspicuous crest; the back, scapulars, wing-coverts, rump, and upper tail-coverts greyish black, most of the wing-feathers, wing and tail-coverts, with more or less white at the end; the tail-feathers graduated, the two in the centre brown, the outer feathers darker, but all are tipped with white; throat and chest reddish white; abdomen, under wing and under tail-coverts pure white; legs, toes, and claws, bluish black.

The whole length of a specimen in the Museum of the Zoological Society, is fifteen and a half inches, of which the middle tail-feathers alone measure eight inches; the outer tail-feather but four inches and three-quarters; wing

from the anterior bend eight inches; the fourth primary the longest in the wing.

Considerable differences are observed in the plumage of this species, depending upon age. Mr. Gould says the plumage of middle age differs from that of the adult in having the head and crest of a much darker colour, and the whole of the upper surface more inclining to reddish brown with slight reflections of green; the primaries are rufous, tinged with greenish brown towards the points, which are pure white; the throat and chest are light reddish brown; the under surface as in the adult male.

RASORES.

TETRAONIDÆ.



THE BARBARY PARTRIDGE.

*Perdix petrosa.*

<i>The Red-legged Partridge from Barbary,</i>	EDWARDS, Glean. pl. 70.
<i>Barbary Partridge,</i>	LATH. Syn. vol. ii. pt. ii. p. 770.
<i>Perdix petrosa,</i> "     "	GOULD, Birds of Europe, pt. i.
"     " <i>Perdix gambra,</i>	TEMM. Man. d'Ornith. vol. ii. p. 487.
"     "     "     "	"     "     vol. iv. p. 333.

A BIRD of this species was picked up dead by a man that was hedging in a field at Edmondthorpe, about six miles from Melton Mowbray, in Leicestershire, in April 1842.

The plumage did not exhibit the slightest indication that the bird had been in confinement; it was a female, and the eggs inside were as large as sloes. I received this information from Mr. Robert Widdowson, of Melton Mowbray, who then possessed the specimen, and who sent me up a coloured drawing, taken from the bird, by which the species was immediately recognised. Two or three years ago, a bird of this same species was shot by a nobleman when sporting on the estate of the Marquis of Hertford, at Sudbourn, in Suffolk, where it was considered that a few of the eggs of the Barbary Partridge had been introduced with a much larger quantity of those of the more common red-legged birds, at the time the country about Sudbourn and Wickham Market was stocked by means of eggs obtained from the continent by the Marquis of Hertford and Lord Rendlesham, about 1770, as mentioned in the history of the more common *Perdix rufa*.

This specimen of the Barbary Partridge has now passed into the possession of Mr. Thomas Goatley, of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire; who has most kindly lent me the preserved bird for my use in this work, and the figure here given was drawn from this British killed Barbary Partridge. As a species it is immediately distinguished from the more common Red-legged Partridge, by the chestnut collar surrounding the neck, which is studded with small round white spots, and is much broader, and therefore more conspicuous in the male than in this example, which is a female.

The Barbary Partridge is found in Africa as far south as Senegal, extending its range northward over Morocco and Barbary, and from thence eastward to Algeria, where it is said by M. Malherbe to be very common. It is the Rock Partridge and Gambia Partridge of Buffon.

The Zoological Society have received skins of this Partridge sent by Messrs. Dickson and Ross from Fezzan. The note appended was as follows. "Killed in December 1842. Very common all over the country, frequenting ravines, hills, and all places where they can find cover, and often met with even in our gardens; flies in coveys; a shy bird; used as food by the natives, though its flesh is dry and without flavour. Its heart is so small that it does not exceed that of a sparrow."

Our countryman George Edwards, who gave a figure of this species in 1802 in his *Gleanings in Natural History*, says, "A pair of these birds were sent to me alive by my good friend Mr. Thomas Rawlings, merchant, residing at Santa Cruz, in that part of Barbary without the Straights of Gibraltar, on the Atlantic Ocean. I have not heard that the Red-legged Partridge, either European or African, were ever increased in England, though both sorts are frequently brought hither."

Of the islands of the Mediterranean the Barbary Partridge is found in Majorca, Minorca, Corsica, Sardinia, and Sicily; and north of the Mediterranean is said to be abundant in Spain, inhabits Provence and France, has been found in Germany, Italy, and Greece, and eastward as far as the country of Mount Caucasus.

In its habits the Barbary Partridge, it is said, very closely resembles the other Red-legged Partridges. "The female chooses barren places and desert mountains, where, among low bushes she deposits her eggs to the number of fifteen, of a yellowish colour, thickly dotted with greenish olive spots. Seeds, grain, and insects, are selected as food."

The beak and a bare space around the eyes red; irides hazel; sides of the head above and below the eye bluish

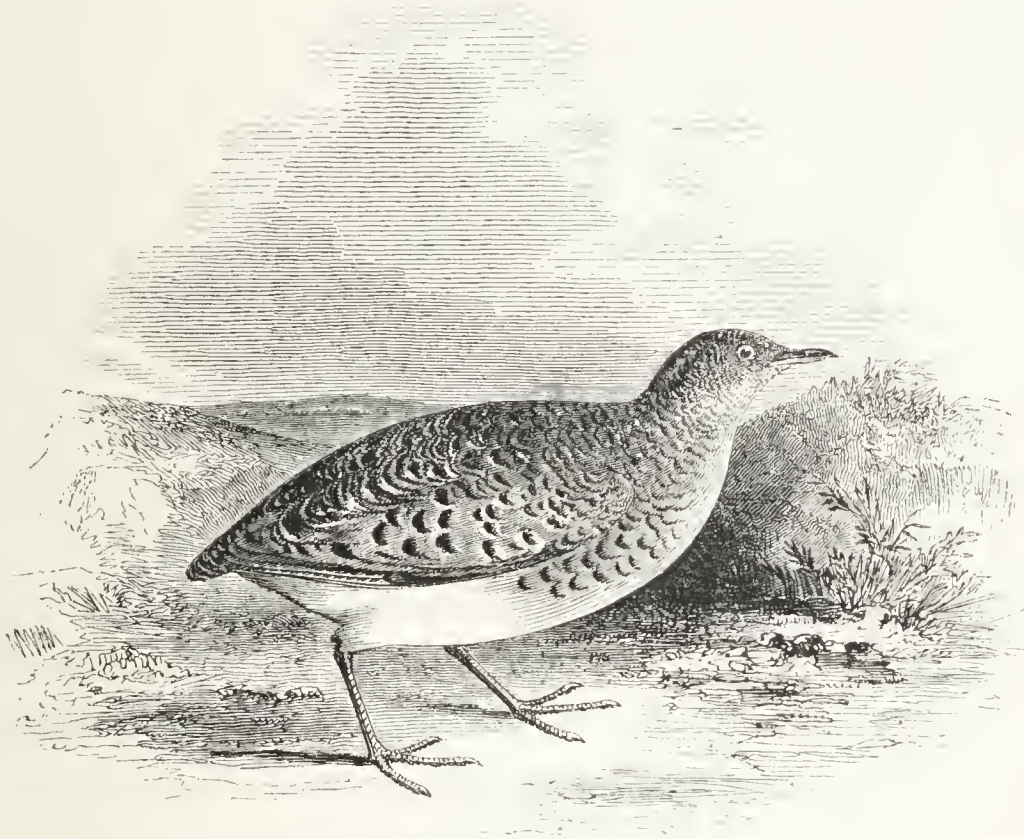
ash ; ear-coverts light brown ; top of the head and back of the neck rich chestnut brown, which ends in a broad collar of the same colour descending to the bottom of the neck in front, and prettily varied with small round white spots ; back and tail greyish brown ; wing-coverts tinged with blue, and edged with rufous ; wing-primaries brownish black on the inner web, the outer web of the first greyish-brown, of the others light wood brown ; throat and neck in front, above and below the collar, bluish ash ; breast buff ; feathers of the sides and flanks barred with white, black, and bright chestnut ; belly, vent, and under tail-coverts, reddish buff ; legs, toes, and nails, red.

The length of the male thirteen inches ; wing from the anterior bend six inches ; the legs armed with blunt spur-like protuberances.

The female is rather smaller than the male ; the general plumage less brilliant in colours, and the legs without any spur-like protuberances.

RASORES.

TETRAONIDÆ.



## THE ANDALUSIAN HEMIPODE.

*Hemipodius tachydromus.*

*Gibraltar Quail*, LATH. Syn. vol. iv. p. 790, sp. 37.  
*Andalusian* „ „ „ „ p. 791, sp. 38.  
 fig. frontispiece to the vol.

*Hemipodius tachydromus*, *Andalusian Turnix*, GOULD, Birds of Europe, pt. xiv.  
 „ „ *Turnix tachydrome*, TEMM. Man. d'Ornith. vol.ii. p. 494.  
 „ *lunatus* „ *à croissans*, „ „ vol.ii. p. 495.  
 „ *tachydromus*, „ *tachydrome*, „ „ vol. iv. p. 340.

HEMIPODIUS. *Generic Characters*.—Beak moderate, slender, very compressed; culmen elevated and curved towards the point. Nostrils lateral, linear, longitudinally cleft, partly closed by a membrane. Tarsus rather long. Toes three before, entirely divided; no posterior toe. Tail composed of weak yielding feathers clustered together, and concealed by the feathers of the back. Wings moderate, the first quill-feather the longest.—*Gould*.

THE term *Hemipodius*, signifying Half-foot, was applied generically by M. Temminck in 1815 to several species of

quail-like birds, but with three toes only, which from their very diminutive size were considered the pigmies among the gallinaceous birds. They live on sterile sandy plains or on the confines of great deserts: they run with great speed, seldom taking wing; ready to hide themselves at the slightest appearance of danger, and are found with difficulty among the herbage under which they conceal themselves. But one species is known in Europe, and of that one, parts of its history are still involved in some obscurity. It is found in the southern countries of Europe from Spain to Italy, and it is also found in North Africa, from Barbary to Tripoli. Dr. Latham, in a note, quoting Pennant, says, most likely this is the same bird with the Three-toed Quail of Shaw, which he says is a bird of passage, and is caught by running it down; for having been sprung once or twice, it becomes so fatigued as to be overtaken and knocked down with a stick.—*Travels in Barbary*, p. 300. M. Temminck considers that it does not migrate because it is found in Sicily in November and December, yet its pointed wings indicate considerable powers of flight. It is found in Europe, more particularly in various parts of Spain, from Gibraltar to Arragon: its food consists of seeds, grain, and insects; it is considered to be polygamous, but its habits in reference to nidification are imperfectly known.

The first occurrence of a pair of the Andalusian Hemipode in this country is thus recorded in the 14th volume of the Annals of Natural History, in a letter to the editors:—

“Gentlemen,—I have recently received a bird which appears to me to be new to this country; it is a Quail, having no back toe, and is not mentioned, I believe, in any



work on British Ornithology to which I have had access ; but in Dr. Latham's General History it is described as the *Perdix Gibraltarica*, with which my specimen appears to agree. The bird was shot by the gamekeeper on the Cornwell estate in this county, about three miles from hence, and has been kindly presented to me. It was found in a field of barley, of which kind of grain, by the by, hundreds of acres are still standing, with no prospect of being harvested in a proper state. Before I proceeded to preserve the bird, I took the measure of its various parts, the colour of its eyes, bill, and feet, its weight, &c., after which I found its description in the work before alluded to. It was shot on the 29th of October last, since which time another has been killed near the same spot by the same person, but its head was shot off, and otherwise so mutilated as to be unfit for preservation : this might probably complete the pair, mine being a male bird. It had in its gizzard two or three husks of barley, several small seeds similar to charlock, some particles of gravel, and was very fat. It was considerably injured by the shot, but I have set it up in the best manner I could, and consider it a valuable addition to my small collection of British Birds. Should this prove to be the only known instance of the capture of the bird in Britain, I shall feel glad in having saved it from oblivion. I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant.

“Chipping Norton, Oxon, Nov. 11, 1844.”

THOS. GOATLEY.

“The bird in question is the *Hemipodius tachidromus* of Temminck, which is figured in Mr. Gould's Birds of Europe, vol. iv. plate 264. Mr. Gould, to whom we have shown Mr. Goatley's letter, considers this one of the most interesting additions to the British Fauna that has occurred for many years.”—ED.

This species differs from the true Quails in having no hind toe; in the greater length and more slender form of its bill, and in the very probable circumstance of its laying only four eggs: in all of which points it exhibits an affinity to the Bustards, the Coursers and the Plovers. I have adopted Mr. Gould's term Hemipode for this bird as at once expressive of an obvious peculiarity.

Mr. Gould possesses four very interesting letters written by Linnæus from Upsal to the Rev. John White, then at Gibraltar, one of the brothers of Gilbert White of Selborne. I have in the British Birds, under the article on the Swallow, referred to a Natural History of Gibraltar in M.S. by John White, which unfortunately remains still unpublished. In the first of these letters, dated Upsal, 20th January, 1772, Linnæus congratulates John White on his being an admirer of the works of the GREAT CREATOR of ALL. In the second, dated the 7th of August, 1772, in reference to John White's Natural History of Gibraltar, Linnæus writes, *Fauna tua Calpensis esset mihi et omnibus exoptissima.*

Mr. Gould very kindly allows me to make further extracts in reference to three very rare British Birds. John White appears to have been in the habit of sending Linnæus specimens, some of which were new to him. Of our White-bellied Swift, page 266 of this volume, Linnæus writes *Hirundo melba, quam antea non vidi, affinis H. apus.* Of the little Three-toed Quail, the subject of the present article, Linnæus writes, *Coturnix tridactylus, an ex ordine Gallinarum aut Grallarum.* His notice of our Pratincole will be given with the account of that bird.

Of the genus *Hemipodius*, South Africa produces two species; Madagascar one; India two; Sumatra and the Philippine Islands two; but Mr. Gould has shown me

seven or eight species brought from Australia, three of which are already figured in his beautiful work now in progress on the Birds of that country, and the others are forthcoming. So much new light has Mr. Gould thrown on the Natural History of this interesting group, that I venture, with permission, to abstract a portion of the details supplied with the species figured in the second part, called the Fast-flying Hemipode.

“ I found this new and interesting species of *Hemipodius* abundant in various parts of New South Wales, but whether it has always visited those localities, or has recently made its appearance there, I cannot say. Mr. Stephen Coxen, on whose estate it was plentiful, and who, it was well known, has for some years paid considerable attention to the Ornithology of Australia, could give me no information respecting it; and it would appear to have escaped the notice of collectors generally, for I have never seen a specimen in any collection either public or private. I clearly ascertained that it is strictly migratory, by finding it abundant in those places in summer which I had previously visited in winter, when no appearance of one was to be seen.”

“ The season of more than usual luxuriance that followed the long and distressing drought of 1838-39, bringing in its train a number of rare and interesting species, was highly advantageous to the objects of my expedition. It was to this season of plenty, when the whole face of the country was covered with the richest vegetation, that I am inclined to attribute the appearance of vast numbers of this species over the district of the whole Upper Hunter, particularly in the flats of Segenho, Invermein, and Yarrundi. It appeared to give preference to the low stony ridges which border and intersect these flats, and which are thinly covered with grasses of various kinds, for it was

in such situations I generally found it, though on some occasions I started it from among the rank herbage clothing the alluvial soil of the bottoms. It lies so close as to be nearly trodden upon before it will rise, and when flushed it flies off with such extreme rapidity, as, combined with its small size, and the intervention of trees, to render it a most difficult shot to the sportsman. On rising it flies to the distance of one or two hundred yards, within two or three feet of the surface, and then suddenly pitches to the ground. As might be expected, it lies well to a pointer, and it was by this means that I found many which I could not otherwise have started."

"One of the most singular circumstances connected with this species (and the other two) is the great difference in the size of the sexes, the males being but little more than half the size of their mates. Pleased as I was at making acquaintance with this little bird, I was still more gratified at finding its nest and eggs. Natty and Jemmy, two intelligent and faithful natives, of the Yarrundi tribe, and who always accompanied me, also caught several of the young which had not left the nest many days." This species was found to have a wide range in New Holland; the eggs four in number, the nest on the ground, under shelter of a small tuft of grass.

To return to our British killed bird: I have again to record my thanks to Mr. Goatley for most kindly allowing his interesting specimen to be drawn from and engraved for this work.

The point of the beak is light brown, the base pale wood brown; irides hazel; top of the head dark brown with a lighter brown streak in the middle, passing backwards; the cheeks brown, speckled with buff; upper surface of the body dark brown, with numerous narrow transverse bars of

chestnut, black and buffy white; tail greyish brown; wing-coverts yellowish brown, varied by a dark spot placed on the centre of a larger spot of pale yellow brown; primaries greyish brown, with a light-coloured line along the edge of the outer web; chin whitish; throat, neck in front, and upper part of the breast pale chestnut; sides and flanks yellowish white, with a crescent-shaped mark of rich brown occupying the centre of each feather; lower part of the belly, vent and under tail-coverts buffy white; legs and toes pale brown.

Whole length of the bird about six inches; from the anterior bend of the wing to the end of the first primary, which is the longest, three inches and a half.

In reference to Linnæus, the vignette below represents the entrance into Upsal.





I believe this to be the first record of the occurrence of this bird in Britain, I subjoin a short description of the specimen and a sketch half the natural size, to assist in drawing the attention of British naturalists to it, as it will probably be found not unfrequent.

“*Measurement.*—Total length, to extremity of tail, about eight inches; bill from base ten lines and a half, from rictus one inch five lines; greatest depth of both mandibles two lines and a half; middle toe, including the claw, eleven lines in length; tarsus eight lines; naked portion of the tibia four lines. *Colours.*—Legs and feet in the preserved specimen pale yellow, probably red in the living bird, claws darker; bill dark blackish-brown; head, neck, breast, abdomen, under wing-coverts, and back deep glossy black; small wing-coverts, tail, and upper and under tail-coverts pure white; first three quill-feathers black, with a broad longitudinal band of white on the inner webs; remainder of the wings ash-grey, becoming darker towards the body.

“The form, proportions, and size of this species are very nearly those of the Black Tern, *S. nigra*; like that species, too, the webs of the toes are very deeply indented, being reduced to a mere rudiment between the middle and inner toes. The two species are however easily distinguished,—the under wing-coverts of the *S. nigra* are white, of the *S. leucoptera* black; the tail of the former is dark grey, of the latter pure white; in the *S. nigra* the throat is white, breast and abdomen dark grey, and the back lead-colour, while in the *S. leucoptera* all those parts are black. I speak of both species in their perfect plumage.”

M. Temminck says, “this White-winged Tern inhabits the bays and inlets of the shores of the Mediterranean, and is very common about Gibraltar; it visits also the lakes,

rivers, and marshes of the countries in the vicinity of the Alps; is very common about the lakes of Lucarno, Lugano, Como, Isco and Guarda; and is occasionally seen on the Lake of Geneva." It is included by Dr. Schinz in his *Fauna Helvetica*, but it is not seen in the north of France or in Holland. M. Brehm includes it in his work on the Birds of Germany, page 796, and M. Nilsson has given a very good figure of this species in the illustrations to his *Fauna of Scandinavia*, plate 121; M. Savi includes it in his birds of Italy, vol. iii. page 83; and M. Malherbe says that it appears in Sicily in spring, and is seen from Lake Lenteni to the environs of Catania and Syracuse, but is more rare in the northern part of the island. Mr. H. M. Drummond observed a few of this species on the river between the lakes at Biserta, about forty miles to the westward of Tunis, as recorded in the *Annals of Natural History* for August, 1845. M. Temminck also mentions that this Tern is common in spring in Dalmatia, but does not breed there, and was gone by July.

This species is not included in the lists of the Birds of Corfu, Crete, Smyrna, or Tripoli, to which I have so frequently had the advantage of referring, but Keith Abbott, Esq. sent a specimen from Trebizond to the Zoological Society in 1834. I do not find the name of this species in any of the lists of the birds of India, of China or Japan to which I have access.

The food of this Tern consists principally of dragon-flies, and other winged aquatic insects. Neither the eggs, nor the winter plumage of this species appear to be known. M. Temminck in a note in his *Manual*, vol. ii. page 748, mentions his strong supposition that the *Sterna plumbea* of Wilson may be this bird in winter; but in addition to the circumstance that the *Sterna leucoptera* is not included



among the Birds of the United States by the ornithologists of that country, the *Sterna plumbea* of Wilson is now with good reason believed to be the young of *Sterna fessipes*, or *nigra*, as it is also called, in the plumage of its first autumn, and identical with the *Sterna navia* of Pennant.

An adult male specimen in its summer plumage has the beak reddish-brown; the irides greyish-black; the head, neck, and middle of the back black, the feathers becoming lighter in colour towards the rump; upper tail-coverts and tail-feathers white; anterior portion of the outside of the wing white, passing into a light grey on the larger wing-coverts; the first, second, third, and sometimes as many of the first five of the primary wing-feathers black, the number depending on age, these have all white shafts, and with a considerable portion of white along the base of the broad inner web; the other primaries light grey; the secondaries, tertiaries, and the scapular feathers slate-grey. The chin, neck in front, breast, belly, sides, and flanks black; under wing-coverts some black, others slate-grey; under tail-coverts, and under surface of the tail-feathers white; legs, toes, and their membranes pale yellow in the preserved bird, coral red in the living bird; the claws black, the interdigital membranes very much indented,

The whole length of the specimen described nine inches and a half; the wing from the anterior joint to the end of the first primary, which is the longest in the wing, eight inches and a quarter.

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