

of the lower part of their belly, and gradually lowering themselves till their breasts touch the ground, the male bird of each pair standing upright alongside of the female. A Crested Cormorant makes a nest composed of mud and sea-weed, and lays indiscriminately among these Penguins. I was once amused to see three of the Cormorants attack the nest of an absent Penguin and steal nearly the whole of it, adding it to their own. As soon, however, as the proprietor returned, they left off, and the latter did not appear to take any notice of the robbery that had been committed. These Cormorants lay three eggs, about the middle of November. Both *Aptenodytes chrysocome* and *Eudyptes papua* suffer much from the depredations of a Skua Gull (*Lestris antarctica*), which is always on the watch to carry away their eggs; consequently the ground near their rookeries is covered with egg-shells. *Lestris antarctica* breeds contiguously to the Penguin rookeries; but as they do not lay till the end of November or beginning of December (I saw young ones and eggs on the 15th of December), they cannot feed their young on Penguins' eggs, as the latter have all been hatched previously to this: perhaps they steal the young ones.

I have now to remark upon another Penguin which breeds among the Rock-hoppers: this bird is called in the Falkland Islands the Maccaroni Penguin; its technical name I do not know*. It has an orange-coloured crest. In a rookery of Rock-hoppers in the North Camp, I counted fifteen of them among, perhaps, twenty thousand of *Aptenodytes chrysocome*. They only lay one egg to my knowledge; at least, I took one egg from under nine different birds, and many of them were sat upon. They come up and lay at the same time as *Aptenodytes chrysocome*.

XLIV.—*Notes on Birds observed in the Ionian Islands, and the Provinces of Albania proper, Epirus, Acarnania, and Montenegro.* By the Hon. THOMAS L. POWYS, F.Z.S. (Part IV.)

[Concluded from page 239.]

160. COMMON THICK-KNEE. (*Edicnemus crepitans*.)

Occasionally visits Corfu and Epirus in April and May.

* Mr. Tristram has received from Capt. Abbott skins of this fourth species, which he informs us is *Eudyptes chrysolophus*, Brandt.—ED.

161. GOLDEN PLOVER. (*Charadrius plumialis.*)

Common in severe weather in Corfu and Epirus.

162. RINGED PLOVER. (*Charadrius hiaticula.*)

I observed this species occasionally at Butrinto in February and March.

163. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER. (*Charadrius minor.*)

Tolerably common in Corfu in April and May, particularly in the Val di Corissia and at Potamo, only remaining a few days in the island.

164. KENTISH PLOVER. (*Charadrius cantianus.*)

Common in Corfu and all suitable localities in Epirus during the winter months, disappearing about the middle of March.

165. PEEWIT. (*Vanellus cristatus.*)

Very abundant throughout the islands and mainland in winter. I never saw one of this species later than the beginning of March in these countries.

166. GREY PLOVER. (*Squatarola helvetica.*)

I occasionally saw this species in Corfu and Epirus, in January, February, and March 1857. Some specimens killed in the island in the latter month were in full breeding plumage. I never saw the Grey Plover in large troops, but almost invariably in pairs, or small parties of four or five individuals. This bird has a curious habit, which I do not recollect to have seen mentioned in any work on ornithology, of throwing somersaults in the air, in the same manner as the Tumbler Pigeon and Roller. I noticed this particularly in March 1857, on the Gulf of Arta, about the mouth of the Luro river, where a few of this species are generally to be seen.

167. TURNSTONE. (*Streptilas interpres.*)

A large flock of Turnstones flew past the ship as we were going to Antivari, in December 1857, on board H.M.S. Ariel. I never observed this species in Greek waters on any other occasion.

168. OYSTER-CATCHER. (*Hæmatopus ostralegus.*)

Common on the shores of Corfu and Epirus for a few weeks in March and April.

169. WOODCOCK. (*Scolopax rusticola*.)

So much has been said and written concerning the abundance of this species in these countries, that it is unnecessary for me to add to the mass of information already in print on the subject ; but a few words on my own experience may not be out of place here. That part of the mainland which lies opposite to the island of Corfu, and which is usually called Albania, is, properly speaking, Epirus, of which Joannina is the capital, Albania proper being the contiguous province to the north. The country near the coast consists for the most part of rocky hills of moderate elevation, thickly overgrown in most places with long grass, and various species of evergreen scrub and thorn bushes. The valleys are marshy, cultivated in some parts, and in others more or less covered with woods of alder, poplar, oak, plane, sycamore, willow, &c., and in many places a thick undergrowth of black-thorn, briars, sedge, reeds, &c. ; the fields are also dotted with patches of tamarisk, thorn, and briars, and intersected by numerous small streams. The Woodcocks generally begin to arrive about the 10th of November, their numbers depending on the state of the weather, and in a good season are to be found in abundance from that time till the 15th of March. I arrived at Corfu on the 24th of December, 1856 ; the weather was then, and had been for some weeks, very stormy and unsettled ; heavy rains had turned the valleys into lakes, and everyone told us that Woodcocks were not to be found. For some days the weather was so bad that it was useless to attempt an expedition to the mainland, and we contented ourselves with wandering about the beautiful arbutus-coverts of the island, occasionally finding a Snipe or two in the low grounds, and hearing of, but very seldom seeing, a Woodcock. At last we could stand it no longer, but sailed about one A.M., on the 5th of January, from Corfu, and on awaking about seven A.M. found ourselves snugly at anchor in the well-known bay of Butrinto. We went ashore, and waded through about two miles of thorn-covert, and had what appeared to me very fair sport, till the rain came down in torrents, and drove us back to our yacht. We were three guns, and our bag at one P.M. contained 21 Woodcocks, 2 Snipes, 1 Water Rail, 1 Little Gull, 1 Common Buzzard, 1 Marsh Harrier, 3 Sparrow-

hawks, 1 Barred Woodpecker, and 1 Red-crested Whistling Duck. My companions complained bitterly, saying that it was not worth the trouble of coming over for such a paltry bag, and vowing that they would put up their guns till the weather improved. Now it struck me that the Woodcocks had been flooded out of the wood which we had beaten, and would probably be found on the hills in thicker covert, where they could avoid the drip of the trees; and so it proved, as on the next expedition in which I joined, on which occasion we were bent on the slaughter of Wild Boars and Roedeer, we flushed great numbers of Woodcocks on the hill-sides, in the steepest places and most impenetrable thickets. Forty and fifty couple of Woodcocks had been killed in November 1856, on several occasions, by two guns. The weather improved about the beginning of February 1857, and the Cocks came down again into the valleys, where we allowed them but little peace, and used to bag from ten to fifteen couple frequently, till the end of March, when they left the country. To myself, the great charm of shooting in these countries consists in the variety of birds to be observed, and the power of roaming about in every direction, through a beautiful country, without let or hindrance. To show in some degree the variety of sport to be met with, I subjoin a few extracts from my game-book. Our party consisted generally of myself and two friends. February 8th, 1857, 24 Woodcocks, 1 Hare, 2 Bitterns, 1 Marten Cat;—9th, 20 Woodcocks, 2 Golden-eyes, 1 Snipe;—10th, 38 Woodcocks, 1 Hare, 4 Snipes;—26th, 14 Woodcocks, 5 Teal, 3 Snipes, 1 Hare, 1 Water Rail;—March 5th, 31 Woodcocks, 1 Otter, 1 *Picus leuconotus*;—11th, 2 Woodcocks, 1 Duck, 1 Teal, 1 Garganey, 1 Snipe.

The above sport, with the exception of the 10th of February, occurred in the valley of Vrana, from the anchorages of Butrinto, Kataito, and Paganía: on the 10th of February we shot from Santa Quaranta. In the Gulf of Arta, from about the 14th till the 18th of March, our party of five bagged 204 head, including 2 Roedeer, about 80 Woodcocks, 12 Hares, Wild Ducks, Shovellers, Teal, Garganey, 3 Wood Pigeons, Gadwall, Pochard, Tufted Duck, 1 Solitary Snipe, Common and Jack Snipes, Bitterns, Grey Plover, Water Rails, Spotted Rails, Black-tailed

Godwits, Coots, Grebes, 1 Eagle-Owl, 1 Short-eared Owl, Green-shanks, Redshanks, and Dunlin. I only quote the above extracts to show the sort of sport to be met with in a season which I was assured was the worst for Woodcocks in the recollection of "the oldest inhabitant."

The next season, a very severe one, was much better, but was not reckoned anything very remarkable. My companion and I then devoted our energies chiefly to the pursuit of wild-fowl, and met with tolerable success. To return to the habits of what I once heard an auctioneer term "that popular bird the Woodcock" (he was offering its eggs for sale), it arrives in Corfu generally a week before it makes its appearance on the mainland, and fair sport may there be met with for a few days, in the arbutus-coverts of Strangili, Govino, and Mesonghi. I must now wind up my long digression from the "scientific descriptions of birds," to which we have been informed the 'Ibis' is chiefly devoted, and in conclusion strongly recommend any lover of sport, for its own sake, to spend a winter in Greek waters, and in wet weather to try the hills about Butrinto, Kataito, and Tre Scoglie; in bright frosts, the old woods in the valley of Vrana, from Butrinto to Paganìa; and in all weathers, Santa Quaranta, Phanari, and the Gulf of Arta; to wear the strongest jean he can procure, lined with flannel; and, above all, to be uniformly courteous and civil to the natives, who can, and occasionally will be of great service to those who treat them kindly.

170. SOLITARY SNIPE. (*Scolopax major.*)

Arrives in Corfu and Epirus in small numbers in March, remaining about a month in the low-lying maize-fields and vineyards; a few are always to be met with at that season in the Val di Roppa. I have occasionally killed this species in Epirus in September.

171. COMMON SNIPE. (*Scolopax gallinago.*)

Very common in all the marshes of the mainland and the islands, from September till the end of March. In the months of October and November 1857, it was no unusual occurrence for two good shots to bag from fifty up to a hundred couple

of Snipes in two days' shooting, in the great marshes of Santa Quaranta. Eighty couple of Snipes were killed in one day, some years ago, at Butrinto, by a gentleman well known at Corfu as the keenest of sportsmen and one of the best of shots. From ten to twenty couple may often be killed in the Val di Roppa, about seven miles from the town of Corfu.

172. JACK SNIPE. (*Scolopax gallinula*.)

Common, but less so, in proportion to the number of the preceding species, than in any country I know.

173. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT. (*Limosa melanura*.)

Occurs sparingly in winter. More common on the Gulf of Arta than in any other locality with which I am acquainted.

174. BAR-TAILED GODWIT. (*Limosa rufa*.)

Not common; occasionally seen in September at Butrinto.

175. PIGMY CURLEW. (*Tringa subarquata*.)

Occurs at Corfu, occasionally in great numbers, and generally in full breeding plumage, about the end of May.

176. DUNLIN. (*Tringa alpina*.)

Occurs sparingly in winter in Epirus and the islands.

177. LITTLE STINT. (*Tringa minuta*.)

Rather common in April and May, particularly on the race-course of Corfu, which is an excellent locality for birds of many species at various seasons. I never shot a specimen of *Tringa temminckii* in this part of the world; but I feel no doubt about having once or twice seen it in company with the present species, on the race-course above-mentioned.

178. SANDERLING. (*Calidris arenaria*.)

Rare; the bird-stuffer brought me three specimens in the spring of 1858, to ask what they were. These were the only birds of this species that came under my observation during my stay at Corfu.

179. RUFF. (*Machetes pugnax*.)

In large flocks on the spit of low land opposite Prevesa, at the entrance of the Gulf of Arta, in March 1857, in company with the Black-tailed Godwits. Not uncommon in Corfu at the same

season. These birds, although usually rather difficult of approach, may be obtained in great numbers by tying a bright-coloured handkerchief on to a stick, and concealing oneself near it. Bright colour seems to have some invincible attraction for them, and they will fly round, and dart down at the object of their curiosity, regardless of repeated shots, and the consequent diminution of their numbers.

180. COMMON SANDPIPER. (*Tringoides hypoleuca*.)

Common at almost all seasons on the rocky parts of the coasts of Epirus and Corfu.

181. GREENSHANK. (*Totanus glottis*.)

Occurs in small numbers in Epirus and Corfu in winter and early spring.

182. MARSH SANDPIPER. (*Totanus stagnatilis*.)

Abundant in March, April, and the early part of May, on the race-course of Corfu. The habits of this species closely resemble those of the Green Sandpiper (*Totanus ochropus*), but it is less shy, and not so clamorous. I have had excellent opportunities of observing closely the habits of this and many other allied species on the race-course, having sometimes seen within a few yards of the spot on which I lay hidden, *Totanus glottis*, *T. stagnatilis*, *T. glareola*, *T. ochropus*, *Himantopus melanopterus*, *Tringa minuta*, *Numenius phæopus*, and *Glareola pratincola*.

183. WOOD SANDPIPER. (*Totanus glareola*.)

Common, but less so than the above, at the same season, and in the same locality.

184. GREEN SANDPIPER. (*Totanus ochropus*.)

Common from the beginning of September till the end of May, and occasionally seen in June and July in Corfu and Epirus. This and the following species are great enemies to the snipe-shooter, as they are for ever flying round the marshes, and indulging in shrill screams and extraordinary aerial evolutions, thereby alarming many an honest *Scolopax* who is digesting his worms of the previous night, and would, without the uncalled-for interference of these noisy cousins, fall a prey to the sportsman.

185. REDSHANK. (*Totanus calidris*.)

A great deal too common, for the reasons mentioned above, in winter and early spring, in Corfu and Epirus.

186. CURLEW. (*Numenius arquatus*.)

Very abundant from October till April; a few may be occasionally observed at all seasons. I have several times seen Curlews at Corfu, exactly like the common species in plumage, weight, and all other respects, except the bill, which was from half an inch to two inches longer than usual. As far as I could ascertain, this difference had no reference to sex or age; the long-bills and short-bills flocked together, and had precisely the same habits. I never observed this difference in any other part of the world, though the Curlew has always been a favourite object of pursuit with me, and a great many have consequently passed through my hands.

187. WHIMBREL. (*Numenius phæopus*.)

Occurs sparingly in April and September in Corfu and Epirus.

188. SLENDER-BILLED CURLEW. (*Numenius tenuirostris*.)

Two specimens only of this bird came under my observation at Corfu; both were killed on the race-course in September 1857. I obtained a good specimen at Nice in the winter of 1858.

189. AVOCET. (*Recurvirostra avocetta*.)

I was shown a specimen of this bird in December 1856, which had been killed a few days previously at Butrinto, and I once or twice heard of others, but never saw one alive myself in these parts.

190. BLACK-WINGED STILT. (*Himantopus melanopterus*.)

Common on the shores of Corfu and Epirus in March, April, and May; generally to be seen in small flocks, standing mid-leg in water, and snapping at the midges and other small insects. This species breeds in great numbers in the marshes of Dalmatia, in the neighbourhood of Spalatro.

191. PURPLE HERON. (*Ardea purpurea*.)

Common in April and May, and I believe breeds in Epirus, as young birds are often to be seen in July and August.

192. COMMON HERON. (*Ardea cinerea*.)

Common in Corfu and all parts of the mainland in winter. I observed it in August in Albania and Montenegro.

193. GREAT WHITE HERON. (*Ardea alba*.)

Common in Epirus in winter, particularly at Butrinto. Not nearly so difficult of approach as most of its congeners, although I never observed it to skulk amongst the reeds and aquatic herbage, as the last-mentioned species often does. I could not find out that it ever remains to breed in Epirus; but the natives are so singularly unobservant of all birds except the *Anatidæ*, that it is difficult to extract any information from them.

194. LITTLE EGRET. (*Ardea garzetta*.)

Very common in winter on the coasts of Epirus, in which province some few remain to breed. I observed this species on the Bojana river, and the Lake of Scutari in Albania, in great numbers in August 1857. The birds of this species which frequent the shores of the Bay of Butrinto in the winter, and spend the day in wading about the marshes, collect their forces regularly about sunset, and fly in a compact body to the jungles at the head of the lake, where they roost. They appeared to pursue exactly the same course every evening; and I used always to consider their appearance in a body as a sign that it was time to take up my post for shooting Ducks in a small marshy pool between the proper right of the Butrinto river and the rocks which shut in the valley to the north. The Egrets almost invariably flew over this pool from west to east, and generally preceded the arrival of the first flight of Ducks by about ten minutes.

195. SQUACCO HERON. (*Ardea comata*.)

Arrives in great numbers in Epirus in March, and I believe breeds in the marshes of the interior. Very abundant on the Lake of Scutari in August 1857. I found this species the most difficult of approach of any of the *Ardeidæ*.

196. BUFF-BACKED HERON. (*Ardea bubulcus*.)

I saw a stuffed specimen of this bird at Corfu, which was killed at Butrinto; and I think I may speak pretty positively to

having once seen two specimens on the race-course in April 1857.

197. NIGHT HERON. (*Ardea nycticorax*.)

Tolerably common in Epirus, arriving in March, and remaining only a short time on its passage northwards. Common on the Lake of Scutari in August, where it doubtless breeds.

198. COMMON BITTERN. (*Botaurus stellaris*.)

Common in Epirus from October till May. Its abundance or scarcity seems to depend on the severity of the weather. I do not think the Bittern breeds in Epirus, at all events not in those parts of that province with which I have any acquaintance, but it is found throughout the year in some of the marshes of Albania and Dalmatia.

199. LITTLE BITTERN. (*Ardetta minuta*.)

Arrives in considerable numbers in Corfu and Epirus in April, and remains to breed, leaving the country about the end of September. In Corfu they are often to be found perched in the olives near the marshes, motionless, with outstretched neck, and beak pointing to the sky. More than once I have caught this species with my hand; and my old retriever often brought me Little Bitterns alive, in the marshes of Butrinto, where I have found the nest in a tamarisk a few inches above the water. The curious habits of this species make it an interesting pet, though I have not found it easy to keep it alive for any length of time. All the birds of this species from Holland, which I have at different times procured in Leadenhall Market, were more or less injured about the eyes.

200. WHITE STORK. (*Ciconia alba*.)

Arrives in Epirus in March, and breeds on the house-tops. Two pairs nested and reared their young annually on the top of the old fort, known as the Aga's house, at Butrinto. The Mahomedan population protect the Stork, and consider it a bird of good omen.

201. BLACK STORK. (*Ciconia nigra*.)

This species is very rare in these parts. The bird-stuffer at Corfu told me, that two specimens only had passed through his

hands in the course of thirty years. One of these was killed at Butrinto, and the other in the island of Corfu.

202. GLOSSY IBIS. (*Falcinellus igneus.*)

Occurs tolerably abundantly in Corfu and Epirus in March, April and May. The only locality in which I have myself seen this species is the often-mentioned race-course, where a pair were generally to be found in the months above-named, keeping aloof from the other Waders, and stalking about after the manner of the Herons.

203. CRANE. (*Grus cinerea.*)

Often to be heard and seen, passing over Corfu at a great elevation, in the months of March and October. The only spot in these parts in which I have seen this species on the ground was on the Greek frontier, opposite Prevesa, where I fell in with a troop of several hundreds in March 1857. I saw a freshly-killed specimen in a ditch near Corfu on the 2nd of April, 1857.

204. WHITE SPOONBILL. (*Platalea leucorodia.*)

Occurs sparingly in Epirus in severe winters. I saw a few at Livitazza in January 1858. More common in Greece about Petalà and the Gulf of Lepanto. I could not hear of the occurrence of this species in the island of Corfu.

205. FLAMINGO. (*Phaenicopterus antiquorum.*) (?)

I place a mark of interrogation after the name of this bird, as I have never seen it myself in these parts; but the Corfu bird-stuffer described to me a bird which had been killed out of a small flock on the race-course, some years previous to my arrival in Corfu, which must have been a Flamingo. It struck me as curious that this species should be so rare in these parts, as it is abundant in Tunis and Sardinia, and not uncommon in the south of Spain, in all which localities I have myself seen it. I have been assured that the Flamingo occurs in great numbers in winter in the island of Cyprus.

206. COMMON COOT. (*Fulica atra.*)

Common, and resident in Epirus.

207. MOOR-HEN. (*Gallinula chloropus.*)

Common in winter in Epirus. I believe a few of this species breed in that province.

208. SPOTTED CRAKE. (*Crex porzana.*)

Common at all seasons in Epirus, but more so in September and October than at any other time.

209. LITTLE CRAKE. (*Crex pusilla.*)

The Corfu bird-stuffer had a specimen of the Little Crake, which was killed at Butrinto. I once flushed a small Crake there in September 1857, which was either of this species or a *Crex baillonii*.

210. LAND RAIL. (*Crex pratensis.*)

Occurs sparingly in Corfu in April and September.

211. WATER RAIL. (*Rallus aquaticus.*)

Very common, and, I believe, resident in Epirus.

212. CRESTED GREBE. (*Podiceps cristatus.*)

Common in winter on the lakes and lagoons of Epirus.

213. RED-NECKED GREBE. (*Podiceps rubricollis.*)

Rare; occasionally occurs in winter at Butrinto.

214. SCLAVONIAN GREBE. (*Podiceps cornutus.*)

Not uncommon in winter on the lakes of Butrinto.

215. EARED GREBE. (*Podiceps auritus.*)

Very abundant on the lakes and lagoons of Epirus in winter. I believe a few pairs breed among the reeds at the head of the great lake of Butrinto. This species appears to be the most gregarious of the Grebes.

216. LITTLE GREBE. (*Podiceps minor.*)

Common in winter in Epirus.

217. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER. (*Colymbus glacialis.*)

I once unsuccessfully chased four Divers on a small lake at Butrinto, which from their great size must, I think, have belonged to this species.

218. RED-THROATED DIVER. (*Colymbus septentrionalis.*)

Occurs sparingly on the coasts of Epirus and Albania in

winter. One of our party killed an immature specimen at the mouth of the river Drin, in the latter province, in December 1857.

219. GREY-LAG GOOSE. (*Anser ferus*.)

Common in February 1858, on the west coasts of continental Greece, about Petalà and the plains of the Acheloüs, where we shot several. I have seen Wild Geese in most parts of Epirus and Albania that I have visited, but could not make out whether they belonged to this, or either of the following species.

220. BEAN GOOSE. (*Anser segetum*.)

Common in winter on the coasts of Epirus and Greece, particularly at Petalà. We used to take up a position on one of the numerous small islands which skirt the little Gulf of Petalà to the north, and had very good sport at wild-fowl of all sorts. The Geese did not come within shot much before dark, but Mallards, Shovellers, Wigeon, Pintail, Teal, Pochard, and Tufted Ducks kept us pretty busy during the day. We did not fire at Golden-eyes, Smews, &c., and when such birds passed us, used merely to exclaim to one another, "Muck." On one occasion we were much excited by the evolutions and music of a small flock of Wild Swans, which, however, declined our acquaintance. Pelicans also would often flap heavily within a few yards of us, totally regardless of green cartridges and B.B. shot. My companion would not shoot at any Ducks whenever there appeared to be a chance of our getting a shot at Geese; but we nevertheless contrived to load ourselves to that degree, that wading through the mud to our boat became a feat by no means easy of accomplishment. The present species was the most common of the three *Anseres* that presented themselves to our guns at Petalà, and I am disposed to think that it is the most abundant of its family in Greece and Turkey; it is far superior for the table to either of the other species. Our bag at Petalà I find to have been as follows:—

February 5th, on the island above mentioned: 2 Bean Geese, 1 White-fronted Goose, 1 Grey-lag Goose, 14 Wild Ducks, 4 Wigeon, 1 Teal.

February 6th, in the plains of the Acheloüs: 14 Wild Ducks,

7 Teal, 2 Gadwalls, 2 Shovellers, 1 Pintail, 1 Pochard, 1 Tufted Duck, 1 White-eyed Duck, 1 Quail, 2 Black-tailed Godwits, 7 Woodcocks, 1 Hare.

February 7th, on our island: 2 Bean Geese, 3 White-fronted Greese, 1 Grey-lag Goose, 16 Wild Ducks, 3 Wigeons, 1 Spoonbill.

February 8th, on the plains of the Acheloüs: 1 Grey-lag Goose, 2 White-fronted Geese, 9 Wild Ducks, 6 Teal, 2 Shovellers, 3 Woodcocks, 1 Hare.

I do not mention this as anything extraordinary, as much more has, I have no doubt, often been done in the same localities, but the above extracts will help to show the variety of sport to be met with in these parts in severe winters; and if any reader of the 'Ibis' should be induced by these facts to try his luck in Greek waters, and should enjoy himself half as much as I did, I shall think that our sport has not been recorded in vain. I consider, with Burns, "that some of the happiest hours that e'er I spent were spent amongst the rushes;" although the adjunct to this happiness mentioned by the poet was in our case absent, unless my old retriever can be considered to have in some degree supplied that defect.

221. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE. (*Anser albifrons*.)

Common in winter in Epirus and continental Greece.

222. POLISH SWAN. (*Cygnus immutabilis*.)

Not uncommon in Corfu and Epirus in severe winters. Several were shot in the island in January 1858.

223. HOOPER. (*Cygnus musicus*.)

The same remarks apply to this as to the above. It is perhaps the less common species of the two.

224. WILD DUCK. (*Anas boschas*.)

This species actually swarms in winter in some of the marshes of Epirus and Albania. The best localities with which I am acquainted for wild-duck-shooting are, Butrinto, Phanari, the Luro river in the Gulf of Arta, Livitazza, and last, but by no means least, the great marshes between Santa Quaranta and Delvino. As I have before mentioned, my friend and usual

companion, Colonel C——, and I, during the severe weather of 1857–8, devoted ourselves almost exclusively to the pursuit of the *Anatidæ*, often allowing Woodcocks to rise at our feet without further notice than an exclamation from one to the other—“O, don’t shoot that carrion,” and treating Snipes with the most supreme contempt. Perhaps the best sport of all sorts to be had within easy distance of Corfu is at Santa Quaranta, where Wild Boars, Roes, Hares, and Woodcocks are plentiful in the thickets and ravines among the hills, and wild-fowl of all kinds and Snipes are generally to be found in myriads. Besides this, the above locality has the ornithological recommendation of being the haunt of *Aquila imperialis*, *A. nævia*, *A. bonellii*, *Strix bubo*, *Falco æsalon*, and (I have now reason to believe) *F. lanarius*. Few parts of the great marsh are impenetrable to a determined sportsman, who of course must be prepared to wade, with the water seldom below his knees, and often up to his middle, the safest place for his powder-flask being the top of his hat. In my opinion, the sport amply repays any amount of fatigue or cold; and from the marsh of Santa Quaranta there is a rough walk of about two miles to the anchorage, which will serve to restore circulation. I cannot resist again giving some extracts from my ‘game-book,’ with reference to this well-beloved spot:—

On the 15th of January, 1858, we were a party of five, and shot the hill-sides for Woodcocks. We bagged 64 Woodcocks and 1 Snipe.

On the 16th four of our party took to the Snipe-marsh, and the other, in search of Woodcocks, to the fern-clad banks of the small river which separates the hills from the plain. The result of our combined exertions was, 100 Snipes, 11 Wild Ducks, 16 Teal, 26 Woodcocks, 9 Quails.

On the 20th, Col. C—— and I spent the day in the great marsh, and bagged 27 Wild Ducks, 15 Teal, 1 Pintail, 6 Woodcocks, 1 Hare.

21st January. We were a party of six, and shot for Woodcocks. Our bag contained at the end of the day, 81 Woodcocks, 8 Wild Ducks, 2 Teal, 2 Hares.

22nd January. Two guns in the great marsh. Bagged 12 Wild Ducks, 18 Teal, 1 Pochard, 1 Sheldrake.

The greatest amount of wild-fowl killed in one day during the above winter was by a party of three, on the Luro river, about the beginning of February. They brought to the yacht 107 head of Ducks of various species and two Wild Geese. A good many Wild Ducks breed in Epirus and Albania. In the Acherusian marsh at Phanari, without exaggeration, they literally darken the air; but this is not a very good shooting locality, as the best portion of the marsh for ducks is utterly impenetrable to man or dog, and may, for aught I know, contain Hippopotami, Alligators, or Whale-headed Storks!

225. TEAL. (*Anas crecca*.)

Very abundant in winter, arriving about the end of September and disappearing in March.

226. MARBLED DUCK. (*Anas marmorata*.)

I saw a boy at Butrinto with a mutilated specimen of this rare Duck in his hand, which he had just killed on the lake; he said it was alone when he shot it. I once flushed three Ducks at Phanari, which puzzled me very much at the time, but which, I have now little doubt, belonged to this species; and an officer of the garrison of Corfu described to me a small Duck he had killed near Arta, which I think can have been no other but this. The Marbled Duck is not uncommon in the island of Sardinia, and very common at Tunis in January and February.

227. GARGANEY. (*Anas querquedula*.)

Appears in great numbers about the end of February in Epirus and Corfu; remains till April. I think a few pairs breed in the country.

228. WIGEON. (*Anas penelope*.)

Abundant in winter, particularly at Livitazza.

229. GADWALL. (*Anas strepera*.)

Common in winter; the easiest of approach, and by far the best for the table, of the European *Anatidæ*.

230. PINTAIL. (*Anas acuta*.)

Tolerably common in winter, but very wary, and difficult to kill.

231. SHOVELLER. (*Anas clypeata*.)

Common in winter.

232. SHELDRAKE. (*Tadorna vulpanser.*)

Appears in small numbers in severe winters.

233. RUDDY SHELDRAKE. (*Tadorna rutila.*)

Very rare. Two instances only of the occurrence of this species came to my knowledge during my stay at Corfu. The bird-stuffer brought me a beautiful specimen on the 17th April, 1857. It was killed at Potamò, about two miles from the town of Corfu. Another was killed at Santa Maura about the same time. The bird-stuffer had never seen this species before.

234. COMMON SCOTER. (*Oidemia nigra.*)

I saw a few of this species out at sea in the Adriatic, off Antivari, in December 1857. It is unknown at Corfu.

235. WHITE-HEADED DUCK. (*Erismatura mersa.*)

Common, and, I believe, resident on the lake of Butrinto and on the lagoons of Nicopolis.

236. GOLDEN EYE. (*Clangula glaucion.*)

Not uncommon in winter.

237. TUFTED DUCK. (*Fuligula cristata.*)

Very common in winter.

238. SCAUP DUCK. (*Fuligula marila.*)

I only saw one pair of this species in Greek waters. This was at Livitazza in January 1858.

239. POCHARD. (*Fuligula ferina.*)

Very common in winter.

240. WHITE-EYED POCHARD. (*Fuligula nyroca.*)

Arrives generally in March in small numbers, and breeds in Epirus and Albania. Occasionally seen in winter, but far from common at that season.

241. RED-CRESTED WHISTLING DUCK. (*Fuligula rufina.*)

This species was common at Butrinto during the first winter I passed at Corfu, but I saw very few in the succeeding one.

242. GOOSANDER. (*Mergus merganser.*)

An uncertain and rare visitor in Epirus.

243. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. (*Mergus servator.*)

Not uncommon, in winter, in Epirus, Albania, and Corfu.

244. SMEW. (*Mergus albellus*.)

Common in Epirus in February and March, in immature plumage. Very few adult males are to be seen in these parts.

245. CRESTED PELICAN. (*Pelecanus crispus*.)

Common throughout the year on the coasts of Epirus: breeds at Suttanieh, on the Gulf of Arta.

246. WHITE PELICAN. (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*.)

Passes over Corfu to the south in enormous numbers, at the beginning of November. A few remain about the coasts of Epirus throughout the winter.

247. GREAT CORMORANT. (*Carbo cormoranus*.)

Not uncommon in winter on the coasts of Epirus.

248. CRESTED SHAG. (*Carbo desmarestii*?)

A Shag is common at all seasons in the Ionian and Adriatic Seas; but, after pretty careful examination and comparison with Temminck's description, I am quite unable to state whether it is our common species, or the variety known as *Carbo desmarestii*. It is more than probable that I have seen specimens of both.

249. DWARF SHAG. (*Carbo pygmaeus*.)

Very abundant in winter in Epirus; appears to have no particular preference for salt water to fresh, as it is often to be found in ditches and flooded meadows far from the sea. I saw this species in Albania in August 1857.

250. HERRING GULL. (*Larus argentatus*.)

Common in immature plumage. I have only seen two individuals in the adult dress. The commonest large Gull at Corfu exactly resembles this species in plumage, size, colour of naked parts, length of tarsi, &c.; in short, in every particular except that the primaries, in at least a dozen specimens that have come under my observation, are entirely white. This variety or species breeds on the coasts of Epirus, Tre Scoglie, Livitazza, &c.

251. COMMON GULL. (*Larus canus*.)

Not uncommon in winter in Corfu and Epirus. I saw one of this species pursue, capture, and devour a Redshank at Petalà, in February 1858.

252. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. (*Larus fuscus*.)

Not common ; occurs occasionally in immature, but is very rare in adult plumage.

253. AUDOUIN'S GULL. (*Larus audouinii*.)

A fine specimen of this Gull was killed near Corfu in May 1857. I never saw it on any other occasion, although I am tolerably sure it is not very uncommon.

254. MEDITERRANEAN BLACK-HEADED GULL. (*Larus melanocephalus*, Natt.)

Very common in winter in Corfu, and on the coasts of the mainland ; breeds in the marshes of Albania and Dalmatia.

255. LAUGHING GULL. (*Larus atricilla*, Linn.)

Common in winter in Corfu.

256. LITTLE GULL. (*Larus minutus*.)

Tolerably common in winter, particularly in the yacht-harbour of Mandrachio at Corfu. This species arrives about the end of October, and leaves the country about the beginning of March.

257. CASPIAN TERN. (*Sterna caspica*.)

Occurs sparingly in winter at Corfu and on the coasts of Epirus.

258. SANDWICH TERN. (*Sterna cantiaca*.)

Rare ; occasionally occurs in autumn at Butrinto.

259. GULL-BILLED TERN. (*Sterna anglica*.)

Not uncommon at Butrinto in January, February and March. I have heard of the nests of this species at Livitazza, and am informed that it breeds in great numbers at Mesolonghi.

260. COMMON TERN. (*Sterna hirundo*.)

Rare ; occurs occasionally in spring at Corfu and on the coasts of the mainland.

261. LITTLE TERN. (*Sterna minuta*.)

Occurs sparingly at Corfu at the period of the vernal migration.

262. BLACK TERN. (*Sterna nigra*.)

Exactly the same remarks apply to this as to the above species.

263. WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN. (*Sterna leucoptera*.)

Common in April and May at Corfu.

264. WHISKERED TERN. (*Sterna leucopareia*.)

Common in winter at Butrinto; breeds in the marshes of Durazzo.

265. CINEREOUS SHEARWATER. (*Puffinus cinereus*.)

Occasionally seen in the channel of Corfu; more common further to the north, on the coasts of Albania and Dalmatia.

266. STORMY PETREL. (*Thalassidroma pelagica*.)

I only once saw this species in the Ionian Sea; this was near Pagania in December 1857.

XLV.—*Further Corrections and Additions to the "Ornithology of Amoy," with some Remarks on the Birds of Formosa.* By ROBERT SWINHOE, of H. M. Consular Service*.

A FEW necessary corrections having again suggested themselves on reperusing my article on the "Ornithology of Amoy," as printed in the 5th Number of 'The Ibis,' I hasten to communicate them to you, that they may appear before the public as soon as possible.

Arundinax canturians, sp. 32, and *A. miniatus* (nec *minutus*), sp. 33, should be again compared with *Salicaria cantans* and *S. cantillans* of the 'Fauna Japonica' before they can be considered as good species. They belong more correctly, I think, to the genus *Lusciniopsis*.

Thamnobia niveiventris, mihi, sp. 44, is no *Thamnobia* at all. I cannot understand how I came to be so mistaken. The description given is that of a female bird, which Mr. Blyth considers to be referable to *Erythrosterina leucura* (Gmel.) of Bengal. All the specimens we procured were females and immature birds until lately, when M. Schlegel shot a male. The extent of red on the lower parts of this individual proves the species to be *Erythrosterina mugimaki* of the 'Fauna Japonica' rather than the Indian bird.

Motacilla lugens (v. *lugubris*), mentioned in the 'Fauna Japonica,' has also been shot here after stormy weather, and should be inserted after *M. luzoniensis*.

* Communicated in a letter from Mr. Swinhoe to the Editor.