

98. PHALACROCORAX BICRISTATUS, Pall.; *Carbo bicristatus*, T. & S., Faun. Jap. p. 130, pls. 84, 84, B.

An adult male and female and a young bird were obtained at Hakodadi, March 1865.

Bill black; eye dark green; legs and feet black.

XII.—On the *Rufous-tailed Shrikes*.

By VISCOUNT WALDEN, F.Z.S.

(Plates V. & VI.)

I PROPOSE to apply the sectional designation above given to a small group of the genus *Lanius*, which appears to be restricted to a part of Southern Africa, to the continent of Asia, and to some of its islands. The members of this group are characterized by the males being clothed in a more or less rufous-coloured plumage, by the tail being invariably rufous, and by the wings being without any white *speculum* on the primaries. In general terms they may be said to form a group in which the males adopt a style of plumage similar to that which we find on the female of *L. collurio*, Linn., and *L. bucephalus*, T. & Sch. Their relationship, perhaps hereditary, to *L. collurio*, through the female line, if I may so speak, displays itself most prominently in the rufous-brown male of *L. cristatus*, Linn. The descent from this species, through the female line, is again exhibited in the rufous-grey males of *L. arenarius*, Blyth, and *L. lucionensis*, Linn. In *L. superciliosus*, Lath., and *L. phænicurus*, Pall., ap. Schrenck, we find the darker rufous of *L. collurio* ♀ developed into a bright rufous. On the other hand, in *L. magnirostris*, Less., the influence of *L. collurio* ♂ is to be found prevailing in the ashy head of that species; while in the rufous-coloured *L. isabellinus*, H. & E., the white alar bar proclaims the affinity of the group, by another character, to the Grey Shrikes. Regarding as I do the affinities of colour which link the members of this section together as merely signs of blood relationship, unaccompanied by any very marked peculiarities of structure, I prefer retaining them under the old generic title of *Lanius* to adopting that of *Otomela*, Bp. (Rev. de Zool. 1853), founded by the Prince for this section, without publishing its characters.

The species of the group are in great confusion; and it is in the hope of introducing a little order among them that I venture upon this attempt at a monograph. It will, I fear, be found far from complete; but in the present backward state of our knowledge of Eastern ornithology, more especially of the geographical areas, limits of migration, and the sexual, seasonal, and adolescent phases of the plumage of many Asiatic birds, it is frequently impossible to arrive at final conclusions.

1. *LANIUS CRISTATUS*, Linn., S. N. 1766, i. p. 134. no. 3. Gm., S. N. 1788, i. p. 298. no. 3. Lath., Ind. Orn. i. p. 72. no. 17. Jerd., Birds Ind. i. p. 406. no. 261 (ex India); Illust. Ind. Orn. part 2 (ex Ind. merid.). Beavan, Ibis, 1865, p. 418. no. 261 (ex Maunbhoom).

Lanius fulvus, cristatus, Edw., Nat. Hist. Bds. ii. p. 125. no. 54 (ex Bengal).

Crested Red or Russet Butcher-bird, Edw., l. c. p. 54. pl. 54.

Lanius bengalensis rufus, Briss., Orn. 1760, ii. p. 173. no. 13.

Crested Red Shrike, Lath., Syn. i. p. 170. no. 18.

Woodchat Shrike, var. *A*, in part. Lath., G. H. ii. p. 16. no. 7 (ex Calcutta).

Rufous-tailed Shrike, Lath., l. c. p. 17. no. 9 (ex Cawnpore).

Supercilious Shrike, var. *A*, Lath., l. c. p. 36. no. 34 (ex India).

Enneoctonus cristatus (Linn.), Bp., Consp. i. p. 362. no. 5 (ex As. cent., Bengal). Horsf. & Moore, Cat. E. I. Mus. i. p. 167. no. 218 (ex Nepaul, Tenasserim). Cab., Mus. Hein. Th. i. p. 72.

Enneoctonus lucionensis (Linn.), G. R. Gray, Gen. Bds. i. p. 291. no. 4, iii. App. p. 42, no. 54. Swinh., Ibis, 1864, vi. p. 420 (ex Ceylon).

Lanius phoenicurus, Pall. ♂ (*hiemalis*?), ♀, Sundev., Bds. of Calc. A. N. H. 1846, xviii. p. 169 (ex Calcutta). Blyth, J. A. S. B. 1846, xv. p. 303 (ex Calcutta).

Lanius melanotis, Cuv. Mus. Paris, *ptm.* Puch., Arch. du Mus. vii. p. 424, Val., Dict. Sc. N. 1826, xl. p. 227 (ex Pondicherry).

Lanius superciliosus, Lath., Blyth, Cat. Mus. Calc. p. 152. no. 874, var. *cristatus* (ex Bengal, Burmah). Jerd., 2nd Suppl. Cat. no. 51 *bis* (ex Ind. merid.). Layard, A. N. H. 2nd series, 1854, xiii. p. 130. no. 143 (ex Ceylon). Tennant, N. H. of Ceylon, p. 266.

Lanius ferrugiceps, Hodgs., Ind. Rev. 1857, p. 446. sp. 3 (ex Nepaul).

Otomela cristata (Linn.), Bp., Rev. de Zool. 1853, p. 437. no. 26 (ex As. cent., Bengal).

Notwithstanding the inappropriate title given by Linnæus on the faith of Edwards's plate and description, there can be no doubt that the common "Brown Shrike" of India is the species for which the designation *L. cristatus* was intended. Buffon (H. N. Ois. i. p. 306) observes that the disposition of the occipital feathers which led Edwards to regard the bird as crested was purely accidental; and he points out that the author of the 'Gleanings' made a similar mistake in his description of *Thamnophilus doliatus* (Linn.). Yet in 1853 we find Prince Bonaparte (*l. c.*) continuing the error by describing the Bengal Shrike as subcrested. Edwards's type was sent from Bengal. Specimens which I have compared from Moulmein, Nipaul, Maunbhoom, Southern India, the Deccan, Ceylon, Malabar, Assam, and Bootan do not exhibit any distinctive characters. Mr. Blyth refers (*l. c.*) to a Ceylon variety as being "very grey, no rufous on the crown, &c." But his specimens may have been of birds in seasonal plumage, or perhaps females. Mr. Layard, in his 'Ornithology of Ceylon' (*l. c.*), regarded it as "a variety, but not sufficiently distinct to constitute a species, being simply paler and wanting the rufous crown of the Indian bird." Mr. Layard identified the Ceylon form with *L. superciliosus*, Lath.; and *L. cristatus*, Linn., of India is decidedly much less rufous than the Malay species. But none of the Ceylon specimens I have examined are to be distinguished from the continental *L. cristatus*, Linn. Yet Dr. Jerdon (*l. c.*) seems likewise to consider that Ceylon possesses a race differing somewhat from the ordinary Indian form. It is, however, very unlikely that a migratory Ceylon form can be distinct from a migratory Indian species and still never be found in India. If the Ceylon race is, in however small a degree, distinct from that of India, examples of it, at two periods of each year, must occur in India.

The Brown Shrike does not seem to extend further south than Tenasserim on the eastern side of continental India, nor does it appear to cross the Sutlej and Indus on the north-western

frontier. According to most of the Indian ornithologists it remains in the plains of India during the cold weather only. Its breeding-home has not as yet been made known. The nests and eggs found by Colonel Tickell (J. A. S. B. 1848, xvii. p. 302. no. 31) in the plains of India during the months of June are said by Dr. Jerdon (*l. c.*) to have been those of a Bulbul. Dr. F. Buchanan Hamilton, however, distinctly states, in his MS. notes (H. & M., Cat. E. I. Mus. i. p. 168. no. 218), "this Shrike builds its nests in trees and bushes." Captain Beavan (*l. c.*) informs us that it "migrates (from Central India) to the neighbourhood of Barrackpore during the cold weather." He procured his first specimen there on the 28th September. He adds that it is not common in Maunbhoom, Central India. Mr. Hodgson (*l. c.*) merely says that it is confined to the lower regions of Nipaul, but neither alludes to its nesting nor its migrations. That some individuals remain in the plains throughout the year appears from the statement of Mr. Blyth (*l. c.*), that "a few are found near Calcutta at all seasons." Dr. Jerdon tells us that "it disappears from the south of India in the hot season and rains," but omits to state where to. Mr. Layard also is silent on the point. Does it, then, cross the vast ranges of the Himalaya in its northern migration? Or does it not rather find on the southern slopes and in the valleys of those mountains all the conditions suitable for nesting?*

Dimensions.

	Long. Rostr.†	Al.	Caud.	Tars.
♂ ex Bengal	·43	3·87	3·81	·87
♂ „ Moulmein
♂ „ Malabar	1
♀ „ ———	·87
♂ „ Ceylon	4	..
♂ „ ———	3·87	..

* It is extremely doubtful whether any passerine bird which frequents the plains of India during the cooler months crosses to the north of the snowy ranges of the Himalaya after quitting the plains to escape the rainy season or the intense heat of summer. I am not aware that one of the Indian passerine species which have recently been identified with Pallas's types have ever been compared with authentic Siberian specimens.

† The bill is measured from the nostril to the tip, and its dimensions, with those of the other parts, given in English inches and decimals.

This species has been confounded with one or other of the three following birds.

2. *LANIUS LUCIONENSIS*, Linn., S. N. ed. xii. (1766) i. p. 135. no. 10. Briss., Orn. 1760, ii. p. 169. no. 11, pl. xviii. fig. 1 (ex Lucon). Gm., S. N. ed. xiii. (1788) i. p. 299. no. 10. Lath., Syn. i. p. 172. no. 21; Ind. Orn. i. p. 67. no. 5; G. H. ii. p. 55. no. 57. Swinh., Ibis, 1860, p. 59. no. 70; Ibis, 1861, p. 43. no. 68, p. 255. no. 7, and p. 340. no. 47; Ibis, 1863, p. 272. no. 31. Von Martens, J. f. O. 1866, p. 12. no. 46.

Lanius phœnicurus, Gm., v. Pelzeln, Reise der Novara, Zool. Th. i. p. 84 (ex China, Amoy).

Otomela lucionensis (Linn.), Bp., Rev. de Zool. 1853, p. 437. no. 29.

Brisson described this species from specimens of what seem to have been the female, brought by Poivre from the island of Luzon; and Linnæus adopted his designation. It has since, by some authors, been regarded as a local variety of *L. cristatus*, Linn. Yet, on comparing Indian with Philippine and Chinese examples, they are found to differ in many respects, more especially in the almost entire absence of rufous, in the cinereous colouring of the head, back of neck, and back, and in the much shorter tail, combined with an almost equal wing. It seems to wear the grey livery at all seasons; and no difference of sexual garb has been recorded. It migrates to North China during the spring, and returns south to the Philippines at the close of summer, many in their passage resting in Formosa, and some, according to Mr. Swinhoe's latest observations (*l. c.*), passing the winter in that island. Mr. Swinhoe says that it has a sweet song, and he mentions that it is a common spring and autumn visitant at Amoy. He also observed it passing over at Hong Kong in the spring, and found it at Talien Bay, North China, during the end of June, where it, however, became much scarcer towards the middle of July. Between Takoo and Pekin it was not observed during the months commencing with August and ending with December, which Mr. Swinhoe accounts for by the early period of its southern migration.

On the authority of Mr. Blyth (Mouat, 'Andamans,' 1863, App. Zool. pp. 352, 360. no. 31), I, with some doubt, refer the

species which inhabits the Andaman and Nicobar islands to the Philippine bird. But from not being acquainted with specimens from those localities, I am unable to confirm the accuracy of an identification which, if correct, is of considerable interest.

Under the head of *L. phœnicurus*, Pall., it will be seen that there is some reason for believing that Pallas's bird belongs to this species.

Dimensions.

	Long.	Rostr.	Al.	Caud.	Tars.
Ex China	·43		3·56	3·50	·87

3. *LANIUS PHÆNICURUS*, Pall., It. 1776, iii. p. 693. no. 6 (ex Dauria); Voy. (Paris) 1793, iv. p. 322, App. p. 665. no. 6; Zoogr. Ross.-As. 1831, i. p. 405, no. 59. Lath., Syn. i. p. 116. no. 14; Ind. Orn. i. 71. no. 14. Gm., S. N. ed. xiii. i. p. 309. no. 15. Schrenck, Am. Reise, 1860, i. p. 384. no. 109 (ex Amur, N. China). Middend., Sib. Reise, ii. Th. ii. p. 188. no. 107 (ex Udskoi Ostrog). Radde, Reise, S. v. O. Sib. 1863, ii. p. 277. no. 150. Sundev., Physio. Sälls. Tidsk. 1837-38, p. 64 (A. N. H. 1846, xviii. p. 169) ♂ "perfecte coloratus" (ex Mus. Stockh. patriæ incertæ?); K. S. Vet. Ak. Handl. 1840, p. 36. Blasius, Naumannia, 1858, p. 310. no. 8 (ex Heligoland); Ibis, 1862, p. 66. no. 8. Gätke, Naumannia, 1858, p. 425 (ex Heligoland).

Enneoctonus phœnicurus (Pall.), G. R. Gray, Gen. Bds. i. p. 291, no. 4. Bp., Consp. i. p. 362. no. 4. Cab., Mus. Hein. i. Th. p. 72. no. 414 (?) (ex Asia).

Otomela phœnicura (Gm. ex Pall.), Bp., Rev. de Zool. 1853, p. 436. sp. 25.

(Plate V. fig. 2.)

Pallas, who only obtained one specimen, and only observed the species on that occasion, procured his type early in the month of June, amongst the rocks of the mountain of Adon-Scholo, near to the river Onon in Dauria. Before he had accurately noted its characters the specimen decayed. We may infer from his account that the following characters given by him (*l. c.*) were drawn up from memory:—The body above rufescent-grey; a black band through the eyes; underneath yellowish-white; a long tail rounded at the end, the whole of



J. Wolf del & lith.

M. & N. Hanhart imp

Fig 1. LANIUS ISABELLINUS.
Fig 2. LANIUS PHOENICURUS.

which, with the rump, intensely rufous. Schrenck (*l. c.*) has given under Pallas's name an elaborate description of a Rufous-tailed Shrike, many specimens of which, male and female, he obtained at Udskoi-Ostrog, along the course of the Amoor river and in northern China. These differ from the description given by Pallas by having the entire upper plumage of a rust-brown colour, and the forehead and superciliary streak pure white. The upper plumage of both sexes is described as alike, the females being chiefly distinguished from the males by having the white forehead and superciliary streak less strongly marked and less pure, by the ocular band being brown instead of black, and by the sides of the neck, the lower throat, the breast, and flanks being finely and darkly lineated, these parts in the male being immaculate. The discrepancy in the two descriptions raises the doubt whether the two authors refer to the same bird. Pallas's description applies with equal truth to *L. lucionensis*, Linn. The long tail and intensely rufous uropygium and tail are not sufficient characters to distinguish it; for, as regards the intensity of colour, specimens of the Philippine species in full breeding-plumage have yet to be procured and described. The rufescent-grey upper plumage is characteristic of *L. lucionensis*, Linn.; and we know that that species travels high into northern China in the early spring to breed. Nor may we presume that Pallas's specimen was in a sexual or seasonal phase of plumage or in that of nonage; for Schrenck has told us that the upper plumage of the sexes does not differ, and he has further described the nestling bird as having the entire upper plumage of a rust-brown colour lineated across with black*. From Hakodadi, killed there in June, I have received a specimen (Pl. V. fig. 2) which, in all respects, agrees with Schrenck's description of his Siberian and North China individuals, and which differs widely from Philippine and China examples of *L. lucionensis*, Linn. For the reasons above given, I entertain great doubts as to the identity of Schrenck's specimens with Pallas's species. Should they prove distinct, Schrenck's bird will require a new title. But before

* It is to be regretted that, in his admirable article on *L. phœnicurus*, Schrenck has not commented on the discrepancies between his specimens and Pallas's description.

we can arrive at a conclusion, the exact limits of the Philippine bird's northern migration must be discovered, and individuals in full breeding-plumage will have to be obtained. Schrenck's species was obtained on the banks of the Schilka river, and also on the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk. Middendorff procured it only in the latter region, and states that it was the only species of the genus obtained by him. The bird he identified as *L. excubitor*, Linn., but of which he failed in getting a specimen, was probably *L. bucephalus*, T. & Sch. Radde, who, as well as Middendorff, gives no description of his specimens, found *L. phœnicurus*, Pall., not uncommon among the morasses along the banks and at the mouths of the larger rivers which fall into Lake Baikal. But the winter home of Schrenck's species has yet to be discovered. Mr. Swinhoe did not observe the bird in any of the parts of China visited by him. It would be of some assistance if a description of the specimen killed in Heligoland were to be published.

The specific distinction between *L. phœnicurus*, Pall., and *L. collurio*, Linn. (on the hypothesis that he possessed specimens of Pallas's species), has been most conclusively demonstrated by Schrenck (*l. c.*). The specimen described by Sundevall (*l. c.*), preserved in the Stockholm Museum, must belong either to Schrenck's species, or to Malay *L. superciliosus*, Lath.

Dimensions.

	Long.	Rostr.	Al.	Caud.	Tars.
Ex Hakodadi	·43		3·62	3·87	·87

4. *LANIUS SUPERCILIOSUS*, Lath., Ind. Orn. Supp. 1801, p. 20. no. 14; Gen. Hist. ii. p. 36. no. 34. Raffles, Mem., Cat. Zool. Sp. p. 658 (ex Sumatra). Sundev., K. S. Vet. Ak. Handl. 1857, pp. 31, 60. no. 66, 2. Blyth, Cat. Mus. Calc. p. 152. no. 874 (ex Malacca) (nec Licht., Doubl. 1823, p. 47. no. 509 = *L. rutilans*, Temm., Man. iii. p. 601) (nec Swains., N. H. Bds. ii. 219 = *C. erythronotus*, Vig., P. Z. S. 1831, p. 42). v. Pelzeln, Nov. Reise, Zool. Th. i. p. 84 (ex Malacca, at sea, near the Mariannes, lat. 17° 32' N., and long. 138° 8' E.).

Le Rousseau, Levaill., Ois. d'Afrique, ii. p. 60, pl. 66. fig. 2 (ex Java).

White-cheeked Shrike, Lath., (?) Gen. Hist. ii. p. 53. no. 53 (ex India).

Enneoctonus superciliosus (Lath.), G. R. Gray, Gen. Bds. i. p. 291. no. 6. Bp., Consp. i. p. 363. no. 8 (ex Java?). H. & M., Cat. i. App. 1. p. 394. no. 638 (ex Malacca, Pinang).

Otomela superciliosa (Lath.), Bp., Rev. de Zool. 1853, p. 437. no. 29 (ex Java?).

Two questions must be answered before the correct synonymy of this species can be determined. Does it occur in Java? Is it the same, or does it differ from *L. phænicurus*, Pall. ap. Schrenck? Levaillant (*l. c.*) first described and figured the bird, said by him to have come from Java, on which Latham founded his species. Levaillant's authority for its *habitat* is, of course, untrustworthy; and no subsequent author who adopts it supports Levaillant by collateral evidence. The species is not included by Horsfield in his "Catalogue of the Birds of Java" (Linn. Tr. xiii.). No specimens from that island are contained in the British or East-India Museums. Mr. Blyth, intimately acquainted with Eastern ornithology, informs me that he never met with a Javan specimen; and Mr. Wallace did not observe it in Java. *L. bentet*, Horsf., is the only Javan Shrike known to these eminent naturalists; and no other Javan species is within my own limited knowledge. Yet if such a bird does inhabit Java, it will have to be regarded as *L. superciliosus*, Lath., *verus*. In the Malay Peninsula a species, very common in collections, exists, answering in all respects to Levaillant's account of *Le Rousseau*; and for the present it will be convenient to regard it as having supplied Levaillant with the subject of his plate and description. Its occurrence in Sumatra, not in itself improbable, rests upon the sole authority of Sir S. Raffles.

On the supposition that my Hakodadi specimen is *L. phænicurus*, Pall. ap. Schrenck, it is not easy to discriminate the characters which separate it from Malay *L. superciliosus*. A somewhat shorter wing, a brown, more dully coloured back, and a narrower white frontal band constitute the only perceptible discrepancies of the Malay specimens I have had opportunities of examining. Otherwise the two are exactly similar, the rufous of the head and upper tail-coverts being quite as intense,

and the white of the under surface as pure and as extended. On the other hand, the female or young of the Malay species is almost pure cinereous on the upper surface. Bonaparte (*l. c.*) uses the expression "*rufo-cinerea*;" but I have seen Malay specimens which are cinereous without a tinge of rufous. In the next place, all our information leads to the conclusion that the Malay bird does not migrate to the north. Further investigation will be necessary to enable us to decide whether it be the same as the Japan bird.

Herr v. Pelzeln (*l. c.*) mentions that a specimen of this species was obtained by the 'Novara' expedition; it flew on board the frigate while off the Marianne Islands. Is it the same as the Malayan bird?

Lanius collurioides, Less. (Bél. Voy. 1834, p. 250), ex Pegu, hitherto regarded by Mr. Blyth and other writers as a synonym of either this species or of *L. cristatus*, Linn., is, as was suspected by Prince Bonaparte (Rev. Zool. 1853), equal to *L. hypoleucus*, Blyth (J. A. S. B. 1848, p. 249), ex Pegu. It is a well-marked distinct race of *L. vittatus*, Val. (Dict. Sc. Nat. 1826, xl. p. 227), described from specimens obtained at Pondicherry, and brought to France by Leschenault; for Valenciennes's description, as already shown by Prince Bonaparte (*l. c.*) distinctly applies to the common Bay-backed Shrike of India, very abundant on the Coromandel coast. Mr. Vigors's designation of *Collurio hardwickii* (P. Z. S. 1831, p. 42) must therefore be cancelled.

Dimensions.

	Long. Rostr.	Al.	Caud.	Tars.
Ex Malacca	·43	3·50	3·87	·87

5. *LANIUS MAGNIROSTRIS*, Less., Bél. Voy. 1834, p. 251 (ex Les Indes); Compl. de Buff. ii. p. 415.

Lanius strigatus, Eyton, P. Z. S. 1839, p. 103 (ex Malay Penin.).

Lanius ferox, Drap., Dict. Sc. N. 1842, viii. p. 366 (ex Java?).

Enneoctonus crassirostris, Kuhl, Bp., Consp. 1850, i. p. 362. sp. 6 (ex Java?). (v. Hasselt), Cab., Mus. Hein. 1850-51, Th. i. p. 72, no. 415, sp. 4, ex Java (?).

Lanius crassirostris, Kuhl, v. Pelzeln, Nov. Reise, Zool. Th. p. 84 (ex Malacca).



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LANIUS MAGNIROSTRIS.

Otomela crassirostris (Kuhl), Bp., Rev. de Zool. 1853, p. 437, sp. 31 (ex Java?).

Lanius tigrinus, Drap., Blyth, Cat. Mus. Calc. p. 152. no. 875, (Malacca) (nec Drap.).

(Plate VI. fig. 1, ♂, fig. 2, ♀.)

A very small species of Shrike, perhaps the smallest of the genus, with a stout, almost disproportionate bill, and with the upper plumage generally deep rufous-brown, verging on chocolate, much striated with fine dark lines, the crown of the head, in old males, cinereous, seems to be common in the Malay Peninsula and exists in Sumatra. It and assumed Javan individuals have been described as distinct by several authors and under separate names; and in their turns these titles have been regarded by subsequent writers as synonyms of one another, as well as of others of the older species already noticed. It is a well-marked form, readily to be distinguished by its diminutive size, grey head in the male, and very thick bill; yet materials necessary for a permanent rectification of its synonymy are still wanting, and will remain incomplete until specimens of the form described as existing in Java are brought together and compared with those of Malacca and Sumatra. One, if not two, species, apparently nearly allied to the Malay form, have by different authors been described as inhabiting Java. And yet I can find no satisfactory evidence that a Shrike of that race actually inhabits the island at all. No Javan examples are preserved in the British or East-Indian Museums. Nor did Mr. Wallace meet with any such species in Java, although he procured several specimens in Sumatra. The localities given by Drapiez generally require collateral support; and the same may be said of those contained in the 'Museum Heineanum:' while in the 'Conspectus,' on the subject of localities, Bonaparte is singularly inaccurate. If a thick-billed rufous Shrike does occur in Java, it will still remain to be shown whether it be the same as, or specifically distinct from the Malay bird. In the absence of Javan examples, and of any reliable evidence of their occurrence, I have brought all those titles which refer to alleged Javan specimens of the thick-billed form under Lesson's designation of *L. magnirostris*, which clearly

refers to the Malay race, and has the right of priority. He has given a detailed description of the male and the female. If it be eventually shown that Java is inhabited by an allied form yet specifically distinct from the Malay type, it will have to take the title of *L. ferox*, Drap., and not that of *L. tigrinus* of the same author. *L. ferox*, Drap., is described (*l. c.*) as measuring seven inches in length, whereas *L. tigrinus*, Drap., usually regarded as a synonym of *L. magnirostris*, Less., is said by its author to measure ten inches and a half. Letting alone the fact that in the same article on the Shrikes Drapiez described these two birds as distinct species, the large dimensions of his *L. tigrinus* are sufficient to stamp the species as distinct from *L. ferox*. At the same time I am unable, from the description, to identify *L. tigrinus*; it is possibly a young *L. cristatus*, Linn., from the continent. Bonaparte (*l. c.*) makes *tigrinus* the male, and *ferox* the female. But the sexes in the Malay bird are of equal dimensions, and no true *Lanius* is known in which there is a difference of three and a half inches between the sexes. The description of *L. ferox*, taken along with its small size, clearly refers to the female or young male of the Malay bird, or, if it does there occur, to its Java representative.

Lanius crassirostris, Kuhl, is introduced, without description, in the 'Conspectus' as a distinct species from Java. Three years later the Prince fully described the male and female in his 'Monographie des Laniens;' and the specific characters there given apply in every respect to the Malay bird. Moreover, although permitting Kuhl's manuscript title to be retained, the Prince identified his species with *L. magnirostris*, Less., *L. ferox* and *L. tigrinus*, Drap., *L. strigatus*, Eyton, and *L. crassirostris*, v. Hasselt, all titles possessing priority over the designation adopted by the Prince*. The *L. crassirostris* (v. Hasselt) of

* The carelessness of this great ornithologist is curiously illustrated in his Monograph by the notes of exclamation he inserts after quoting Dr. Cabanis. In the 'Museum Heineanum' that author included the rufous-tailed Shrikes in Boie's genus *Enneoctonus*. This excites the Prince's astonishment, and he gives expression to his amazement by his usual notes of exclamation. Yet in the 'Conspectus,' published at about the same time, it will be seen that the Prince himself included all the rufous Shrikes under *Enneoctonus*.

Dr. Cabanis, by the description given in the footnote (*l. c.*), is evidently either the Malay species or else the possible but improbable Javan form.

Dimensions.

	Alt.	Rostr.	Long.	Rostr.	Al.	Caud.	Tars.
Ex Malacca . . .	·37		·50		3·25	3	·75
Ex Malacca . . .	·31		·50		3·25	3·12	·75
Ex Sumatra . . .	·37		·43		3·25	3·25	·81

6. *LANIUS SCHWANERI*, Bp., *Consp.* 1850, i. p. 363. sp. 7 (ex Borneo). V. Pelzeln, *Nov. Reise, Zool. Th. i.* p. 48 (ex Banjermassing).

Otomela schwaneri, Bp., *Rev. de Zool.* 1853, p. 437. sp. 30.

Described from specimens in the Leyden Museum as resembling *L. superciliosus*, Lath., but as being scarcely so rufous, and as wanting the white superciliary streak. I am unacquainted with the species. A specimen of a female was obtained by the 'Novara' expedition, which Von Pelzeln has identified with the above species, but which possessed a narrow superciliary streak. In badly prepared skins the superciliary stripe is often to be found obliterated; and this was probably the case in the Prince's type specimen.

7. *LANIUS ARENARIUS*, Blyth, *J. A. S. B.* 1846, xv. p. 304. *Jerd., Bds. Ind. i.* p. 407. no. 262. *Strickl., P. Z. S.* 1850, p. 207. no. 46.

Lanius superciliosus, Lath., Scinde variety, Blyth, *Cat. Calc. Mus.* p. 152, no. 874.

Otomela arenaria (Blyth), Bp., *Rev. Zool.* 1853, p. 437. no. 27.

Enneoctonus arenarius, Blyth, *H. & M., Cat. i. App. i.* p. 394. no. 639 (ex Afghanistan).

This species was described by its author from specimens obtained by Captain Boys "in the country lying between Scinde and Ferozepore." I am only acquainted with specimens procured in various parts of South-western Afghanistan, and which agree perfectly with Mr. Blyth's description. If they prove identical, of which there can be little doubt, I am unable to account for Mr. Blyth's original remark, that "it can scarcely be admitted as a separate species" (*l. c.*); for, apart from its

totally distinct colouring, its caudal structure is alone sufficient to separate it from *L. cristatus*, Linn. Though a smaller bird, its rectrices are much broader than in the Bengal bird, and the tail is less graduated.

In the specimen before me the centre pair of rectrices, at about one-third of their length from the end, display a well-marked irregular light-coloured transverse band—a good distinctive character if found to be constant in all examples. Dr. Jerdon cannot have seen specimens of this form, or he would not have included it among his list (*l. c.* iii. App. p. 875) of the “somewhat doubtful” species.

Dimensions.

	Long.	Rostr.	Al.	Caud.	Tars.
Ex Bagh, S.W. Afghanistan . . .	·40		3·75	3·62	·93½

8. *LANIUS ANDERSSONI* (Strickl.).

Enneoctonus anderssoni, Strickl., Contrib. to Orn. 1852, p. 145. no. 18 (ex Damaraland); Mem. ii. p. 336. no. 18. Bp., Rev. de Zool. 1853, v. p. 437, note.

Founded on a specimen obtained by Mr. Andersson in the Damara country of Southern Africa. Strickland mentions that it is allied to *L. melanotis*, Val. (*L. cristatus* of this paper), but that it “differs in the ferruginous ear-covers, longer wing, shorter tail, &c.” A peculiar character seems also to be the absence of a black or brown ocular band. A white alar bar is not mentioned; and as so important a character is not likely to have escaped the notice of so accurate an observer as the describer, I include this species in this section. Yet it may eventually prove to have been the female or young of a form belonging to another group of the genus.

This completes the number of Rufous-tailed Shrikes without an alar speculum known to me.

Lanius isabellinus, H. & E. (Symb. Phys. i. fol. e, note), obtained in Arabia*, is an interesting transitional link, being a Rufous-tailed Shrike but possessing a white alar bar. A species combining these two characters was obtained at Hyderabad, in

* The late Mr. Strickland (P. Z. S. 1850, p. 217. no. 46) records this species from Kordofan.

Scinde, by the late Dr. Gould, of which a specimen, in bad order, is now preserved in the East-India Museum (Plate V. fig. 1). Not being acquainted with typical Arabian examples, I cannot pronounce decidedly on the identity of this Scinde specimen and Ehrenberg's species. It will be seen, by the following description, that it differs from Ehrenberg's account of *L. isabellinus* by possessing a rufous head and rufous-brown dorsal plumage. But I suspect that Ehrenberg's type was either a female, a young bird, or else a male in seasonal plumage; for the British Museum contains a specimen from Bagdad which is palpably of the same species as this Scinde specimen, but which answers perfectly to Ehrenberg's description of *L. isabellinus*; that is, the upper plumage is pale fulvo-cinereous. We have no means at present of deciding what state of the bird this cinereous phase denotes; but I incline to the opinion that it belongs to the female sex. As this Hyderabad specimen constitutes an additional species to the fauna of the Indian region comprehended within the geographical limits of Dr. Jerdon's work, I append a detailed description:—

Entire upper surface of head and uropygium rufous-brown, as in brightly plumaged specimens of *L. cristatus*, Linn. Intermediate dorsal region, scapulars, and all the wing-feathers brown, obscurely tinged with rufous, the secondaries, wing-coverts, and scapularies being broadly edged with ruddy fulvous. Upper tail-coverts and the rectrices bright pure rufous, as in *Ruticilla phœnicura*, Linn.; the under surface of the rectrices somewhat paler, but pure and uniform in tint. Under wing-coverts and entire under surface, so far as the state of the specimen permits description, pale creamy or yellowish-white. Under tail-coverts, which are lengthened, nearly pure white. Flank-feathers tinged with a very pale shade of pure rufous. A narrow fulvous line at the base of the maxilla passing back, over, and behind the eye. A broad black band, passing through the eye, includes the lores and the ear-coverts. A white alar bar is formed by a white band commencing on the outer web of the 3rd primary and passing through both webs of each succeeding quill to the 9th, in which and the 10th the white forms only a spot on the outer web. Under surface of quills pale brown, their inner webs being mar-

gined with light fulvous. 1st primary very short, the 2nd equal to the 5th, and a little shorter than the 3rd and 4th, which are coequal and longest; the 5th but a trifle shorter than the 3rd and 4th, and longer than the 2nd. The tail is moderate, graduated; the wings are lengthened; the bill moderate; the under tail-coverts extend to fully half the length of the tail; the tarsus and feet are powerful. Arabian specimens will have to be compared; but I have little doubt that this Scinde individual will prove to be a mature male of *L. isabellinus*, H. & E.

Dimensions.

	Long. Rostr.	Al.	Caud.	Tars.
Ex Scinde. . . .	·43	3·87	3·62	·87

In a note (Rev. de Zool. 1853, p. 437), while failing to identify it, and without mentioning its origin, Bonaparte has described a rufous-tailed Shrike under the title of *Lanius jeracopis*, de Filippi. I have been unable to trace the species, but the characters given are those we find in young males of *L. superciliosus*, Lath., ex Malacca.

The following table represents the geographical limits of each species of the group as far as is at present known:—

1. *Lanius cristatus*, Linn. Plains of India, Ceylon, Nipaul, Assam, Bootan, Arakan, Tenasserim.
2. *L. lucionensis*, Linn. Luzon, Formosa, China, Andamans, Nicobars.
3. *L. phænicurus*, Pall. ap. Schrenck. Amur, North China, North-east Siberia, Japan.
4. *L. superciliosus*, Lath. Malay Peninsula, Sumatra.
5. *L. magnirostris*, Less. Malay Peninsula, Sumatra.
6. *L. schwaneri*, Bp. Borneo.
7. *L. arenarius*, Blyth. Punjab, Upper Scinde, South-west Afghanistan.
8. *L. anderssoni* (Strickl.). Damaraland.

XIII.—*Jottings on Birds from my Amoy Journal.* By ROBERT SWINHOE, Her Majesty's Consul, F.Z.S. &c.

1866, May 3rd.—I procured from a fisherman an unusually white Albatros (*Diomedea brachyura*), which on dissection