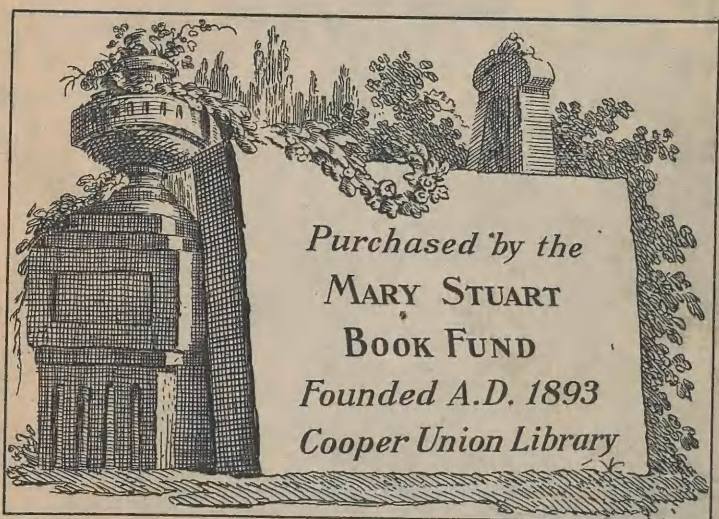


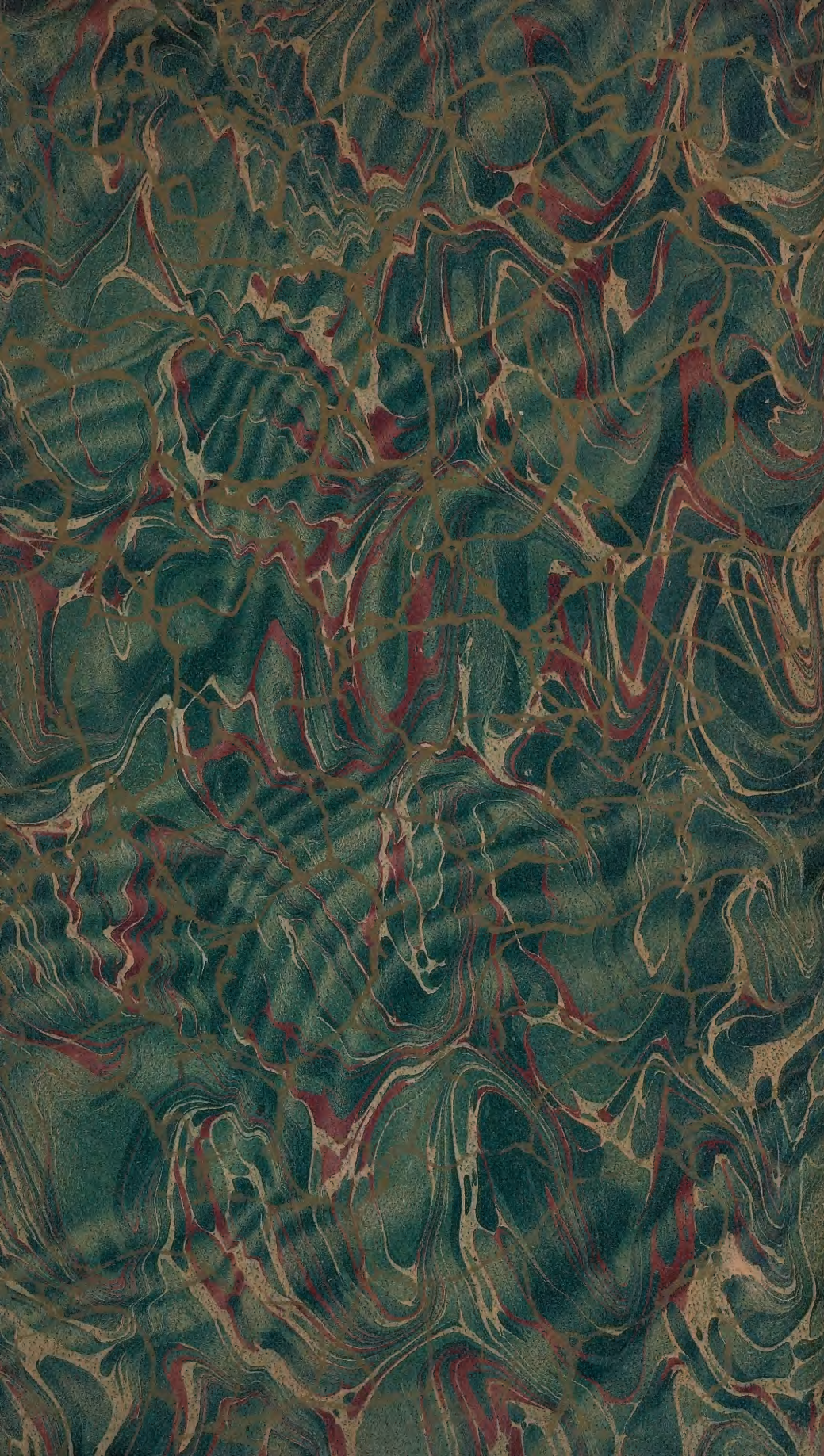


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# BRITISH ORNITHOLOGY:

BEING

THE HISTORY

WITH A COLOURED REPRESENTATION

Of every known Species of

BRITISH BIRDS.

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BY GEORGE GRAVES,

ASSISTED BY SEVERAL EMINENT ORNITHOLOGISTS.

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VOL I.

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1811.



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGY

THE HISTORY

A COMPLETE REVISION

OF THE

BRITISH BIRDS

BY GEORGE SCLATER

WITH A HISTORY OF THE BRITISH BIRDS

VOL. I

LONDON

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR

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1910

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## P R E F A C E.

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**A**LTHOUGH the multiplicity of works on **ORNITHOLOGY**, would seem to preclude the necessity of the present publication, a very general complaint prevails, that among all the modern writers on British Ornithology, few have taken the necessary pains to mark out the different species; the works of Bewick, Montague, and a few others excepted. But even these, however excellent in themselves, fall short of conveying a correct idea of the subject treated of; the want of plates in the latter, and of their being coloured in the former, are to be regretted, as the most laboured description must fail of conveying a just idea of any subject of Natural History in respect to its colours.

Impressed with this conviction, and being in possession of a considerable number of excellent drawings and engravings, made for the late **WILLIAM CURTIS**, who had a similar publication in view, the author, with diffidence, submits the following pages to the attention of an enlightened Public, conscious that he has spared no exertions to render them worthy of the attentive perusal of the admirers of this beautiful and interesting part of animated nature; at the same time he solicits  
the



## P R E F A C E.

the indulgence of the candid reader, on whose liberality he relies, that his endeavours will be appreciated according to their merit.

The author has placed the generic character to the leading Bird in each genus, and the specific character immediately preceding the history of the article under consideration. In making the specific distinctions, the customary prolixity of naming the colours of the different parts has been omitted, as correctly coloured figures supersede the necessity, and convey clearer ideas on this subject than the most laboured description. Colours are at best but indifferent guides in distinguishing the species, from change of season, climate, and food, all having a share in inducing a change of colour. The author has deviated therefore from the general practice, giving only as marks of specific distinction, such characters in the bill, legs, or any other parts (not liable to be affected by the above causes) as will clearly point out the species.

To those gentlemen who have liberally offered their private museums, to assist the author in this undertaking, he returns his sincere and grateful acknowledgments, assuring them he shall always entertain the highest sense of the obligation conferred upon him.











*Falco Buteo.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Widdowich, 1 June 1811.*



# FALCO BUTEO.

## COMMON BUZZARD.

---

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Falco Chryseatos*.

### SYNONYMS.

FALCO BUTEO. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 127.

BUZZARD. *Br. Zool.* 1. 54. *tab.* 25. *Ib. fol. tab. A.*  
*fig.* 3. *Lath. Syn.* 1. p. 48. *Ib. supt.* p. 14.  
*Mont. Orn. Dict.* *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.*  
1. p. 57.

---

THIS bird is about twenty-two inches in length, and in breadth somewhat exceeding four feet. The present species varies much in size, weighing from two pounds and a half to three and a half. Bill strong and much curved, with frequently a notch in the upper mandible near the point; eyes sunk, and much duller than in any other species; wings when closed, extend rather beyond the tail; legs strong and very coarse; feathers on the thighs long and loose, and of a coarser texture than on other parts of the bird. Colours in both species, are very subject to vary; the female is rather larger, and is a much bolder bird than the male.

Of all the hawk tribe, this is the most indolent and inactive, and is seldom seen on wing, except when pressed by hunger or in the breeding season; at which time they are frequently seen soaring to a prodigious height; at which time they ascend and descend in a series of continued circles; and  
when

when descending they utter a noise similar to the purring of a cat, but much louder, and which may be heard at a considerable distance.

The Buzzard forms its nest in the fork of a large tree near the top, it is placed in such a situation, that a branch most generally crosses immediately over it, on which the male usually perches during the time of incubation; they have been remarked for the attention they shew towards their young, they feed them for a considerable time after they are capable of flying. We learn from RAY "that should the female be killed during the time of incubation, the male Buzzard takes charge, and patiently rears the young till they are able to provide for themselves." The nest is composed of sticks, and is lined with wool, hair, and other soft substances; they usually lay two eggs, sometimes a third is found in the nest, but generally when that is the case, one of them proves addled; they are white spotted with rust colour, the spots are most numerous at the large end, and the eggs rather exceed in size those of the common hen.

Their food consists of young hares, rabbits, moles, and most of the smaller species of quadrupeds, also of such feathered game as from inability are unable to elude their pursuit by flight; so cowardly is the disposition of the male bird, that it has frequently been known to resign its prey to the kestrel or sparrow-hawk, which very frequently attack it for the purpose of procuring a meal; on the failure of other food, they eat carrion, reptiles, and the larger species of coleopterous insects.

Our figure was coloured and description taken from a fine specimen communicated by ARTHUR HARRISON, Esq.







*Falco tinnunculus*

*F. Levaillant del.*



# FALCO MILVUS.

K I T E.

---

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Falco Chryseus*.

## SYNONYMS.

FALCO MILVUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 126. 12. *Ind. Orn.*  
1. p. 20. 37.

KITE. *Br. Zool.* 1. 53. *Ib. fol. tab. A.* 2. *Lath. Syn.*  
1. p. 61. 43. *Ib. supt.* p. 17. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*  
*Berwick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1.* p. 63.

---

THE KITE weighs nearly two pounds and a half, and is in length rather more than two feet, and in breadth about five feet; bill strong; crown of the head rather flat, the feathers on that part have generally a rough appearance; eyes fierce; tail long and much forked, the outer feathers frequently exceeding twelve inches in length; legs and claws very strong; the female differs but little in colour from the male, but rather exceeds it in size, being sometimes two feet six inches long, and five feet eight inches in breadth.

This species generally inhabits such woody places as are in the vicinity of farms, as it chiefly depends on the produce of the farm-yard for subsistence; its food consists of chickens, young ducks, rabbits, and hares; on the failure of these, it greedily devours carrion, mice, rats, moles, reptiles of all description, and even insects; it is constantly changing its residence

residence except during the breeding season, at which time it is very bold, and will often attack a brood of chickens, and will not easily be disappointed of its prey, frequently sustaining a combat with the hen; it will also attack and destroy young lambs, and so eagerly is it then engaged in devouring its prey, that instances have been known of its being taken by a shepherd's dog when thus employed.

This bird makes its nest early in the spring, composed of sticks, wool, hair, and not unfrequently of pieces of cloth, paper, and any other soft materials it meets with; the female lays three or four eggs of a pale yellow colour (nearly white) with a few rust-coloured spots at the larger end; during the time of incubation, the male bird in the absence of the female, takes to the nest, and has been known to sit on the eggs for three days without intermission. This was occasioned by the female being caught in a fox trap, that had been placed in a rabbit warren; the trap had caught her by the centre and outside toes, which by her continual struggles for release were torn off: on her return to the nest, she brought with her a full grown rabbit, which, owing to the injury she had received, she was unable to tear to pieces; this the male bird performed for her, and from that time continued to feed her till some weeks after their young ones had left the nest.

From the great extent of surface opposed to the trifling weight of this bird, it is able to support itself when on wing for a great length of time, and with very trifling exertion, sweeping along with a very graceful motion, which, though slow, is pleasing in its effect, somewhat resembling the broad sweeps made by an adept in the art of skating: when the

Kite



Kite has been at so great an height as to be scarcely perceivable by the naked eye, we have known it to utter a hoarse kind of bleat, which will readily lead the eye to the spot ; at that time should a rabbit or any other animal to which it is partial (as food) be stirring, it closes its wings, and falls with astonishing rapidity on its prey ; at the time it is falling it only fans the air with its tail, which but slightly impedes the rapidity of its descent.









*Falco Peregrinus.*

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, J. Aug. 1871.



# FALCO PEREGRINUS.

## PEREGRINE FALCON.

---

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Falco Chryseatos*.

### SYNONYMS.

FALCO PEREGRINUS. *Ind. Orn.* 1. p. 33. 72.

PEREGRINE FALCON. *Br. Zool.* 1. 48. *tab.* 8. *Ib.*  
*fol. tab. A.\** 5. *Latb. Syn.* 1.  
*p.* 73. *Ib. sup.* p. 18. *Mont.*  
*Orn. Dict.* vol. 1.

---

THE weight of this species when full grown, is from two to three pounds; length about twenty inches; breadth near four feet; bill short, very strong, and sharp at the point; cere, in adult birds, bright yellow; at different periods of age it varies from green to yellow; irides yellow in the young bird, changing to dusky as it advances in age; legs short and strong; toes long; claws strong and much hooked; the sexes differ but little in colour; the female exceeds considerably in size, but the male is generally the brightest coloured and the liveliest bird.

The PEREGRINE FALCON (or Duck Hawk, the provincial name of this species in many parts of this country) is several years arriving at its full plumage; a considerable difference being observable in the two last changes has induced us to give the present figure, as it frequently has been considered as a distinct species when in the present state.

Our

Our figure was coloured from a very fine specimen, communicated by Mr. BULLOCK, who received it from a gentleman resident near Harwich, who is particularly conversant with the hawk tribe; he took this with several others from the nest, and has kept them several years; our bird is in the last state previous to its arriving at the adult plumage. In a future number will be given a figure of the bird in its highest state of adult plumage.

These birds frequent the rocky parts of our coasts, particularly those spots resorted to by the razor-bill and its affinities, among which they are very destructive; Mr. MONTAGUE says, "We took three young birds from a high cliff, on the coast of Carmarthenshire; by the nest lay above a dozen rooks, crows, and gulls;" the young birds are very fond of larks, which, when given them, whether dead or alive, they invariably seize by the neck with one claw, and usually pluck them previous to devouring. It is sometimes found in the interior of this country at a great distance from the sea: our friend Mr. SAMUEL TURNER, of Caistor, in Lincolnshire, once took one from out of a fox-trap placed in a warren in his neighbourhood.

This species usually builds in the most inaccessible parts of our cliffs; the nest is formed of sticks and dry sea-weed; we do not remember to have seen the eggs.

This bird was formerly much used in falconry, and being a bold and powerful bird was held in great esteem; it was principally employed for the taking of ducks and other water fowl, from which circumstance it attained the name of Duck Hawk.







*Falco Esalon.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1. March. 1811.*



# FALCO ÆSALON.

## MERLIN.

---

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Falco Chryseus*.

### SYNONYMS.

FALCO ÆSALON. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 1. p. 49. 119.  
MERLIN. *Br. Zool.* 1. 63. *Ib. fol. tab. A.* 12. *Lath.*  
*Syn.* 1. p. 106. 93. *Ib. Supt.* p. 29.  
*Mont. Orn. Dict.* *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1.*  
p. 79.

---

THIS, the smallest species of British hawk, is in length about ten inches, and weighs about six ounces; the female rather exceeds twelve inches in length, and weighs about nine ounces. Bill much hooked; irides yellow; the two first quill feathers have the appearance of being cut on the inner web; wings when closed not so long as the tail by about one inch and a half.

In colour the female differs but little from the male, but is readily distinguished by its superior size. Buffon says this is the only species where the male and female are of the same size; but that this is an error, we were convinced on dissecting a pair shot in October 1810, in the neighbourhood of Cambridge, and from which the above descriptions were taken; both sexes vary in the number of bars on the tail, but the tip is invariably white.

The

The Merlin, though small, is not deficient in courage, but will attack partridges, quails, and young hares and rabbits; it was formerly used in hawking, principally for taking larks, which it pounces, and generally kills at a blow; it often plucks its prey previous to devouring it, but this practice is not general, as the pair before mentioned had a large quantity of feathers and fur in the stomach, and what was remarkable, there were two among them that had evidently belonged to a magpie.

This bird but rarely breeds in this country. Mr. MONTAGUE mentions the following instance: "In the middle of a high clump of heath, upon the moors of Northumberland, we found three young ones about half grown, but no nest; they were well concealed, and would not have been discovered but by a setting dog making a point at them: the eggs are said to be of a plain chocolate colour, and that an instance has been known of its depositing them in a deserted crow's nest."

In rapidity of flight, this bird is rarely surpassed, so quick are its movements, that few small birds escape it; it flies very low, almost touching the ground, or brushing the hedges with its wings; it is a migrative species, leaving this country early in spring, and returning about September or October.







*Falco tinnunculus (famina 2.)*

Published March 25, 1805, by G. Graves, Walsworth.

## FALCO TINNUNCULUS (FÆMINA.)

### FEMALE KESTREL,

---

**I**N many of the Hawk tribe, the sexes vary so much in colour, that we purpose giving figures of each sex of such as are remarkably different in this respect; in few instances do the colours differ more than in the present. The female Kestrel is in length about sixteen inches, and in breadth near two feet six inches, and weighs about sixteen ounces.

This is a more daring bird than the male, and may be often seen in the vicinity of farm-yards, keeping a watchful eye on such chickens as stray from the sheltering care of the parent, on these it pounces with the greatest audacity, and carries them off to its nest; it lays four or five eggs, which are mostly of a reddish cast, blotched with dark rust coloured spots; as the birds advance in age, the eggs become paler coloured, and we have heard of a nest having been found with the eggs nearly plain.

Their nests are usually built in the holes of rocks, or in ruined buildings, and are composed of sticks lined with wool, hair, and other soft substances; they have sometimes been known to lay in the deserted nest of the crow or magpie.









*Strix flammea.*

Eng. by Howells, Walthamstow Nov. 1. 1811.



# STRIX FLAMMEA.

## WHITE OR BARN OWL.

---

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Strix Bubo*.

### SYNONYMS.

STRIX FLAMMEA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 133. 8. *Ind. Orn.*  
1. p. 60. 28.

WHITE OWL. *Br. Zool.* 1. 67. *Ib. fol.* p. 71. *tab. B.*  
*Lath. Syn.* 1. p. 138. 26. *Ib. supt.* p.  
46. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.* 2. *Bewick's*  
*Br. Birds, Pt.* 1. p. 89.

---

THIS beautiful bird weighs from nine to twelve ounces, is about fourteen inches in length, and nearly three feet in breadth; bill strong and sharp-pointed; irides very dark; the feathers surrounding the eyes are intermixed with hairs, and have their shafts projecting beyond the webs, those on the body are particularly soft, and on the under parts they have two shafts proceeding from the same quill; legs feathered to the toes, which are very strong and covered with hairs; claws strong, and much curved, the middle one is serrated. The colours of both sexes are alike, the female very seldom has any spots on the breast, though this marking is not constant in either sex; the female rather exceeds in size, being an inch longer and several inches wider than the male.

The

The Barn Owl, as its name imports, is a pretty constant resident in barns or out-buildings, where by devouring the vermin it amply repays the farmer for shelter; its principal food is mice and small birds. Mr. WHITE, in his history of Selbourn, gives the following entertaining account, "We have had ever since I can remember, a pair of White Owls, that constantly breed under the eaves of this church (Selbourn); as I have paid good attention to the manner of life of these birds during their season of breeding, which lasts the summer through, the following remarks may not perhaps be unacceptable: about an hour before sunset (for then the mice begin to run) they sally forth in quest of prey, and hunt all round the hedges of the meadows and small enclosures for them, which seems to be their only food. In this irregular country, we can stand on an eminence and see them beat the fields over like a setting dog, and often drop down in the grass or corn.

"I have minuted these birds with my watch for an hour together, and have found that they return to their nest, the one or the other of them, about once in five minutes; reflecting at the same time on the adroitness that every animal is possessed of, as far as regards the well-being of itself and offspring.

"But a piece of address, which they shew when they return loaded, should not I think be passed over in silence. As they take their prey with their claws, so they carry it in their claws to the nest; but as the feet are necessary in their ascent under the tiles, they constantly perch first on the roof of the chancel, and shift the mouse from their claws to their bill, that the feet may be at liberty to take hold of the plate on the wall, as they are rising under the eaves." Mr. MONTAGUE  
remarks,

remarks, that "cats are known to kill, but never to eat the Shrew, which is supposed to possess some poisonous quality; we have, however, taken from the stomach of one of these birds, no less than five."

During dark and cloudy weather, this species may frequently be seen abroad in the day-time, when it preys on small birds, previously to swallowing of which, it holds them with one claw, and with its bill crushes the principal bones, beginning at the head and shifting its possession till it arrives at the other extremity; it then generally swallows them without plucking or separating; and ejects the skin, fur, feathers, and bones, in the form of pellets; large quantities of which may often be found in the places where this bird breeds.

It builds in barns or old ruinous buildings, and sometimes in the decayed hollows of trees; when in a barn the nest is only a hollow in any heap of straw or other loose substance; when it breeds in a tree, the eggs are laid on the soft decayed mould at the bottom of the hole; it lays three or four white eggs scarcely so large, but rounder than those of the common hen.

The note of this species is remarkably unpleasant and discordant, being in the spring a loud harsh scream, most generally uttered while on wing; when pressed by hunger, it frequently squeaks in the manner of the common mouse, which may serve as a decoy to allure them within its reach; it also utters a loud hissing noise during the greater part of the night; when displeased or alarmed it snaps its bill with great force. This bird is easily tamed and soon becomes familiar; in confinement it will devour most kinds of animal substances, and also bread.









*Parus major.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1, May 1811.*



# PARUS MAJOR.

## GREAT TITMOUSE.

---

### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill compressed, straight, short, and sharp-pointed.  
Nostrils round, covered by the vebriffea.  
Tongue lacinated, points terminating nearly on a line.  
Toes separate, hind-one the longest.

### SYNONYMS.

PARUS MAJOR. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 341. 3.  
GREAT TITMOUSE OR OX-EYE. *Br. Zool.* 1. 162.  
*Ib. fol.* 113. *tab. W. fig.* 4. *Lath.*  
*Syn.* 4. 536. 1. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*  
*Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 244.*

---

**T**HIS species is in length near six inches, in breadth about nine inches, and weighs nearly three-quarters of an ounce ; bill short, hard, and very strong ; eyes large and black ; legs strong ; claws sharp and much curved, that on the hind-toe much longer and more curved. The colours of the female are like those of the male, except being somewhat duller, and in the breeding season the breast and belly incline to cinereous.

The GREAT TITMOUSE (or Joe Bent) is to be met with in almost every garden ; its habits and economy are very similar to those of the blue titmouse, but it is more daring, and will, during the time of incubation, scarcely suffer any bird to approach its nest, it will even attack the magpie, should it

it intrude on its territories: we know of an instance, where a sparrow that chanced to alight in the vicinity of the nest, was killed in an instant by the male bird; it is more frequently observed to attack small birds than any other of our native species, and often robs the nests of the hedge-sparrow and red-start of the young.

It generally builds a neat compact nest, composed of moss, vegetable-down, hair, and feathers; it is placed often in a hole, in a tree, or wall, or in an out-house, and we know of its building and rearing its young in the corner of a manger; from which a number of horses were in the daily habit of feeding; it lays from six to ten white eggs, spotted with rust colour.

The general note of this bird is little better than a chatter, but in the spring it varies; sometimes uttering a low plaintive note, interrupted by a very shrill whistle, and frequently a harsh kind of jarring noise; these varied notes cease as the year advances, and when the breeding season is over and the young quit the nest, its note again becomes monotonous.

When in pursuit of the female, the male erects the feathers on the head and neck; should it when thus engaged, meet with one of its own sex, a battle immediately commences, which seldom terminates but with the loss of life in one of the party; when this happens, the survivor falls on the vanquished, and pecks out the brains, which is the part they prefer to all others.

A variety is sometimes met with that has a white spot on the crown of the head, and a ring of the same round the neck.







*Parus Cæruleus.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walsworth, L. Jan. 1821.*

# PARUS CÆRULEUS.

## BLUE TITMOUSE.

---

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Parus Major*.

### SYNONYMS.

PARUS CÆRULEUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 341.

BLUE TITMOUSE. *Br. Zool.* 1. p. 163. *tab.* 57. *Latb.*  
*Syn.* 4. p. 543. *Berwick's Br. Birds,*  
*Pt. 1. p. 246. Mont. Orn. Dict.*

---

**T**HIS lively little bird is in length rather more than four inches; weighs about five drams and a half; bill strong, sharp pointed, very thick at the base; eyes large and lively; legs slender; toes divided to the base, the hinder claw very long; in the female the colours are somewhat duller than in the male.

Few of our small birds have attracted more attention than the Blue Titmouse, its delicate colours, active motions, and familiar manners, seem to court particular notice; it feeds principally on small insects, to procure which it frequently commits considerable injury to fruit trees, in removing the buds; it mostly hangs from the branch, and examines with curious eye the smallest crevice, and will readily devour the eggs and larvæ of all kinds of insects; nor is it always satisfied with this  
kind

kind of fare, as it will attack small birds, particularly such as are weak or diseased, and dispatches them with its bill, with which it immediately cleaves the skull, and picks out the brains, but mostly leaves the body for another meal, first carefully covering it with leaves, or any substance that may be in the way.

The female builds her nest in the holes of trees or walls, she forms it of moss, well lined with feathers, hair, and wool, and lays from six to eight eggs, some writers assert they lay from fourteen to twenty; in those we have had an opportunity of examining, we never found more than eight, and most generally but six or seven, they are of a clear transparent white, finely splashed with bright rust colour at the larger end.

They are very tenacious of their nest; should any one approach it while either of them are sitting, they erect their feathers, and place themselves in a posture of defence, and continue to make a noise similar to the hissing of snakes, during the intrusion.







*Parus caudatus.*

Published by O. Groves Walworth Jan 1812.

# PARUS CAUDATUS.

## LONG-TAILED TITMOUSE.

---

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Parus major*.

### SYNONYMS.

PARUS CAUDATUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 342. 11. *Ind.*

*Orn.* 2. p. 569. 20.

LONG-TAILED TITMOUSE. *Br. Zool.* 1. 166. *Lath.*

*Syn.* 4. p. 550. *Ib. supl.* p. 190.

*Mont. Orn. Dict.* Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br.*

*Birds, Pt. 1.* p. 248.

---

THIS elegant little species is about five inches and a half in length, six and a half in breadth, and weighs nearly four drams. Bill very short; feathers on the head and cheeks rough, and always erect; irides hazel; "edges of the eye-lids yellow;" tail very long, the second feathers from the centre being three inches and a half in length, the middle ones rather shorter, those on the outside gradually declining, the shortest not exceeding an inch and a half; legs and claws strong. Colours of the sexes alike, the female exceeds in weight nearly one dram.

Though numerous in some parts, the long-tailed is not so generally dispersed as either the greater, the blue, or the marsh Titmouse, but is most usually found in low moist situations, that are covered with underwood, and interspersed with lofty oaks or elms. In such places it builds; its nest differs from all the other species with which we are acquainted; it most generally is placed in the forked branch of a large tree, that overhangs the water, and is composed of moss and lichens, interwoven

interwoven with wool and feathers; with the latter it is lined in such quantities as to completely im-bed the eggs. The exterior of this curious little mansion from the quantity of lichens with which it is formed, so nearly resembles the bark of the tree whereon it is placed, that it readily escapes observation; the nest is completely closed on all sides with the exception of a small hole on the lower part. It lays from twelve to eighteen white eggs, spotted with rust colour at the larger end; Mr. Montague observes, "the eggs are less than those of any other British bird, except the golden-crested wren, weighing about twelve grains."

The habits of this species are very similar to those of the blue Titmouse, and like it is almost incessantly in motion, running up and down the branches of trees in search of food, which consists of the smaller species of insects, also the larvæ and eggs of those that deposit them in the crevices of the bark; in the winter they associate in small flocks of from eight to twelve, and sometimes more, and are kept together by their continual chirping; like their nest their colours assimilate so nearly with the white moss, abundant on trees at that season of the year, that was it not for their note it would be difficult to find them.

Owing to the length of tail, its flight is undulating, and irregular, but most usually very quick, seeming to pass through the air like an arrow. Its provincial names are numerous, and are most generally given either from the form of its nest or length of tail, as Bottle Tit, Bottle Tom, \* Feather Poke, Long-tailed Mag, Long-tailed Pie, Long-tailed Capon, Mum Ruffin, Huck Muck, Ragged Robin.

\* This is also the provincial name in many parts for the nest.







*Corvus Cornix.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1 Feb. 1811.*

# CORVUS CORNIX.

## HOODED CROW.

---

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Corvus Corax*.

### SYNONYMS.

CORVUS CORNIX. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 156. 5.

ROYSTON CROW. *Albin's Birds*, 2. tab. 23.

HOODED CROW. *Br. Zool.* 1. 77. *Lath. Syn.* 1. p. 374.

5. *Ib. sup.* p. 77. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

*Bewick's Br. Birds*, Pt. 1. p. 102.

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THE HOODED CROW is about twenty-two inches in length, and weighs nearly one pound and a half; bill two inches and a quarter long, furnished with very strong vibriffæ; legs scaly. Colours alike in both sexes; the female mostly weighs two or three ounces more than the male.

This species is very generally found throughout Great-Britain, and is, we are informed by Pennant, "the only genuine species of Crow found in the Hebrides, Orkneys, and Shetlands;" it makes its nest in the same manner and with the same kinds of materials as the common crow; it lays six eggs.

Their principal food is carrion, which they will scent out at a very great distance, the most putrid carcase is devoured by them with avidity; they often attack the eyes of young lambs and  
and

and diseased sheep, “ and mostly succeed if the animal is incapable of rising.” To the extensive downs and heaths with which this country abounds, they resort in vast numbers, where they feed on grain, worms, and insects, particularly beetles, for which they search with the greatest diligence; may be often seen in company with the common crow, in ploughed fields; it is a very shy bird, and will take wing even at the approach of a dog; on the sea coasts they feed on small shell-fish, marine insects, and any animal matter thrown up by the tide.

It was formerly very common in the vicinity of London, particularly about the neighbourhoods of Hoxton and Hackney, but is now become rare so near town.







*Corvus Glandarius.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, W. & W. Worth, 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 1811.*

# CORVUS GLANDARIUS.

ƒ A R.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *CORVUS CORAX*.

## SYNONYMS.

*CORVUS GLANDARIUS*. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 156. 7. *Ind.*

*Orn.* 1. p. 157. 18.

JAY. *Br. Zool.* 1. 79. *Ib. fol. tab. D. Latb. Syn.* 1.

p. 384. 19. *Ib. Supt.* p. 79. *Mont. Orn. Diet.*

*Vol.* 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 1. p. 112.

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THE JAY is about fourteen inches in length, twenty-one in breadth, and weighs from six to seven ounces. Bill strong, the upper mandible has a slight notch near the tip which is much hooked; irides very light blue, approaching to white; feathers on the forehead and crown long, and capable of being erected; legs and claws strong, the edges of the latter are very sharp and project beyond the under surface. Colours of the sexes alike; in this species the male exceeds in size, being near an inch longer and weighing about one ounce more than the female.

This beautiful species of Crow usually builds in low-trees or in coppice woods; the nest is composed of twigs, lined with small fibrous roots and grass; it lays five or six eggs of a pale

a pale brownish tint, faintly marked with obscure blotches of a more dusky brown; the young keep together in the vicinity of the nest till the ensuing spring, when they separate in pairs, and quit their former haunts for some more retired spot.

The habits of the Jay nearly resemble those of the magpie, and like it is held in aversion by the sportsman, as it seems to take pleasure in disappointing his exertions; for on the approach of any one, it gives an alarm by its loud and reiterated notes that danger is near, and but few animals will venture abroad during the stay of this noisy intruder. Its food is various, consisting of grain, fruit, the seeds of most kinds of forest trees, particularly those of the oak and beech, also small birds, eggs, mice, and when hard pressed it will devour carrion: the hoards of acorns and beech-mast found in the hollows of trees, have frequently been considered as stores laid up by this bird (but we believe without any just ground) as at the season when such a provision would be resorted to, the Jay quits its more retired haunts, and approaches the farm-yard, where it pecks up what eatables fall in its way.

In confinement, this bird loses much of its brilliancy of colour; it soon becomes familiar, and is much given to pilfering, secreting pieces of money and trinkets, or any other small glittering articles; it is very crafty, and when it conceives any one to be in search of what it has purloined, it hops from place to place in seeming anxiety for the result of these endeavours; it will examine every hole and corner, turning up the earth or other loose substances, at the same time it is leading the inquirer in a contrary direction to its hoard.

The

The powers of imitation are very great in the Jay, both in its wild and domesticated states; the neighing of a horse, the lowing of cattle, the hooting of an owl, the mewing of a cat, and the bleating of a flock seem to be sounds capable of giving it great pleasure, and which it repeats so accurately, as to deceive a person who may even be used to its notes; we have been informed, that in the winter it imitates the notes of small birds, by which it decoys them within its reach and then pounces; this is far from improbable, as it flies so heavy, that the generality of small birds easily escape from it when on wing.









*Corvus pica.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, L., April, 1811.*

# CORVUS PICA.

## MAGPIE.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Corvus Corax*.

### SYNONYMS.

*CORVUS PICA.* *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 157. 13.

*MAGPIE* OR *PIANET.* *Br. Zool.* 1. 78. *Ib. fol.* p. 77.  
*tab. D.* 2. *Lath. Syn.* 1. p. 392. 29. *Ib. supt.*  
p. 80. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* *Bewick's Br. Birds,*  
*Pt. 1.* p. 109.

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**T**HIS well-known species is near eighteen inches long, and weighs about nine ounces. As we have no other species with which the present can be confounded, and the bird being so very generally known, any description of it may be deemed superfluous. The female is rather smaller, and the tail is shorter than in the male. Colours alike in both sexes.

The *MAGPIE* is one of the most beautiful coloured birds this country produces; when in its wild state, its colours are so vivid and changeable, that they defy every attempt to depicture them; this changeable property is lost in great measure when the bird is confined.

Few birds are more injurious to the farmer than this, as it feeds on all kinds of young poultry, hares and rabbits, eggs, fish,



fish, and on any kind of animal substance it meets with, whether putrid or fresh ; it attacks young lambs and weakly sheep, the eyes of the latter it first assails, and like the hooded crow mostly succeeds if the animal is incapable of rising ; it is very bold and daring, it will frequently alight on the backs of cattle to search for vermin. On the failure of other food it eats grain.

To the sportsman it is a continual plague, as it flies from tree to tree, proclaiming to its companions the approach of danger ; if a fox, or any other wild animal passes within its view, it follows it, and continues uttering its harsh chatter from time to time, and by this, will give sure information which path it may have taken ; almost all kinds of game take alarm on hearing its note, and will generally keep in security till its noise has ceased.

Their nest is formed of small branches of the thorn, woven together with the thorns outwards, which is a good protection to the young ; the entrance is on the side, and is only sufficiently large to permit a free passage ; the bottom part of the nest is plastered with clay, into which it thrusts the coarse ends of fibrous roots, and sometimes grass, leaving the finer parts as a lining. They lay six or seven eggs of a yellowish white colour blotched with brown ; they lay very early in the spring, and begin to build about the first week in February.

In Suffex we have been shewn two kinds of this bird, one called the Tree and the other the Bush Pie, the former has a longer tail, and is of a wilder disposition and not able to talk ; they are there esteemed as a distinct species : we conceive them to be merely varieties, perhaps only differing in sex or age,

age, as but few birds become so docile, or are so capable of instruction when full grown as when taken young, and when confined young, they but seldom attain their usual size.

When domesticated they are very familiar and mischievous, frequently secreting pieces of money, trinkets, and even spoons; they mostly have some favourite hiding-place, to which they carry any thing of this kind they can get hold of, also any of their food of which they are not in immediate want; they readily learn to repeat words, and to imitate sounds, which they do with astonishing exactness, such as the setting of a saw, the turning of a knifegrinder's wheel, and the noise made by most of our common domestic quadrupeds; we have heard it asserted, that they will in their wild state imitate the call of small birds, to induce them to come within their reach, and on which they prey.

These birds are frequently to be seen (in a wild state) nearly white; we have known several instances where this deviation from the usual colour has taken place in confinement; in one instance, the bird after being kept in a cage for several years, became almost white, and afterwards regained its common plumage; we have been informed of a nest taken in Lincolnshire that contained several young ones, and among them were two or three entirely white.









*Picus Viridis.*

Pub. by C. Graves, Walsworth, L. March, 1871.

# PICUS VIRIDIS.

GREEN WOOD-PECKER.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Picus Martius*.

## SYNONYMS.

PICUS VIRIDIS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 175. 12.

GREEN WOOD-PECKER. *Br. Zool.* 1. 84. *Lath. Syn.*

2. p. 577. 25. *Supt. p.* 100.

*Mont. Orn. Dict. Bewick's Br.*

*Birds, Pt. 1. p.* 140.

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IT is in length thirteen and in breadth eighteen inches, and weighs about six ounces; bill two inches and a half long, tip wedge-shaped and very hard; the upper mandible has a narrow ridge, extending from the base to the tip on the surface; tongue nearly eight inches long, covered with a thick gluten, capable of retaining small insects, the tip is sharp and horny, and is furnished with a number of stiff reflected bristles; feathers on the crown are generally somewhat erected; toes short and strong, the claws very strong and much curved; tail feathers very stiff, inclining inwards, and are admirably adapted for supporting the bird, during its search for food. Colours nearly alike in both sexes; the female is somewhat smaller, and has not the red spots on the cheeks.

The

The Green Wood-Pecker is the most common of the genus in this country, and may be met with in most of the woody parts of this island, where it is readily discovered by its discordant note, and also by the noise it makes when perforating a tree in quest of food, which consists entirely of insects, their eggs, and larvæ; when it discovers a tree that is decayed, it tries with its bill the different sides till by the sound it discovers the part that requires the least labour to perforate, it then pecks it with its wedge-shaped bill until it arrives at the unsound part, which seldom fails of affording it a plentiful repast.

In the stomach of one (from which our figure was coloured) we found the chrysalis of the phalæna coffus (the goat moth) nearly entire; Mr. Montague remarks it has frequently been observed to smell of them; it also feeds on beetles and ants, and may often be seen on the ground, insinuating its tongue into the crevices of ant-hills, and drawing out the insects; it will sometimes make an aperture in the side of a hill with its bill and feet, and then feeds on the insects and eggs at leisure.

They usually lay five or six eggs in the hollow of a decayed tree, at the depth of two feet or more from the entrance; the eggs vary in colour, being in some instances nearly white, and in others greenish spotted with black; the young run about the branches of the tree for a considerable time before they are able to fly. When flying, their motion is undulating and very irregular, proceeding forward by sudden jerks; they take but very short flights.







*Certhia familiaris.*

Pub. by G. Goussier, Walworth, 1 Oct. 1811.

# CERTHIA FAMILIARIS.

## COMMON CREEPER.

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill slender, much curved.

Toes three forward, one backward.

Claws long and much hooked.

Tail consists of twelve harsh sharp-pointed feathers.

### SYNONYMS.

CERTHIA FAMILIARIS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 184. 1. *Ind.*  
*Orn.* 1. p. 280. 1.

COMMON CREEPER. *Br. Zool.* 192. *tab.* 39. *Ib. fol.*  
*p.* 82. *tab.* K. *Lath. Syn.* 2. 701.  
*Ib. Supt.* p. 126. *Mont. Orn.*  
*Dict.* Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*  
*Pt.* 1. p. 148.

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THE weight of this species seldom exceeds two drams; it is about five inches in length and nearly seven in breadth; bill long, slender, and much curved; irides hazel; legs short; claws very sharp and much hooked; tail long and forked. Colours of both sexes alike, the tail of the female is shorter and less forked.

The CREEPER is a very common bird with us, frequenting almost every grove; it builds in holes in trees, frequently behind pieces of loose decayed bark; the texture of the nest is loose,

loose, being formed of dry grafs and the fibrous parts of the decayed bark of trees, and lined with feathers; it lays from five to seven white eggs, finely freckled with bright rufous spots: during the time the female is fitting she is constantly fed by the male, who is also the principal provider to the young brood; when the female quits the nest, the male takes his station as guard, but we do not remember to have seen it on the nest; its note at this season is a weak chirp, or rather squeak, which it utters in a very slow manner; as the year advances it loses its note, and during autumn and winter it is quite silent.

From the facility with which this lively little bird runs up and down the trunks and branches of trees; it escapes general observation, the more so as the instant it perceives any one to make a stand, it runs to the opposite side of the tree and will continue running round as long as its motions are watched, but if the attention appears to be occupied by other objects, it does not seem intimidated by the intrusion, but pursues its search after ants and other small insects, which in summer constitute the whole of its food; in winter, it industriously searches for the eggs and larvæ of insects, secreted in the crevices of the bark or among the moss and lichens that abound on most trees at that season of the year; it is frequently to be observed during a fall of snow searching the underside of the branches, nor does it seem at all affected by the most intense cold.

Having observed in the vicinity of the nest small pellets composed of the indigestible parts of ants and the smaller kinds of beetles, we think it most probable this species casts in the manner of the hawk tribe.







*Upupa Epops.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walsworth, 1 Feb. 1811.*

# UPUPA EPOPS.

## HOOPOE.

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill slender, long, curving downwards at the tip.

Nostrils small.

Tongue short, triangular.

Toes three before, the middle one connected at the base to the outer one, hind toe placed nearly on a line with the inside front one.

### SYNONYMS.

UPUPA EPOPS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 183. 1.

HOOPOE. *Br. Zool.* 1. 90. tab. 39. *Lath. Syn.* 2. p. 687.

1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt 1. p. 146. Mont. Orn. Dict.*

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THIS beautiful species, the only one of the genus found in Europe, is in length twelve inches, in breadth eighteen, and weighs about four ounces; bill two inches long, curved, the inside of the lower mandible has a plain surface, from the tip about one-fourth of its length; tongue very short, triangular, and slightly barbed at the edges; the crown is ornamented with a crest, consisting of a double row of feathers, which gradually lengthen from the base of the bill to the top of the crown, and then decrease to the nape of the neck; the longest feathers are two inches and a half in length; it mostly lies flat on the head, but can be raised or depressed at pleasure; when

when the crest is elevated the tail feathers are also raised, like those of the peacock; it has been seen amusing itself by raising and depressing the crest and tail very quickly for a long time together. Colours alike in both sexes.

The Hoopoe is not a common bird, its visits to this country being very irregular; some small flocks are usually seen annually in different parts of the kingdom, they have also been noticed singly; within these few weeks a flock consisting of fourteen birds, was seen on Blackheath, near Godalming, Surrey.

Its principal food is worms and insects, particularly beetles; in dissecting one, eight large beetles nearly entire were found in the stomach; they have been known to breed in this country, though the instances are very rare; the nest is said to be formed in a hollow tree. Buffon says, he has found the nest lined with moss, wool, and feathers, and supposes it to lay in the deserted nest of some other bird; the nest has been remarked to be very filthy and offensive, probably from the fæces of the young, and the remains of their food not being removed.

Our plate was drawn and engraved by SYDENHAM EDWARDS, some years ago, and we have been favoured with a specimen to colour from, by our friend WILLIAM BULLOCK, Esq. of the Museum, Piccadilly.







*Alcedo ispida* P.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1 Jan. 1811.

# ALCEDO ISPIDA.

## COMMON KING-FISHER.

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill long, straight, thick at the base, sharp pointed.

Tongue entire, broad, pointed, very short.

Legs very short.

Toes three forward, one backward, the three lower joints connected by a strong membrane, middle toe serrated on the under side.

### SYNONYMS.

ALCEDO ISPIDA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 179. ed. 3.

KING-FISHER. *Br. Zool.* 1. p. 88. tab. 33. *Latb. Syn.*

2. p. 626. *Bewick's British Birds, Pt. 2.*

p. 33. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

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THE KING-FISHER is one of the most beautiful of our native birds, is in length about seven inches, breadth near eleven; owing to the disproportion of the head, which with the bill is nearly half of the whole length, the bird appears very clumsy: bill one inch and a quarter long, the base commencing immediately under the irides; legs very short, the three front toes connected from the base to the last joint by a very strong membrane, having the appearance of growing together; the hinder one is placed in a straight line with the inside front one, by which the heel appears deformed (this unusual form of the foot shews the wonderful resources of  
creative

creative nature, in giving to each of its productions, the necessary means to procure food; the middle toe is notched on the under side like a fine saw, by means of which it is enabled to keep a firm hold of its finny prey. Colours nearly alike in both sexes, the bill in the female not so long as that of the male by one-third.

It is observed to sit for hours on a stone or stump, by the banks of running streams, watching the motions of small fish, which, the instant they approach within its reach, it darts on with amazing velocity, and will remain some seconds under the water securing; it brings its prey alive to land, and beats it to death previous to swallowing; it voids the bones whole, thickly covered with a viscous fluid.

The female lays her eggs (six in number) in the holes vacated by the water-rat or mole, which she readily accommodates to her purpose; plastering it with its excrement, which hardens as soon as exposed to the air, and entirely prevents the water from penetrating; it is generally observed so near the water's edge that any rise of the water must cover the entrance, which frequently occasions the nest to be destroyed; and to this circumstance we may attribute the comparative scarcity of the bird, as from the number of eggs it might reasonably be expected to be numerous. The brilliancy of its colours, joined to the quick vibrations of its short wings, give it a meteor-like appearance; in fact when on wing, its motions are so rapid as to render it almost impossible for the eye to follow it to any distance.







*Turdus viscivorus*

# TURDUS VISCIVOROUS.

## MISSEL THRUSH.

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, the upper mandible slightly curves towards the point, and in some species has a notch near the tip.

Mouth furnished at the sides with a number of stiffish bristles.

Tongue jagged at the tip.

Nostrils naked.

Toes three forward, one backward, the middle one connected to the outer as far as the first joint.

### SYNONYMS.

TURDUS VISCIVOROUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 291. 1. *Ind. Orn.* 1. p. 326. 1.

MISSEL THRUSH. *Br. Zool.* 1. 135. *Ib. fol.* 90. *tab. P. fig.* 1. *Lath. Syn.* 3. p. 16.  
1. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* Vol. 2.  
*Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p.*  
124.

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THE length of this species is eleven inches, and its breadth near eighteen; it weighs about five ounces; bill three fourths of an inch long, upper mandible notched near the point; irides hazel; legs and claws strong, the latter very sharp. The female is rather larger, but corresponds in colour with the male except being somewhat duller.

In

In most parts of this country these birds are migratory, visiting early in spring and quitting their breeding places as soon as the young are able to provide for themselves; their nest is generally built in the fork of a fruit tree, the apple is chiefly preferred, those in particular that abound in white moss, with which their nests are made, together with dry coarse grass and wool, and lined with finer grass and a few long hairs; they lay five or six flesh-coloured eggs spotted with ferruginous.

During the breeding season, the Mistle Thrush is particularly tenacious of its residence. We find in Mr. White's History of Selbourn, the following curious circumstance relating thereto. "The Mistle Thrush is while breeding fierce and pugnacious, driving such birds as approach its nest to a distance; the Welsh call it Pen y llwyn, the head or master of the coppice. He suffers no Magpie, Jay, or Blackbird to enter the garden where he haunts, and is for the time a good guard to the new sown legumens.

"In general he is very successful in the defence of his family; but once I observed in my garden, that several Magpies came determined to storm the nest of a Mistle Thrush; the dams defended their mansion with great vigour and fought resolutely *pro aris et focis*; but numbers at last prevailed, they tore the nest in pieces, and swallowed the young alive."

For strength of note this stands foremost in the list of British Song-Birds, it commences its song with the year, being most generally heard, if the season be mild, in the beginning

beginning of January ; but Mr. Montague says, “ it ceases to sing as soon as the thermometer sinks below forty-five degrees :” besides its musical notes it possesses one expressive of anger, that is very loud and grating to the ear, which has occasioned it to be called in some places Screech Thrush, Holm Screech, &c. it is usually more vociferous during a storm, from which circumstance it has also obtained a number of provincial names, such as Storm-Cock, Rain-Throble or Thrush, Throble-Cock, Holm-Thrush, and Miffeltoe-Thrush ; it derives the latter from its feeding on the berries of the Miffeltoe, which have been erroneously considered as necessary to pass the digestive organs of this bird, to make them vegetate : but as Mr. Montague justly observes, this is no more necessary than that corn should pass through those of a horse ; that seeds vegetate after passing through the bodies of both, is well known ; but this may be esteemed as one of the methods nature takes to disperse the seeds of various plants.

The principal food of this bird is berries of various kinds, insects, and snails, with the two latter it feeds its young, first breaking the shells of the snails against a stone to get at their contents.









*Ampelis Garrulus.*

*Engr. by G. Graves, Waltham, L. Aug. 1811.*

AMPELIS GARRULUS.  
BOHEMIAN CHATTERER.

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GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, convex, curving towards the point, the upper mandible has a slight notch near the tip.

Nostrils covered by the reflexed bristles.

Toes four, three forward and one backward, the centre one connected to the outer one at the base.

SYNONYMS.

- AMPELIS GARRULUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 297. 1.  
WAXEN CHATTERER. *Br. Zool.* 1. 112. tab. 48. *Ib.*  
*fol. 7. tab. 1. C. Art. Zool.* 207.  
*Lalb. Syn.* 3. p. 91. 1. p. 93. 1.  
*A. Mont. Orn. Dict. Bewick's*  
*Br. Birds. Pt. 1. p. 114.*
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THIS beautiful species is in length eight inches, and in breadth about thirteen inches and a half, and it weighs near three ounces; bill strong, having a small notch in the upper mandible near the tip; feathers on the hind head long, of a beautiful silk-like appearance, these it erects at pleasure, and most generally during the time it is uttering its note; each of the secondary quill feathers have at their extremities, a small flat appendage of the most beautiful scarlet colour, very similar in appearance to red sealing wax, these appendages differ from all other animal matter, for on being exposed to the action of  
fire

fire they do not emit the smell common to animal substances, but the odour is far from unpleasant, being slightly aromatic; the substance is brittle, the number varies in different subjects, and is not always the same on both wings, the usual number is from six to nine on the wings; in the collection of A. H. Haworth, Esq. of Chelsea, is a specimen that has some of these appendages on the tail. Colours of the sexes are nearly the same with this exception, the female has white on the wing where the male has yellow, and it is wholly destitute of the above-named appendages.

In some years this beautiful bird has been found in many parts of this kingdom, its visits are very irregular, and they seem only accidental stragglers that we meet with. About Christmas 1803, a number were shot in the neighbourhood of Camberwell, one of which was brought alive and but slightly hurt, to our friend Mr. T. G. Ingall, of Walworth, but as it would not take any kind of food, it died in a few days; from this specimen our figure was coloured: its common food is the berries of the mountain ash and service, on failure of which, it will take those of the privet and hawthorn. Pennant says these birds annually appear in the vicinity of Edinburgh, where they feed on the berries of the mountain ash. They are said to build in holes in trees.







*Loxia Curvirostra.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Waltham, 1. Jan. 1811.*

# LOXIA CURVIROSTRA.

CROSS-BILL.

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## GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill strong, thick, and convex.

Nostrils small, round.

Tongue truncated.

Toes three before, one behind.

## SYNONYMS.

LOXIA CURVIROSTRA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 299. ed. 1.

CROSS-BILL OF SHEL-APPLE. *Br. Zool.* 1. p. 115. tab. 49.

*Lath. Syn.* 3. p. 106. ed. 1 *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

*Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1.* p. 153.

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**T**HIS bird is about seven inches in length, the bill is convex, and both mandibles cross each other at the points; in some birds the lower mandible is slightly serrated; the legs are strong and feathered below the knee. Both sexes vary in colour in different seasons; the female seldom has any clear red, or orange about her, and is mostly of a dull green colour blotched with red brown.

Is found in the Northern districts of Europe, in the mountains of Switzerland, and among the Pyrenees and Alps; feeds chiefly on the cones of the pine, the principal vegetable inhabitant

bitant of those frigid regions; from whence it migrates to most of the Northern parts of Europe, Asia, and America; its visits to this country are very irregular, in some seasons it has been observed in large flocks, in others scarcely a solitary bird is to be met with through the whole kingdom. We noticed several in a large fir plantation, near Leath-Hill, Surrey, in 1807. From Montague's Ornithological Dictionary we learn, "the female builds as early as January; she places her nest under the bare branches of the pine-tree, fixing it with the resinous matter which exudes from that tree, and besmearing it on the outside with the same substance, so that no rain or snow can penetrate it."

In some years these birds are very injurious to our apple-orchards, as a flock sometimes alights on a tree soon after day-break, and will entirely strip it of its fruit in a short time; it is the more destructive as it is only the seeds or kernels that it consumes, to get at which, it cuts or scrapes away the pulp; from this circumstance it derives the common appellation of Shel-Apple.







*Loxia coccyzaea.*

Pub. by G. & C. Graves, Walworth.

# LOXIA COCCOTHAUSTES.

HAW-GROSBEAK.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Loxia curvirostra*.

## SYNONYMS.

LOXIA COCCOTHAUSTES. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 299. *Ind. Orn.* 1. p. 371. 4.

GROSBEAK OR HAWFINCH. *Br. Zool.* 113. *Ib. fol.* 105. *tab. U. fig.* 1. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 354. *tab. C. Lath. Syn.* 3. p. 109. 4. *Ib. fupt.* p. 148. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.* 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 1. p. 156.

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THE length of this species is about seven, and the breadth near thirteen inches; its weight rather exceeds two ounces. Bill three-fourths of an inch long, it is unusually strong, being half an inch thick at its base; irides light hazel; the points of most of the quill feathers are truncated, the tips of the first four or five are bent somewhat in the form of the ancient battle axe; legs slender; claws strong.

The female is scarcely so bulky, but nearly resembles the male in colour; both sexes vary much in brightness and disposition of colour; scarcely two are to be seen that exactly agree in all their markings; but, generally speaking, the colours of the female are not so lively as those of the male.

During

During autumn the Hawfinch visits this country in small flocks, consisting of from six to twelve birds, but is not numerous in any part of England; some are annually seen in the marshes of Hackney and Plaistow, near London, and we remember to have seen a flock feeding on the berries of the mountain ash, near Aldborough-Park, Surrey; whilst feeding, they seemed very restless and were continually twittering; they fly heavily and near the ground.

The food of this bird consists of the berries of the hawthorn (whence its name) privet, mountain-ash, and service; it is astonishing to see with what facility this bird breaks the stones to get at the kernels; Mr. Montague says "they break them with as much ease as other small birds break hemp-feed."

"The nest is composed of dried fibres, intermixed with liver-wort, and lined with finer materials; the eggs are of a bluish green, spotted with olive brown, with a few irregular black markings." Its provincial names are Cherryfinch, Hawfinch, Bull-head, and this with the Crossbill is in some parts called Shell-Apple.

For our specimen we are indebted to A. HARRISON, Esq. of Parliament-Street.





*Loxia Pyrrohula.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, I., April, 1811.*



# LOXIA PYRRHULA.

## BULFINCH.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Loxia Curvirostra*.

### SYNONYMS.

LOXIA PYRRHULA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 300. 4.

BULFINCH. *Br. Zool.* 1. 116. *Ib. fol.* 106. *tab. U. fig.* 3, 4. *Lath. Syn.* 2. p. 143. 51. *Ib. sup.* p. 152. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1.* p. 160.

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THE BULFINCH is in length six inches, in breadth about ten inches, and weighs near three-quarters of an ounce; bill short, very strong, the upper mandible is much hooked and is very sharp pointed; eyes large and black; legs slender; claws long and curved. Colours very similarly disposed in both sexes; those of the female are much duller; both sexes are very subject to alter in the colours of their plumage, frequently becoming quite black when kept in confinement, some nearly white have at different times been seen in this country; we have lately seen one (that was shot a short time since in the new forest, Hants) perfectly white; the part on the head that is usually black, is distinguished by its being of a different shade of whiteness, the bill is of a light brown, legs and claws of the usual colour.

This species is very common in every part of this country, and is always an unwelcome guest in gardens or orchards, where it commits great injury by feeding on the flower buds of most kinds of fruit-trees, also on all sorts of stone fruit; in  
the

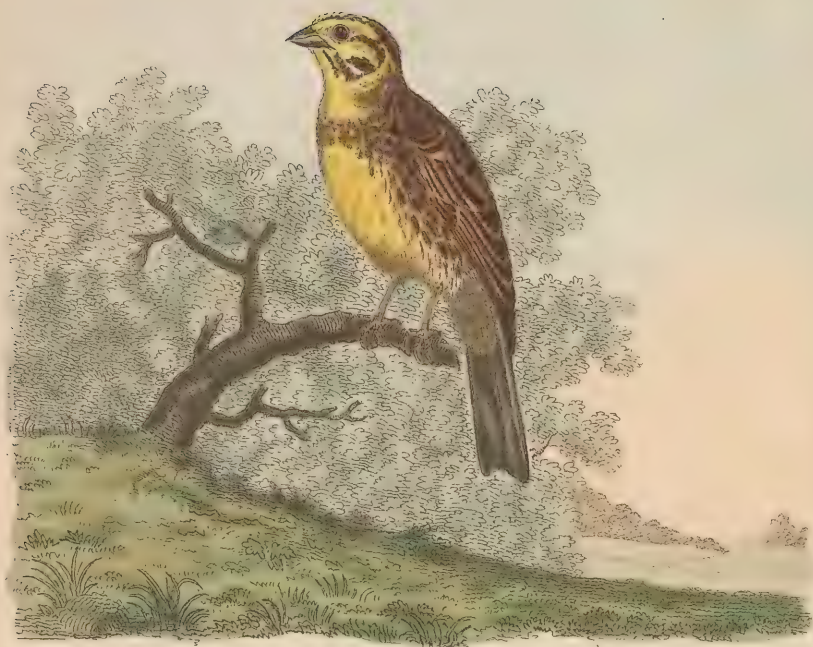
the winter its principal food is the berries of the *Ligustrum vulgare* (the privet), the fruit of the Hawthorn, and most other kinds of winter berries.

The note of this bird is particularly soft, and is far from unpleasant, it is so low that it frequently escapes observation; when confined it may be taught to whistle a variety of tunes; its note is usually called piping. Birds thus instructed are often imported from Germany, and are sold here at very high prices; both sexes sing in their native wilds, and may be with equal facility taught to pipe.

Their nest is mostly found placed in the thickest part of a black or white thorn bush, it is composed of small twigs and moss, and is lined with soft dry fibres; they lay four or five blueish white eggs, spotted with reddish purple, chiefly at the large end; the young ones at first resemble the female in colour, the black on the head is then pale, and they seldom attain their full colours till after the end of the second month.

When this bird is disturbed it flies but a short distance, and will generally return to the spot from whence disturbed, in the course of a few minutes; its motion when flying is undulating, and it most usually alights at the bottom of a bush or tree, and hops from twig to twig till it reaches the extreme end of one of the highest branches, where it sits with its wings a little extended, swaying the branch up and down, during which time it is always singing: the note during the time of incubation is much stronger than at other times.





*Emberiza citrinella* L.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, L. April, 1811.

# EMBERIZA CITRINELLA.

## YELLOW BUNTING.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Emberiza miliaria*.

### SYNONYMS.

EMBERIZA CITRINELLA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 309. 5.  
YELLOW BUNTING. *Br. Zool.* 119. tab. 50. *Ib. fol.*  
p. 112. *Latb. Syn.* 3. p. 170.  
*Mont. Orn. Dict. Bewick's Br.*  
*Birds, Pt. 1. p. 164.*

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THE weight of this species is about one ounce, it is in length near six inches and a half, and it is about ten inches in breadth. Bill strong, the incurved edges of which are very sharp, the knob in the roof of the upper mandible is very prominent; the tongue is bifid and has a few fine hairs at its extreme points; irides dark hazel; tail long and somewhat forked. The colours of the female are generally much greener, but both sexes vary in colour; we have seen them of all shades, from a bright yellow to green.

The YELLOW-HAMMER (the name by which this species is most usually known) is one of our most common birds, being met with in almost every hedge; it assembles in winter  
with



with other small birds, in the vicinity of farm yards, to collect scattered grain ; they are at that time very fat, and are quite equal in flavour to larks.

Its nest is usually placed very low, and is formed of straw, fibres, and dry stalks, lined with grass and hair ; it lays four or five eggs, generally of a pale blueish purple hue, veined with irregular dark streaks, which terminate in an oblong spot, that runs in an opposite direction to the vein ; it is but seldom that two eggs are seen of the same colour.

In delicacy of colour few of our indigenous birds surpass the present ; its note is simple and consists of a shrill chirp quickly repeated, and terminated with one shriller and more piercing ; its manners are familiar, it obtrudes itself into notice, and will often accompany a person on the road, for a mile or more, making very short flights, so as to keep only a few yards before.





*Fringilla Carduelis.*

Pub. by G. Craves, Walworth, 1. March, 1877.

# FRINGILLA CARDUELIS.

## GOLDFINCH.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Fringilla Domestica*.

### SYNONYMS.

- FRINGILLA CARDUELIS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 318. 7.  
GOLDFINCH OR THISTLEFINCH. *Br. Zool.* 2. 124.  
*Lath. Syn.* 3. p. 281. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*  
*Bewick's Br. Birds.* Pt. 1. p. 182.
- 

THIS beautiful species is in length near five inches; bill conic; eyes dark hazel; legs slender. Colours nearly similar in both sexes, those of the female are scarcely so vivid, and the wing coverts are inclined to brown. The nest is elegantly constructed, it is externally formed of moss, dry grass, and lichens, and lined with the down of thistles, hair, and wool; it usually lays four or five eggs, of a blueish white colour, slightly spotted with dark purple at the largest end.

The GOLDFINCH is very common throughout this kingdom; its docile disposition, joined to its melody of note, and elegance of colours, has long been the cause of its being kept in a state of confinement, and in some instances we may say of slavery; as it is not unfrequently obliged to draw up water in a bucket from a considerable depth, and to procure  
its

its food from a box, the lid of which it is under the necessity of supporting during the time it is feeding. When confined it readily breeds with the canary bird.

During severe weather the Goldfinch often resorts to gardens and farm-yards, in quest of scattered grain, but on the return of mild weather, it quits the vicinity of our habitations for its more usual haunts; its principal food is the seeds of thistles, teasels, and the leaves of groundsel; the young ones for the first few weeks are fed with small caterpillars, to procure a sufficient supply of which, the parent birds are almost continually on wing; we have noticed them busily engaged about tufts of nettles, devouring the caterpillars of the *papilio io* (the peacock butterfly).

The plumage of these birds often varies in confinement, being frequently met with quite black, or black and white, and sometimes (though less frequently) entirely white; birds fed constantly with hemp-feed, are very subject to become black.







*Fringilla Linaria.*

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1. Aug. 1821.

# FRINGILLA LINARIA.

## LESSER REDPOLE.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Fringilla Domestica*.

### SYNONYMS.

FRINGILLA LINARIA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 322. 29. *Ind. Orn.* 1. p. 458. 83.

BLACK-CHINED LINNET OR REDPOLE. *W. Curtis, Pl.* 1. *Br. Birds.*

LESSER RED-HEADED LINNET OR REDPOLE. *Br. Zool.* 132. t. 54. *Ib. fol.* 111. *Art. Zool.* 2. 262. *Lath. Syn.* 3. p. 305. 75. *Supt.* p. 167.

LESSER REDPOLE. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Bewick's Br. Birds,* Pt 1. p. 191.

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THE length of this species is about four inches and a half, breadth eight inches, and it weighs near five drams. The Redpole is a very common bird in most parts of this kingdom, in the winter they are caught in great numbers, particularly in the vicinity of London, where they are known to the bird-catchers by the name of Stone or French Linnet; they breed in the northern parts of this kingdom, but we have not met with the nest near London. Mr. Montague informs us, a nest was received from Dr. Latham that came from Yorkshire; "it was made of bents and a little mofs put together with the down of the willow, and warmly lined with the same down; the egg and nest is smaller than those of the *Fringilla canabina*, of a light

light bluish green, thickly sprinkled with reddish spots, mostly at the larger end." Pennant observes, he has found the nest on the stump of an alder, and says, "the bird was so tenacious of her nest, as to suffer us to take her off with our hand, and we found after we had released her she would not forsake it." It feeds chiefly on the seeds of alder during autumn.

We received the following curious circumstance from Mr. T. Foster, Jun. of Clapton; "A small bird, I believe the *Fringilla linaria*, was brought to me by a man who observed it to die in the following extraordinary manner. While sitting upon its perch and singing as usual, it suddenly began to bleed very profusely from the mouth, and in a few moments afterwards dropped down dead upon the floor of its cage. Upon examination, I found the heart converted into an osseous substance, of so hard a texture, that it could scarcely be cut in pieces with a very sharp knife; it was perfectly white and appeared at a distance like an ill-shaped egg.

"The principal of ossification extended some way along the great arteries, I did not discover from the rupture of what vessel the hæmorrhage causing the bird's death had proceeded, as the neck had been very considerably contused since its death. The bird had constantly fed upon hemp-feed."

The note of this bird in its wild state is simple, but when confined it is improved, and being kept with the common linnet or goldfinch it will learn their notes; when in search of insects, the Redpole runs up and down the branches of trees in the manner of the blue titmouse.

Our figures are reduced from the first plate of those executed for the late William Curtis.







*Fringilla caelebs.*

Published by G. G. & Co. New York.

# FRINGILLA CÆLEBS.

## CHAFFINCH.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Fringilla domestica*.

### SYNONYMS.

FRINGILLA CÆLEBS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 318. 3. *Ind.*

*Orn.* 1. p. 437. 12.

CHAFFINCH. *Br. Zool.* 1. 125. *Ib. fol.* 108. *tab.* 5.

*fig.* 2, 3. *Art. Zool.* 2. p. 381. F.

*Lath. Syn.* 3. p. 257. 10. *Ib. sup.*

p. 165. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.* 1.

*Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 1. p. 178.

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THE CHAFFINCH weighs nearly an ounce, is five inches in length and nine in breadth; the female is rather smaller, and weighs two drams less than the male, her colours are considerably duller, the upper parts are generally of a dull olive green, the breast very dusky white; the white marking on the wings are alike in both sexes.

Few birds are more generally known than the present, as its haunts are generally confined to the vicinity of our habitations; it is usually esteemed a very unwelcome guest in gardens, feeding on most kinds of seeds and fruit; it is particularly injurious to our cherry orchards, as it greedily devours the fruit in all stages, from the time it sets till it ripens; in winter it associates with its affinities in the farm-yard, where it picks up such seed as may be scattered by the flail; in  
spring

spring it devours an immense number of caterpillars, feeding the young with them and other small insects till they are able to provide for themselves ; and thus, perhaps, fully compensate for the injury committed at other seasons.

The nest of this species is worthy of our admiration as a master-piece of elegance and neatness ; in choice of the materials, it is guided by an instinct wisely bestowed by its all-bountiful Creator, that points out such as may tend to its greater security : thus when the nest is placed in the fork of a branch, or against the side of a moss-grown tree, the exterior of this comfortable little mansion is thickly studded with moss and lichens of a corresponding colour ; when it is built in an ivy-bush, it is composed of green moss, which assimilating in colour with the surrounding objects, renders it more secure by being less liable to observation. The fabric is composed of moss, wool, and hair, interwoven with feathers, the soft parts of which are left projecting from the side as a lining.

It lays five or six eggs of a pale purplish blush colour, beautifully freckled and streaked with dark purple ; the eggs are not all marked alike, some being nearly covered with the dark colour, whilst others have only a few streaks sparingly distributed at the larger end. The young keep together till after the first moult, before which time they are all feathered like the female.

Chaffinches remain with us throughout the year ; but in some other parts of Europe the sexes separate ; the females at the decline of the year repair southward, but the males being more robust, brave the inclemency of the northern winters.

winters. Mr. White, in his history of Selbourn, remarks, that flocks of females have been observed in that neighbourhood about Christmas.

The note of the Chaffinch is very simple, "it commences about the 26th of January, and continues till the 8th of March;" at other times both sexes have a call expressing the word Spink or Twink, names that are bestowed on it in the north of England; besides which it is known in different parts of this kingdom by the appellations of Bull-Spink, Pink, Scrobby, Beech-Finch, Shell-Apple, Skelly, Horse-Finch, and Shillea.









*Alauda arvensis.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walsworth, 1 Oct. 1811.*

# ALAUDA ARVENSIS.

SKY-LARK.

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## GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill slender, straight, pointed, curving at the tip.  
Nostrils covered with feathers and bristles.  
Tongue cloven at the point.  
Toes divided to their base.  
Claws sharp, those on the hind toe very long and slightly curved.

## SYNONYMS.

ALAUDA ARVENSIS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. 187. 1. *Ind. Orn.*  
2. p. 491. 1. *W. Curtis's Mfs.*  
SKY-LARK. *Br. Zool.* 1. 136. *Ib. fol.* 93. *tab. S.* 2.  
*fig.* 7. *Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 368. 1. *Mont.*  
*Orn. Dict. Vol.* 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.*  
1. p. 194.

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THE SKY-LARK is in length about seven inches, in breadth near twelve inches, and it weighs in the winter more than two ounces; bill slender and sharp-pointed; irides hazel; feathers on the crown of the head long, and erectable at pleasure; legs light brown in the young bird, changing to dusky as it advances in age; claws sharp, the hind one very long and nearly straight. Colour of the sexes alike.

This

This species is common in most parts of this country, but more abundant in those that are cultivated, as arable land; it builds on the ground, frequently between two clods of earth; the nest is composed of dry grass and stalks, and lined with the same kind of materials, only of a finer texture; it lays four or five eggs of a dusky white colour spotted with brown, in some places the spots have the appearance of being run together; the female sits about fifteen days, and often has two broods in the year; it is very attentive to its young, trying many artifices to entice the incautious passenger from its nest; when in danger it flutters over the nest, and by its motions gives information to the young of their danger or security; the young are fed with insects and grain, and soon learn to provide for themselves.

But few of the feathered tribe have greater claims to our admiration than this delightful warbler, who commences its carol with the rising day; this is the only species that is known to sing as it rises; it at first but twitters, but as it ascends it pours forth its full strains of enchanting melody; it rises in an oblique direction, and frequently "soars beyond the shepherd's sight;" when at its greatest height, should a bird of prey make its appearance, it closes its wings and drops like a stone to the earth at a short distance from the nest, should the unwelcome intruder be still hovering it lays motionless, and its colour assimilating so nearly with the earth, it is in this state more likely to escape the observation of its enemy; when descending in its usual manner it comes down by repeated falls, fluttering and singing till it arrives within a short distance of the ground, when it is mute. It is generally thought that the sky-lark does not at any time settle in trees,  
but

but this is an error, as we have repeatedly shot them from off a bough, where it waits the passing of insects, which it catches by jumping at them, and then returns to the bough again in the manner of some of the smaller species of larks.

These birds vary but little in their general plumage, some instances occasionally occur of their being found quite white; but the heel is a criterion by which the species may with certainty be known.

Our figure was executed for the late WILLIAM CURTIS.









*Motacilla vulgaris*

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, L. July 1871

# MOTACILLA VULGARIS.

## COMMON WAGTAIL.

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill slender, very soft, and slightly notched near the end.

Tongue fringed at the tip.

Legs slender.

Toes three forward, one behind, the centre one connected to the outer one as far as the first joint; the hind toe and claw long.

Tail very long.

### SYNONYMS.

MOTACILLA VULGARIS. *W. Curtis, Mfs.*

MOTACILLA ALBA. *Lin. Syst. 1. p. 331. 11. Lath. Ind. Orn. 2. p. 501. 1.*

WHITE WAGTAIL. *Br. Zool. 1. 142. tab. 55. Ib. fol. 104. Lath. Syn. 4. p. 395. 1. Ib. sup. p. 178. Mont. Orn. Diēt. Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 203.*

COLLARED WAGTAIL. *Lath. Syn. 4. p. 396.*

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“THE COMMON WAGTAIL is in length about seven inches and a half, and in breadth ten inches and a half, and it weighs about three-quarters of an ounce; this bird is too well known to require further description. The colours are disposed alike in both sexes, those of the female are considerably duller, and the tail of the latter is not so long by near an inch.

“ In

“ In winter they lose the black on the throat and chin, which at that season become white, and in this state have been considered as a variety; but it is a change that constantly takes place at that period of the year, and they regain their former plumage early in the spring.”

Its nest is composed of moss and dry fibres, interwoven with wool, and lined with hair and feathers; they lay four or five white eggs, spotted with various tints of brown; they very nearly resemble in colour those of the cuckoo, which frequently deposits her egg in the nest of this bird; they are very attentive to their young, and use many little arts to divert attention from the nest, they are very bold in its defence, and attack the cuckoo, and endeavour to drive her from it; though they do not seem to discover the addition in the nest made by this bird, yet they will industriously remove any small substance that may have been put into the nest; they usually build on the ground among stones, also in holes in banks and trees, and we found one this season (1811) in the aperture above the handle of a pump that was out of use, in a gravel-pit between Camberwell and Brixton.

The Wagtail is a lively active bird, and is very plentiful throughout this country; it makes partial migrations from the interior to the coast, as the weather becomes severe, but we believe never quits this kingdom; its usual haunts are shallow pools or streams, where it meets with abundance of insects, which it takes in the manner of the fly-catcher, by jumping at them as they pass over; it wades in shallow parts, and is very industrious in the search after those species of insects that run on the surface of the water; it also frequents new ploughed land, sheep-folds, and cattle-pens, where the insects

are



are continually roused by the motions of those animals; its flight is remarkably undulating, and is considerably accelerated by the continued jerkins of its tail; it makes but short flights at one time.

During the breeding season it has a very pretty note, by which its retreat is discovered; it is one of those birds which pursue the hawk tribe, and on the appearance of which it gives the alarm by loud and repeated screams. It is in the habit of rolling in the dust, immediately after which it goes into the water, and in a few minutes comes out very clean; it is infested by an insect similar to that which attacks the swallow, and we have no doubt but its rolling in the dust and washing, assists in removing it; in dissecting a Wagtail lately, one of these insects crawled on the hand, to which it adhered so firmly, that we were under the necessity of using the point of the knife to remove it.







*Motacilla troglodites.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1. March, 1841*

# MOTACILLA TROGLODYTES.

## COMMON WREN.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Motacilla lusciniæ*.

### SYNONYMS.

MOTACILLA TROGLODYTES. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 337. 46.

WREN. *Br. Zool.* 1. 154. *Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 506. No. 143.

*Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 235.*

COMMON WREN. *Mont. Orn. Diët.*

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THIS species is in length from three to four inches, and weighs rather more than a quarter of an ounce; bill near half an inch long, slightly curved; eyes large and dark; legs slender; claws large (in proportion to the size of the bird) and much curved. Colours alike in both sexes. It lays from eight to fourteen white eggs, delicately marked with red spots, which are usually most numerous at the largest end, the spots are not constant, as we have a nest containing thirteen eggs, nine of which are spotted, and the remaining four quite plain.

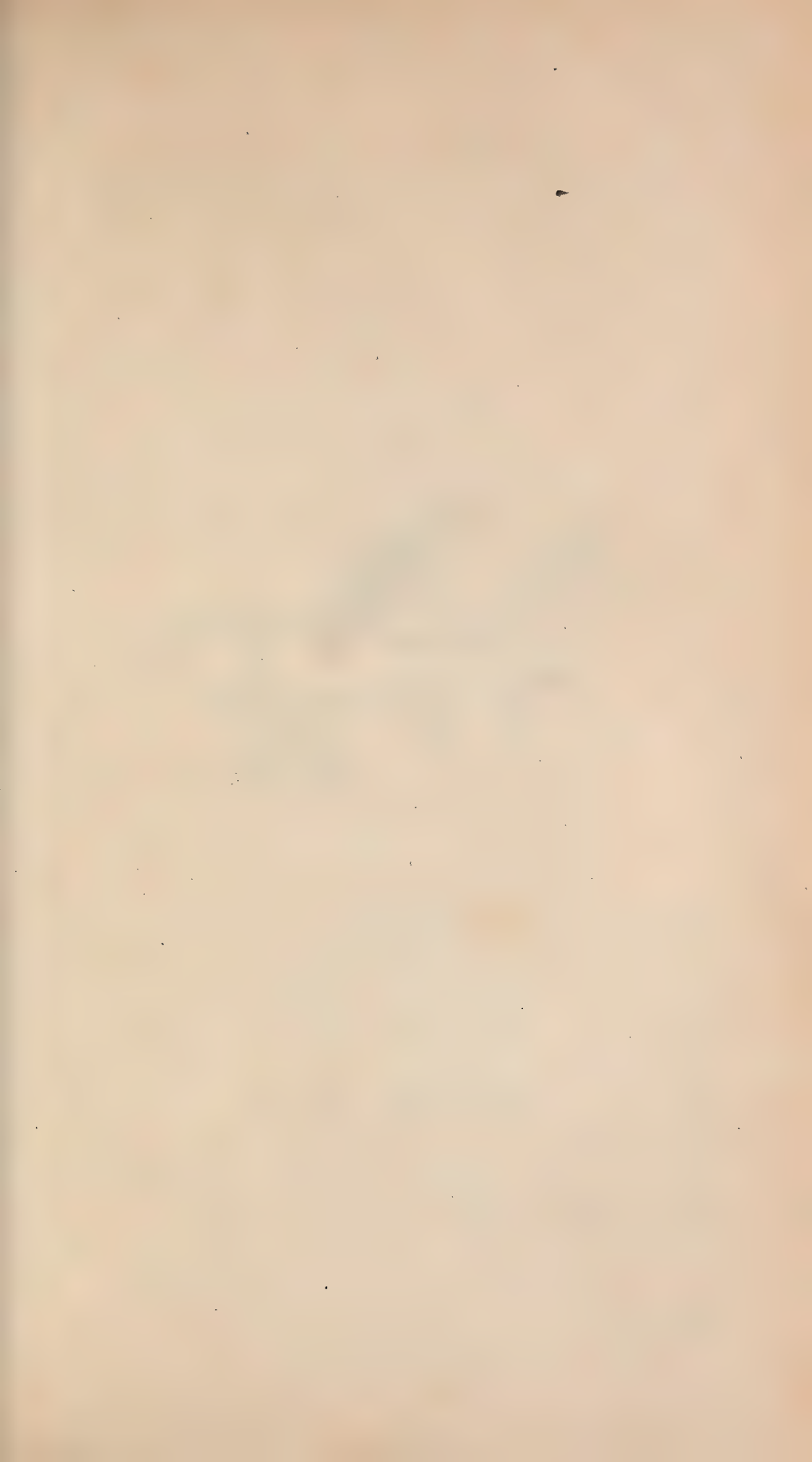
The WREN is common throughout the kingdom, in winter it frequents gardens, and seeks shelter in out-buildings; at that season it is very familiar, it braves the severest weather, and like the golden-crested wren, is frequently to be heard  
singing



singing during a fall of snow, and generally continues its lively note till late in the evening. It builds in hay-stacks, trees, and in the sides of banks. Mr. Montague remarks, “ the materials of the nest are generally adapted to the place ; if it is against the side of a hay-rick, it is composed of hay ; if against the side of a tree covered with white moss, it is made of that material, and with green moss, if the tree is covered with the same or in a bank. Thus instinct directs it for security. The lining is invariably of feathers.

“ The Wren does not begin the bottom of the nest first, which is usual with most birds, but first (as it were) traces the out-line against a tree, which is of an oval shape, and by that means fastens it equally strong to all parts, and afterwards encloses the sides and top, leaving only a small hole near the top for entrance.”

Its food is chiefly insects, in quest of which it runs up and down the sides of trees or banks, in the manner of the tit-mouse ; it flies but a very short distance at a time, contenting itself by flitting about from twig to twig, escaping observation principally by its colours assimilating with the ground it lights on ; which may be considered as a protection wisely dispensed by Providence to the weak and most defenceless part of his creatures.





*Motacilla regulus.*

Pub.<sup>d</sup> by G Graves Walworth Jan 1 1811

# MOTACILLA REGULUS.

## GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. *See* Motacilla Troglodytes.

### SYNONYMS.

MOTACILLA REGULUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 338.

GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN. *Br. Zool.* 153. *Lath. Syn.*  
4. p. 508. *Bewick's Br.*  
*Birds, Pt. 1.* p. 233. *Mont.*  
*Orn. Dict.*

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**T**HIS is the smallest British bird, being in length little more than three inches; weighs about seventy grains: bill slender, straight, having an inclination upwards; eyes remarkably lively; the feathers on the crown are long, forming a crest of a bright gold colour, which appears brighter by being contrasted with a band of black, passing from the eyes to the extremity of the crest; this band it can erect at pleasure, and with it at times nearly obscures the crest; legs slender; in the female the crest is of a pale yellow, and the colours in general incline to brown.

Montague, in his Dictionary of British Birds, says, "the nest is not made with an opening at the side, as described  
by

by some, but is in form and elegance like that of the Chaffinch, composed of green moss, interwoven with wool, and invariably lined with small feathers, with which it is so well bedded as to conceal the eggs. It is sometimes placed against the body of a tree covered with ivy, but most times underneath a thick branch of a fir. The eggs are from seven to ten in number, of a brownish white, rather darker at the large end; their weight nine or ten grains."

This beautiful diminutive species is very common throughout this kingdom; it braves our severest winters, and may be often observed sitting on the branch of some large tree, uttering its shrill chirp during a fall of snow: remains with us all the year. Its note is melodious, and is shriller than that of the common Wren.







*Motucilla Rubicola?*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walsworth, L. May 1811.*

# MOTACILLA RUBICOLA.

## REDBREAST.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Motacilla lusciniæ*.

### SYNONYMS.

MOTACILLA RUBICOLA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 337. 45.

REDBREAST. *Br. Zool.* 147. *lb. fol.* 100. *tab. S. fig.* 2.

*Latb. Syn.* 4. p. 442. 38. *Mont. Orn.*

*Dict. Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p.* 216.

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THIS species is in length five inches and a half, and in breadth eight inches and a half, and it weighs about ten drams; the Redbreast is too common to require further description. Both sexes are alike in colour.

The REDBREAST builds early in April, and forms its nest usually in the hollow of an old tree; generally near the ground, it will sometimes build in an out-house or in a mossy bank; it is composed of moss, small dry stalks and leaves, and lined with hair; they lay from six to eight eggs, of an opaque whitish colour spotted with light and dark red, the largest spots are of the deepest colour; the young for the first two or three months are spotted, and may readily pass for some other species; they do not attain their full plumage till after the first moult.

At the approach of winter these birds forsake the woods, as they no longer contain a supply of insects, they then repair to our habitations, picking up such insects as the garden affords; as the weather becomes more severe, they, by their actions, seem

seem to implore our further protection; they advance at first with great caution, to pick such crumbs as may have fallen on the floor, but they soon throw off this reserve, and what at first they obtained by permission, they presently seem to claim as their right; they in short soon become troublesome, and are scarcely to be frightened away; should by chance two find their way into the same room, they immediately begin fighting; they are at all times of a jealous quarrelsome disposition, which has oftentimes occasioned their captivity. Persons in the practice of catching these birds, place one in a cage, the outside of which is besmeared with birdlime, and fix the cage in a situation likely to be seen by the wild birds; as soon as the prisoner hears the note of another bird it begins to chirp, and the wild robins immediately repair to the spot and fly on the cage eager for a contest, the confined one instigated by the same passion, flies to the side of the cage, and does all in its power to injure its adversary, who presently becomes fatigued, owing to its wings being clogged with the birdlime; the person engaged in the pursuit, soon puts an end to the contest, by taking away the bird now rendered incapable of flying, and the one in confinement is again ready for action.

In the autumn they keep close at the heels of the gardener, examining the earth as it is turned over with scrutinizing eye, for the larva of small insects or worms; we have repeatedly observed them alight on the shoulder of a person engaged in a garden, they will also come on being called; these familiar habits have in most countries given it familiar names, “about Bornholm it is called Tommi Liden; in Norway, Peter Ronfinad; in Germany, Thomas Geirdner; and with us Robin Redbreast or Ruddock.”







*Hirundo rustica*.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, J. May, 1811.

# HIRUNDO RUSTICA.

## CHIMNEY SWALLOW.

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill short, broad at the base, tip curving.

Nostrils open.

Tongue short, broad, bifid.

Tail forked.

Toes three before, one behind.

### SYNONYMS.

HIRUNDO RUSTICA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 343. 1.

CHIMNEY OR COMMON SWALLOW. *Br. Zool.* 1. 168.

*tab.* 58. *Ib. fol.* 96. *Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 561. *Ib.*

*supt.* p. 192. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Bewick's Br.*

*Birds, Pt. 1. p. 256.*

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THIS well known species is in length from seven to eight inches, and in breadth from twelve to fourteen inches, and weighs about half an ounce; bill short, the point small, and a little bending; eyes hazel; tail long and very forked; legs very slender. Colours alike in both sexes; the outer tail feathers in the female, are shorter by about one-fourth than in the male.

Few birds are better known than the present, as it always attaches itself to the habitations of man, building usually in chimneys, from which circumstance it has taken its name; the nest is composed of mud, hair, and straw, and is invariably lined with feathers; it is curiously plaistered together, with an  
opening

opening sometimes in the side and at others in the top, but only sufficiently large to permit a passage; they lay five or six white semitransparent eggs, finely speckled with red; they often have two broods in the year.

The Swallow visits this country early in the spring, sometimes as early as the last week in March, or the first in April, if the season is mild; should the weather prove severe after their arrival, they frequently disappear, and retire to warm sheltered pools, where if the wind continues easterly, and is of long duration, hundreds perish for want, as their food consists entirely of winged insects, which remain in a torpid state during severe weather; they catch their prey while on wing with astonishing dexterity; when the weather is damp, and the air cloudy, they will frequently follow the course of a horse (and will fly round it with the greatest ease, though it may be proceeding at full speed) for the insects that may be roused by its motion: in moist weather they fly low, and after heavy rains they repair to the margins of streams, or the sides of stagnant pools, where they generally find an ample store of food. They fly very near the water, and often dip their wings during flight.

Concerning the migration or disappearance of swallows, many opinions and conjectures have been hazarded, and many persons have been sufficiently credulous to believe they retire beneath the water and become torpid; but why it should have been thought that these birds immerse themselves, seems at this day unaccountable, especially as we know the specific gravity of these birds is considerably lighter than water; they have been described (previous to their immersion) as seizing hold of any kind of stick or reed, to which a  
number

number can attach themselves, and after uttering a solemn dirge, plunging into an element, which by nature they are not gifted with power to exist in, and remain torpid from September till March or April; thus, a body specifically lighter than water, is made to use a substance still lighter than itself, to assist it in sinking to the bottom.

From accounts received from several intelligent navigators, these birds have frequently been known to alight on the rigging of their vessels, both about the vernal and autumnal equinoxes, particularly in different parts of the Mediterranean. We have been informed by a person, who annually visits the island of Zante, that these birds are seen in immense numbers twice in the year on that island; their stay is but short, in the spring about ten or twelve days, and in the autumn only four or five; from which place in autumn they pursue their journey southward, and in the spring to the northward; we frequently see them detained here, for some weeks after their customary time of departure, by adverse winds; those few which are sometimes observed after the general migration, perhaps as late as November, must be considered either as so late hatched, as not to be able to perform so long a journey, or were labouring under some disease or accident which prevented them from joining their associates. The length of wing, joined to the small bulk of body, render these birds far more capable than most of our migrative species of performing a long journey. In fine summer weather, they may be seen for fourteen or sixteen hours together almost continually on the wing, either in pursuit of each other, or of insects.

Swallows are frequently observed in warm weather, rolling themselves in the dust, but for what purpose is doubtful; they

they are particularly infested with an insect, in form like the common sheep tick, which we believe often proves fatal to them; an occurrence of this kind came under the immediate notice of a gentleman residing in Parliament-Street, who kindly communicated the circumstance to us with the bird: a swallow was observed to fall down in the street without any visible occasion, which he took up, and on close examination found a number of the above-named insects attached to its throat and body, sucking in the manner of leaches; the bird was quite dead, it was very fat, and there was no other seeming cause for its death than these insects.

This species casts the undigestible parts of its food in the same manner as the hawk tribe, we are not able to say whether this is common to the genus, but conceive it most probably is.

We have had a sand martin sent to us which was shot on the twentieth of the present month (March) and we saw two of the species now before us on the twenty-third, which is earlier than they usually appear with us.







*Phasianus colchicus.*

Pub. by G. S. & W. W. 1. Oct. 1817

PHASIANUS COLCHICUS. (var. β.)

RING PHEASANT.

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GENERIC CHARACTER:

Bill short, strong, convex.

Nostrils covered by an arched process.

Sides of the head covered with a bare granulated skin.

Legs strong, usually furnished with a spur on the inside.

Toes connected at their base by a strong membrane.

SYNONYMS.

PHASIANUS COLCHICUS. *Lin Syst.* 1. p. 270. 3. *Ind.*  
*Orn.* 2. 629.

————— *Var. β. Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 629. 4.  
RING PHEASANT. *Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 715. *Ib. Supt.*  
p. 208.

COMMON PHEASANT: *Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 712. 4. *Mont.*  
*Orn. Dict. Vol.* 2. *Bewick's*  
*Br. Birds, Pt.* 1. p. 283.

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**T**HIS beautiful species when full grown is generally three feet in length, and weighs about three pounds; bill strong and sharp; irides yellow; the eyes surrounded by a warty skin of the most beautiful scarlet colour; which extends nearly over the sides of the head; and is minutely speckled with black; tail cuniform, composed of eighteen feathers: the two centre ones are nearly twenty inches long, the others gradually decrease in length, the shortest being less than six inches; legs

legs strong, furnished with spurs, which in old birds are very sharp and nearly an inch long; toes connected at the base by a strong membrane. The female is about one third less than the male; irides hazel; the skin on the sides of the head is not so bright, nor is it so much extended as in the male; tail formed as in the other sex but shorter. As the female differs considerably in colour, we shall give a figure of it in a future number.

The Pheasant, though not indigenou, justly claims a place among British birds, being common in most parts of this kingdom; it is less abundant in the northern counties, and is but rarely seen in Scotland; its favourite haunts are thick woods in the vicinity of corn lands, where it breeds; it is a solitary bird, seldom being found in companies except in the breeding season; the female lays from ten to fourteen eggs, in a loose kind of nest, formed of a few dry leaves and vegetables scraped together in the middle of a tuft of high grass, in the most retired and unfrequented part of the wood; where in hidden security she incubates alone, and does not admit the approaches of the male till the young are excluded; in this situation they are frequently destroyed by foxes and martins; as soon as the young quit the shell, they follow the hen, who leads them to ant-hills, near which they continue for two or three weeks, after which they peck up most kinds of small insects, feeds, and grain; in confinement the female will lay a great number of eggs, but seldom hatches them or sits out her time, as the male will often break in on her retirement and destroy the eggs; to prevent which, the eggs are usually taken away, and placed under a common hen; when thus hatched, they require much attention and a continual supply

of



of ant eggs, without which, it is scarcely possible to rear them; was it not for the attention thus shewn by many persons to the keeping up the stock, this valuable bird would soon be lost to this country, owing to the great demand for it at the tables of the wealthy; which notwithstanding the penalties of the game laws, offers a great temptation to the poacher, and the bird being unwary, his snares are seldom placed without effect.

In the spring the male may be heard at a distance, continually crowing and flapping its wings; at this season its wings are a little extended, its tail drooping to the ground; the skin on the sides of the head becomes more brilliant, and it erects the feathers that covers the auriculars; in this state it marches forth in search of the females, around which it struts much in the manner of the domestic cock; when the female quits it to perform the office of incubation, the male often associates with the poultry in the neighbouring farmyards, and will intermix with the common hen; Bewick says he has known several instances where they have produced a hybrid breed, but omits to mention whether this spurious breed is prolific.

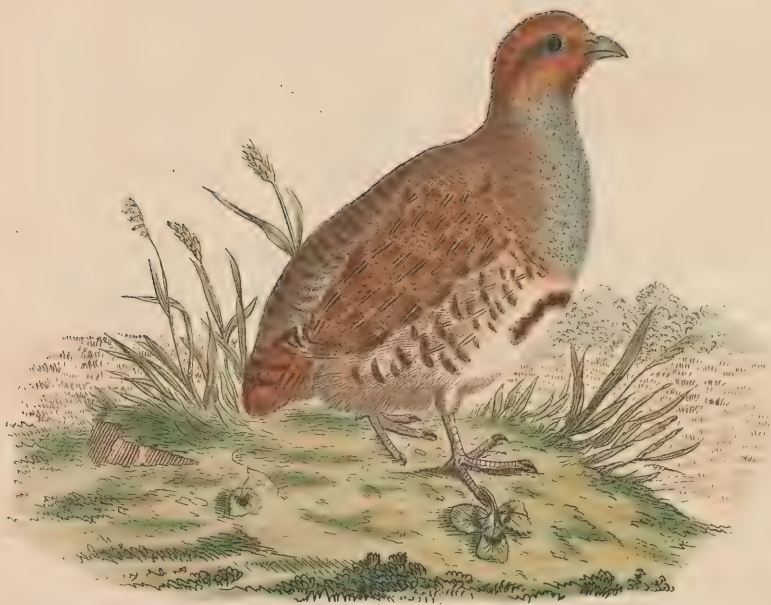
A very curious change frequently takes place in the female, who assumes the plumage of the male, and from that time ceases to lay; this strange transformation does not take place at any particular period of age, as we have seen birds of the second and third, up to the sixth year, that have thus altered; in a paper of the late Mr. JOHN HUNTER, published in the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1785, he says,  
“ It is remarked by those that are conversant with these birds  
when



when wild, that there appears now and then a hen Pheasant with the feathers of the cock ; and all they have decided on the subject is, that this animal does not breed, and that the spurs do not grow ;” and adds “ that in two of these birds which he dissected, he found them perfectly feminine, having both the ovaria and the ovi-duct ;” to the latter we can bear testimony, for on dissecting several early in the present year (1811) we found in the ovarium of one, a number of small seed-like eggs, and others somewhat enlarged ; the birds were all unusually fat, and had the appearance of having been fattened, though they were all shot in a wild state ; from the above circumstance we conceive the change may have taken place owing to the absence of the other sex.

Several varieties of this species have at different times been met with in this country, but none of them as far as we can learn is permanent ; the variety we have figured is known by the name of the Ring Pheasant, was introduced by the late Duke of Northumberland, and will most probably be soon lost as a distinct bird, as it breeds readily with the present bird, and many, if not most of the birds now met with, have some appearance of white round the neck : birds of this species entirely white, are frequently seen ; one of those that we saw last season, evidently belonged to the ringed variety, as the ring was conspicuous by being of a different shade of whiteness.





*Tetrao Perdix.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, I. Feb. 1811.*

# TETRAO PERDIX.

## COMMON PARTRIDGE.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. *See Tetrao urogallus.*

### SYNONYMS.

TETRAO PERDIX. *Lin. Syst. 1. p. 276. 12.*

COMMON PARTRIDGE. *Br. Zool. 1. 96. Lath. Syn.*  
*4. p. 762. 8. Mont. Orn.*  
*DiÆ.*

PARTRIDGE. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 303.*

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**T**HIS species is in length thirteen inches, and weighs about fifteen ounces; bill hard; the nostrils covered over by a prominent ridge, which projects rather beyond them, having an aperture in the front; eyes partly surrounded by a warty skin, which is placed principally behind the eye, and continues nearly half round it; legs short, furnished with short blunt spurs; the feathers on the body are double, two feathers proceeding from the same quill; the inner one, which is much the smallest, has two webs projecting from each side of the shaft. General colours alike in both sexes; the female  
has

has not for the first two years, the beautiful chefnut mark in the form of a horse-shoe on the breast, but after that time, it ceases to be a distinguishing character; the bare skin round the eye may always be depended on, for in the female it is never of that beautiful scarlet colour, but inclines rather to a dull crimfon.

Partridges are very common throughout this island, but are most numerous in the cultivated parts; they are but seldom met with at any considerable distance from arable land, and are not found in the mountainous parts of the kingdom. Mr. Montague observes, "in Scotland, the Partridge, the Grouse, and the Ptarmagan, each have their district; the first is only to be found in the glens or vallies, the second on the first hills, and the last only on the summits of the highest mountains, and it is not often they intrude on each other."

It is very prolific, laying from twelve to twenty eggs of a pale brown colour, in a hole scratched for the purpose, loosely lined with dry grafs and leaves; it sets about three weeks, the latter part of the time very closely, and will sometimes suffer itself to be removed with the eggs, rather than quit them. The young run about almost as soon as hatched, frequently with part of the shell adhering to them; the whole brood immediately repair to ant-hills, as ants eggs form the principal part of the food of the young ones for the first few weeks: their eggs are often hatched under a common hen, but owing to the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient supply of ants eggs, they are not reared without great trouble; when full grown they feed on all kinds of grain, and are also very partial to the leaves of turnips.

The



The Partridge has long been noticed for the great attachment it shews to its young, for the means it uses to elude pursuit, and to mislead the object intruding on its retirement; it leads its brood in the manner of the hen, and when arrived at a spot likely to produce their favourite food, the female begins scratching up the earth with its feet, at the same time pecking up any eatable particles she meets with; these she does not swallow, but places them before the young, and by repeatedly pecking, endeavours to instruct them in the mode they should pursue to obtain food: the young ones are not backward in receiving instruction, as in a few hours they may be observed industriously searching for themselves, at a short distance from the parent birds, and from time to time returning to them for shelter and warmth. While thus engaged, should their privacy be broken in upon, the male utters a piercing cry and they both take wing, the young brood immediately creep under the first tuft that offers, or more usually between clods of earth, and there await the return of the old birds, who are occupied in endeavouring to take off the attention of the intruding party from the young to themselves; they fly a short distance, seeming to labour under excessive fatigue or weakness, and will suddenly drop as if quite spent, and limp along, trailing their wings on the ground, and affect all the appearance of a wounded bird: during the continuance of these exertions, the female usually withdraws and returns to the relief of the young, which it assembles in an instant by its call; the male continues the same artifices for some time after, to give the female an opportunity of making good a retreat, and then by a circuitous rout, hastens to the spot lately occupied by itself and brood, and by its cry makes known its return.

In

In winter, they leave the open country, and seek shelter from the inclemency of the season, in coppices under the leaves of fern, and among brushwood; at this time they assemble several coveys together, and are extremely shy; unless by surprise it is almost impossible to get within gun shot; at other seasons, if any one will only keep moving about, they will almost suffer themselves to be trod on, rather than take wing.

They have been found quite white. The present season has abounded, in a very unusual manner, with birds assuming white plumage, particularly Pheasants, Partridges, and Woodcocks.





*Tetrao Tetrix!*

Published by C. Groves Walworth Jun. Ldno.

# TETRAO TETRIX.

## BLACK GROUS.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See Tetrao Urogallus.

### SYNONYMS.

TETRAO TETRIX. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 274. 2. *Ind. Orn.*  
2. p. 635. 3.

BLACK GROUS OF GAME, BLACK-COCK, HEATH-  
COCK. *Br. Zool.* 1. 93. *tab.* 42. *ib. fol.* 85. *tab.* M.  
*fig.* 1, 2. *Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 733. 3.  
*ib. supt.* p. 213. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*  
*Vol.* 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 1.  
p. 297.

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**L**ENGTH of the male nearly two feet, breadth about thirty-four inches, weight generally four pounds. Bill short, and very strong; eyes varying in different lights, from hazel to blue, and frequently seem to have an orange cast; they are surrounded on the upper side by a bare granulated scarlet skin, which in the breeding season is much dilated, and frequently extends to near the top of the head; beneath the eyes is a dusky white patch, which in old birds is very conspicuous, but scarcely to be noticed till after the second year; tail composed of sixteen feathers, the outside ones of which are the longest, and curve outward, the tips of these are nearly square; legs strong, and thickly covered with hair-like feathers; toes ferrated.

The



The female, as will be observed in the plate, differs in colour very considerably as well as in size; its weight is about two pounds four or five ounces; the size is nearly one third less than the male; the tail also differs in form, terminating nearly square.

This species chiefly frequents districts of this kingdom, affecting the more elevated parts; they are also found on the extensive heaths and moors in the west of England; a few males are sometimes met with in Ashdown-Forest, Suffex, in the New Forest, Hampshire, and in the woods of Lowther, in Westmoreland. In the autumn they frequently visit corn-land, but in the winter they take to the woods and are then very shy; their principal food is the tops of heath and birch; our friend Mr. J. GOUGH, of Middlethaw, in Westmoreland, informs us, "the seeds of the *juncus bulbosus*, the berries of the *empetrum nigrum*, and those of the *rubus chamæmorus*, constitute the favourite food of this species;" they also feed on the berries of the juniper, and other mountain berries.

The Black Grouse is polygamous; early in the spring the males perch on the tops of high trees or other elevated spots, and by crowing and clapping their wings, give notice to the females, who soon resort to the spot, when a battle commences, and the victor takes possession of the females, but has frequently to sustain combats with such others of the sex as visit their retreats; the female lays six or seven yellowish white eggs, spotted with rust colour, on any dry grass or heath, without any appearance of a nest, but most generally in the midst of a high tuft of heath; the young are feathered

feathered like the female till after the first moult, when the cocks begin to change colour; but they do not assume their full plumage till after the second season, and frequently when the eggs have been hatched under the common hen, they do not ever attain their full colour: the young keep together with the parents till the ensuing spring.

After the breeding season, the males peaceably associate in considerable numbers; when they are easily decoyed by the poacher into snares, by imitating the call of the hen; and we have been informed, that as many as fifty have been taken in the short space of two days by this means, in Yorkshire. The provincial names of this species are Heath Poult, Heath Cock, Black Cock, Black Game, and the female is in some parts known by the name of Grey Hen.

We are indebted for our specimens to A. HARRISON, Esq.







*Tetrax Lagopus.* —

Des. Et. Sculp. by Edm. Walworth.



# TETRAO LAGOPUS.

## PTARMIGAN.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See Tetrao Urogallus.

### SYNONYMS.

TETRAO LAGOPUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 274. 4. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 639. 9.

PTARMIGAN. *Br. Zool.* 1. 95. tab. 43. *Ib. fol.* 86. tab. M. fig. 4, 5. *Arch. Zool.* 2. p. 315. *D. Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 741. 10. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol. 2. Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 301.*

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THE length of this species is about fifteen, the breadth twenty-two inches, and it usually weighs from eighteen to twenty ounces. Bill strong; irides light hazel; legs strong, and thickly beset with hair-like feathers to the extremity of the toes; claws long, having the appearance of pieces of quill protruding from the toes, being concave on the under side, and terminating in an obtuse point; this form of the claws may assist them in their search after food, which very frequently lies beneath the snow; tail composed of sixteen black feathers tipped with white, the tail is most generally hid under the tail coverts. The sexes are not distinguishable except in the spring, when the skin above the eyes in the male is much dilated, and of a brighter hue than in the other sex.

White Grouse is rarely to be met with but on the high mountainous parts of this country, on the highlands of Scotland,

land, and on the hills of Snowden, in Wales; they abound on all the heathy mountains in the north of Westmoreland and Cumberland, and like the Black Grouse feed on most kinds of mountain berries.

It lays ten or twelve dirty white coloured eggs (in size rather exceeding those of the partridge) spotted with brown; it does not make any nest, but deposits the eggs on the bare ground, in some retired spot beneath the little tufts of heath abundant on the parts these birds frequent.

The Ptarmigan is not as shy as any other species of Grouse, but will suffer themselves to be approached without attempting to escape; "the herdsmen frequently knock them down with sticks;" the male in the spring utters a crowing note, which is not unlike the crow of a young capon.

In the summer months these birds are found with brown mottled feathers, which they are supposed to cast at the fall of the year; we have seen a brace killed within the present month that had a considerable number of coloured feathers on different parts.

We have received specimens from our friends Mr. HARRISON and Mr. BULLOCK, the one perfectly white except the tail, and the other mottled all over; in the month of January 1811, we saw a white bird of this genus on the side of Box-Hill, Surrey, but were not able to approach sufficiently near to ascertain whether it was the present species or a partridge.

Its provincial names are White Grouse, Snow Grouse, White Game, and White or Snow Partridge.





*Ardea Major.*

Pub. by G. Graves, Walsworth. 1. Feb. 1811.

# ARDEA MAJOR.

## COMMON HERON.

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, compressed, strong, and sharp-pointed.

Nostrils linear.

Tongue sharp-pointed.

Eyes, large and piercing, surrounded by a bare skin.

Toes three forward, connected by a membrane to the first joint, the middle one pectinated, hinder toe one-third shorter than the front ones.

### SYNONYMS.

ARDEA MAJOR. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 236. 12.

COMMON HERON. *Br. Zool.* 173. tab. 61. *Lath. Syn.* 5.  
p. 83. 50. *Bewick's Br. Birds*, Pt. 2.  
p. 48. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

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THE HERON is in length about three feet six inches, and in breadth five feet six inches, it usually weighs about three pounds and an half; bill six inches long, the edges slightly serrated, it has a slight longitudinal furrow commencing at the base, and continuing three-fourths of its length; eyes full and remarkably fierce, surrounded by a bare skin of a greenish hue in the male bird, in the female it is of a lead colour; feathers on the crown and hind-head long and flowing, forming a beautiful pendent crest, descending half way down the neck  
(in



(in some birds we have noticed several of these feathers that reach quite to the back); on the under-side of the neck, the feathers are of the same loose flowing kind, and extend quite over the breast, there are also a few scattered over the back; legs long, the hinder claw much larger and stronger than the others; colours in the female rather duller, the feathers forming the crest are wanting, and those on the neck are not so long or flowing.

Hérons generally build in high trees, the nest is composed of sticks lined with feathers; wool, dry grass, and other soft materials; the eggs are of the size, but of a greener hue than those of the duck; it was formerly considered as game, and persons destroying their eggs were liable to a penalty of twenty shillings. In the breeding season, they congregate in the manner of rooks, and form large societies; Heronries, though by no means numerous, are to be met with in several of our northern counties, one in particular may be familiar to persons in the habit of travelling the high North road, where the trees in which many of the nests are placed, and under which the coaches pass daily, nearly cross the road. They are very tenacious of their breeding-places, and make great resistance to any kind of intrusion; in these societies should any one be found pilfering materials from the nest of another, the offender exposes itself to severe correction, not unfrequently to the loss of life, and to the almost certain demolition of whatever it may have collected towards its own nest; notwithstanding this tenaciousness with regard to themselves, they are less ceremonious in intruding on the territories of others; as should they by any adverse circumstance be expelled or deprived of their ancient residences, they will take possession of any neighbouring

bouring place that suits their purpose. BEWICK quotes the following curious circumstance relating thereto, which occurred at Dallam-Tower in Westmoreland, the seat of Daniel Wilson, Esq. " There were two groves adjoining the park, one of which for many years had been resorted to by a number of Herons, which there built and bred; the other was one of the largest rookeries in the country. The two tribes lived together for a long time without any disputes. At length the trees occupied by the Herons, consisting of some fine old oaks, were cut down in the spring of 1775, and the young brood perished by the fall of the timber. The parent birds immediately set about preparing new habitations, in order to breed again, but as the trees in the neighbourhood of their old nests were only of late growth and not sufficiently high, to secure them from the depredations of boys, they determined to effect a settlement in the rookery. The rooks made an obstinate resistance, but after a very violent contest, in which many of the rooks and some of their antagonists lost their lives, the Herons succeeded in their attempt, built their nests and reared their young. Next season the same kind of contest took place, which terminated like the former, since which they have lived together in the same harmony as before their quarrel."

These birds are very longlived, mention is made of one struck by a hawk in Holland some few years ago, that had a silver plate affixed to one of its legs, importing that the same bird had been struck by one of the Elector of Cologne's hawks in 1735. Their cry is very loud and harsh, and may frequently be heard when the bird soars beyond our sight, as it utters its scream chiefly when on wing. Except in the breeding season its habits are very solitary, it has been frequently seen standing

on

on some favourite spot for many hours together, continually turning its head backward and forward, and gazing with a vacant stare,

It is remarkably voracious, feeds chiefly on fish, to procure which, it stands in the water knee-deep quite motionless, the fish, whether impelled by curiosity or attracted perhaps by the smell of the bird, will frequently approach in shoals, and when arrived within its reach, it strikes at them with unerring aim, the edges of the bill being serrated enables it to keep secure hold of the most slippery fish; it commits great depredations in our fish-ponds, as its digestive powers being unusually strong, it is continually feeding; the intestinal canal being very short and straight, it is not a little curious to observe it when attempting to devour an eel, which will repeatedly pass through it alive, the bird when disturbed immediately after swallowing will take wing, the eel still struggling for release, frequently falls from the bird during its flight, on which the Heron alights and attacks it again; one eel has been noticed to have passed through in this way six times: on the failure of fish, it devours frogs, mice, water-newts, and the roots of aquatic plants, also the flowers of the Sparganium, or Bur Reed.

Anciently they were held in great estimation as food, and formed one of the most favourite dishes at the tables of our nobles, it was then valued at the same rate as the peacock or pheasant.





*Ardea stellaris.*

Ardea stellaris, Linn.



# ARDEA STELLARIS.

## BITTERN.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Ardea Major*.

### SYNONYMS.

ARDEA STELLARIS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 239. 21.

BITTERN. *Br. Zool.* 2. 174. *Ib. fol.* 711. *tab. A.* 1.

*Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 680. 18. *Latb. Syn.*

5. p. 57. 17. *Ib. sup.* p. 234.

*Mont. Orn. Diet. Vol.* 1. *Bewick's*

*Br. Birds, Pt.* 2. p. 57.

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THE BITTERN is in length about thirty inches, in breadth nearly four feet, and it weighs from two pounds twelve ounces to three pounds. Bill flattened on the sides the whole length, it is very strong and sharp, the upper mandible curves towards the point; gape extending beyond the eyes; irides yellow; "feathers on the hind-head, neck, and breast, long and loose;" tail short, composed of twelve feathers; legs and claws very strong, the hind claw being nearly two inches long, the centre one is serrated three fourths of its length on the inner side.

The female is somewhat less, and the colours are not so bright, neither are the feathers on the neck and breast so long or loose as in the male.

The

The Bittern, though not numerous, is dispersed through the whole of this country, its habits are very solitary, seldom more than a pair frequent our most extensive marshes; this may in some degree be occasioned by the great quantity of food it consumes; in one dissected in the course of the present year, the intestines were completely full, containing the remains of four eels, several water-newts, a short-tailed field mouse, three frogs, two buds of the water-lily, and some other vegetable substances. It seems particularly attached to its nesting-place, and will return many years in succession to the same place to breed.

This species builds in low swampy places, where there is plenty of shelter, such as high grass, rushes, and other rank herbage; the nest is composed of a large quantity of long coarse green vegetables, and is lined with dry sedge and leaves; it lays four or five greenish olive-coloured eggs; the young are at first covered with thick matted down, and are assiduously attended to till able to provide for themselves by their parents, who alternately keep guard over the nest or go in pursuit of the slippery inhabitants of the stagnant pool, which are the principal food of the young ones; at this time the whole attention of the old birds seems devoted to feed and protect them; should the nest be attacked by birds of prey, they make desperate resistance, flying up at their assailant, and then throwing themselves on their back, oppose the enemy with their formidable bills and claws, and seldom fail of driving their opponent from the nest: when full grown, they feed on eels, small fish, frogs, mice, moles, the smaller species of reptiles; and on the failure of these, they greedily devour the

roots

roots and feeds of aquatic plants. While they have young they seem quite devoid of fear, the sportsman nor his dog are not able to make them quit their charge, "but if wounded, eye them with keen undaunted looks," and when closely pressed, defend themselves with the greatest vigour to the last extremity, often inflicting severe wounds with their bill; they aim particularly at the eyes, and if approached sufficiently near without their being too much disabled, frequently make the conquest dearly purchased.

As the whole of this tribe make the eye the principal object of aim when wounded, the following melancholy circumstance may serve to put persons on their guard, while engaged in the pursuit of any of this genus: in the month of January 1811, a farmer's man, on going to work in the farm-yard, through which ran a small stream, observed a common Heron standing on the side of the water-course, surpris'd at the unusual tameness of the bird, which did not attempt to fly at his approach, and, not thinking of the cause that detained it, (there having been a very severe frost that morning) he threw a large stick at it, which struck the legs immediately above the ice and broke them short off: overjoyed at his easy conquest, he hastened to take possession of his prize, the bird on his near approach drew back its head, and when the man stooped to take it up, darted its bill quite through the eye, which it completely destroyed; the man lingered in the most excruciating torture but a few days, and fell a victim to his own imprudence.

In the spring the Bittern may be discovered by its note at a great distance, which it has erroneously been supposed to make  
by

by thrusting its bill into the cavity of a dry reed and blowing therein; the noise is however made when it is in an erect position, and seems to be caused by the bird's blowing hard through its bill, which at that time is nearly closed; it is very loud and not much unlike the noise occasioned by beating on the head of an empty cask: Goldsmith happily describes the haunts and noise of this bird, in his admirable poem, "The Deserted Village:"

Along thy glades a solitary guest,  
The hollow-sounding Bittern guards its nest.

During the breeding season, the male bird is said to ascend spirally to a great height, when it utters a loud bleating noise; its notes or calls have been long noticed, and account for some of its curious provincial names, as Bog-Beater, Bog-Bumper, Mire-Drum, Butter-Bump, Bittour, Bumpy-Cross, and Bitter-Bum.

Our specimen was shot whilst flying over the river Cam; the nest was found near the spot where the bird fell, which contained four young birds and an addled egg.







Swall.

*Ardea herodias*

Pub. by O. Ornes, Waterbury, Conn.

# ARDEA GARZETTA.

## EGRET.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Ardea major*.

### SYNONYMS.

ARDEA GARZETTA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 237. 13. *Ind.*

*Orn.* 2. p. 694. 64.

LITTLE EGRET. *Br. Zool. Appx. tab.* 7. *Lath. Syn.*

5. p. 90. 59. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.*

1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p. 55.*

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THE weight of this species is said to be about one pound; its length rather exceeds sixteen, and from the crown of the head to the toes it measures nearly twenty-two inches; bill sharp; irides yellow; lore dull green; feathers on the hind part of the head and neck long and flowing, forming a crest; those on the breast and shoulders are of a loose texture, the latter extend beyond the tail; legs and claws strong in proportion to the size of the bird, the centre claw is finely serrated on the inner edge.

As this bird must be considered as lost to this country, we can only give the description of it; with its history we have no acquaintance; it is said to build in trees in the manner of the common heron, and to live on the same kinds of food.

The Egret is not uncommon in many parts of the European continent, it is also met with in the islands of Sicily, from whence

whence its feathers are exported as an article of ornament for the head-dresses of the Persians, Turks, and European ladies; if this is the species named in the bill of fare of the famous feast of Archbishop Nevil, we may conclude that at that time they were as numerous as larks are at this, there being no fewer than one thousand in the list; it is now very rare, only one instance is mentioned of its being killed in this country in modern times, "and that in the isle of Anglesea."

Our plate was taken from a very fine specimen in the collection of Mr. BULLOCK; but our draftsman not having the figure of the common heron with him to regulate the size of the drawing, the figure is obviously too large and out of proportion with that bird.





*Scolopax arguata.*

Pub.<sup>d</sup> by G Graves Walworth Jan 1 1855



# SCOLOPAX ARQUATA.

COMMON - CURLEW.

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## GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill long, curved.

Nostrils linear.

Tongue short, pointed.

Toes connected to the first joint by a strong membrane.

## SYNONYMS.

SCOLOPAX ARQUATA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 242.

COMMON CURLEW. *Br. Zool.* 2. 176. *tab.* 63. *Lath.*

*Syn.* 5. p. 119. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*

*Pt.* 2. p. 63. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

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THIS bird varies much in size, having been found to weigh from twenty to thirty ounces and upwards; usual length about two feet; bill from six to seven inches long, regularly curved, in substance tender, flexible at the point, which terminates abruptly; legs long, and bare of feathers to half-way up the thigh; toes thick, flat on the under side, each side of the claws is furnished with a narrow membranous edging. Colours of the female rather paler than in the male.

The CURLEW is a very common bird, visiting our coasts by thousands in the cold months, in the spring it retires to the  
extensive

extensive moors and lakes in the Northern parts of the kingdom to breed. The female does not make any nest, but lays her eggs (four in number) on a tuft of rushes or dry grafs; they are of a pale greenish olive colour, marked with brown spots, most numerous at the large end. The young ones begin to use their legs as soon as hatched, but do not fly till after their first moulting.

There is considerable diversity of opinion in regard to the quality of the flesh of this bird, some authors assert it to be of exquisite flavour, others quite the reverse; this may be accounted for, by the different kinds of food the bird lives on; those taken inland are of a very fine flavour, whilst those on the sea shore are rank and fishy.

In the Island of Jersey, it is a usual diversion to shoot these birds by moon-light on the sands, their time of feeding being principally at night; it is not a little remarkable, that the birds taken on that coast, have not the same offensive taste as those which are found on our shores.





*Scolopax rusticola.*

Illustration of the Woodcock, Scolopax rusticola.

# SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA.

## WOODCOCK.

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, long, and slender, the upper mandible extending somewhat beyond the lower.

Nostrils linear, placed in a furrow.

Tongue pointed.

Toes in some species divided to their base, in others they are connected nearly as far as the first joint.

Hind toe small.

### SYNONYMS.

SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 243. 6. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 713. 1.

WOODCOCK. *Br. Zool.* 2. 178. tab. 65. *Ib. fol.* 119. *Lath. Syn.* 5. p. 129. 1. *Mont. Orn. Di&t.* Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2.* p. 68.

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THE WOODCOCK is about fifteen inches in length, twenty-seven in breadth, and weighs from twelve to sixteen ounces; bill three inches long, the upper mandible furrowed nearly its whole length, terminating in a small knob; eyes large, situated near the top of the head; legs short; tail formed of twelve feathers, the two centre ones rather the longest. The colours of the female are generally duller.

This



This species varies much in colour and size; our figure represents the usual colour, but they are found much deeper, as well as paler coloured, and sometimes quite white; it generally appears in this country the latter end of September or beginning of October, but is not usually met with in abundance till towards the end of November; we noticed three exposed for sale in Leadenhall-Market during the first week of the present month, October.

The Woodcock but rarely breeds with us, though now and then such an instance occurs. Mr. BULLOCK has in his collection a young one taken in Suffolk; there were two birds in the nest, but one escaped; the young are covered with a thick down or fur, which round the neck is very long and pendant; at first sight the young bird has much the appearance of a Bittern in miniature, as its bill is long in proportion to its size. The Woodcock lays four eggs of a grey colour, marked with ash coloured and brown spots; those we have examined from the same nest are very different in their markings, in some the spots are so confluent, that they should rather be said to be blotched with dusky white; the nest is usually placed in a thick coppice, immediately opposite some little break, its form and texture is very loose, it is composed of dry grass and fibres, with a few decayed leaves placed at the bottom; the young run as soon as excluded, but the parents continue their attention till they are quite able to provide for themselves.

On its first arrival, this bird remains on the coast for a day or two to recruit its strength, and then returns to its favourite haunts of the preceding year; when first roused its flight is  
some-

somewhat heavy, but on being again disturbed it flies with great rapidity to a short distance, making constantly for the first break, where it drops, and then runs. Owing to the similarity of colour, this bird is not readily discovered among the dead leaves and fern at the fall of the year; in very severe weather, when most of the little pools are frozen, it becomes much tamer than at other times; at this season it frequently quits the interior of the country, and retires to the woody tracts in the west of England; its food is principally worms and small aquatic insects, for the search of which its bill is most admirably adapted, the knob at the tip being furnished with a number of very minute glands susceptible of the finest feeling.

The flesh of the Woodcock being highly esteemed, it is sought after by the sportsman with the most persevering industry; they begin to leave this country about the latter end of March, and from that time till the middle of April, they approach the coasts, and wait the first fair wind to quit their winter residences; this species is widely dispersed through the whole European continent. They are said to breed in the woods and forests of the northern provinces; at the decline of the year they disperse themselves over the other parts of Europe; their migrations are usually performed during the night, in small flocks of from four to six, most probably consisting of the parent birds and brood.







*Scolopax Galinago.*

FIG. FEBRUARY. BY G. GRAVES WILKINSON.



# SCOLOPAX GALLINAGO.

## COMMON SNIPE.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Scolopax rusticola*.

### SYNONYMS.

SCOLOPAX GALLINAGO. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 244. 7. *Ind.*

*Orn.* 2. p. 715. 6.

SNIPE. *Br. Zool.* 2. 187. tab. 68. *Ib. fol.* 121. *Arct.*

*Zool.* 2. 366. *Latb. Syn.* 5. p. 134.

6. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.* 2. *Bewick's*

*Br. Birds, Pt.* 2. p. 75.

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THIS well-known species weighs about four ounces, is twelve inches in length, and sixteen in breadth. Bill three inches long, flattened at the base, tip rough; eyes hazel; tail composed of fourteen feathers; legs slender, varying in colour in different subjects, some being of a light green, and others of a dark slate colour; toes long and delicately slender. The sexes are not discoverable by their plumage.

The haunts of the Snipe are most generally in places that are frequently over-flowed with water, or by the sides of running streams, where the ground is sufficiently soft to be penetrated by its bill; it is a shy bird, and by no means easy of approach; when it conceives itself in security, it is continually pacing the ground, at which time its tail is frequently  
moved

moved from side to side ; it procures its food, consisting principally of small worms, by thrusting its bill into the moist ground, the worms being thus disturbed make for the surface, where they are immediately devoured.

When alarmed, the Snipe utters a shrill whistle, and rises with considerable noise ; it flies with great swiftness, and after having been roused two or three times it is difficult to get within shot.

A few of this species breed annually with us, but the bulk of them quit this country about March or April ; we have never been so fortunate as to meet with the nest or young, we shall therefore quote the following account from Mr. Montague : “ We have frequently taken the young before they could fly, in the north of England and in Scotland. Near Penryn, in Cornwall, there is a marsh where several breed annually, and where we have taken their eggs, which are four in number, of an olivaceous colour, blotched and spotted with rufous-brown ; some with dusky blotches at the larger end and some few elsewhere.

“ The nest is made of the materials around it, coarse grass, and sometimes heath. It is placed on a stump or dry spot near a splash or swampy place ; the eggs like those of the lapwing are placed invariably with their smaller ends inwards, being much pointed ; their weight three drams and a half. In the breeding season the Snipe changes its note entirely from that it makes in the winter. The male will keep on wing for an hour together, mounting like a lark, uttering a shrill piping noise,

noise, then descends with great velocity, making a bleating sound not unlike an old goat, which is repeated alternately round the nest possessed by the female, especially while she is sitting."

During severe weather they will frequently resort to plantations of low ever-greens, and will devour the leaves of cabbage or coleworts, and also grafs. The provincial names are Snite, Mud-Sucker, and Heather-Bleater.

In our plate the engraver has misspelt the specific name, which we did not discover till our impression was worked off.









*Tringa vanellus.*

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, L., April, 1811.

# TRINGA VANELLUS.

## LAPWING.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Tringa pugnax*.

### SYNONYMS.

TRINGA VANELLUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 248. 2.

LAPWING OF BASTARD PLOVER. *Br. Zool.* 2. 190.

*Ib. fol.* 122. *tab. C.\* fig.* 1. *Latb. Syn.* 5. p.

161. 2. *Mont. Orn. & Diët.* *Bewick's Br.*

*Birds, Pt. 1. p.* 318.

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THIS species is in length about twelve inches, and in breadth near thirty inches, and weighs eight or nine ounces; bill about an inch long, the upper mandible is quite flat on the upper surface; feathers on the hind part of the head, from three to four inches long, forming a crest which inclines upwards at the tip, these feathers are remarkably narrow; irides dark hazel; legs slender; hind toe very small; the down on most parts of the body is quite black. The female differs but slightly from the male, the colours are somewhat duller, and the crest is shorter by one-third. In both sexes the feathers on the body are double.

The LAPWING is very common in most parts of the kingdom, where it readily makes itself known by its cry, which much resembles the word pee-wit, and by which name it is most generally known; it is a sprightly active bird, and is almost

almost continually in motion, sometimes sporting and basking in the sun in moist fields or heaths, or forming continued circles in the air. In autumn they assemble in considerable numbers on marshy heaths or commons, and feed on earth-worms and insects; they are of a restless disposition, and seldom stay long at one place; they will frequently leave the interior of the country, and seek the sea-shore; when they have been on the coasts for a week or two, their flesh has a very unpleasent bitter flavour, at other times they are generally esteemed; their eggs are considered as a great delicacy, and in our London markets sell for three shillings a dozen.

It does not make a nest, but deposits its eggs (four in number) on a tuft of dry grass; the eggs are of a dark olive colour, spotted with black or very dark brown; its attention to its young has often attracted observation, and it uses stratagem (as already noticed in the partridge) to induce any intruder to leave the vicinity of the eggs or young; when disturbed it rises but a little above the head of the intruding party, and continues fluttering and screaming in a tone of distress.

The young are at first covered with a dark down, mixed with long white hair; they run almost as soon as hatched, following the parents in search of food; they do not attain their full plumage till towards the end of July, nor the use of their wings until the fall of the year, which makes them an easy prey to the bald buzzard, which may most generally be seen hovering near their place of resort.





*Charadrius plumbealis*

Pub. March 22. 1815. by G. Graves, Walsworth.



# CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS:

## GOLDEN PLOVER.

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, rather enlarged towards the tip.

Nostrils linear.

Toes three forward,

### SYNONYMS.

CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. 254. 7. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 740. 1.

GOLDEN OR GREEN PLOVER. *Br. Zool.* 2. 208. *tab.* 72. *Ib. fol.* 128. *Art. Zool.* 2. 399. *Lath. Syn.* 5. p. 193. 1. *Supt.* p. 252. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.* 2. *Berwick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 1. p. 302.

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THIS species is about eleven inches in length, twenty-three in breadth, and weighs nearly eight ounces. Bill an inch long, somewhat swollen near the tip; the base of the gape square; irides hazel. The colours of the female are considerably lighter than those of the male; in the spring both sexes have the lower part of the breast black, these feathers begin to appear in March, and in May attain perfection; the female usually lays as soon as the black feathers arrive at maturity.

The GOLDEN PLOVER is found in most parts of the known world; in this country, they frequent extensive downs, heaths,  
and

and commons; and in winter they are found on the sea-coast; they may frequently be seen skulking along under warm sunny banks, where there is a small water-course.

It lays four eggs, mostly on the ground, but sometimes on some heath or fern, they nearly resemble those of the lap-wing; the young run as soon as they are hatched, and are led by the parents to the sides of pools and rivulets in search of worms, which constitute their principal food; they are covered with a dark down for a considerable time, and do not use their wings till towards the close of autumn. The parents are very attentive to the young, and practise many artifices to entice intruders from them, much in the same manner as already described in the Partridge. The brood keep together till the following spring.

Its usual note is a shrill whistle, which is often repeated, but when disturbed with its young, it rises, and will continue screaming while on wing.

Our figure was executed for the late W. CURTIS.

Provincial names, Grey Plover, Whistling Plover, and Greyling.





*Columba — Palumbus.*

*Published March 11 1822. by O. Graves Walworth.*

# COLUMBA PALUMBUS.

## RING - D O V E.

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill weak and slender.

Nostrils placed in a soft protuberance that covers the base of the bill.

Tongue entire.

Toes. "divided to their origin."

### SYNONYMS.

COLUMBA PALUMBUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 282. 19. *Ind.*

*Orn.* 2. p. 601. 32. *W. Curtis's Mfs.*

RING-PIGEON. *Br. Zool.* 1. 102. *Ib. fel.* 89. *tab. O.*

*Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 329. *tab. B.* *Lath.*

*Syn.* 4. p. 635. 29. *Ib. supt.* p. 198.

RING-DOVE. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.* 1. *Bewick's Br.*

*Birds, Pt. 1. p.* 272.

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**T**HIS species is about eighteen inches in length, in breadth twenty-nine, and its usual weight is nearly twenty ounces. Bill very soft; irides yellow; legs feathered below the knee; the female is rather less, but corresponds in colour with the male.

The Wood-Pigeon (as it is usually called) begins its nest early in the spring; it is loosely formed of small sticks, and is of such a flimsy texture, that the eggs may generally be seen through



through it ; it lays only two eggs, which are white, of an exact oval form, and constantly produce a male and female ; the young are attended to by the parents till able to provide for themselves.

These birds are very injurious to the farmer, as they devour an amazing quantity of feed and pulse ; of the latter they are so particularly fond, that a common mode of taking them is by steeping a quantity of tares in some intoxicating mixture, which they greedily devour, and soon become stupified ; in this state great numbers are frequently caught for the supply of our markets. They also feed on beech-mast, acorns, ivy-berries, the leaves of turnips, and clover.

Ring-Doves are common in most parts of this country, in winter they associate in very large flocks ; they are generally supposed to migrate, but as we meet with them at all seasons of the year, it is very doubtful whether they make more than partial migrations from one part of this country to the other. During winter they resort to woods, and roost on the highest trees. Frequent endeavours have been made to domesticate this species, but without effect.

Our figure was executed for the late W. CURTIS.

Its provincial names are Wood-Pigeon, Wood-Cover, Wood-Cushet, Cushat, Quest, and Culver.





*Himantopus ostralegus.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth. 1. Feb. 1811.*

# HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS.

## PIED OYSTER-CATCHER.

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill long, compressed, channelled.

Nostrils linear.

Tongue triangular, one-third the length of the bill.

Toes three, the outer connected to the middle one as far as the first joint, by a membrane, which completely edges the toes.

### SYNONYMS.

HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 257.

SEA PIE OR PIED OYSTER-CATCHER. *Br. Zool.* 2. p.

213. *tab.* 74. *Lath. Syn.* 5. p. 219. *tab.* 84.

*Mont. Orn. Dict.*

OYSTER-CATCHER. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2.* p. 23.

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THE OYSTER-CATCHER is in length seventeen inches, breadth two feet six inches, it weighs from sixteen to twenty-two ounces; bill straight, about three inches long, channelled the whole length, point obtuse; thighs bare of feathers to midway above the knees; the toes have a narrow membranous edging, which is finely serrated, and continues rather more than half an inch up the inner side of the legs.

The principal food of this bird is oysters and limpets, which it readily detaches from the rocks with its bill; it will wait by the side of an oyster for a long time, watching its opening, and the instant the shells are observed to separate, it thrusts in

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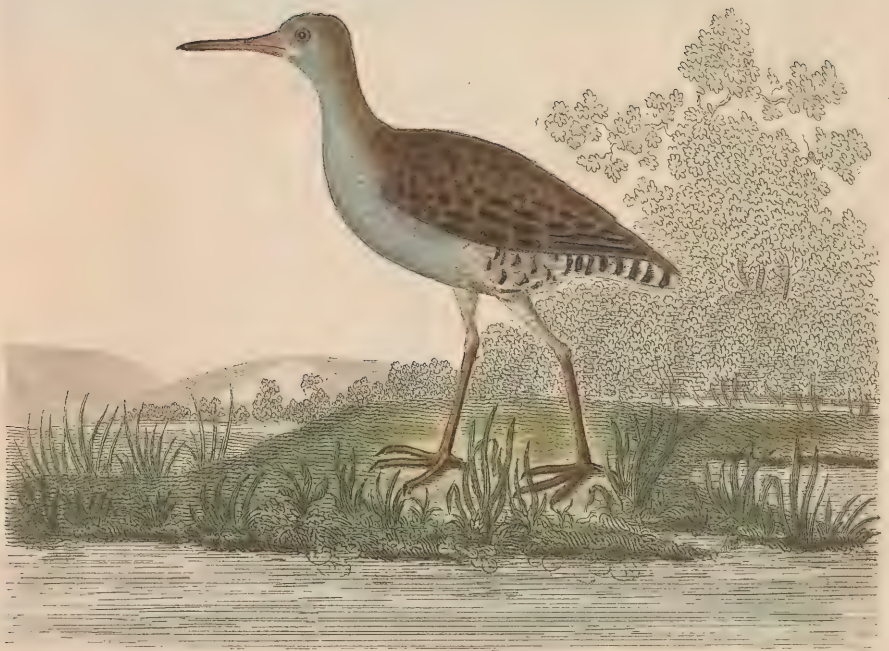
its bill, and makes a meal of the contents: the young ones are easily tamed, and may be brought up with domestic poultry; they are very useful in a garden, as they destroy all kinds of worms, flugs, caterpillars, and snails, the shell of the latter they perforate at one stroke with their bill, and extract the animal in an instant. Their flesh is exceedingly rank and offensive to the smell, it is covered with a thick coat of fat immediately under the skin; they are very common in our London markets; we presume they are brought there more as articles of curiosity than food, the flesh being so remarkably rancid and bitter, we conceive it hardly possible that any thing short of necessity could induce any one to eat it.

These birds are constant inhabitants of the sea-shore, in the winter they may be seen in small flocks, and are then very shy, they are seldom observed in pairs except in the breeding season; the female lays four or five eggs of a greenish colour, spotted with black, in an open dry situation, generally behind a tuft or stone, somewhat above high-water mark; she leaves the eggs entirely during the day, but is careful to sit on them closely at night; the young run about almost as soon as hatched.

They prefer wading in shallow places out of the stream, but should they be overtaken by the current and get into deep water, they do not attempt to swim, but will float therein for a considerable time, amusing themselves during their voyage, by feeding on any kind of sea-weed that may come within their reach. Like most pied birds, they are not constantly marked alike, in some the wings are nearly white, in others black, and in one instance, we have seen the bird with scarcely a white feather about it.







*Rallus aquaticus.*

Pub. by G. Graves, Walsworth, J. Sept. 1811.

# RALLUS AQUATICUS.

## WATER RAIL.

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill rather long, slender, slightly compressed and incurvated.

Nostrils small, pervious.

Tongue rough at the tip.

Toes long, three forward, one backward, divided to their base.

Tail short.

### SYNONYMS.

RALLUS AQUATICUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 262. 2. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 755. 1.

WATER RAIL, BILLOCK, BROOK-OUZEL. *Br. Zool.* 2. 214. *tab.* 75. *Ib. fol.* 130. *tab.* E. E. *Lath. Syn.* 5. p. 227. 1. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt.* 2. p. 28.

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THIS species weighs about four ounces and a half, is twelve inches in length, and sixteen in breadth. Bill slender; irides reddish; toes long, slender, and divided to their origin; tail short, composed of twelve feathers. The general colours of both sexes are alike; the bill in the male is near one third longer, and is of a redder cast than that of the female.

The RAIL is pretty generally dispersed through this country, particularly in low wet situations near water courses, and  
in

in the vicinity of small running streams that are overgrown with grass or sedge, where it seeks both food and shelter: it runs with speed through the thickest grass, or on the soft slimy mud on the margins of ponds, which easily sustain its weight owing to the extent of surface occupied by its toes; in shallow water it wades without swimming; it swims and dives with considerable dexterity; is but rarely roused to take wing, as it depends on its legs for escape from danger; when on wing it flies with very great exertion, and only to a short distance, with its legs hanging down, and is then an easy mark for the sportsman; when running it is continually stirring up its tail.

This bird builds among the thickest tufts of reeds or rushes; the nest is composed of coarse grass, sedge, reeds, and decayed willow leaves, thickly put together; it lays five or six eggs "of a spotless white, very smooth, rather larger than those of a blackbird; the shape is a short oval, with both ends nearly alike:" the young ones begin to provide for themselves almost as soon as hatched, quitting the parents and nest in a few hours; their principal food is slugs, worms, insects, and small fish; when full grown on the failure of animal, they take vegetable food, such as the roots and seeds of aquatic plants; in the winter season they will sometimes venture upon cultivated land, particularly turnip fields. It has been considered a migrative species, but we doubt whether it makes more than partial migrations in search of food; we had one sent to us at Christmas, which had a shell near an inch and a quarter long in its stomach, from which circumstance we conceive it probable this species resorts to the sea-shore during severe weather.







*Fulica atra.*

# FULICA ATRA.

## COMMON COOT.

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill short, strong, the upper mandible having at its base a callosity, which extends up the forehead.

Nostrils pervious, long, narrow.

Toes surrounded by broad scalloped membranes, which are entire at the edges.

Tail very short.

### SYNONYMS.

FULICA ATRA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 257. 2. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 77. 1.

COMMON COOT. *Br. Zool.* 2. 220. *tab.* 77. *Ib. fol.* 132. *tab.* *F. Lath. Syn.* 5. p. 275. 1. *Ib. supt.* p. 259. 1. *tab.* *A. and B. Mont. Orn. Diet.* vol. 1. *Berwick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2.* p. 127.

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THIS species is in length eighteen inches, in breadth near two feet, and weighs from two pounds to two pounds and a half; bill strong, the callosity at its base has much the appearance of wax, the colour of this part varies with the season, in the spring it is of a pale bluish or rose colour, but as the season advances it declines in colour, and is in winter nearly white; irides hazel; legs placed far behind; membranes surrounding the toes very tough, and beautifully veined; in  
birds

birds of the first year there is sometimes a band of yellow on the bare space above the knee. Colours alike in both sexes.

The Coot is common throughout this country, frequenting most of the rivers, lakes, and extensive pools, where it breeds; its nest is placed among flags or reeds, with the leaves of which, and other coarse herbage, it is formed; with these is frequently woven the stem of a living plant, which secures it from being carried away by the current. It lays from five to seven eggs of a dirty white colour, finely sprinkled with red spots, which towards the large end become confluent; the young when first hatched are of a shapeless appearance; they soon begin to provide for themselves, but do not quit the parent birds till the approach of winter, often seeking the shelter and warmth of their wings; the young are frequently caught up by the moor buzzard and kite, and numbers also fall an easy prey to the pike and water-rat.

This bird is an expert swimmer; but makes a very awkward figure on land, as it walks with difficulty and not without repeatedly falling, owing to the legs being placed so far behind; it is not easily roused to take wing, and when it is, flies only a short distance; if it attempts to fly over land it seems overcome by fear, and its greatest exertions can scarcely keep it from the ground; when alarmed it will often almost bury itself in the mud rather than quit its retreat; in the dusk of evening it may be observed skulking along the banks or margins of ponds in search of food, which consists of worms, slugs, small fish, and the roots of aquatic vegetables.

In the winter they are sometimes brought to our markets, where their appearance is very tempting, owing to the deli-

cate

cate colour of the skin, which is whiter than most kinds of poultry, but their flesh has generally a disagreeable fishy flavour.

From the number of these birds that resort to the salt-water inlets on our coasts during winter, it is most probable that many leave us on the approach of spring and retire northward to breed; but that they do not all leave this country is certain, as in most places to which they resort some may be seen at all seasons of the year.









*Colymbus minor.*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, J. Aug. 1811.*

# COLYMBUS MINOR.

## LITTLE GREBE.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Colymbus cristatus*.

### SYNONYMS.

COLYMBUS MINOR. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 591. 20.

PODICEPS MINOR. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 784. 9.

LITTLE GREBE. *Br. Zool.* 2. 226. *Ib. fol.* 134. *tab.*

*F. Lath. Syn.* 5. p. 289. 10. *Mont.*

*Orn. Dict.* vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*

*Pt. 2. p. 144.*

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THIS species is in length about ten inches, in breadth nearly sixteen inches, and weighs six or seven ounces; bill slender; irides reddish; toes fringed with a beautiful semi-transparent edging. Colours nearly alike in both sexes, varying slightly according to age.

The Dabchick or Dobckick is the least species, though the most plentiful in this country, being met with in most streams and ponds, particularly such as are sedgy; its motions are lively and active, and with care it may be rendered so tame, as to suffer a person accustomed to feed it, to approach close to and even to take it out of the water; this, however, is but rare, as it generally is considered a shy bird. Its actions in and on the water are particularly graceful; it may frequently be seen running on the surface for a considerable  
distance

distance, flapping its wings and chattering, then on a sudden diving and reappearing at the spot from whence it took its departure; we believe it is almost invariably the practice of this bird, that, when it dives, it does not, as is common with the duck tribe, continue its way forward, but returns, and by this mode is enabled to elude its pursuers, who looking for its appearance at a considerable distance forward, most generally lose the object of their pursuit; when alarmed, it dives to the first tuft of grass or rushes, and will remain with only its bill above water for a great length of time; its sight is very keen, and a person wishing to shoot one must always follow it, for if he should be before, the bird will dive the instant it perceives the flash from the gun.

The nest is formed of so great a quantity of grass, flags, and other vegetables, that Pennant supposed that it fermented, and gave warmth to the eggs; it is woven together with the leaves and part of the stem of some tall aquatic plant, which are bent down to the surface of the water; and by this method the nest is not liable to injury from any sudden rise of the water, and is generally secure from being carried away by the current. The Dabchick lays five or six whitish eggs, which are frequently stained by some of the vegetables with which they are covered; the female does not sit immediately on the eggs, as there usually is a quantity of rushes laid over them, that prevents the eggs from being exposed, should any sudden accident call the bird off. "They are very frequently devoured while diving in pursuit of small fish, by pike and trout;" the eggs also frequently afford a meal to the water-rat.

The principal food of this bird is small fish, aquatic insects, and worms; in the winter it will live on the roots of such  
plants

plants as grow by the margins of streams ; during the breeding season, the male bird may frequently be heard to utter a shrill chatter, the usual note at other seasons is a whistle quickly repeated.

In the autumn they quit their inland retreats, and but few, and those late-hatched birds, are to be met with from the middle of August to the end of September, after which they return to their usual haunts ; they are said at that season to frequent the sea-shores, and to feed on shrimps. Of this we have no doubt, that, if at that season they frequent the shores of the sea, it is to assist in destroying the myriads of marine insects or small shell-fish, brought into life by the heat of summer, and which, but for their timely aid, in conjunction with other species, impelled by the same instinct, might tend to destroy the due equilibrium between the aqueous and terrene part of animated nature ; such are the wise precautions observed by an unerring providence, to prevent an injurious increase in any of its parts, to the injury or destruction of the beautiful order of the whole.

This species is supposed to be very long lived, as one pair have been known to resort to the same spot for more than twenty years, where they regularly breed ; they seem not to be very easily made to quit their haunts, as when their nests have been destroyed, they have returned time after time to rebuild them ; they nest almost always on the same spot for many years in succession.

Our drawing was made for WILLIAM CURTIS, who had a number of these birds in a pond, in his late botanic garden, Lambeth Marsh.









*Colymbus Troile?*

Pub. by G. Graves, Walsworth, L. June 1871.

# COLYMBUS TROILE.

## FOOLISH GUILLEMOT.

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill slender and sharp-pointed, the upper mandible slightly curving towards the tip, the base covered with short downy feathers.  
Nostrils linear, placed in a furrow near the base.  
Toes three before, webbed.

### SYNONYMS.

COLYMBUS TROILE. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 220. 2.  
URIA TROILE. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 796. 1.  
FOOLISH GUILLEMOT. *Br. Zool.* 2. 234. *Ib. fol.* 138.  
*tab. H.* 3. *Lath. Syn.* 6. p.  
329. 1. *Ib. supt.* p. 265.  
*Mont. Orn. Dict.* *Bewick's*  
*Br. Birds, Pt. 2.* p. 161.

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THIS species weighs about one pound and a half, its length is near eighteen inches, and its breadth about twenty-seven inches; bill three inches long, sharp-pointed, the base covered with short downy feathers; inside of the mouth yellow; legs placed very far behind; nails strong. Colours alike in both sexes.

These birds are very numerous on many parts of our coast, where they congregate with the razor-bill and puffin; in their economy they much resemble the latter bird; they arrive in mild seasons from the middle to the latter end of April, and  
fix

fix on their breeding places early in May; their nests are composed of sea-tang, and are placed so close, as frequently to touch each other; they are formed on ridges or shelves on the rocks, sometimes near an hundred together; they lay but one large egg, frequently exceeding three inches in length, of a greenish white colour, elegantly marbled with dusky green; the markings and tints are so various, that scarcely two eggs are to be seen alike.

During the time of incubation, the male is very attentive to the female, which but seldom leaves the nest, but is fed by the male with small fish. On their first arrival, they are very lean, but soon get into good case; they are not easily disturbed or made to quit their nests, but will often permit themselves to be taken off the eggs, or knocked on the head without attempting to escape or resist, which has given them the common name of Foolish Guillemot.

They swim very deep, owing to their great weight and small bulk of feathers, these are of a silky appearance, generally without webs; when in the water they are very active, and are continually diving. They quit our coasts towards the end of August, and retire northward; a large part of those that leave our shores, do not return to breed; as the number coming and leaving do not bear any kind of proportion; the young attain the use of their wings about the middle of July and are then of the same colour as the parents; it is very rare that any are seen here after the general departure.

For our specimen we are indebted to ARTHUR HARRISON Esq. of Parliament-Street.







*Recurvirostra Avocetta*.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walsworth, 1. Jun. 1811.

# RECURVIROSTRA AVOCETTA.

## AVOCET,

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### GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill long, slender, tapering to the point, curving upwards.

Nostrils narrow, pervious,

Tongue short, entire.

Legs long.

Feet palmated to near the extremity of the toes.

Back-Toe small.

### SYNONYMS.

RECURVIROSTRA AVOCETTA. *Lin. Syst.* 156. *ed.* 1.

SCOOPING AVOCET. *Br. Zool.* 2. *p.* 228. *tab.* 80. *Lath.*

*Syn.* 5. 293. *Mont. Orn. Di&T.*

AVOCET, *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p.* 147.

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**T**HIS, the only species of AVOCET found in this country, is in length nearly eighteen inches, to the extremity of the toes twenty-two inches, and from tip to tip of the wings thirty, weighs twelve to fourteen ounces, bill three inches and a half in length, of a very curious form, "looking" as Bewick aptly observes "not unlike flexible pieces of flat whalebone, curved upwards to the tip;" thighs bare half-way up. Toes three before, connected by a very strong membrane, which is slightly ferrated at the edges, and deeply indented in the centre; hind toe very short.

This bird inhabits the sea shores of Southern Europe, breeds in most of our fenny counties; may frequently be observed in  
the

the winter in small flocks, at the mouths of rivers, in search of worms and marine insects, which they scoop out of the mud or sand, at the same time making a noise with their bills similar to that made by ducks, when engaged in the same pursuit. Latham informs us, "they lay two eggs, the size of those of a pigeon, of a cinerous grey, singularly marked with deep brownish dark patches, of irregular sizes and shapes, besides some under markings of a dusky hue."

They are very tenacious of their young, will counterfeit lameness, and exert themselves to the utmost, in endeavouring to divert the attention of an intruder from their nest; when a flock is disturbed, they immediately take wing, "stretching out their necks and extending their legs behind," and continue to flutter about the spectator, in a manner similar to the Lapwing, uttering at the same time a yelping cry of *twit, twit*.

Their motions are lively and active, seldom remaining for any length of time in the same spot: though web-footed they seldom go beyond wading depth; should they get into deep water, they seem to make no exertion to swim, but float for miles without any appearance of fatigue, and reach the shore merely by the force of the current.







*Alca arctica?*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walsworth, L. April 1811.*

# ALCA ARCTICA.

## PUFFIN.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Alca impennis*.

### SYNONYMS.

ALCA ARCTICA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 211. 4.

PUFFIN. *Br. Zool.* 2. 232. *Ib. fol.* 135. *tab. H. Lath.*  
*Syn.* 5. p. 314. 3. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* *Bewick's*  
*Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p.* 155.

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THIS species weighs from twelve to fourteen ounces, and is in length about thirteen inches, and in breadth about twenty inches. The bill is of a triangular form with flattened furrowed sides; it measures at the base, from the top of the upper mandible to the underside of the lower, about one inch and three quarters, and from the base to the tip an inch and a half; the base of the bill is encased in a kind of sheath, which is elevated, and has an infinite number of small punctures on all its parts, which gives it the roughness of a file; the nostrils are placed near the edges of the upper mandible, commencing at the sheath, and extending to the first furrow; the furrows vary in number from three to five, in the one from which our description was taken, there were but three, the usual number is four in the upper, and three on the lower mandible;

mandible ; the skin at the corners of the mouth is hard, and is of a similar substance to the sheath, it is quite bare of feathers, and forms when the bill is closed a small star ; eyes small, surrounded by irregular warty protuberances, which above and below the eyes are hard as bone ; tail short, it consists of sixteen feathers ; legs feathered to the knees, the legs (as is common to the genus) are placed so far behind, that the bird cannot walk without great difficulty and repeatedly falling ; claws strong, the inside and outside ones are much curved, and incline inwards, the middle ones are the longest but less curved, and incline outwards. Colours disposed alike in both sexes ; the bill in the female is about one-third smaller than that of the male, the colours of the bill vary according to age : the young for the first year have but very slight furrows.

The Puffin appears on our coasts some time in April, but as it is not able to contend with storms, its time of arriving is not certain, numbers have frequently been found dead on the shore after a storm ; at its arrival it is generally lean, but in a week or two it becomes very fat ; it is met with on all the rocky parts of our coast ; immediately on its arrival it begins to seek for a proper place to deposit its egg in security ; should the surrounding country be of a light soil, it burrows in the earth to the depth of from six to eight feet ; it will frequently dispossess a rabbit of its burrow to save itself the labour of forming one, its egg is white and is about the size of those of the hen.

These birds leave this country towards the end of August, and though they shew during the time of rearing their young, a remarkably strong attachment to them, they leave all those that are not sufficiently strong to undertake the journey, without

without means of procuring proper sustenance. When the day arrives for them to depart, they assemble in immense numbers on the rocks, from which they are supposed to fly for a considerable distance, and then to complete their migration on the water; they usually fly very near the surface, and are frequently observed to dip their wings in the water, which seems to strengthen them in their flight.

Their food principally consists of sprats and other small fish, and sea-weed; they retain the food intended for the young, till it is partly digested, and then disgorge it into their mouths; their bite is very severe, they take such secure hold, that the most common way of taking them is by introducing a flick into their mouths, which they eagerly seize, and will suffer themselves to be drawn out with it rather than quit their hold.

The task of incubation is performed by both sexes, relieving each other at intervals; as soon as the young one is hatched, the strength and courage of the parents seem renewed; they then bite so ferociously, that few animals will venture to attack them, the cormorant sometimes attempts to seize them, but it meets such a rough reception, that it mostly is forced to quit its prey with the loss of any part the Puffin may have laid hold on; the young are taken in very considerable numbers in the isles of Preisholm and Calf of Man, where they are pickled, and are held in esteem by some persons as an article of food.

On the coast of Pembrokeshire is a rock to which these birds repair in such amazing numbers, that it is almost impossible to set foot on it without treading on them, and when  
disturbed,



disturbed, they rise in such numbers as to darken the air; it is called the Heleghoak Stack. Almost every place to which this bird resorts, has a name peculiar to itself; the following are the most common, Mullet, Heleghoak, Lunda Bouger, Willock, Coulterneb, Knifebill, Gulderhead, Pope, Sea or Welch Parrot, Bottlenose, and Puffin.

It is not known to what parts these birds retire after quitting this country, but we presume by their leaving so suddenly, they follow the track of some species of fish, which forms a large share of their common food, and which leaves our coasts at the same time; with this species we also lose the Razor-bill and Guillimot, whose habits and food being nearly alike, are induced perhaps for the same reasons to leave our shores.

Since the above account was sent to the press, our friend Mr. BULLOCK has received a first-year bird, which was found dead on the shore, near Truro in Cornwall, the latter end of last month (February 1811) which is near two months earlier than they usually arrive. Small parties arrive at the different parts to which these birds resort, about two or three weeks before the main body make their appearance; they stay but a few days, and then leave us, as if they came to see whether their old breeding-places were in good condition; these parties usually consist of old birds.







*Larus Canus.*

*Pub. by C. Graves, Walsworth, 1. March, 1811.*

# LARUS CANUS.

## COMMON GULL.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Larus marinus*.

### SYNONYMS.

LARUS CANUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 224. 3.

COMMON GULL. *Br. Zool.* 2. 249. tab. 89. fol. 2. *Lath.*

*Syn.* 6. p. 378. 8. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

*Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p. 197.*

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THIS species is in length about seventeen inches, in breadth about three feet, and weighs near sixteen ounces. We feel considerable difficulty in giving the specific characters of this genus; the distinguishing marks are scarcely to be described, as they consist of such trifling minutia, that it is only on the aggregate the species can be fixed. The different plumage these birds assume at their different periods of age, has occasioned confusion in the works of most ornithological writers, in many instances species have been formed from the same bird at different ages; the accuracy of our figures we hope will considerably assist in distinguishing the species, as they will be generally coloured from birds of mature age.

Mr. Montague, to whose researches we have so often referred, has perhaps taken more pains to elucidate this subject than any other person, having kept the different species till they  
have

have arrived at maturity, which is seldom in less than two, and often more than three years, and by this means has been able to correct numerous errors that have crept into the works of most of the preceding writers.

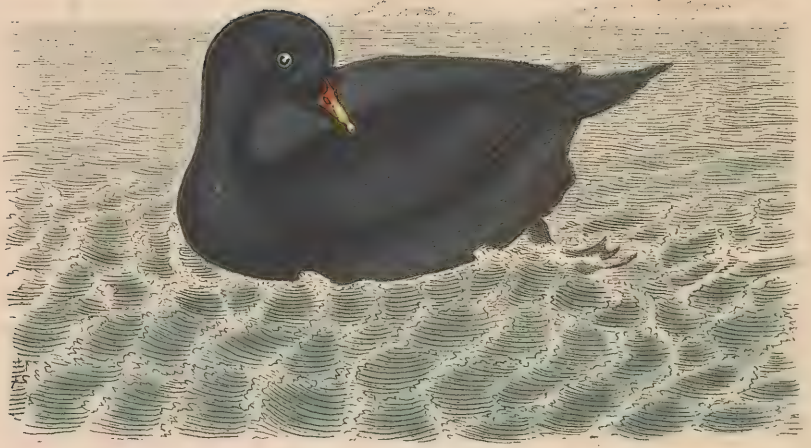
The present species is the most common of the Gulls on our coasts, and is to be met with in considerable numbers on most parts of our shores; they feed on all kinds of animal matter thrown up by the tide, or discovered floating on the surface of the ocean; filling up the same place on the shores of the sea, as the carrion crow does in the interior of the land, as no substance is too putrid to afford them a meal; they may be seen in winter associating with rooks and crows, searching for worms and insects frequently at a great distance from the sea; the whole genus is invariably gluttonous, frequently taking so much food as not to be able to fly till they have disgorged part of their repast, this they readily do upon any fright; it is not uncommon for them to bring up a large quantity of undigested food when slightly wounded.

The nest of the Gull is formed of sea-weed, at the distance of a few feet from the water, and is mostly placed on a shelving rock; they lay two or three eggs of an olivaceous brown, blotched with red spots; they are about the size of those of a common hen.

This species is sometimes eaten by persons resident on the coast, and we have heard it described as good food; previous to its being dressed, it is skinned and buried in a cloth for one or two days.







*Anas nigra* L.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1, March, 1811.

# ANAS NIGRA.

## SCOTER.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Anas Cygnus*, (ferus).

### SYNONYMS.

ANAS NIGRA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 196. 7.

SCOTER OR BLACK DIVER. *Br. Zool.* 2. 273. *Ib. fol.* 253. *Lath. Syn.* 6. p. 480. 36. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* *Bewick's Br. Birds*, Pt. 2. p. 288. 90.

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THE length of this species is about twenty-one inches, the breadth two feet eight inches, and it weighs about three pounds and a half: bill short, broad, and flattened at the tip, the base is furnished with a hard protuberance, which projects nearly three-fourths of an inch in height, it is divided in the centre by a deep furrow; edges of the bill serrated, the sides of the upper mandible are furrowed near the edges, the furrow is irregular, and has much the appearance of a seam clumsily sewed; the bill is not furnished with a nail at its extremity, as is common with most of the genus; feet large and broad, and placed far behind; the tail consists of sixteen sharp-pointed feathers, of which the two middle ones are the longest. Colour of the female dusky black, intermixed with brown and grey, the bill is formed as in the male, but the protuberance is not so large, the colour of this knob is subject to vary; we have seen it quite red, and in others green, but this may proceed from difference of age.

The

The Scoter dives with the greatest dexterity, and is generally met with on the sea at a considerable distance from shore, to which it retires only during the breeding season, they are at that time found in considerable numbers off the coast of France, “ where they are sold to the Catholics, who eat them on fast-days and in Lent;” they are often taken in the fishermen’s nets while diving in quest of food, which chiefly consists of small shell-fish; in the gizzard of the one our figure was coloured from, we found a quantity of shells reduced to pieces, also some small pieces of glass; the flesh was hard, dry, and coarse, but entirely devoid of any fishy or unpleasant taste.

Of the habits of this species, we have but little knowledge, as it is of a very shy disposition, and instantly dives at the approach of danger and reappears at a very considerable distance; its flight is heavy and slow; the position of its legs (placed so far behind) must occasion it to walk awkwardly; we have just learnt that this bird sometimes breeds in the Calf of Man, near the coast of Scotland; of this we hope shortly to be able to give further information.

The male of this species is not furnished with a labyrinth.





*Anas boschas.*



# ANAS BOSCHAS.

## WILD DUCK.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. *See Anas Cygnus, (ferus.)*

### SYNONYMS.

ANAS BOSCHAS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 205. 40.

WILD DUCK. *Br. Zool.* 2. 279. *tab.* 97. *lb.* fol. 175.

*Lath. Syn.* 6. p. 489. 43. *Mont. Orn.*

*Dict. Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p. 291.*

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THE MALLARD OR DRAKE (the male of this species) is in length twenty-three inches, in breadth about three feet, and weighs about two pounds and a half; bill two inches and a half long, and nearly one inch broad; irides hazel; tail formed of twenty pointed feathers, the four middle ones of which curl up on the back in a beautiful manner.

This elegant species has long been held in great esteem as an article of food, on which account many different modes have been adopted to ensnare them; the one in general use, and which is the most successful, is termed a decoy, and is thus described by Pennant in the second volume of *British Zoology*, page 594. "The decoy is usually made where there is a large pond surrounded with wood, and behind it a  
marshy

marshy and uncultivated country, where the wild fowl may securely sleep during the day-time.

“ The decoy consists of several pipes (as they are called) which lead up a narrow ditch, which closes at last with a funnel net. Over these pipes, which become narrower from the first entrance, is fixed a continued arch of netting suspended on hoops. There is usually a pipe or ditch for almost every wind that can blow, as the wild fowl are determined by this circumstance which pipe to choose, and the decoy-man always keeps on the leeward side of the ducks, to prevent his effluvia from reaching their sagacious nostrils. Skreens made of reeds are placed at certain distances along each pipe in such a manner, that it is impossible for the wild fowl to see the decoy-man, before they have passed towards the end of the pipe where the net is fixed.

“ In the evening when the wild fowl begin to feed, the decoy rises, and the noise of their wings, in their flight, may be heard at a great distance. The rising of the decoy is in Somersetshire called rodding. The decoy ducks are fed with hemp-feed, which is thrown in small quantities over the skreens to bring them forward into the pipes, and to allure the wild fowl to follow. They are so trained as to lead the way after hearing the whistle of the decoy-man, and enticed by the hemp-feed, and to dive under water whilst the wild fowl fly on, and are taken in the nets. When they are in such a sleepy state as not to follow the decoy-ducks, a small dog is made to pass between the skreens, which approaching gradually nearer and nearer to the purse-net, draws the attention of the wild fowl, and makes them advance forward; at length the decoy-man appears behind a skreen, and drives them into the net.

“ The

“ The general season for catching wild fowl in decoys, is from the latter end of October to the beginning of February, the legislature forbids taking them from the 1st of June to the 11th of October, under a penalty of five shillings for every bird destroyed within that time.

“ The Lincolnshire decoys are commonly let at a certain annual rent, from fifteen to twenty pounds a year ; and there is one in Somersetshire that pays thirty pounds. The former contribute principally to supply the markets in London. Amazing numbers of ducks, widgeons, and teal are taken, by an account of the number caught a few winters past, in one season ; and in only ten decoys, in the neighbourhood of Wainfleet, it appeared to amount to thirty-one thousand two hundred, in which are included several other species of ducks.” Latham quotes an instance, where two thousand six hundred and forty-six Mallards were taken in two days near Spalding ; they appeared to be young birds before they were able to fly : this mode is now prohibited.

As is usual with most of this genus, the wild ducks leave this country in the spring, retiring northward to breed, and return to us at the fall of the year in prodigious numbers, dispersing themselves over the marshy wastes in the different parts of this kingdom ; but few remain with us throughout the year, these breed in the fens, and their young are not so shy as those that migrate, and are supposed to be the original stock of our domestic duck, which has become varied in plumage, as is common with all animals that are domesticated ; they however always retain the curled feathers on the tail.

The

The variety known by the name of the Rouen Duck, is of the same species, only of very large growth; we have seen one that weighed upwards of seven pounds, the plumage was nearly like the Mallard, we observed no other difference, than that the ring round the neck was considerably larger, and the beautiful chestnut colour on the neck and breast was mottled with white; this variety retains a large share of its wild nature, and often quits its domestic associates for its former haunts, where it breeds with the wild ones, and is often taken with them in the decoys.







*Anas tadorna* L.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1 Feb. 1811.

# ANAS TADORNA.

## SHIELDRAKE.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. *See* Anas Cygnus, (ferus).

### SYNONYMS.

ANAS TADORNA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 195. 4.

SHIELDRAKE. *Br. Zool.* 2. 278. *Lath. Syn.* 6. p. 504.

51. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Bewick's Br. Birds,*

*Pt.* 2. p. 306.

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THIS is rather a larger species than the common mallard; it is in length about two feet, in breadth three feet six inches, and weighs about two pounds and a half; bill three inches long, curving upwards, having a small protuberance at the base, the upper mandible is broad, and grooved at the edges near the tip, the nail in full grown birds curves downward from the tip. The colours in the female are considerably duller and generally want that beautiful bronze, so predominant on all the dark parts of the male bird.

The SHIELDRAKE is common on many parts of our coasts, in some places remaining throughout the year; the female makes her nest in a hole or rabbit burrow, and lines it plentifully with down from her breast; she lays from twelve to sixteen white eggs, these she also covers with down: during the time of incubation, which is about thirty days, the male bird is particularly assiduous in his attention, keeping a strict watch from some neighbouring eminence; should any thing approach

approach to alarm him, he utters a piercing cry and takes wing; unless disturbed, he seldom leaves the vicinity of the nest but when pressed by hunger; when the female leaves to procure food, the male immediately takes her place, and will remain sitting during her absence; instances have been known (where the female has been destroyed) that the male bird has taken on itself the important business of incubation, and has succeeded in rearing its offspring.

The nest is usually in the vicinity of salt-water (though they sometimes breed in the fens) to which they lead their young as soon as hatched, frequently conveying them in their bills; should any interruption take place during their removal from the nest to the water, the young brood couch down behind the first tuft or hillock, and the parent birds fly away in different directions, they soon drop, and afford a pleasing spectacle during the exertion of their wonderful instinctive powers, in endeavouring by various artifices to divert the intruder from their nest, much in the same way as already described in the partridge; when the alarm has subsided, they return to their offspring, to renew the tender offices of parental care: the young keep together till after the first moulting.

Their natural haunts being the shores of the ocean, they are very restless in confinement; when domesticated they possess so much of their original shyness, that the common mode of detaining them, is by injuring one of their wings; they feed principally on the small fry of fish, not sufficiently bold to leave the shore, also on the smaller kinds of shell fish, and sea-weed,





*Anas . Acuta, ?*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walsworth, L, May 1811.*



# ANAS ACUTA.

## PINTAIL DUCK.

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GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Anas Cygnus*, (ferus.)

### SYNONYMS.

ANAS ACUTA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 202. 28.

PINTAIL. *Br. Zool.* 2. 228. *Ib. fol.* 156. *tab.* 2. *fig.* 8.  
*Latb. Syn.* 6. p. 526. 72. *Mont. Orn. DiEt.*  
*Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p. 324.*

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THIS elegant species weighs about two pounds, it varies in length from twenty-four to thirty-two inches, and in breadth from thirty-four to forty inches; bill slender, about two inches and a half long, the nail small; eyes red; neck long and remarkably slender; tail consists of sixteen feathers, the two centre ones extending from three to five inches beyond the others; feet small; hind toes placed on the inside of the legs; claws small; webs very thin, the edges are finely serrated. The male is furnished with a labyrinth.

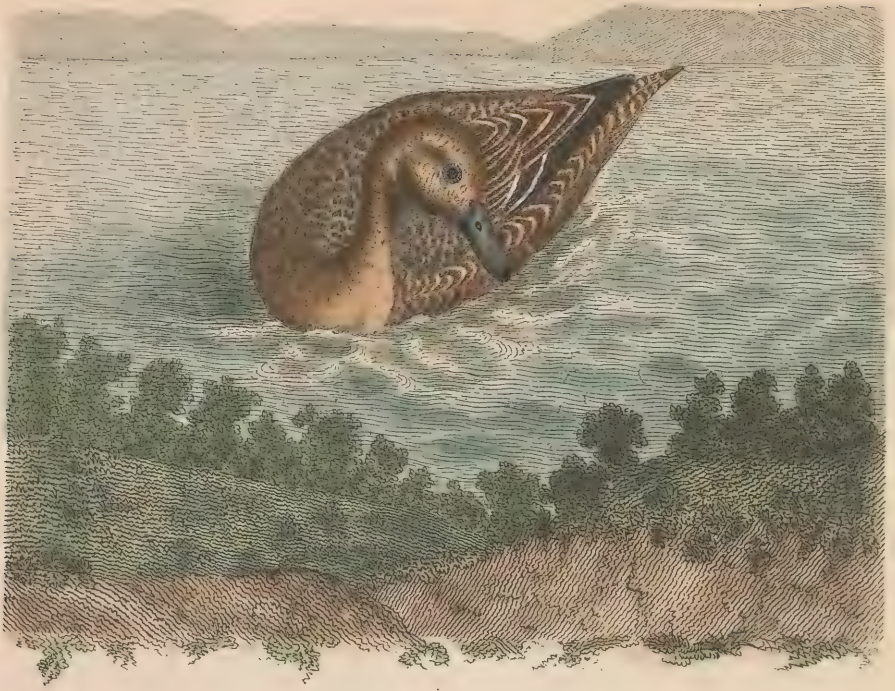
These birds do not breed with us, but quit our shores early in the spring, and retire northward; they are found in immense numbers in Hudson's Bay, Iceland, and on the coasts of Russia and Siberia, during the summer season; and they re-appear in this country with the mallard, about the end of  
September

September or beginning of October ; they are very frequently taken in the decoys with other species ; their flesh is of a very fine flavour, and is esteemed by many superior to that of the wild duck.

The Pintails or Sea Pheasants are not so shy as most others of the genus, they will suffer any one to approach them without quitting the neighbourhood ; but when once alarmed, they dive, and will often forsake that part of the coast for the sea ; on land, their motions are more elegant than those of any other species of duck, and when walking they do not waddle as is usual with most other species ; they usually appear in this country in small flocks, perhaps consisting of the parent birds and brood.

In some specimens the whole of the under side is of a cream colour or pale buff, and we have one now before us that has four long feathers in the tail.





*Anas Acuta (femina.)*

*Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, 1. July, 1811.*

## ANAS ACUTA (FŒMINA.)

### FEMALE PINTAIL.

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AS the female of this species differs much in colour and size from the male, we give the accompanying figure. It is not more than half the length of the male, and it weighs about twenty-four ounces; its form is like, but its neck is considerably shorter than, that of the male; and it has not the two centre feathers in the tail so much longer than the others.

Repeated attempts have been made to domesticate this species but without success; we have not heard of any instance of their breeding in confinement.

Both our figures were taken from a painting, executed for the late WILLIAM CURTIS, and now in possession of ARTHUR HARRISON, Esq. of Parliament-Street, to whom we are indebted for this, and many other obliging communications.



1870

Received of the  
Hon. Secy of the  
Interior  
for the  
Annual Report

of the  
Bureau of  
Geology

LATIN INDEX  
to the First Volume.

Falco buteo.  
 — milvus.  
 — peregrinus.  
 — Æfalon.  
 Strix flammea.  
 Parus major.  
 — cœruleus.  
 Corvus Cornix.  
 — glandarius.  
 — pica.  
 Picus viridis.  
 Certhia familiaris.  
 Upupa Epops.  
 Alcedo Ispida.  
 Turdus viscivorus.  
 Ampelis garrulus.  
 Loxia curvirostra  
 — Pyrrhula.  
 Emberiza citrinella.  
 Fringilla carduelis.  
 — linaria.  
 Alauda arvensis.  
 Motacilla vulgaris.  
 — rubicula.  
 — regulus.  
 — troglodytes.  
 Hirundo rustica.  
 Phasianus colchicus.  
 Tetrao Perdix.  
 Ardea major.  
 — stellaris  
 — Garzetta.  
 Scolopax arquata.  
 — rusticola.  
 Tringa Vanellus.  
 Hæmatopus ostralegus.  
 Rallus aquaticus.  
 Fulica atra.  
 Colymbus minor.  
 — Troile.  
 Recurvirostra Avocetta.  
 Alca arctica.  
 Larus canus.  
 Anas nigra.  
 — Boschas.  
 — Tadorna.  
 — acuta.  
 — fœmina.

ENGLISH INDEX  
to the First Volume.

Avocet.  
 Bittern.  
 Bulfinch.  
 Bunting, yellow.  
 Buzzard, common.  
 Chatterer, Bohemian, or Waxen.  
 Creeper, common.  
 Coot, ———  
 Cross-bill.  
 Crow, hooded.  
 Curlew, common  
 Duck, Pintail.  
 ——— female.  
 ——— Wild.  
 Egret.  
 Falcon, peregrine.  
 Goldfinch.  
 Grebe, little.  
 Guillemot, foolish.  
 Gull, common.  
 Heron, ———  
 Hoopoe.  
 Jay.  
 Kingfisher, common.  
 Kite.  
 Lapwing.  
 Lark, Sky.  
 Magpie.  
 Merlin.  
 Owl, white or barn.  
 Oyster-Catcher, Pied.  
 Partridge, common.  
 Pheasant, ring.  
 Puffin.  
 Rail, water.  
 Redbreast.  
 Redpole, lesser.  
 Scoter.  
 Shieldrake.  
 Swallow, chimney.  
 Titmouse, great.  
 ——— blue.  
 Thrush, missel.  
 Wagtail, common.  
 Wren, ———  
 ——— golden-crested.  
 Woodcock.  
 Woodpecker, green.

\* \* The Latin Index will serve as a guide to the binder in making up the volume, and prevent any mistake in placing the plates; but complete Indexes will not appear till the Work is finished.



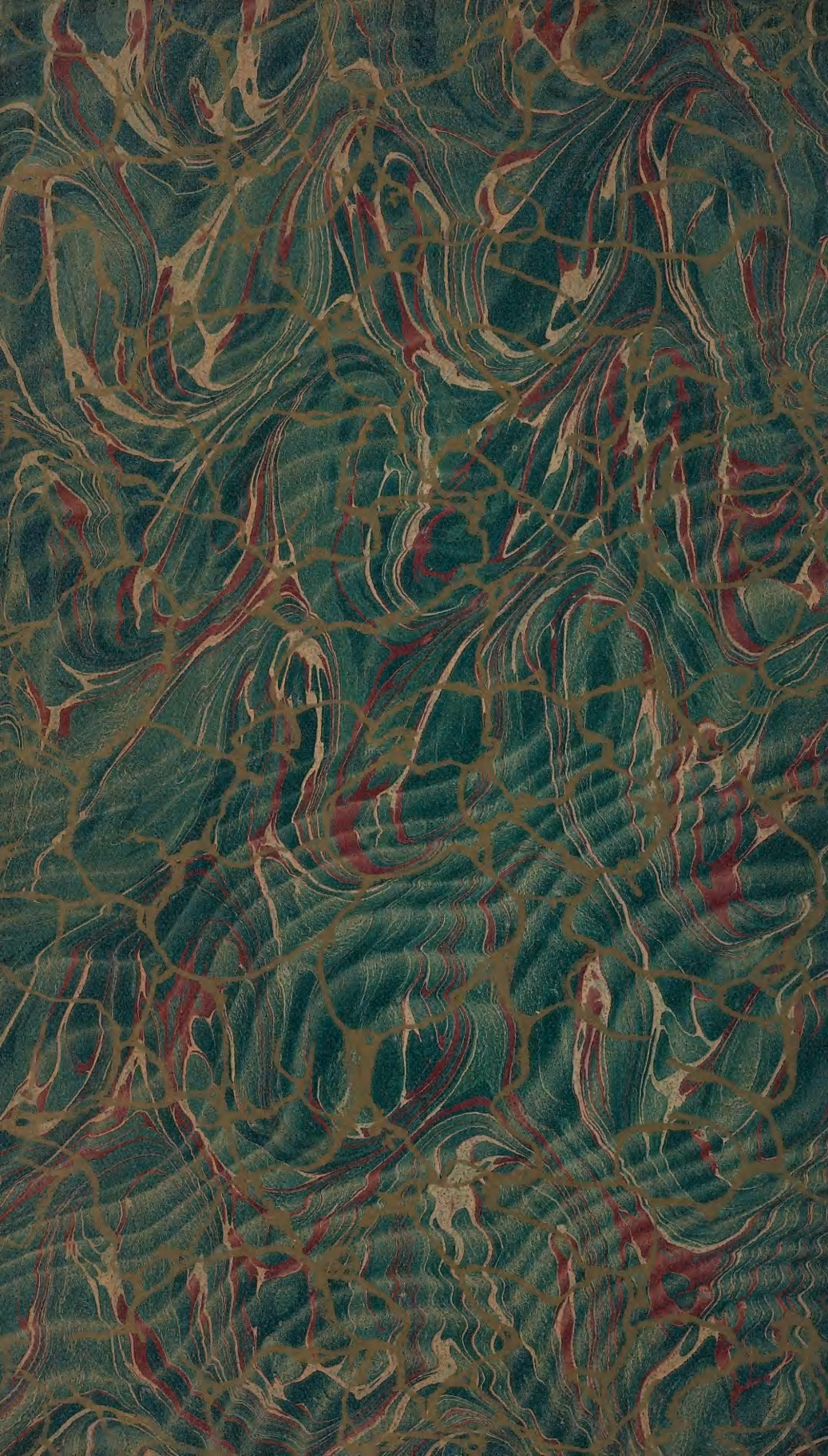




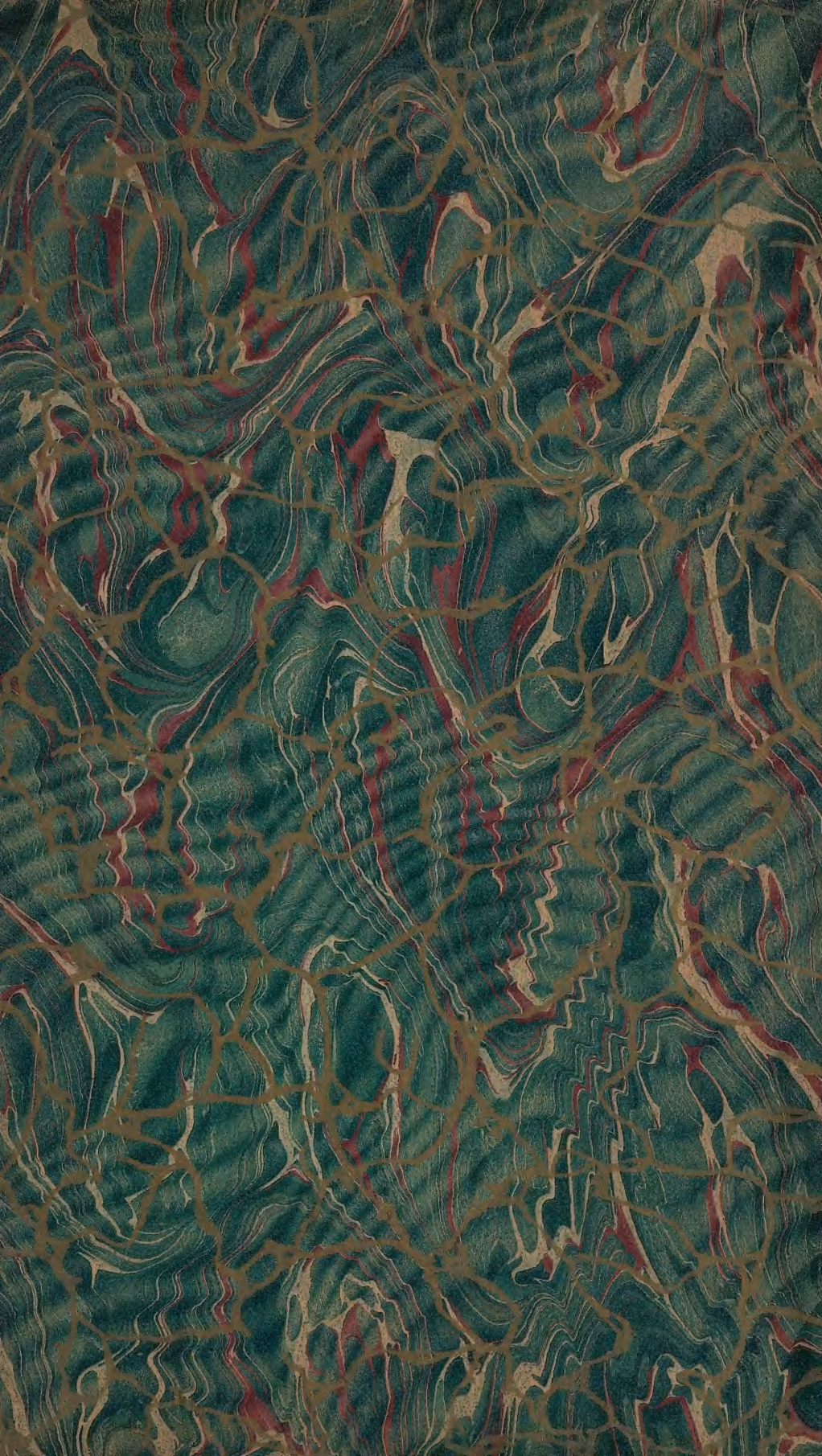


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