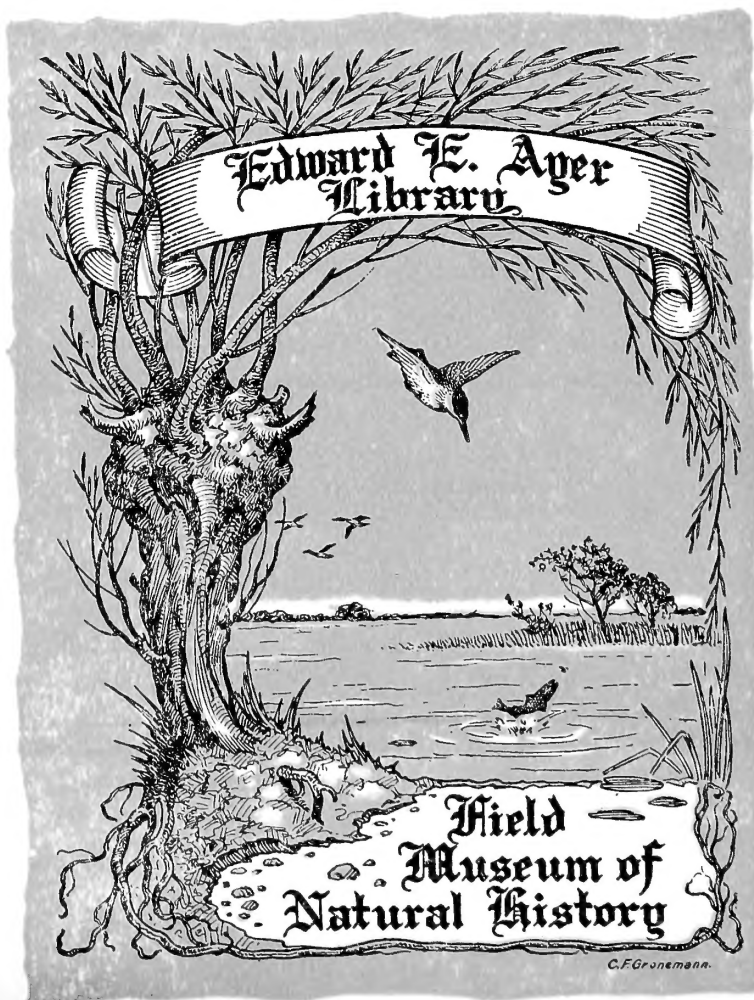




B. 3.



SAMUEL GARDNER.



C.F. Gronemann.



W. H. Mullens.





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BRITISH ORNITHOLOGY:

BEING

The History,

WITH A COLOURED REPRESENTATION,

OF

EVERY KNOWN SPECIES

OF

BRITISH BIRDS.

By GEORGE GRAVES,

FELLOW OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY;

Author of the Naturalist's Pocket Book, Ovarium Britannicum, Editor of the
New Edition of Curtis's Flora Londinensis, &c.

SECOND EDITION.

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LATIN INDEX

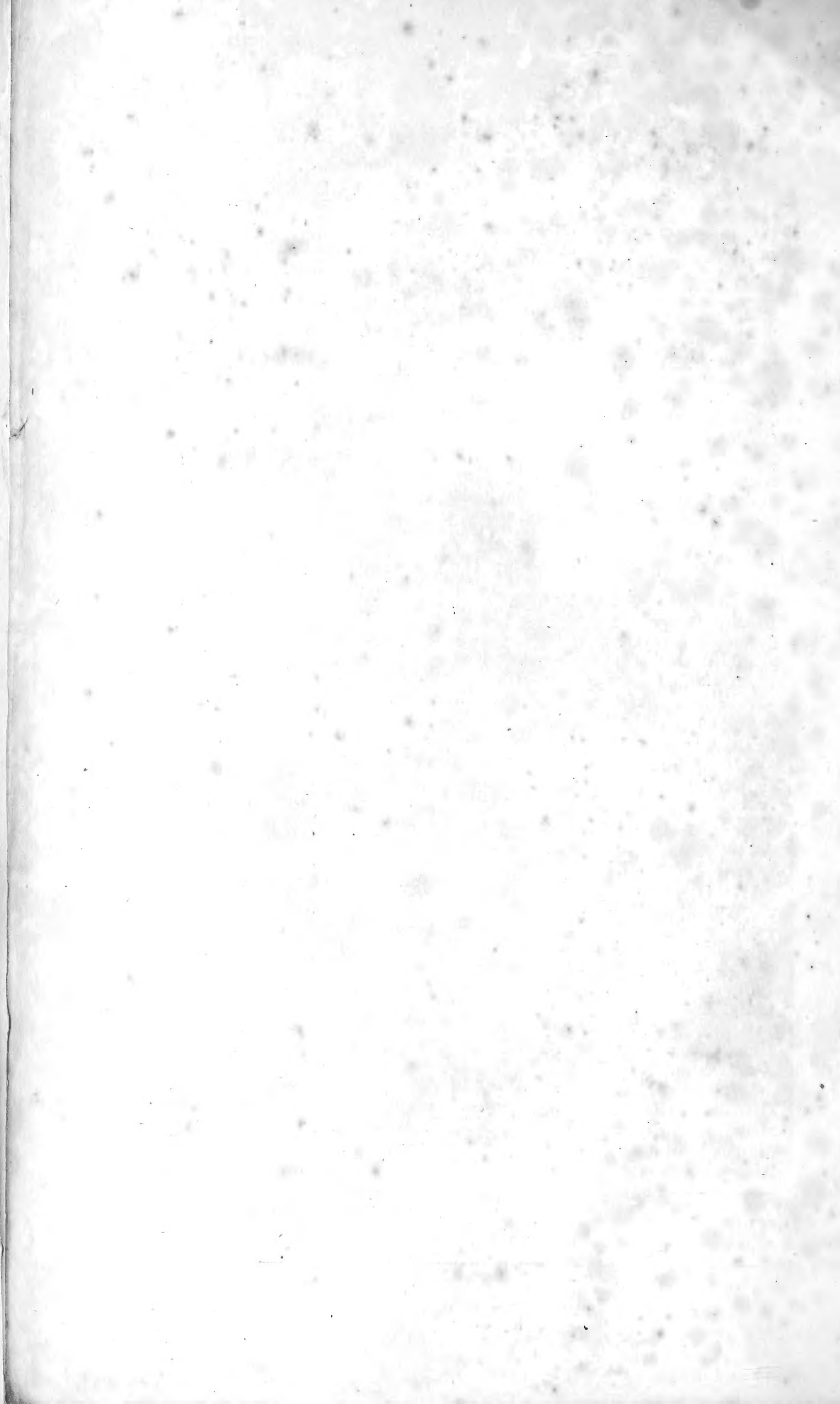
TO THE
SECOND VOLUME.

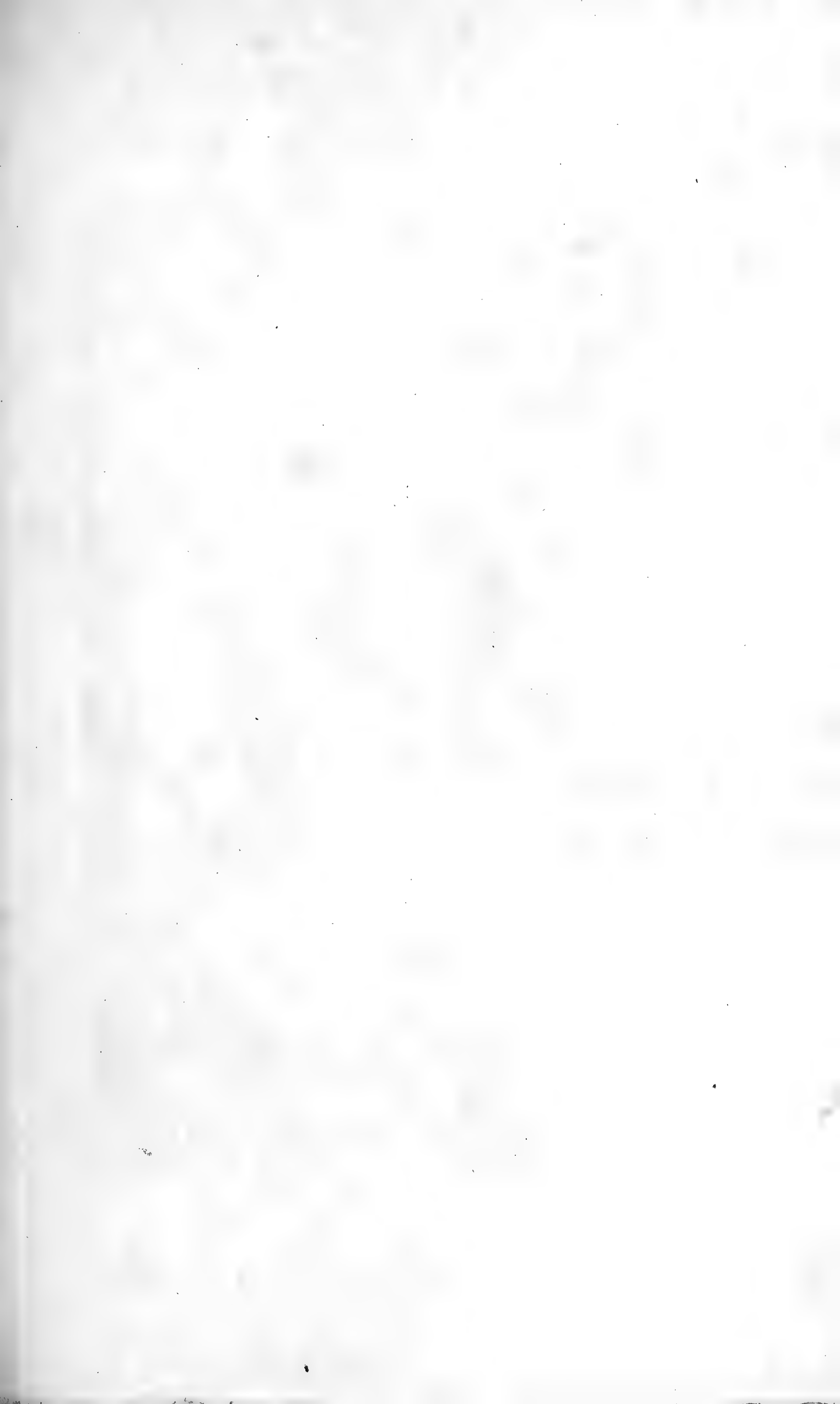
Falco peregrinus.
 — tinnunculus.
 — — — — — fœmina.
 — — — — — Æsalon.
 — — — — — cineraceus.
 Strix flammea.
 Corvus glandarius.
 — — — — — pica.
 Picus viridis.
 — — — — — major.
 Certhia familiaris.
 Upupa Epops.
 Alcedo Ispida.
 Sturnus vulgaris.
 Turdus visciyorus.
 — — — — — iliacus.
 Ampelis garrulus.
 Loxia Pyrrhula.
 Emberiza citrinella.
 Fringilla linaria.
 Sylvia Phœnicurus.
 — — — — — regulus.
 — — — — — troglodytes.
 Hirundo rustica.
 Phasianus colchicus. (var. β)
 Perdix cineria.
 — — — — — Cortunix.
 Totrao Tatrix.
 — — — — — Scoticus.
 — — — — — Lagopus.
 Ardea major.
 — — — — — Garzetta.
 Scolopax Galinago.
 — — — — — Gallinula.
 — — — — — calidris.
 Charadrius pluvialis.
 — — — — — himantopus.
 Gallinula chloropus.
 Rallus aquaticus.
 Fulica atra.
 Uria Troile.
 Alca arctica.
 — — — — — alle.
 Glareola Pratincola.
 Sterna Hirundo.
 Mergus Merganser
 Anas acuta.
 — — — — — fœmina.

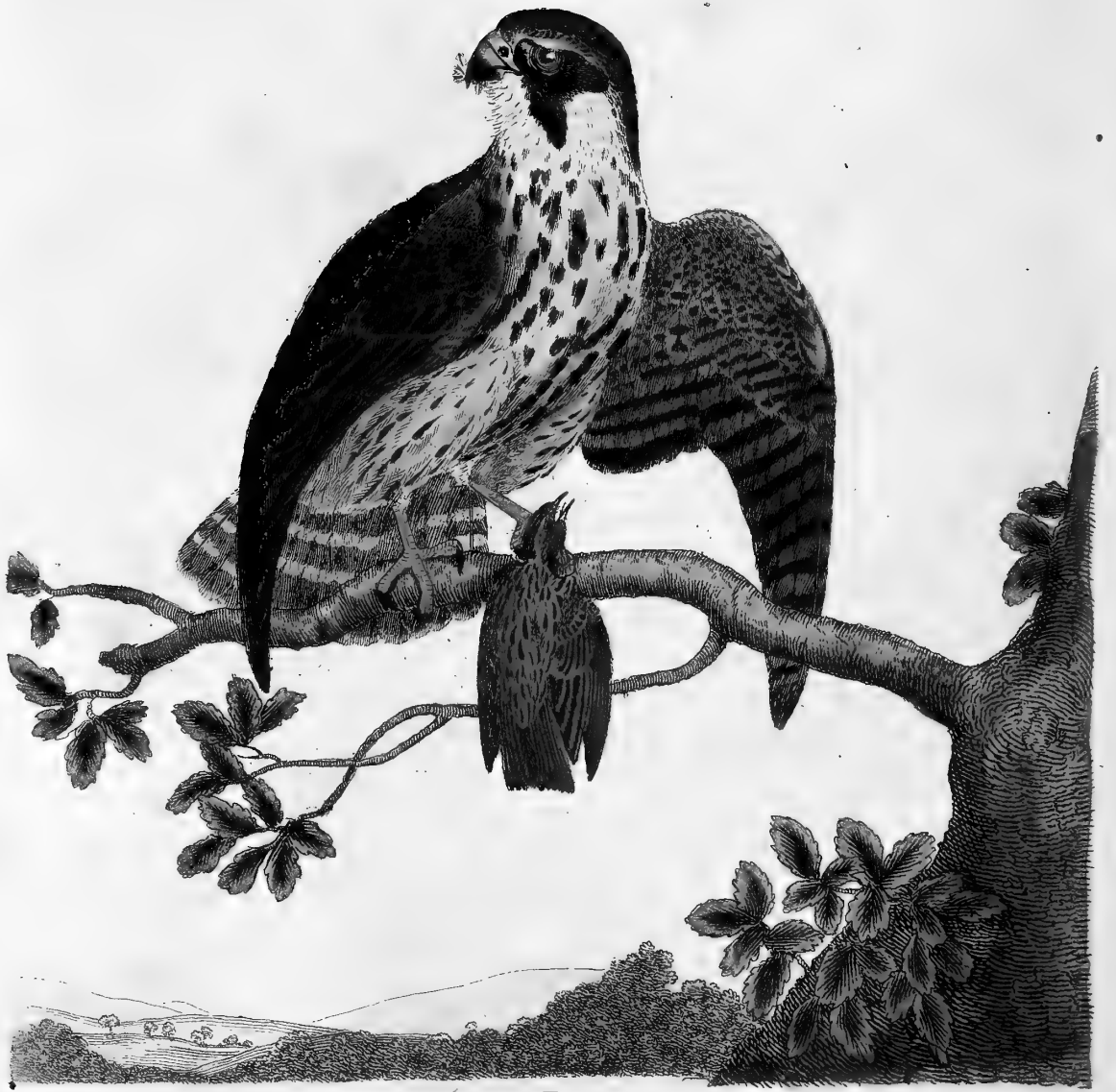
ENGLISH INDEX

TO THE
SECOND VOLUME.

Awk, little.
 Bullfinch.
 Bunting, yellow.
 Chatterer, Bohemian or Waxen.
 Creeper, common.
 Coot, common.
 Duck, pintail.
 — — — — — female.
 Egret.
 Falcon, ash coloured.
 — — — — — peregrine.
 Gallinule, common, or Water-hen.
 Goosander.
 Grouse, black.
 — — — — — red.
 Guillemot, foolish.
 Heron.
 Hoopoe.
 Jay.
 Kestrel.
 — — — — — female.
 Kingfisher, common.
 Linnet, black chinned or lesser
 Red pole.
 Magpie.
 Merlin.
 Owl, white or barn.
 Partridge.
 Pheasant, ring-necked.
 Plover, golden.
 — — — — — long legged.
 Pratincole, Austrian.
 Ptarmigan.
 Puffin.
 Quail.
 Rail, water.
 Redshanks.
 Redstart.
 Redwing.
 Snipe.
 — — — — — Jack.
 Starling or Stare.
 Swallow.
 Tern, common.
 Thrush, Misseltoe.
 Wren, common.
 — — — — — golden crested.
 Woodpecker, green.
 — — — — — greater spotted.







Falco Peregrinus.

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

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. *Lath. 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 Castor, 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.





Falio tinnunculus.

Fig. 7. G. Graves. Valparaiso. Jan. 1853.

FALCO TINNUNCULUS.

KESTREL.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Falco chryseatos*.

SYNONYMS.

FALCO TINNUNCULUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 127. 16. *Ind. Orn.* 1. p. 41. 98.

KESTREL. *Br. Zool.* 1. 60. *Ib. fol.* p. 68. *tab. A. Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 226. *N. Lath Syn.* 1. p. 94. 79. *Ib. supt.* p. 25. *Mont. Orn. Diēt. Vol. 1. Albin's Birds,* 3. *tab. 5 and 7. Bewick's Br. Birds,* *Pt. 1. p. 75. Mas. p. 77. Fem.*

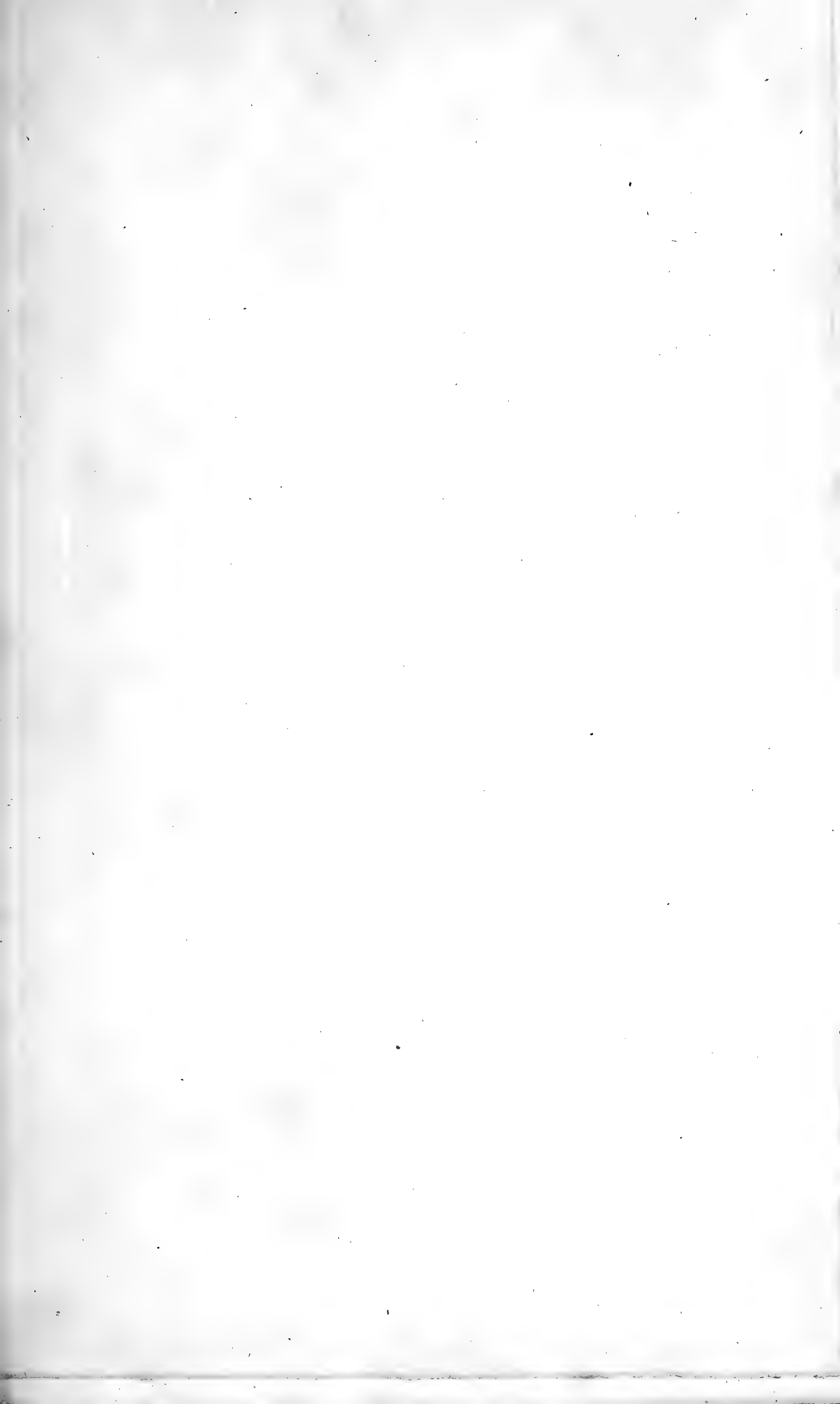
THIS species weighs about ten ounces, is thirteen inches in length, and twenty-eight in breadth. Bill short, sharp and deeply notched; cere yellow; irides dark hazel; legs strong; claws very long and sharp.

The KESTREL is the most common of the British Hawks; its principal food is mice, in quest of which it may frequently be seen hovering in the air, and often is quite stationary for a considerable time. When pressed by hunger it is remarkably audacious, often pouncing at the birds used as decoys by bird-catchers; and we remember to have seen one strike at a blackbird confined in a cage, and suspended against the
front

front of a house, in one of the most public streets in London. On the first of February 1812, while passing along Piccadilly, we perceived a Kestrel directing its course from behind St. James's church; whilst we were observing it, a flight of pigeons from a neighbouring house attracted its notice, he immediately wheeled round and made a stoop at one, which dexterously eluded his grasp; not deterred by this failure, he made a second pounce, in which he was more successful, and having trussed a bird, he took it still struggling to a projection from the church, where he leisurely devoured it, notwithstanding it was shot at, and attempted to be roused by the shouts of numerous passengers, who were spectators of this unusual circumstance, in one of the greatest thoroughfares in the metropolis.

A male which we kept alive for a considerable time, was fed principally on birds and mice, it would also devour most other kinds of small animals; when it had more than sufficient for a meal, it used to hide the remains, and frequently kept them till quite putrid, in which state they were preferred to fresh food.

The young males resemble the female till after the second moult. Its provincial names are Stannel, or Stannel-Hawk, Steingal, Stonegall, Kastril or Kistril, Windhover, and Windfanner.





Falco trinnunculus (femina?)

Published March 1836 by G. Graves, Watworth.

FALCO TINNUNCULUS (FÆMINA.)

FEMALE KESTREL.

IN 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.







Falco Esalon.

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

FALCO ÆSALON.

MERLIN.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Falco Chryfætos*.

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. Diæt. 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 cineraceus.

Emb. by C. Groves Wadsworth June 2. 1852.

FALCO CINERACEUS.

ASH-COLOURED FALCON.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Falco Chryseatos*,

SYNONYMS.

FALCO CINERACEUS. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol. 1.*

ASH-COLOURED FALCON. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol. 1.*

FALCO HYEMALIS. *Ind. Orn. 1. p. 35. 78. ?*

NORTHERN FALCON. *Latb. Syn. 1. p. 79. 62. ?*

WINTER FALCON. *Arch. Zool. 2. p. 209. ?*

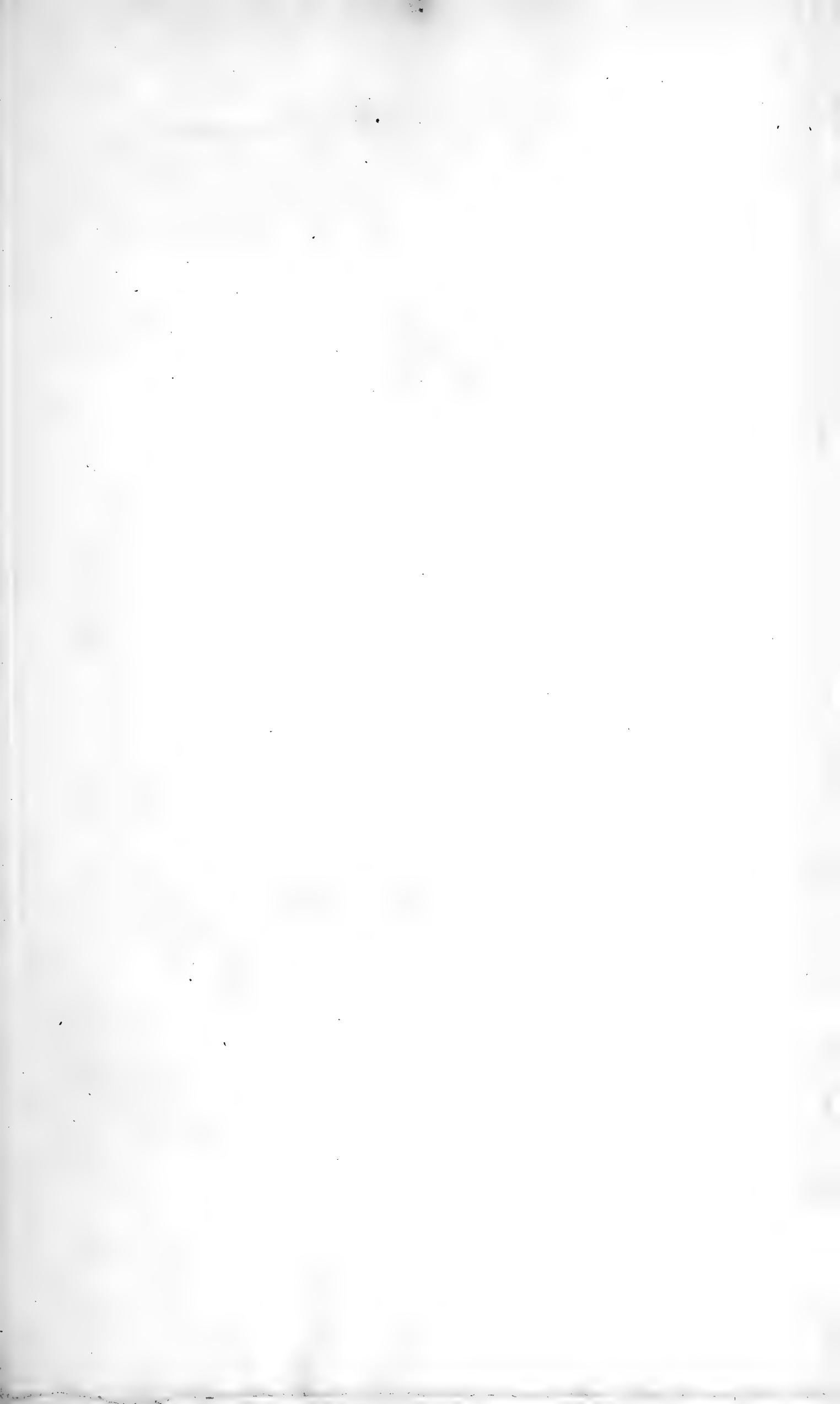
MR. MONTAGUE, in the Ornithological Dictionary, has made a distinct species of this bird, under the name we have affixed to it; we have adopted the same synonyms, though we have our doubts whether the present is the bird referred to in the above author's.

The length of this species is about sixteen inches and a half, breadth twenty-eight, and it weighs about ten ounces and a half. Bill small, notched; cere and bill covered with scurf; irides yellow, legs long and slender, claws short and not much hooked, tail long. Colours of the sexes alike, except the female being duller, and having the breast much more inclined to dusky than the male; the female exceeds in size, being eighteen inches long and thirty in breadth, and weighs near twelve ounces.

A pair

A pair of these birds were killed in Battersea-Fields about the middle of last May (1812) from which our description was taken; the person who shot them was not able to find their nest, though, from their manner, there seemed no doubt of its being near the spot.

In the London Museum, Piccadilly, a fine specimen is preserved in the Hawk-Case, No. 4.





Strix flammea.

Engr. by E. Graves, Wadsworth, Nov. 2, 1822.

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. fupt.* 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 sallie 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 grafs 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.

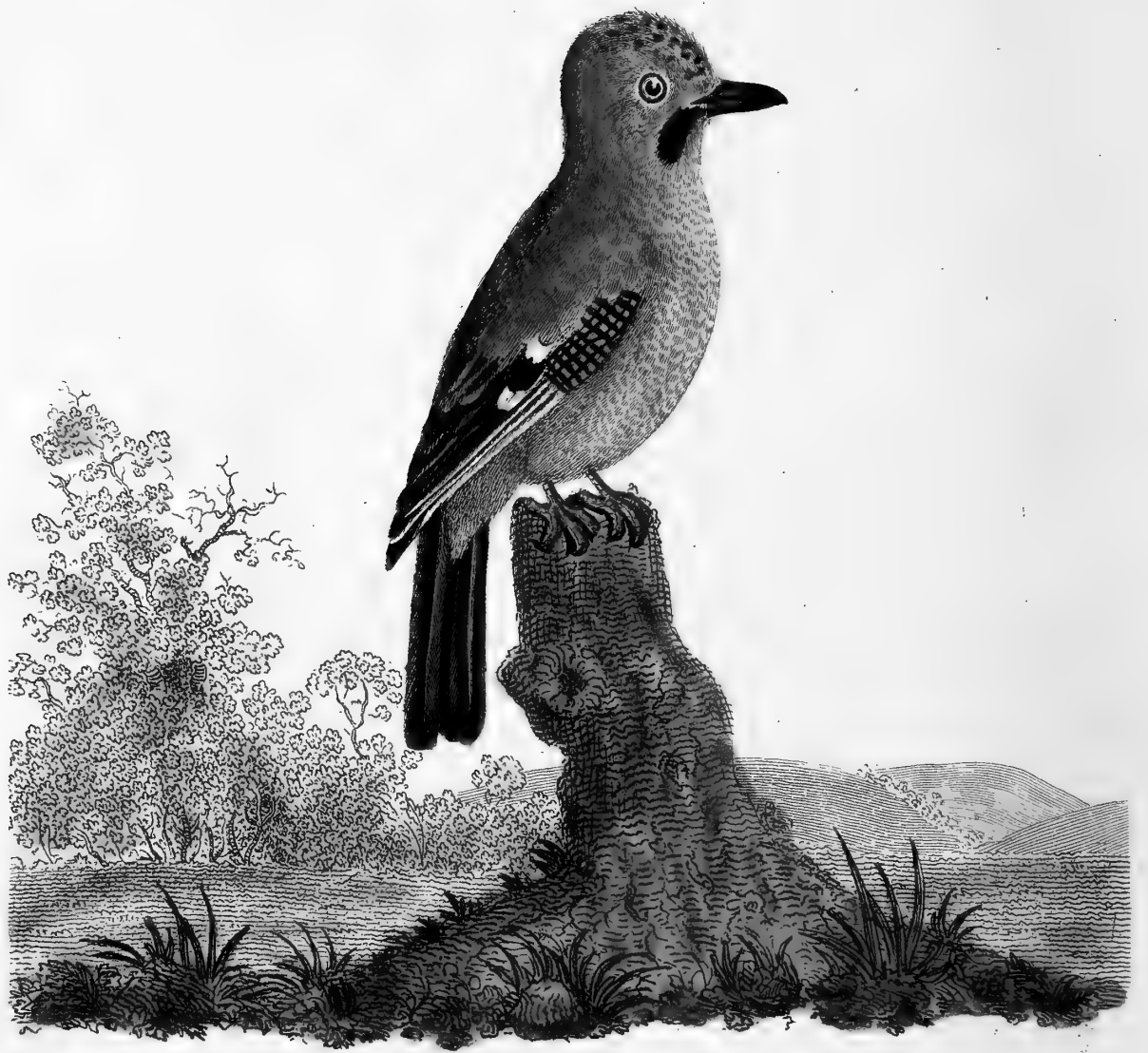
“ But a piece of address, which they shew when they return loaded, should not I think be passed over in silence. As they take their prey with their claws, so they carry it in their claws to the nest ; but as the feet are necessary in their ascent under the tiles, they constantly perch first on the roof 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.



Corvus Glandarius.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth 2^d Aug 1811.

CORVUS GLANDARIUS.

Ʒ A Y.

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.* *Lath. Syn.* 1.
p. 384. 19. *Ib. Supt.* p. 79. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*
Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds,* Pt. 1. p. 112.

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

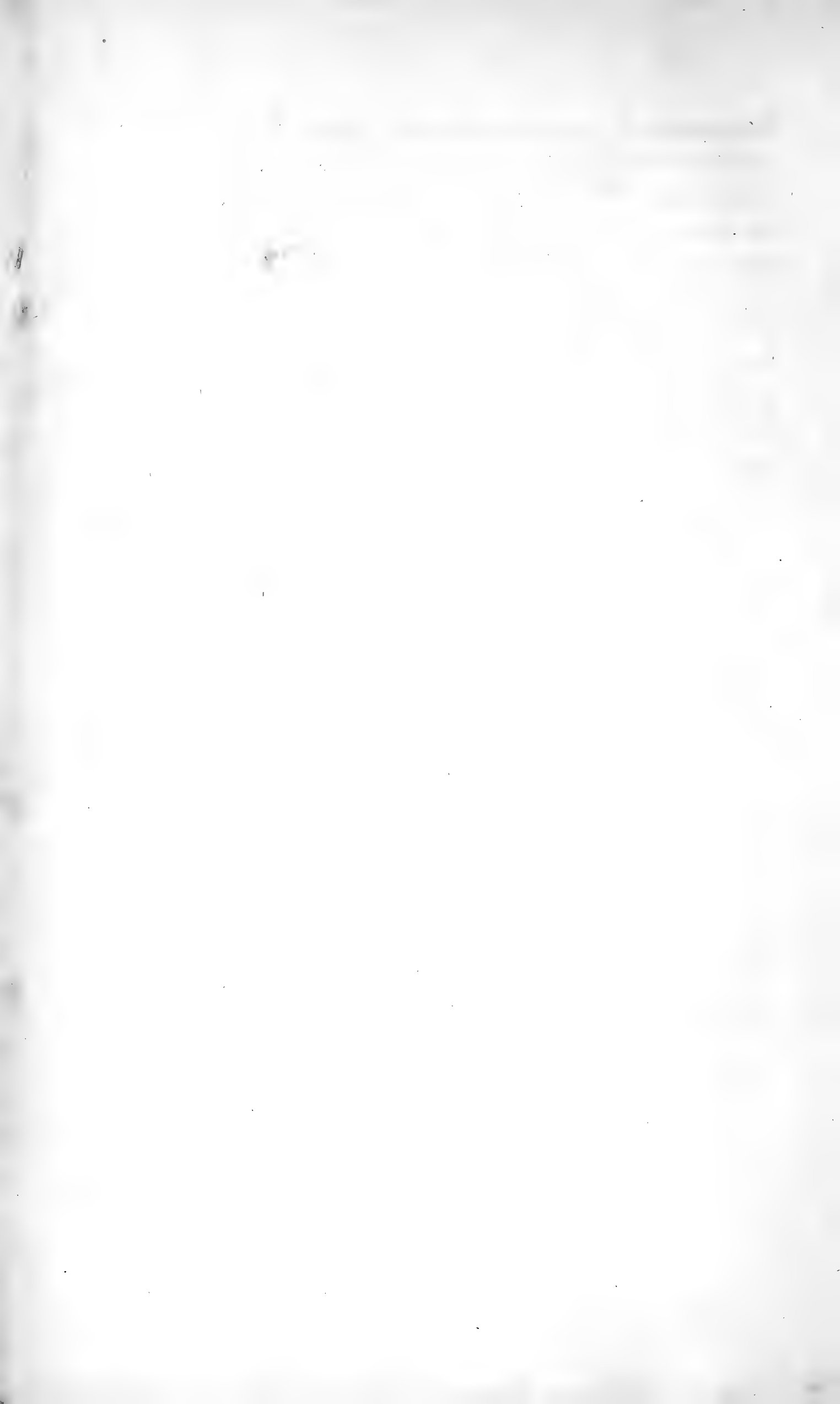
a pale brownish tint, faintly marked with obscure blotches of a more dusky brown ; the young keep together in the vicinity of the nest till the ensuing spring, when they separate in pairs, and quit their former haunts for some more retired spot.

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.





Pica pica.

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

CORVUS PICA.

MAGPIE.

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.

THIS 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 plaistered 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 G. Graves, Walsworth, L. March, 1811

PICUS VIRIDIS.

GREEN WOOD-PECKER.

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. Crn. Diet. Bewick's Br.
Birds, Pt. 1. p. 140.

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 unfound 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.





Picus major?

Int. 2. 3. nov. 1764. d. 1. 1. 1.

PICUS MAJOR.

GREATER-SPOTTED WOOD-PECKER.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Picus martius*.

SYNONYMS.

PICUS MAJOR. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 176. 17. *Ind. Orn.* 1.
p. 228. 13.

GREATER-SPOTTED WOOD-PECKER. *Br. Zool.* 1. 85.
Ib. fol. p. 79. *tab. E. Arct. Zool.* 2.
162. *Lath. Syn.* 2. p. 564. 12. *Ib.*
supt. p. 107. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.*
2. *Berwick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1.* p. 142.
Albin's Birds, 1. tab. 19.

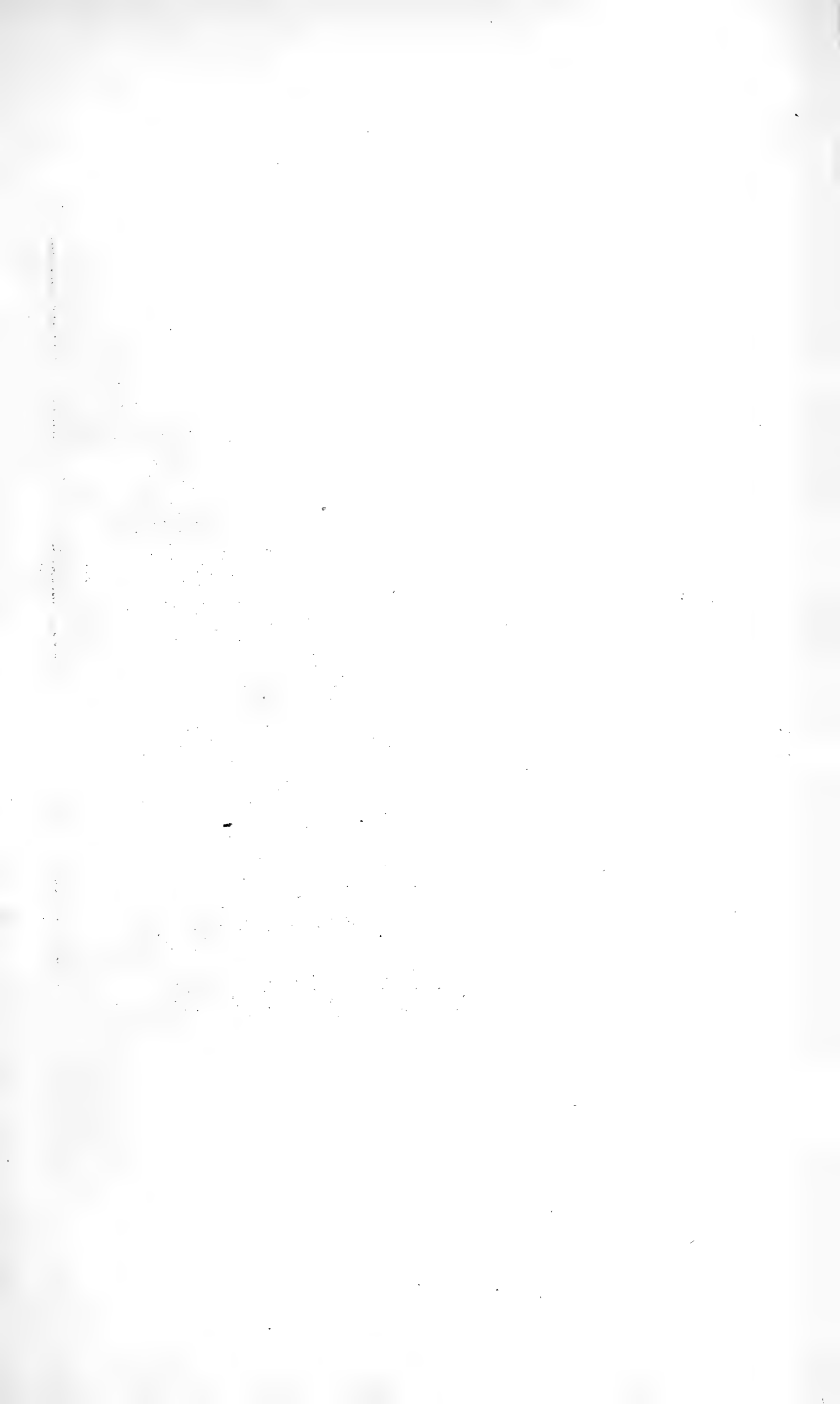
THIS species weighs nearly three ounces; length nine, breadth fifteen inches. Bill very strong, one inch and a quarter long; irides reddish; legs and claws strong. Colours of the sexes alike except on the head, the upper part of which in the female is black.

The present is not so plentiful as the green wood-pecker, though more abundant than either of the other species; it chiefly resorts to such thickets as abound in the softer kinds of wood, which it easily penetrates; in making choice of a situation to deposit its eggs, it generally selects a tree that is unsound at heart, which it readily discovers by the sound, this it perforates

forates with its bill till it arrives at the decayed part, when it works downwards to the depth of eighteen inches or even two feet ; the eggs are deposited at the bottom of the hole without any kind of nest, their number is generally five or six, of a pure glossy white.

In the breeding season this species will sometimes (though but rarely) visit ant-hills, but its principal food is caterpillars and other insects, with which it feeds its young, who before they are able to fly climb up the hole where they were hatched, and anxiously wait the return of the parent birds with food. Its note is particularly harsh and discordant ; in the spring it frequently utters a loud jarring noise, not unlike the cracking or splitting of timber.

The provincial names of this species are Spotted Gally-Bird, Pied Yaffler, Witwall, and most of the terms applied to the green wood-pecker are indiscriminately used to the present bird.





Certhia familiaris.

Pub. by G. Graves, New-York, J. Oct. 1847.

CERTHIA FAMILIARIS.

COMMON CREEPER.

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. *Latb. Syn.* 2. 701. *Ib. Supt.* p. 126. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds,* Pt. 1. p. 148.

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 grass 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 sitting 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.

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

UPUPA EPOPS.

HOOPOE.

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. Sys.* 1. p. 183. 1. *Ind. Orn.* 277.

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

p. 687. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1.*

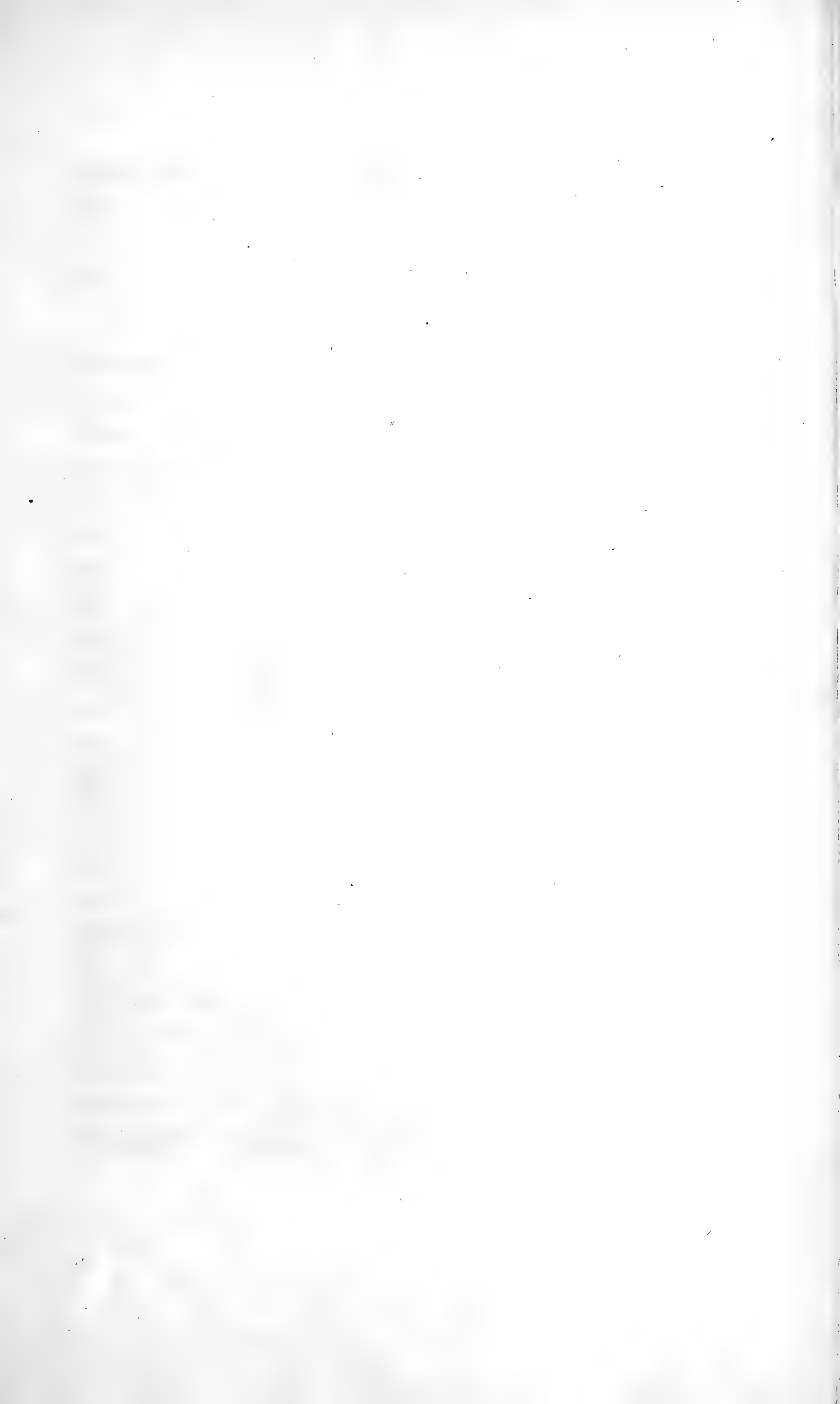
p. 146. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

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

depressed at pleasure ; 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.

Though the Hoopoe is not a common bird, (its visits to this country being irregular,) small flocks are seen annually in different parts of the kingdom. Within the last few years I have received it from Southampton, the Isle of Wight, Barnstaple, and Worthing ; in the spring 1812 one was shot at Highgate, in Middlesex. It is probable that the species more frequently resorts to this country than is generally supposed, and I have little doubt but that it breeds in various parts of the kingdom. That it is not very uncommon, may be inferred from a superstition that prevails among labouring persons in the country, that its death is the precursor of misfortune. I saw the remains of one nailed against a barn end, near Weathersfield, Essex, along with hawks, crows, and other depredators.

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 build 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 fœces of the young, and the remains of their food not being removed.





Alcedo ispida P.

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

ALCEDO ISPIDA.

COMMON KING-FISHER.

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 ferrated on the under side.

SYNONYMS.

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

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

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

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

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.





Sturnus vulgaris.

Pub. by E. Graves, Walworth April 1. 1847.

STURNUS VULGARIS.

STARLING.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight.

Tongue cleft.

Legs strong, covered with a few large scales.

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

SYNONYMS.

STURNUS VULGARIS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 290. 1. *Ind.*

Orn. 1. p. 321. 1.

STARLING. *Br. Zool.* 1. 104. *tab.* 46. *Ib. fol. tab.* P. 2.

fig. 1. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 331. *A. Lath.*

Syn. 3. p. 2. *Ib. Supt.* p. 137. *Mont.*

Orn. Dict. Vol. 2. *Bewick's British*

Birds, Pt. 1. p. 110.

THIS Bird is about nine inches in length and thirteen in breadth, and weighs nearly three ounces and a half; bill sharp, an inch and a quarter long; gape extending beyond the eye; irides light hazel; tail short, composed of twelve feathers; legs and claws strong. Colours alike in both sexes.

The STARLING is common in most parts of this country, it is gregarious, associating in immense numbers with rooks, crows, or pigeons; like them it resorts to new sown land, where it destroys large quantities of worms and grubs, feeds also on grain and most kinds of insects; whilst on the ground it frequently utters a shrill whistle; it does not hop, but runs on the ground in the manner of the Lark genus.

It

It builds a loose nest composed of dry grass, and lays five or six light blue eggs; the nest is usually placed under the roofs of extensive buildings, sometimes in holes in ruined walls, and less frequently in hollow trees. Its flight is regular, in the winter season it migrates from the more northern parts of Europe, but generally retires on the break-up of the frost; when in flock these birds fly in circles, still continuing to make progressive advancement.

Except in the breeding season, it usually roosts in marshes, before sitting down for the night, the whole body fly round the spot for a considerable time, and they all alight in an instant, after which for a short time they continue to make a chattering noise, which also ceases very suddenly, and no more is heard of them unless disturbed; to guard against surprise one is usually placed on an eminence to give alarm, which it does by a particular note, on hearing of which, the whole flock immediately take wing and but seldom return for some days to the place where they have been roused.

Provincial names, Stare, Chepster, and Chep-Starling.

Our figure was executed for the late WILLIAM CURTIS.



Turdus viscivorus.

Engr. by G. Graves, Walsworth Dec 1831.

TURDUS VISCIVOROUS.

MISSEL THRUSH.

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.

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-Throftle or Thrush, Throftle-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 feeds 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.







Turdus iliacus

Pub. by G. Graves, Waltham, Jan. 1853

TURDUS ILIACUS.

REDWING.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Turdus Viscivocus*.

SYNONYMS.

TURDUS ILIACUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 229. 3. *Ind. Orn.*

1. p. 329. 7.

REDWING. *Br. Zool.* 108. *Ib. fol.* 91. *tab. P. fig.* 2.

Art. Zool. 2. 342. *D. Lath. Syn.*

3. p. 22. 7. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.* 2.

Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 129.

Albin's Birds, 1. tab. 35.

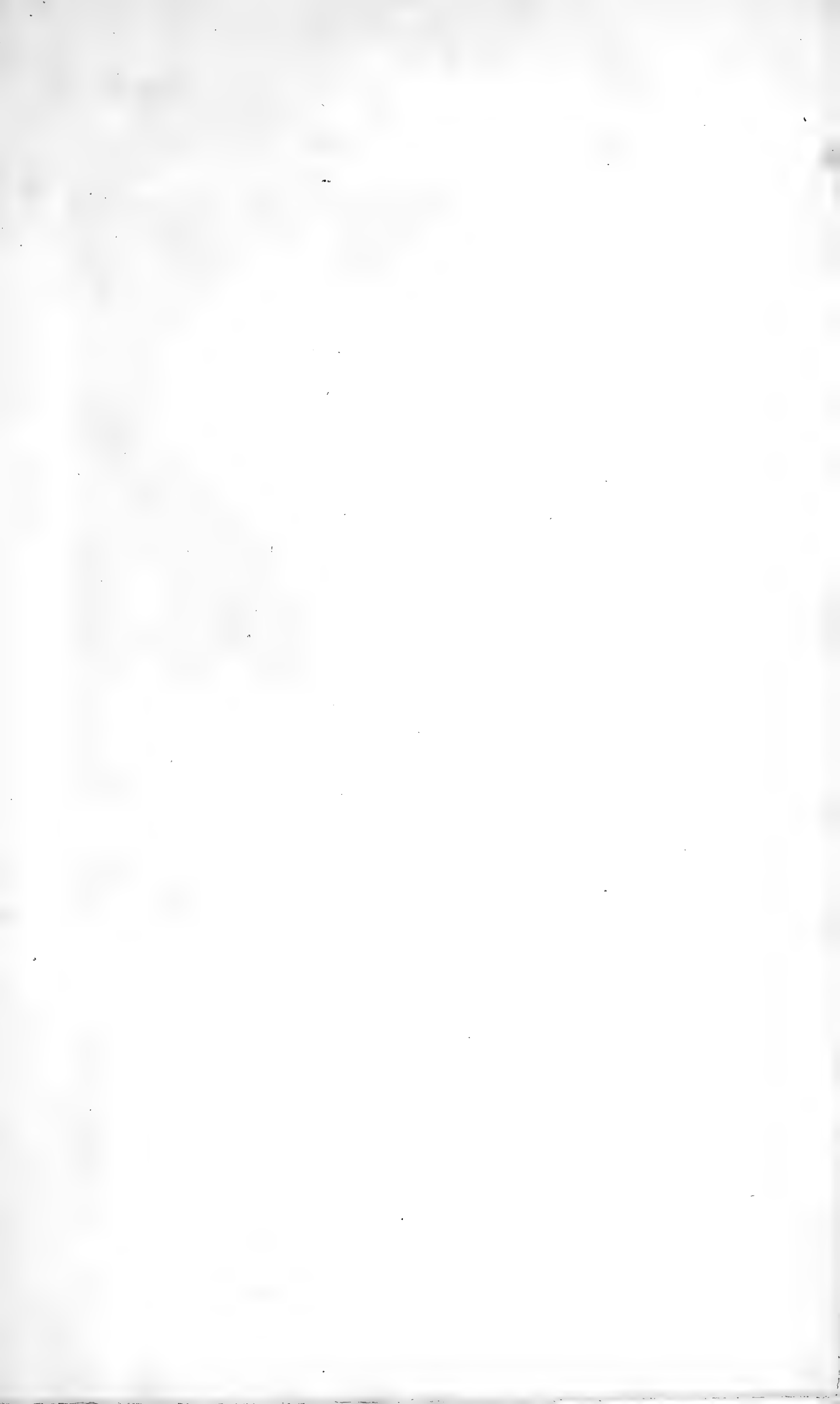
THE length of this species is about nine, and the breadth fourteen inches; it weighs nearly two ounces and a half. Bill slightly notched at the tip; inside of the mouth yellow; irides dark hazel; tail somewhat forked, with the shafts of the feathers projecting rather beyond the webs; legs and claws strong. The female corresponds in its markings, but the colours are duller than in the male.

The REDWING arrives in this country in large flocks, about the end of September or beginning of October, and quits it in March, some few remain through the year and breed here; we had a fine male bird sent us in the month of July in the present year; there were a pair which had built their nest in a low quickset hedge, but being disturbed, had forsaken it before
the

the female had began to lay; the female shortly afterwards forsook the place, but the male continued to resort to the same spot till it was killed; the nest was composed of dry grass, moss, and small sticks, lined with mud and a few feathers intermixed with hair; it was four inches and a half in diameter and three inches deep; its eggs are said to be of a blue green colour spotted with black.

The note of this bird is very similar to that of the Song Thrush, except being drawn out at the termination into a kind of whistle; in the winter during its flight it frequently utters a piping monotonous note. It feeds on the berries of privet, holly, and white-thorn; also, on snails, slugs, beetles, and other insects.

Its provincial names are Swinepipe, Wind-Thrush, Red-Thrush, or Thrortle.





Ampelis Garrulus.

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

AMPELIS GARRULUS.
BOHEMIAN CHATTERER.

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.

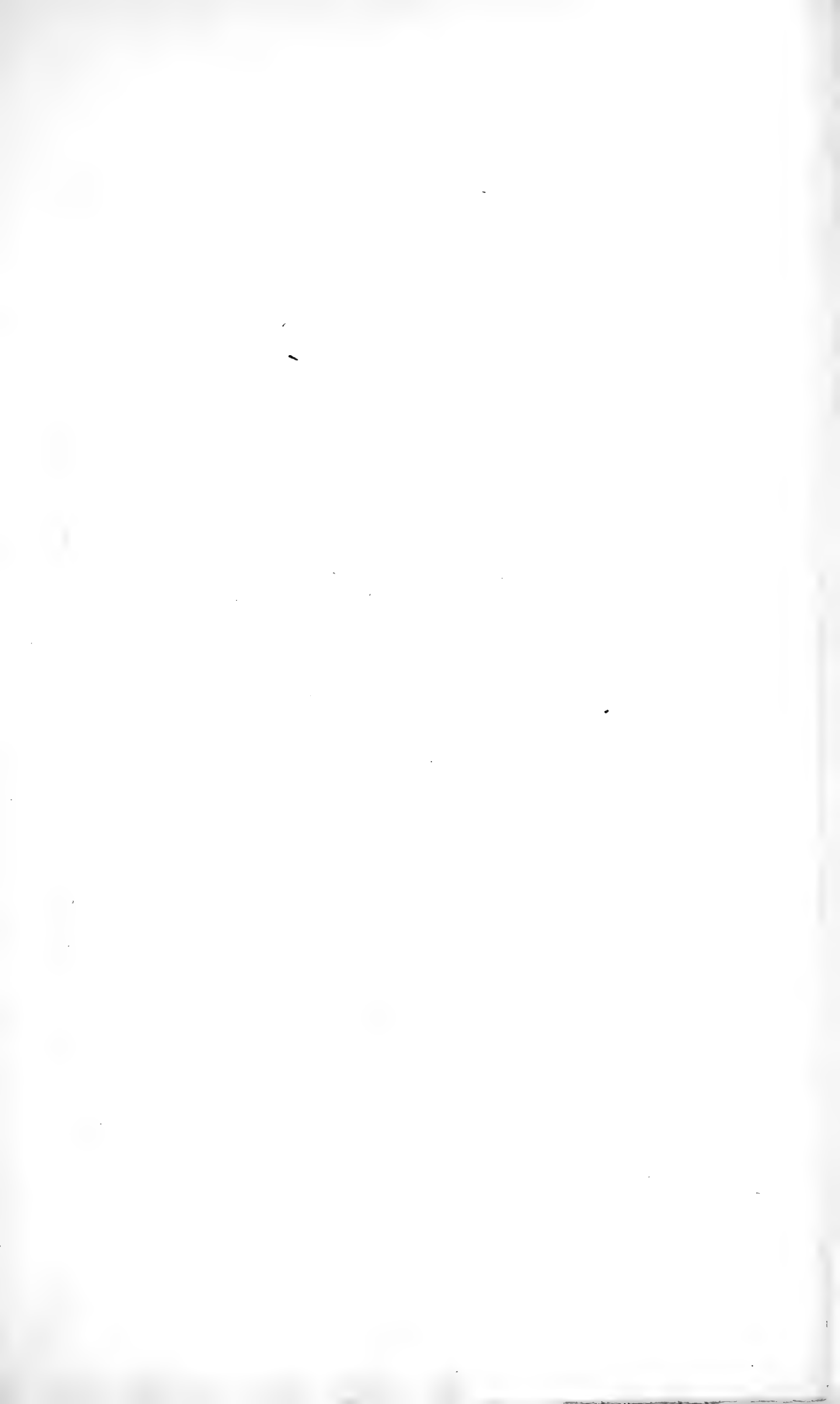
AMPELIS GARRULUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 297. 1.

WAXEN CHATTERER. *Br. Zool.* 1. 112. tab. 48. *Ib.*
fol. 7. tab. 1. *C. Arct. Zool.* 207.
Lath. Syn. 3. p. 91. 1. p. 93. 1.
A. Mont. Orn. Dict. *Bewick's*
Br. Birds. Pt. 1. p. 114.

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 Pyrrhula.

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

LOXIA PYRRHULA.

BULFINCH.

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.

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 ♂.

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

EMBERIZA CITRINELLA.

YELLOW BUNTING.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Emberiza miliaria*.

SYNONYMS.

EMBERIZA CITRINELLA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 309. 5.

YELLOW BUNTING. *Br. Zool.* 119. tav. 50. *Ib. fol.*
p. 112. *Lath. Syn.* 3. p. 170.
Mont. Orn. Dict. Bewick's Br.
Birds, Pt. 1. p. 164.

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 Linaria.

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

FRINGILLA LINARIA.

LESSER REDPOLE.

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.
Arch. Zool. 2. 262. *Lath. Syn.* 3. p.
305. 75. *Supt.* p. 167.

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

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 moss 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-seed."

The note of this bird in its wild state is simple, but when confined it is improved, and being kept with the common linnæus or goldfinch it will learn their notes; when in search of insects, the Redpoll 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.





Sylvia Phanicurus.

Tab. by G. Travers (North Dec. 1821)

SYLVIA PHOENICURUS,

REDSTART.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Sylvia luscinia*.

SYNONYMS.

SYLVIA PHOENICURUS. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 511. 15.

MOTACILLA PHOENICURUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 335. 34.

REDSTART. *Br. Zool.* 1. 146. *Ib. fol.* 99. *tab. S. fig.*
6. 7. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 416. *B.*
Lath. Syn. 4. p. 421. 11. *Mont.*
Orn. Dict. Vol. 2. Bewick's Br.
Birds, Pt. 1. p. 219.

EGG. *Ovarium Brit. Pt. 1.*

THE weight of this species rather exceeds half an ounce, it is six inches in length and eight and a half in breadth. Bill short; irides hazel; legs and claws slender. The female is light brown where the male is grey, and the other colours are considerably duller than in the male.

This is a migratory species, arriving in this country from the 11th of April till the 2nd of May, and quitting from the 20th of September to the 8th or 12th of October. On its appearing, it begins to sing; its note is pleasing though not of very long duration, and will frequently continue to sing
at

at intervals the night through, whilst the female is incubating; as soon as the young are excluded, it becomes silent, and is seldom heard to utter more than its call from the 9th of June till the beginning of July, at which period the young have left the nest, when it again resumes its song; but not so loud or frequently as before, and continues it till it quits this country; whilst singing, its tail is continually jerked up in a very singular manner.

The Redstart builds in holes in decayed trees and old walls, frequently placing the nest between the trunk of a tree and a plant of ivy or wood-bine that may be growing round it; this spring, we took the nest from out of a thick bush of woodbine, it contained five eggs; two weeks afterwards, the same pair of birds had formed a second nest in the same spot, which contained four eggs; these they have now reared. The nest is composed of moss, lined with hair and feathers; it lays five or six light-blue eggs; the young are at first speckled in the same manner as the young of the Redbreast; but this they lose at the first moult.

This species feeds on insects, worms, and soft berries, as currants, strawberries, raspberries, and the like.

Its provincial names are, Redtail, Firetail, Redrump, Brandtail, and Redtailed Flycatcher.





Sylvia regulus.

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

SYLVIA REGULUS.

GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Sylvia luscinia*.

SYNONYMS.

SYLVIA REGULUS. *Ind. Orn.* 548.

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.*

EGG. *Ovarium Brit. Pt. 1.*

THIS 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.

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

large tree, uttering its shrill chirp during a fall of snow : it remains with us all the year. Its note is melodious, and is shriller than that of the Common Wren.

The nest of this elegant bird is either placed in a tree covered with ivy, or under a thick branch of fir, and is a masterpiece of elegance, and is admirably adapted for the comfort of the young progeny ; it is composed of moss intermixed with wool, and thickly lined with feathers ; round the rim of the nest some longer feathers are interwoven, which project from all sides, so that when the bird is sitting on the nest it is completely hid by the projecting feathers. The eggs are from seven to ten in number, of a rosy white, slightly speckled with red at the larger end ; their weight nine or ten grains.





Sylvia troglodites.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, N. Dec^r 1821

SYLVIA TROGLODYTES.

COMMON WREN.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Sylvia luscinia*.

SYNONYMS.

SYLVIA TROGLODYTES. *Ind. Orn.* 547.

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

WREN. *Br. Zool.* 1. 154. *Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 506.

No. 143. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* *Bewick's Br.*

Birds, Fl. 1. p. 235

EGG. *Ovarium Brit.* Pt. 1.

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,

weather, and like the Golden-Crested Wren, is frequently to be heard 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. 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 Titmouse; 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 more defenceless part of his creatures.



HIRUNDO RUSTICA.

CHIMNEY SWALLOW.

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 OF COMMON SWALLOW. *Br. Zool.* 1. 168.
tab. 58. *lb. fol.* 96. *Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 561. *Ib.*
supt. p. 192. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Bewick's Br.*
Birds, Pt. 1. p. 256.

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.

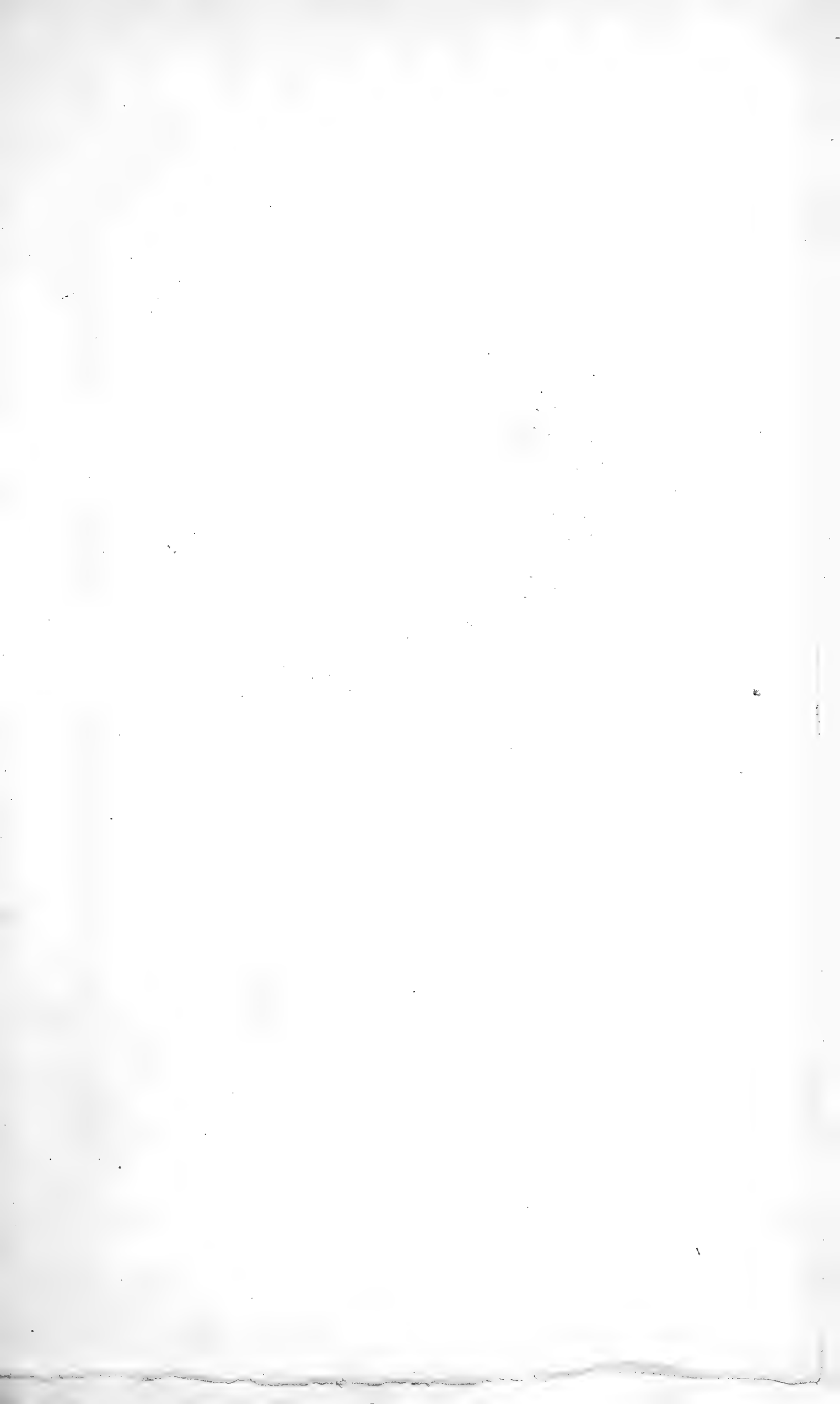
From accounts received from several intelligent navigators, these birds have frequently been known to alight on the rigging of their vessels, both about the vernal and autumnal equinoxes, particularly in different parts of the Mediterranean. We have been informed by a person, who annually visits the 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.

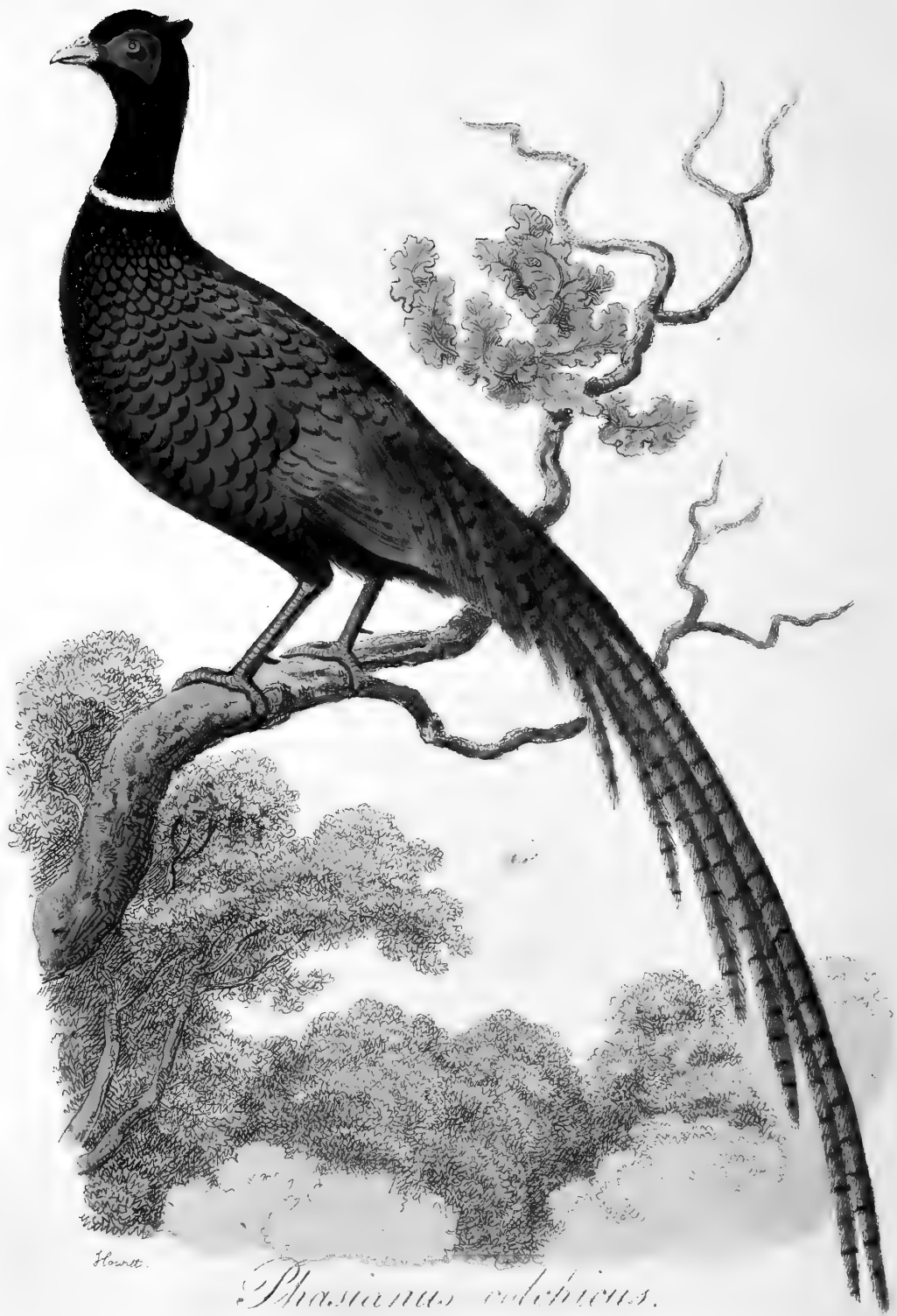
Swallows are frequently observed in warm weather, rolling themselves in the dust, but for what purpose is doubtful; they

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.





Howell.

Phasianus colchicus.

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

PHASIANUS COLCHICUS. (*var. β.*)

RING PHEASANT.

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.

THIS 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 indigenous, 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 midst 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, seeds, 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 1780, 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.





Perdix cinerea.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walsorth. 1. Dec. 1821.

PERDIX CINEREA.

COMMON PARTRIDGE.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill short, strong.

Nostrils covered with a bare prominent rim.

Eyes surrounded with warty protuberances.

Legs naked.

Tail short.

SYNONYMS.

PERDIX CINEREA. *Ind. Orn.* 645.

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

COMMON PARTRIDGE. *Br. Zool.* 1. 96. *Lath. Syn.*

4. p. 762. 8. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* *Bewick's*

Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 303.

EGG. *Ovarium Brit.* Pt. 1.

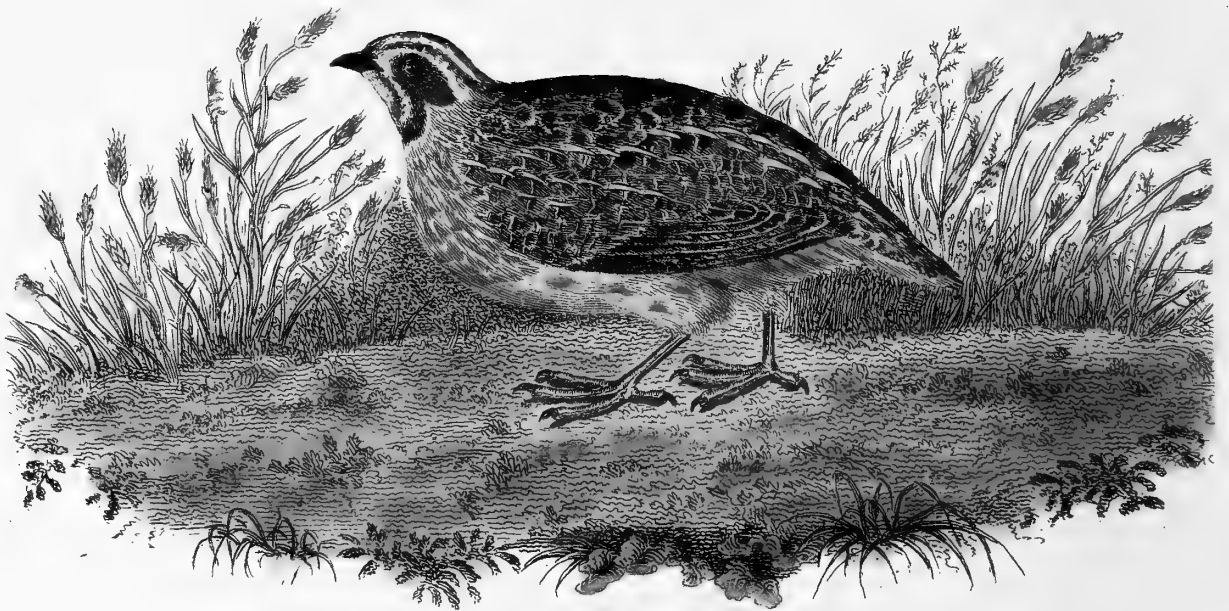
THIS species is in length thirteen inches, and weighs about fifteen ounces; bill hard; the nostrils covered over by a prominent edge, which projects rather beyond them, having an aperture in the front; eyes partly surrounded by a warty skin, which is placed principally behind the eye, and continues nearly 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

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 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.



Perdix Coturnix.

Enl. by G. Graves Walworth Dec 1. 1821

PERDIX CORTUNIX.

QUAIL.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Perdix cinerea*.

SYNONYMS.

PERDIX CORTUNIX. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 651. 28.

TETRAO CORTUNIX. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 278. 20.

QUAIL. *Br. Zool.* 1. 97. *Ib. fol* 87. *tab. M.* 6.
Arct. Zool. 2. p. 320. *B. Lath. Syn.* 4.
p. 779. 24. *Ib. Supt.* p. 222. *Mont.*
Orn. Dict. Vol. 2. Bewick's Br. Birds,
Pt. 1. p. 305.

EGG. *Ovarium Brit. Pt. 1.*

LENGTH seven inches and a half, breadth twelve inches; the weight varies considerably in different specimens, sometimes being little more than two, and at others exceeding six ounces. Bill short and thick, generally covered with scurf; eyes bright hazel, varying with age to yellow; tail composed of twelve feathers, which are mostly hid by the tail coverts; legs slender. The female wants the black gorget on the breast, and is duller coloured, otherwise the markings of the sexes are alike.

QUAILS are generally considered migratory in this country, though some few winter here, which may perhaps be late hatched birds; the principal part take their departure about the end of October, and repair southwards, returning in the ensuing spring (in diminished numbers) about the middle of April or beginning of May; if the wind happens to be contrary many perish on the journey; they are frequently driven back when attempting to leave our
shores,

shores, and are picked up dead on the beach. On arriving here they are very lean, but in a few days recover their wasted flesh and strength, and soon become very fat; their food is insects and grain, also the blades of green wheat amongst which they are principally found; they are easily enticed by means of a whistle (which imitates the note or call of the male bird) into nets and snares; they are kept by poulterers in small boxes, made so narrow as to prevent their being able to turn round; in this state they are fed on bread and sugar mixed with hemp-seed, which fattens them prodigiously; we have known several kept in this way for eight or nine months; in the winter season they frequently sell from half a guinea to fifteen shillings the couple.

This species breeds on the ground, it makes scarcely any nest, and lays from eight to twelve dusky coloured eggs, spotted with brown of various tints; the young begin to run as soon as excluded, frequently with part of the shell adhering to them; they feed at first on ants and their eggs, much like the partridge, but the parent birds are less careful of their brood.

It is a very pugnacious bird, and was formerly kept in many parts of Europe, as it now is in China, for the purpose of fighting, in the same manner as game cocks, and was trained much in the same way. The species is much less abundant in this country than formerly, but in the south of Europe they are found in immense numbers; and it is on record, that upwards of one hundred thousand have been taken in one day on the west coast of the kingdom of Naples.





Tetrao Tetrix.

Published by G. Groves Waltham Jan. 1. 1822.

TETRAO TETRIX.

BLACK GROUS.

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.

LENGTH 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, Sussex, 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 Middlehaw, 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

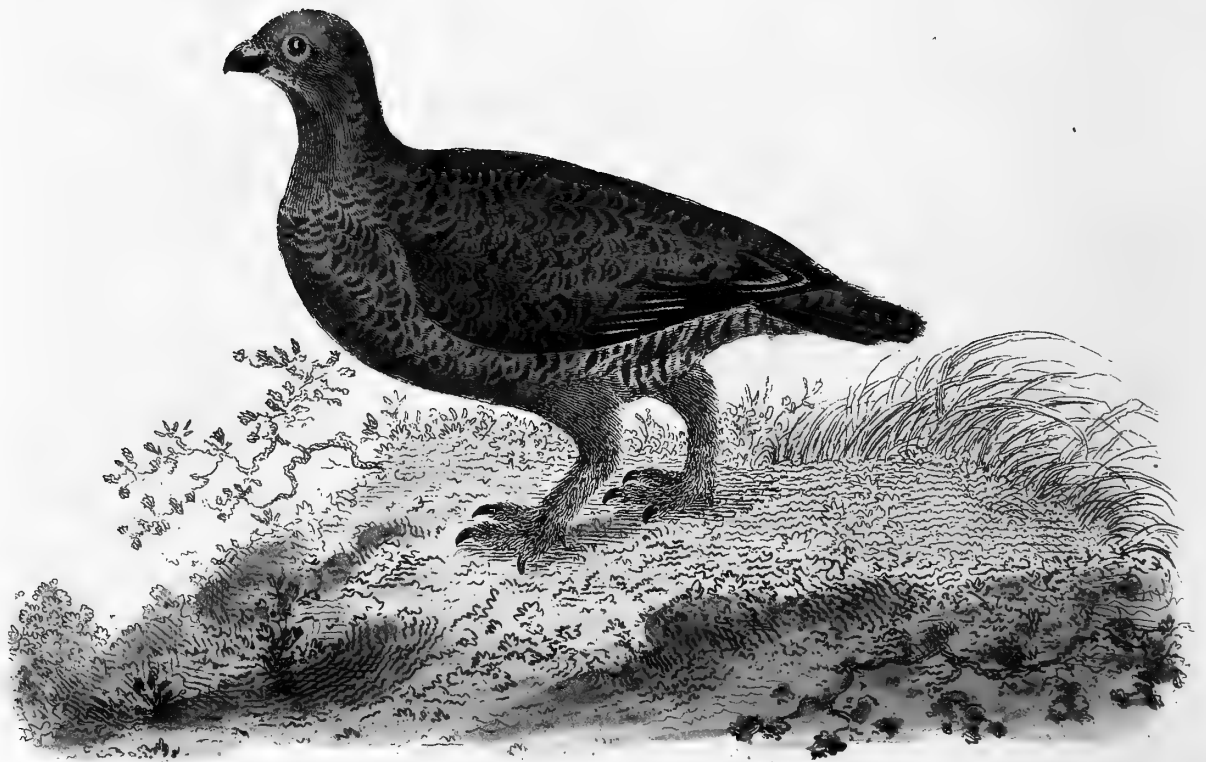
feathered like the female till after the first moult, when the cocks begin to change colour; but they do not assume their full plumage till after the second season, and frequently when the eggs have been hatched under the common hen, they do not ever attain their full colour: the young keep together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







Tetrao Scoticus

Pub. by G. Graves Whitworth Denton

TETRAO SCOTICUS.

RED GROUS.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Tetrao urogallus*.

SYNONYMS.

TETRAO SCOTICUS. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 641. 15.

RED GAME. *Albin's Birds*, 1. tab. 23, 24.

RED GROUS. *Br. Zool.* 1. 94. tab. 43. *Ib. fol.* 85. tab.
M. 3. *Lath. Syn.* 4. p. 746. 13.
Ib. supt. p. 216. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*
Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds*, Pt. 1.
p. 299.

LENGTH of this species fifteen, breadth twenty-three inches; weight from one pound four to six ounces. Bill short and blunt; irides reddish hazel, over the eye is a bare fringed membrane of a bright scarlet colour; legs covered with hair-like feathers to the extremity of the toes; claws broad and concave; tail composed of sixteen feathers.

The female is rather less, and is lighter coloured than the male.

Red Grouse seem confined to the extensive moors in the north of England, and to the mountains of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales; the species is indigenous to Great-Britain, and
is

is not met with in any other country. It has been turned out in several parts of Surrey, Suffex, and Hampshire, but we believe has not been known to breed.

This species always resorts to open tracts of country, and does not frequent woods; it feeds on the various kinds of mountain and bog-berries, and on the tops of heath, which (though we have examined many) we never found in the crop otherwise than perfectly dry. It lays ten or twelve dusky white eggs, spotted with rust colour; the young run as soon as excluded, and keep together till the ensuing spring; in the winter several broods associate together, frequently to the number of forty or fifty, when one bird constantly is on the watch; they are at this season very shy and difficult of approach.

During the winter, when the ground is covered with snow, they generally perch on the walls, with which the cultivated land in the north of England is enclosed.

Provincial names Moorcock, Gorcock, and Red-Game.





Tetrao Lagopus.

Art. Illustr. by Graves Wainworth.

TETRAO LAGOPUS.

PTARMIGAN.

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.

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, Walworth. 1. Feb. 1811.

ARDEA MAJOR.

COMMON HERON.

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. *Latb. Syn.* 5.

p. 83. 50. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2.*

p. 48. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

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 grafs, 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 ferrated 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.



Howitt.

Ardea Garzetta.

Pub. by G. Graves, Watworth Nov. 5, 1821.

ARDEA GARZETTA.

EGRET.

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. Diët. Vol.*

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

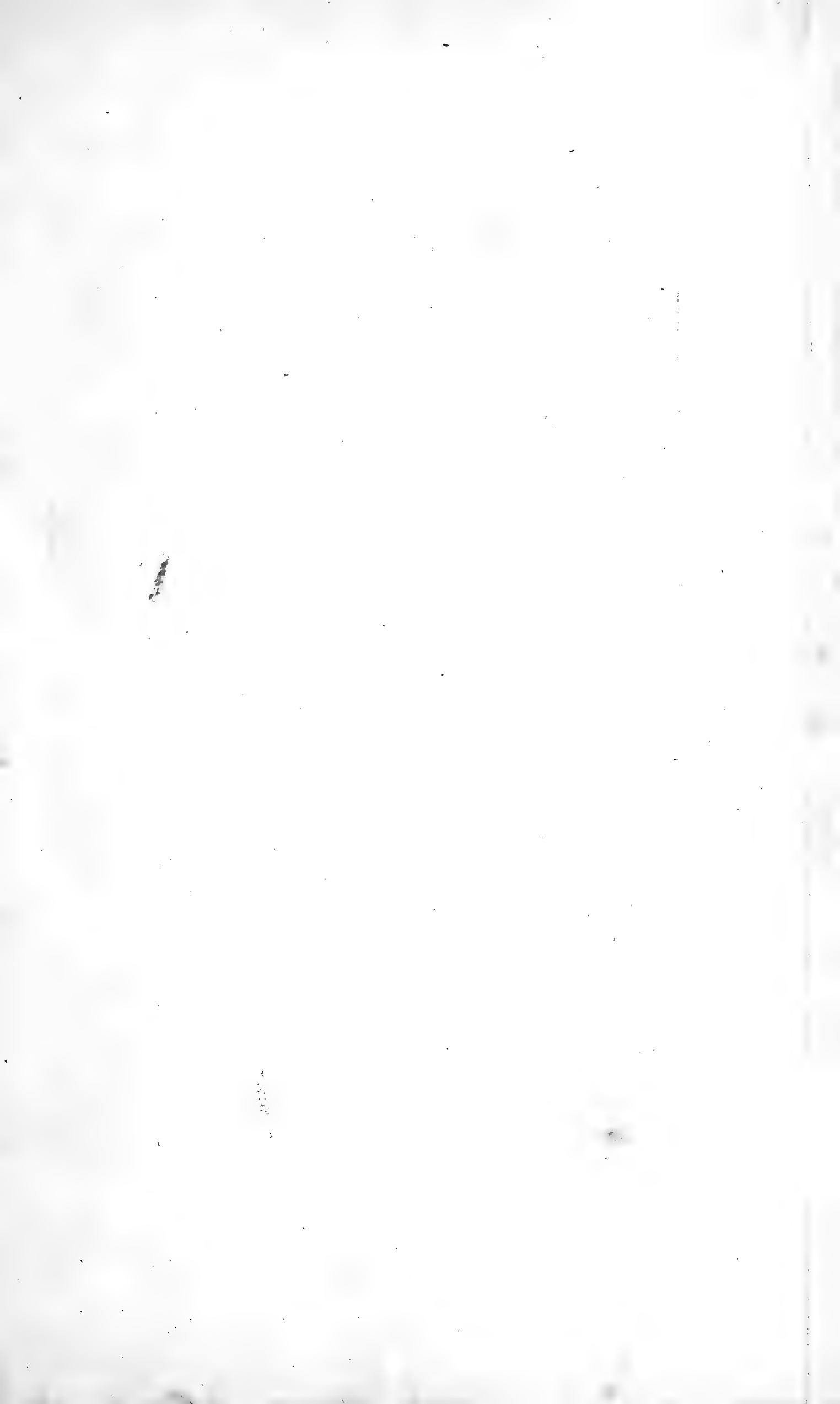
THE weight of this species is said to be about one pound ; its length rather exceeds sixteen, and from the crown of the head to the toes it measures nearly twenty-two inches ; bill sharp ; irides yellow ; lore dull green ; feathers on the hind part of the head and neck long and flowing, forming a crest ; 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.

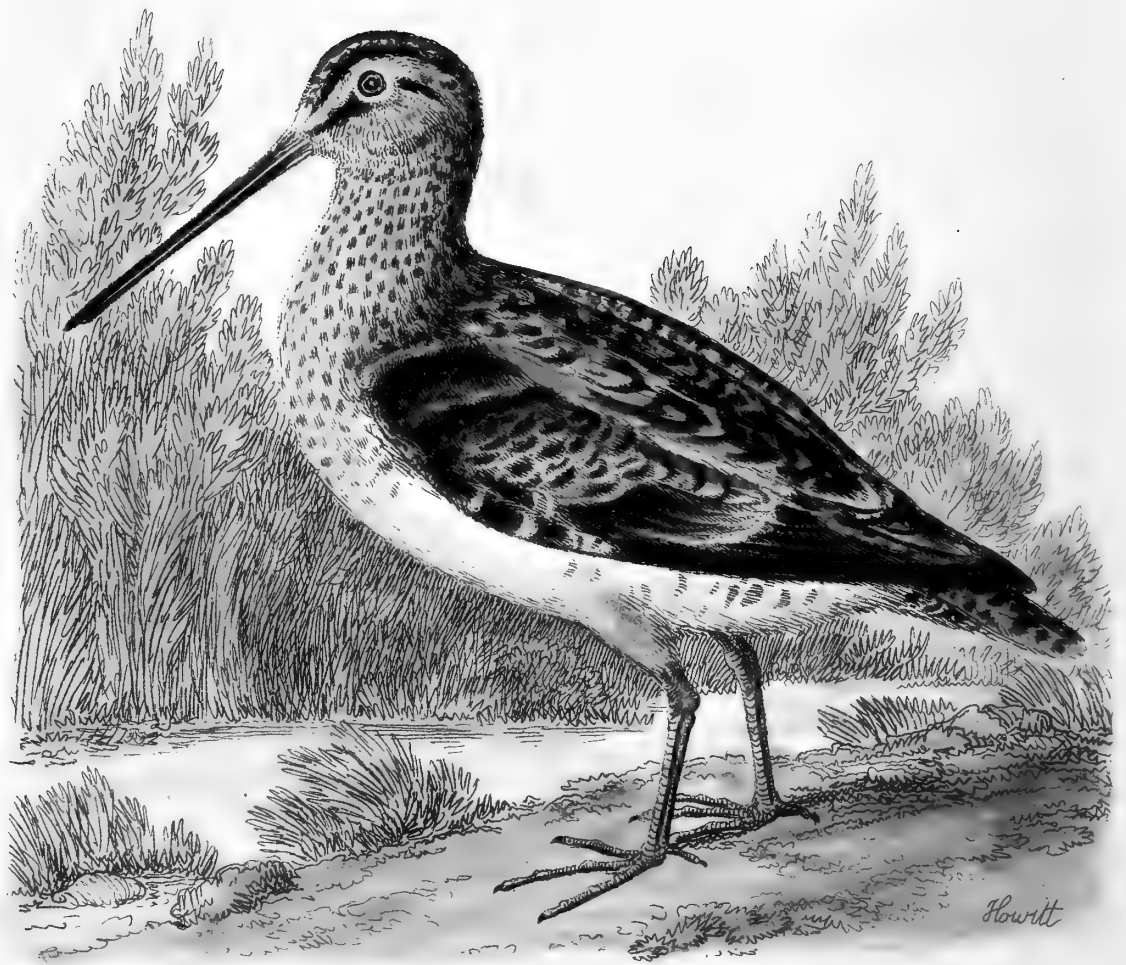
As this bird must be considered as lost to this country, we can only give the description of it ; with its history we have no acquaintance ; it is said to build in trees in the manner of the common heron, and to live on the same kinds of food.

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 Galinago.

Pub. Feb. 1842. By Graves & Walworth.

SCOLOPAX GALLINAGO.

COMMON SNIPE.

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. *Lath. Syn.* 5. p. 134.

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

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

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.

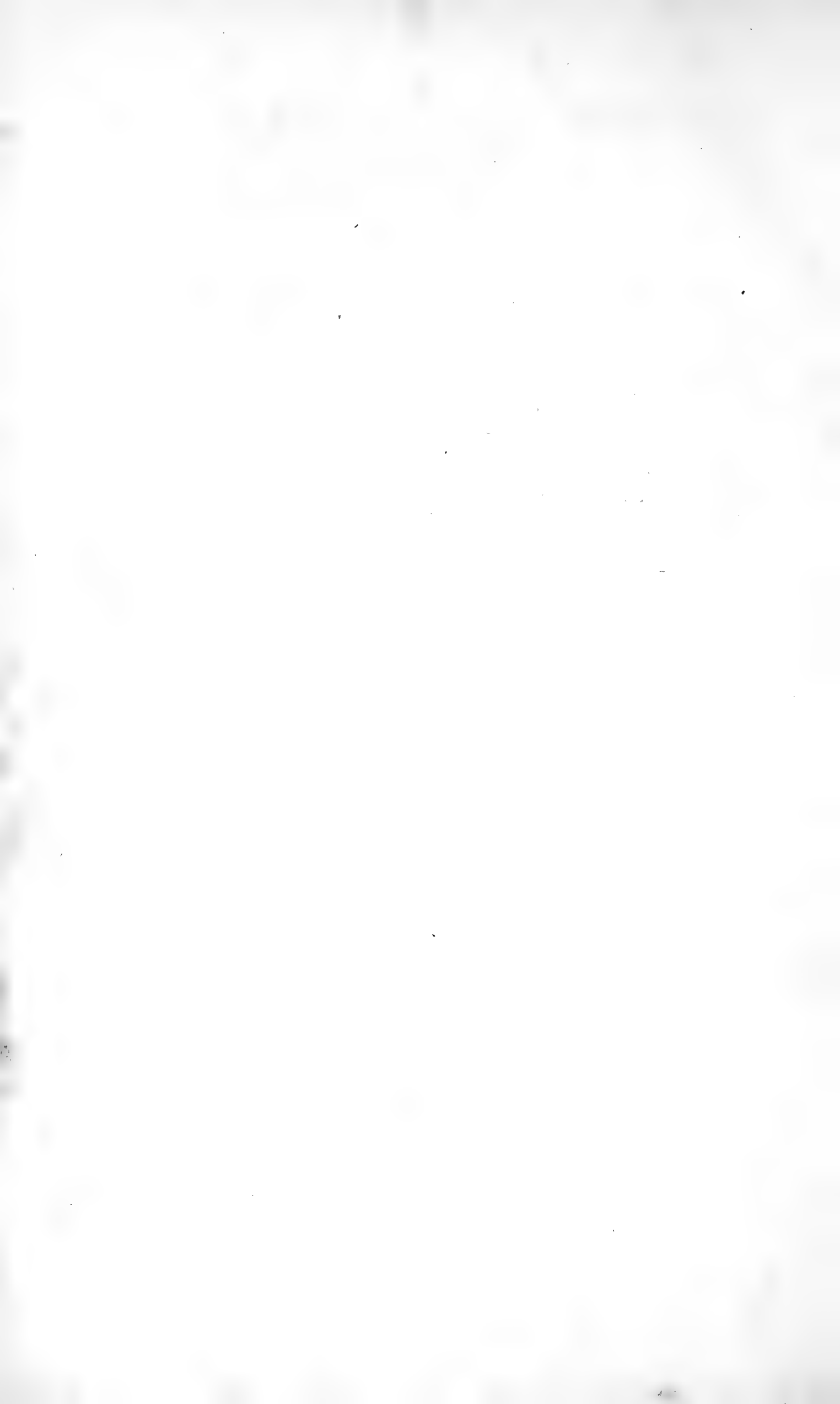
A few of this species breed annually with us, but the bulk of them quit this country about March or April ; we have never been so fortunate as to meet with the nest or young, we shall therefore quote the following account from Mr. Montague: “ We have frequently taken the young before they could fly, 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,

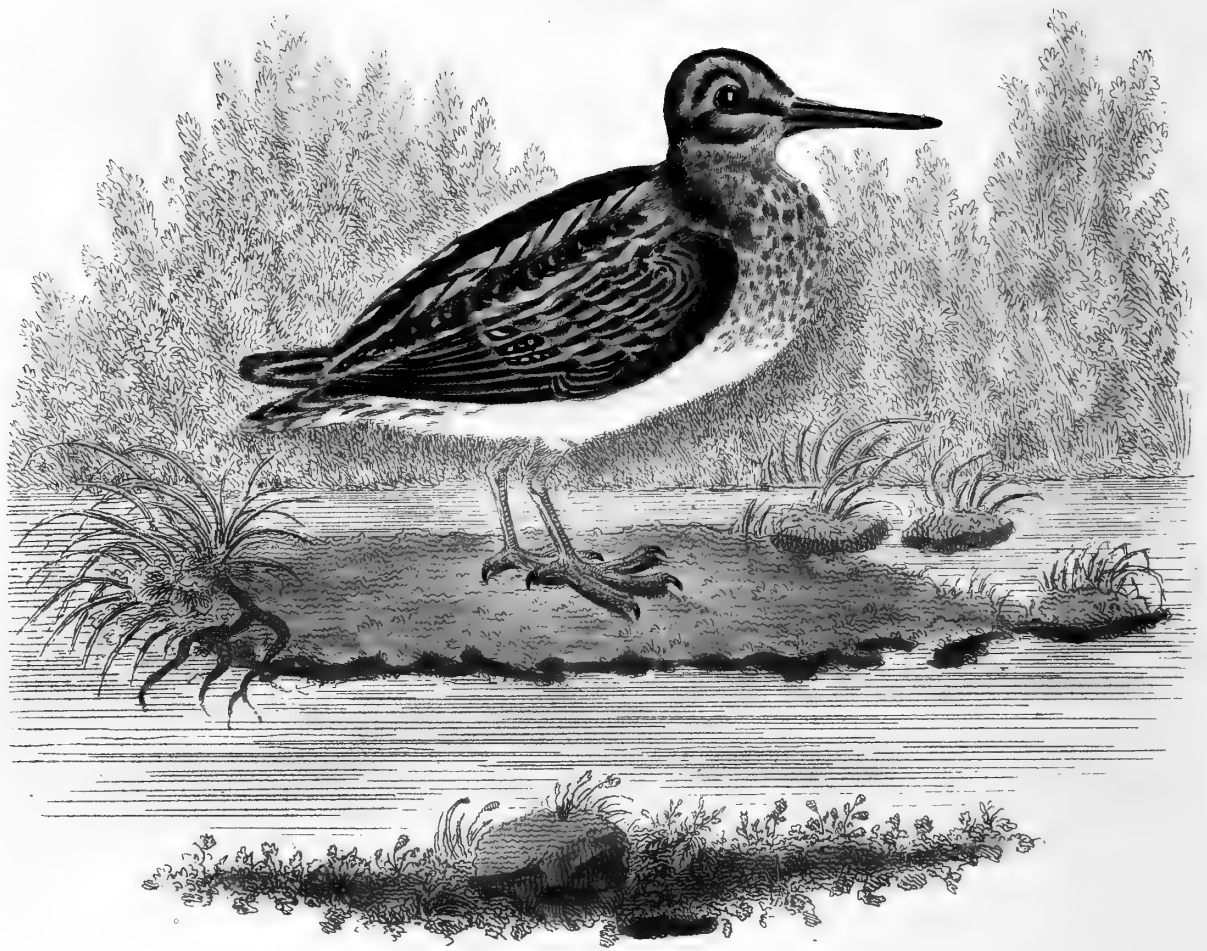
noise, then descends with great velocity, making a bleating sound not unlike an old goat, which is repeated alternately round the nest possessed by the female, especially while she is sitting."

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.







Scolopax Gallinula.

Pub. by G. Barrow, N. York.

SCOLOPAX GALLINULA.

JACK-SNIPE.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Scolopax rusticola*.

SYNONYMS.

SCOLOPAX GALLINULA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 244. 8. *Ind.*

Orn. 2. p. 715. 8.

JACK-SNIPE OR JUDCOCK. *Br. Zool.* 2. 189. tab. 68.

Ib. fol. 121. *Arct. Zool.* 2. 367.

Lath. Syn. 5. p. 136. 8. *Mont. Orn.*

Dict. Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds,*

Pt. 2. p. 79. *Albin's Birds,* 3. tab. 86.

THIS elegant species weighs about two ounces, is eight inches and a half in length, and thirteen in breadth.

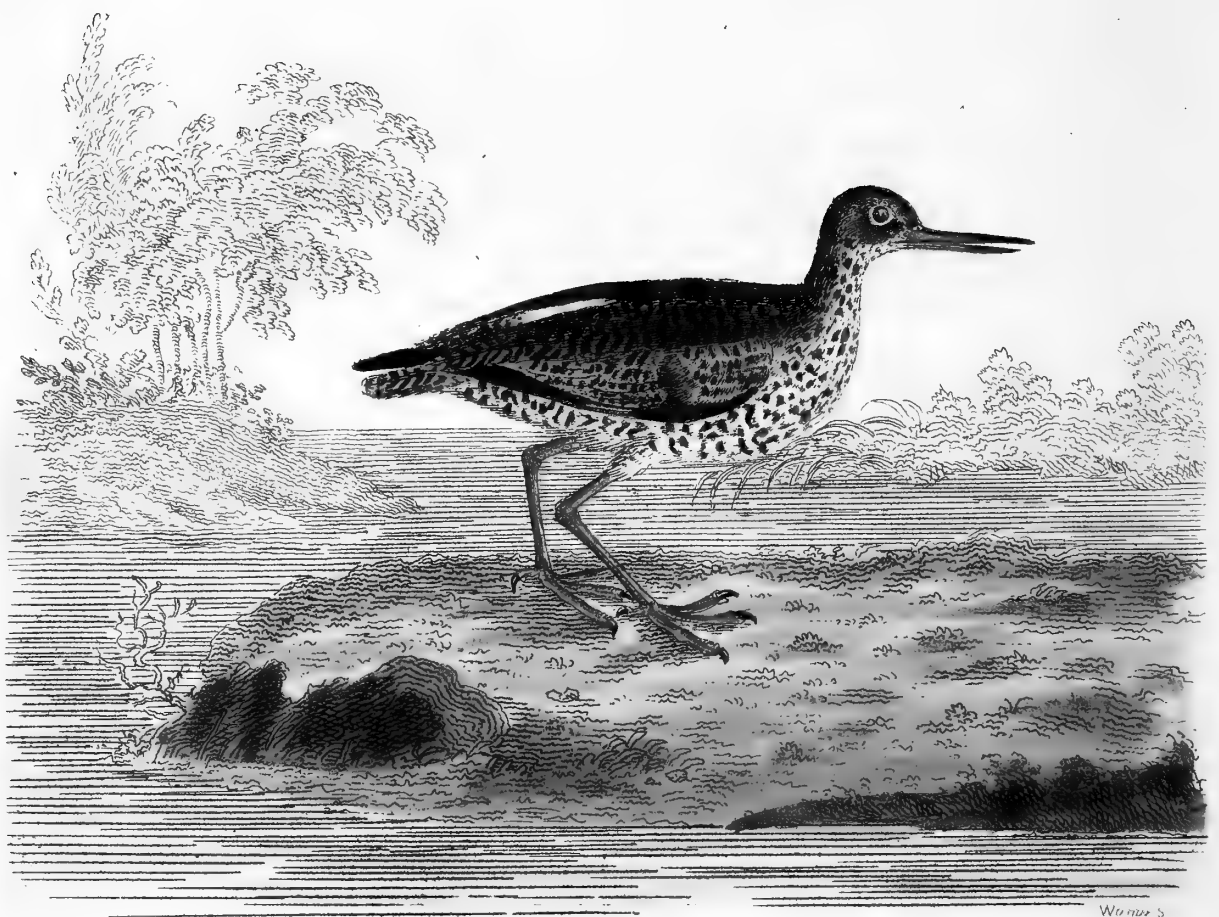
Bill two inches long; irides hazel; tail pointed; legs delicately slender; colour of the sexes alike.

The JACK-SNIPE is a solitary bird, frequenting thick sedgey places, from which it is not easily dislodged, and will almost suffer itself to be trod on rather than take wing; when roused, it flies but a short distance, and soon returns to the spot where it usually nests; the species is not so numerous, or so generally dispersed, as the common one, but is frequently found in the same place.

It

It does not arrive in this country till after the common snipe, and generally quits us in March; we have no reason to doubt its breeding here, as it is sometimes seen in the summer months; a friend of the author's, who is very attentive in observing this tribe of birds, assures us, he has taken the nest and young in Cornwall; we have also been informed, that it sometimes breeds in the neighbourhood of Carlisle; the eggs are said to resemble those of the common species in colour, and are about half their size; the nest is composed of dry grass and withered leaves. Some specimens we received from Cumberland weighed upwards of three ounces. Provincial names Half Snipe, Jud, Jet, or Gid-cock.

Since publishing the Common Snipe, we have met with it in considerable numbers, during the months of June and July (1812) in the osier-ground, bordering on the Surrey-Canal, in the Kent-Road. We found many of their nests composed of dry grass and leaves, placed in the midst of a swamp, scarcely above the water; several of the young were killed, which were darker coloured than the adult birds.



W. M. S.

Scotopax calidris. —

Fig. by G. Frates W. M. S. 1863.

SCOLOPAX CALIDRIS.

R E D - S H A N K.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Scolopax rusticola*.

SYNONYMS.

SCOLOPAX CALIDRIS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 245. 11. *Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 722. 25.

RED-SHANK. *Br. Zool.* 2. 184. *tab.* 65. *Ib. fol.* 124. *Arct. Zool.* 2. 377. *Albin's Birds*, 3. *tab.* 87. *Lath. Syn.* 5. p. 150. 20. *Ib. sup.* p. 245. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* Vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds*, Pt. 2. p. 93.

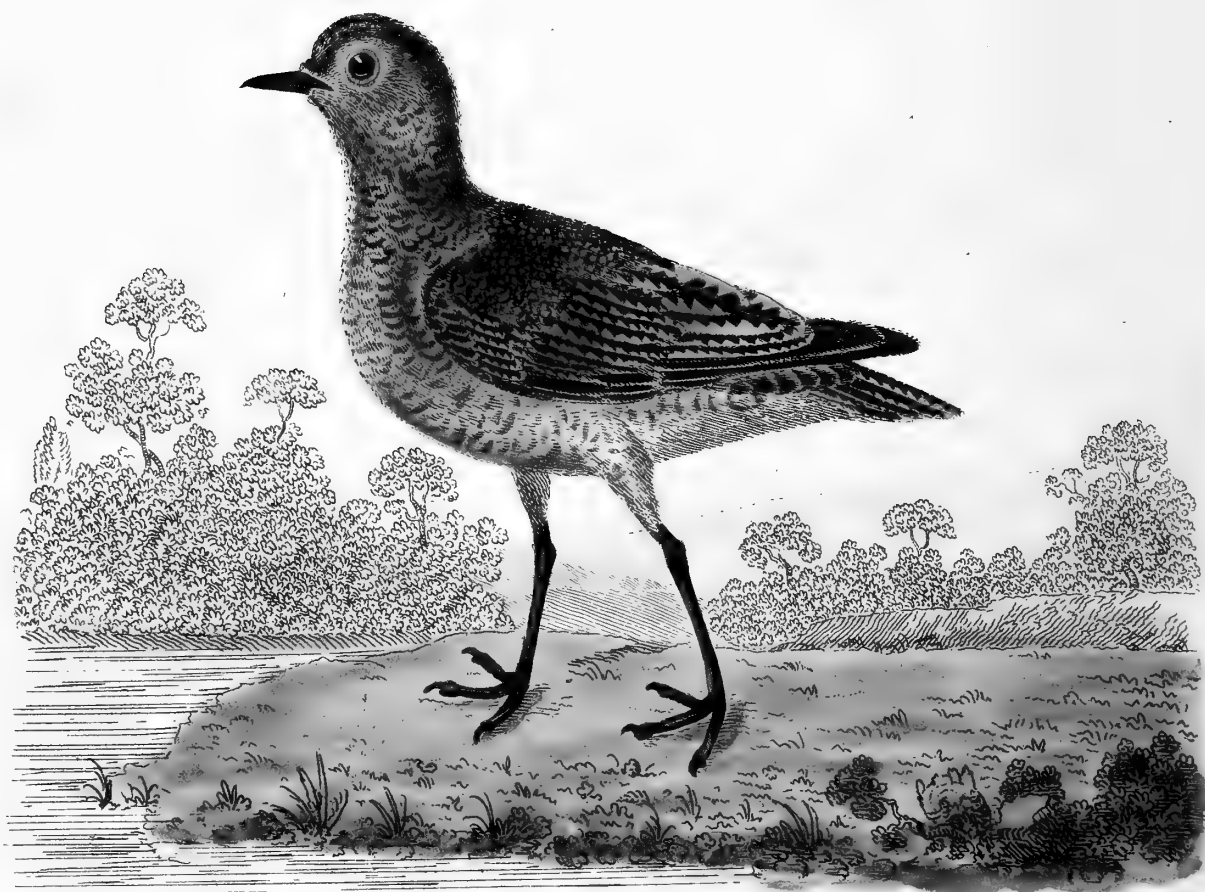
THE RED-SHANK weighs about four ounces, is twelve inches and a quarter in length, and twenty-two in breadth. Bill nearly two inches long; irides reddish; legs slender, colour yellowish red, they measure about four inches and a half from the bare part of the thigh to the extremity of the toes; claws rather long; the sexes are not discoverable by their colours, as both males and females vary considerably; in some the rump is pure white, and in one we have, the neck and breast are cinerious.

These birds are common in many parts of this country, particularly fenny places; they are sent from Lincoln and
Cambridgeshires

Cambridgeshires to the London markets, in very considerable numbers; they breed in the vicinity of marshes and in boggy places; we have seen them in company with Lapwings on Riegate-Heath; their number of eggs is four, which in colour resemble those of the Lapwing, but are rather smaller and more pointed.

During the time of incubation they are very restless, and pursue the same stratagems to mislead, as are practised by most others of this extensive family; when disturbed from their eggs, they fly over the heads of the intruders, uttering a shrill scream; they do not make any nest, but deposit their eggs on a tuft of grass, most generally in the vicinity of an extensive swamp; the young at first are of a dull olive brown colour; they run as soon as hatched, and feed on small worms and aquatic insects; in the stomach of a full grown female, killed in January 1812, we found a marine univale shell, one inch and a quarter long, and seven-eighths of an inch in circumference.

Provincial names Pool-Snipe, Red-legged Horseman, Sand-Cock, or Thriller.



Charadrius plumbeus.

Del. Marchal. Sculp. Graves, Walworth.

CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS.

GOLDEN PLOVER.

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. *Arct. Zool.* 2. 399.

Lath. Syn. 5. p. 193. 1. *Supt.* p. 252.

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

Br. Birds, Pt. 1. p. 302.

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.





Charadrius himantopus.

Del. by G. S. del. sc. by W. Wagner.

CHARADRIUS HIMANTOPUS.

LONG-LEGGED PLOVER.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Charadrius pluvialis*.

SYNONYMS.

CHARADRIUS HIMANTOPUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 255. 11.

Ind. Orn. 2. p. 741. 3.

LONG-LEGGED PLOVER. *Br. Zool.* 2. 209. *Ib. fol.*

128. *Addenda. Arct. Zool.* 2. 405.

White's Hist. Selbourn, 1. p. 258.

Lath. Syn. 5. p. 195. 3. *Ib. sup.*

p. 252. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.* 2.

Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p. 21.

THIS highly curious species is considered to have longer legs in proportion to its size than any other bird; it measures from the tip of the bill to the toes eighteen inches, and from the bill to the tail only thirteen; its breadth is nearly thirty inches.

Bill slender, about two inches and a half long; irides red; wings long, extending when closed several inches beyond the tail; legs very slender, which including the bare part of the thigh are eight inches long; toes connected at the base.

We

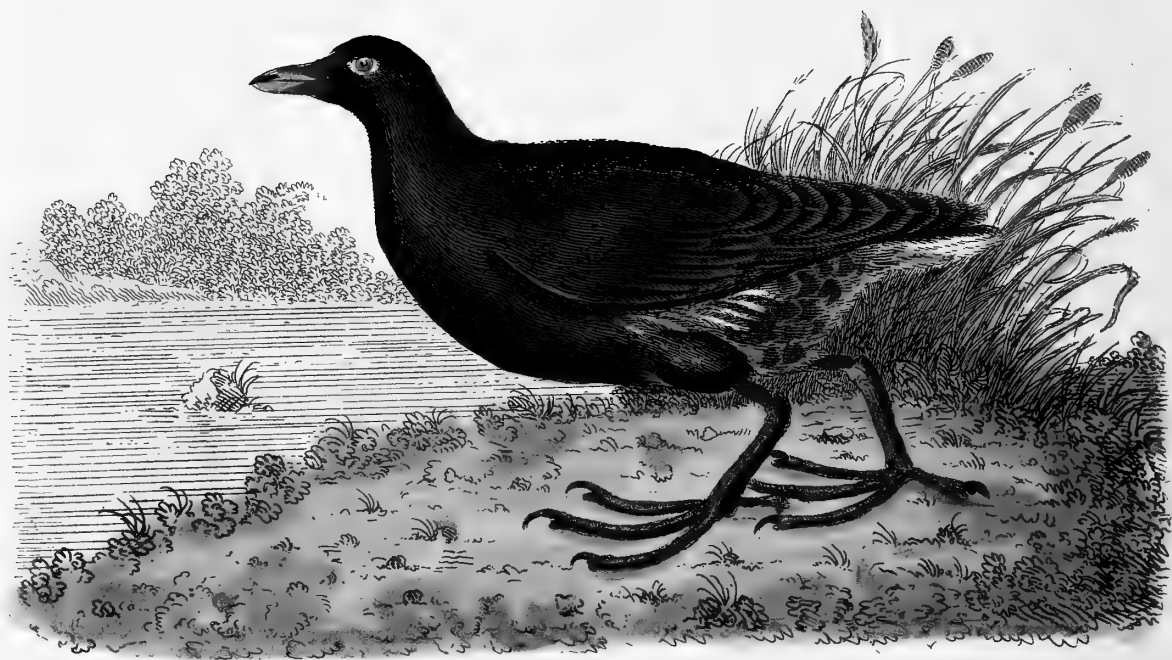
We are entirely ignorant of the habits of this bird, as the few that have been met with in England, may be supposed to be only accidental stragglers. In Mr. WHITE'S History of Selbourn, he mentions that the one he had was killed with five others, near Farnham, Surrey, in the month of April. This specimen, he further says, "weighed, when drawn and stuffed with pepper, four ounces and a quarter."

It is not uncommon in the warmer parts of America, in Egypt, and Madras; "is plentiful about the Salt Lakes, and often seen on the shores of the Caspian Sea, as well as by the rivers which empty themselves into it, and in the southern deserts of Independent Tartary."

Provincial names Long-Legs or Long-Shanks.

Our figure was taken from a specimen communicated by Mr. HARRISON, Parliament-Street.





Gallinula chloropus.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth Dec. 2. 1821.

GALLINULA CHLOROPUS.

COMMON GALLINULE;

or, WATER HEN.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill thick at the base, compressed at the sides, having a bare skin extending from the base up the forehead.

Wings and tail short.

Legs flattened at the sides.

Toes long, divided to their origin, and furnished with a narrow serrated edging.

SYNONYMS.

GALLINULA CHLOROPUS. *Ind. Orn.* 2. 770. 13.

FULICA CHLOROPUS. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 258. 4.

COMMON GALLINULE. *Br. Zool.* 2. 217. tab. 77.

Ib. fol. 131. tab. L. 1. *Arct. Zool.*

2. 411. *Ib. Supt.* p. 69. *Lath. Syn.*

5. p. 258. 12. *Mont. Orn. Dict.*

Vol. 1. Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 1.

p. 123.

EGG. *Ovarium Brit. Pt. 2.*

LENGTH fourteen, and breadth twenty-two inches, weight twelve to sixteen ounces. Bill strong, an inch and a quarter long, the skin at the base is of a bright scarlet colour during the spring, but as the year advances it becomes paler, and in winter is frequently white; irides red; toes long;

long ; the skin above the knee is of a scarlet colour in the male, but in the female inclines to yellow ; the general hue of both sexes is alike ; the female is the paler coloured, and is somewhat less than the male.

This is an abundant species, frequenting most streams and ponds, particularly such as are well sheltered with trees and abound in sedge, amongst which it lies concealed during the greater part of the day ; towards evening it quits its retreat, and may be found skulking along under banks or trees that overhang the stream ; on the slightest alarm it squats down, or if on the water dives to a distance, and on its attaining the surface, the head is the only part that can be observed ; it but seldom takes wing, and flies very badly, with its legs dangling in a very awkward manner ; whilst either running or swimming, its tail is continually flirted up ; it is said to perch on trees when alarmed, though its feet do not seem calculated for that purpose.

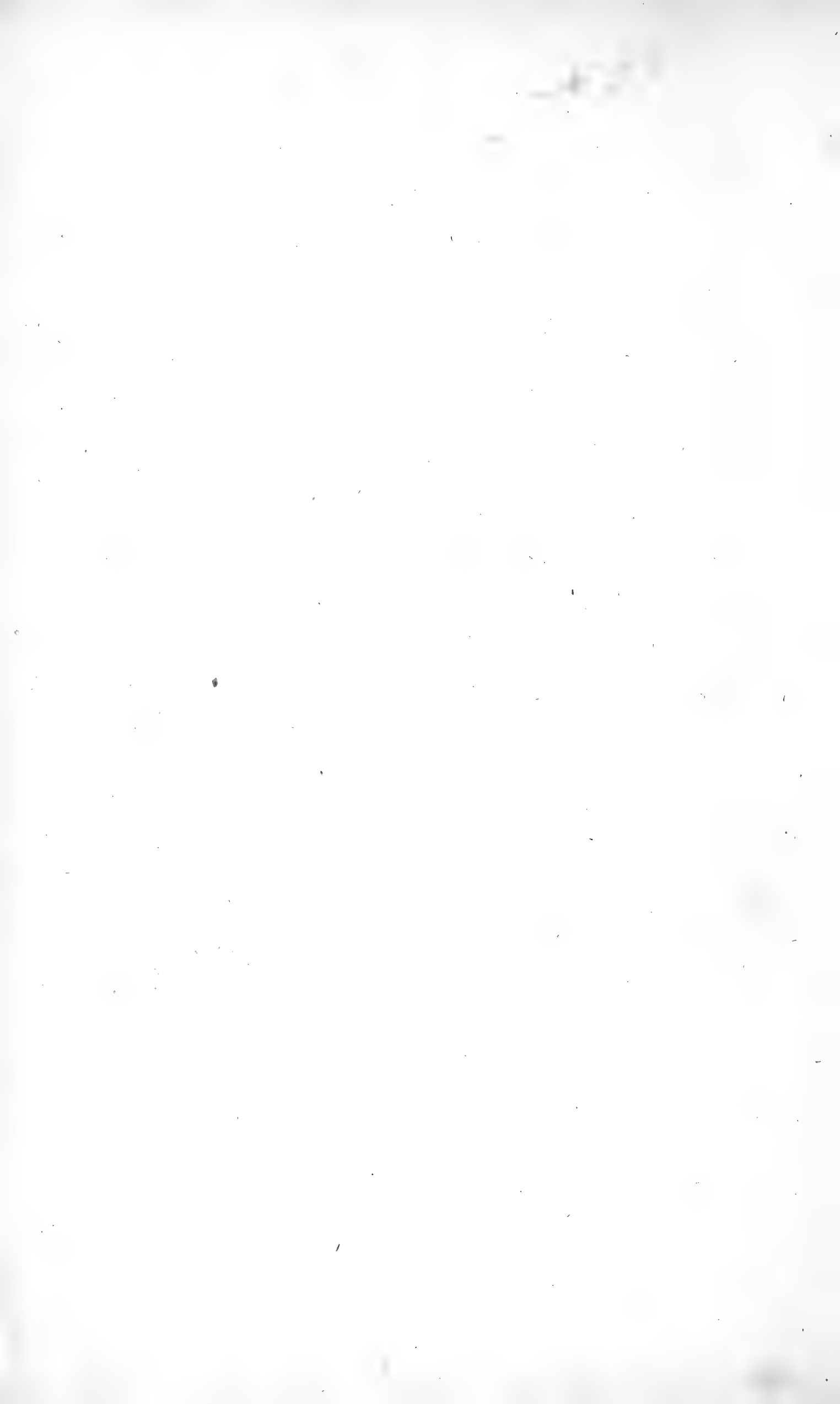
The Moor-Hen (as it is usually called) forms its nest of coarse grass, rushes, and flags, it is generally placed on a sloping bank, scarcely above the water's level, owing to which circumstance, many of the nests are destroyed by the rising of the water ; it lays eight or ten light-coloured eggs, splashed with rust colour ; the young are at first covered with a thick black down, and take to the water almost as soon as excluded, though they continue to receive the attention of the parent birds till towards the fall of the year.

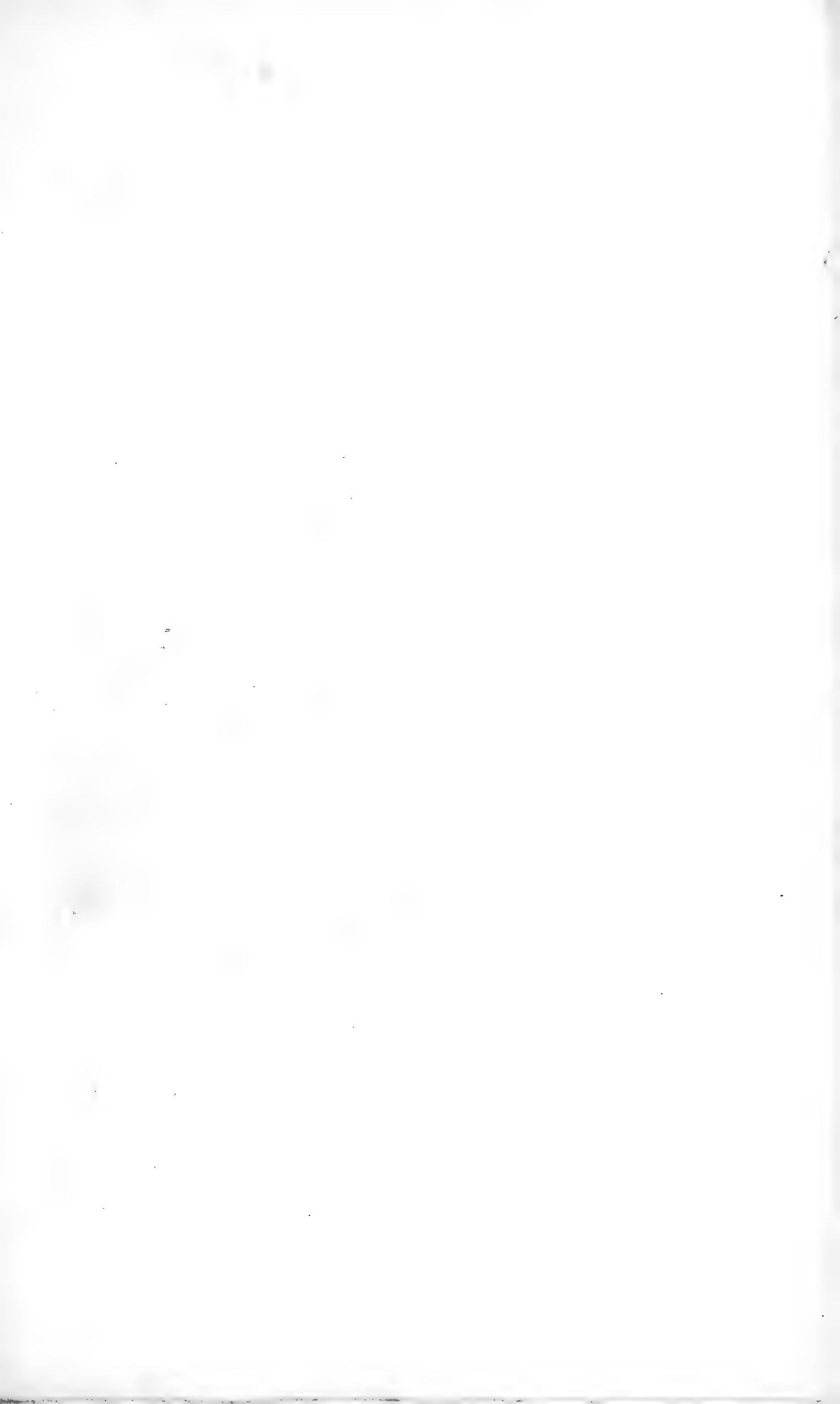
The female sits about twenty days, in which office she is frequently

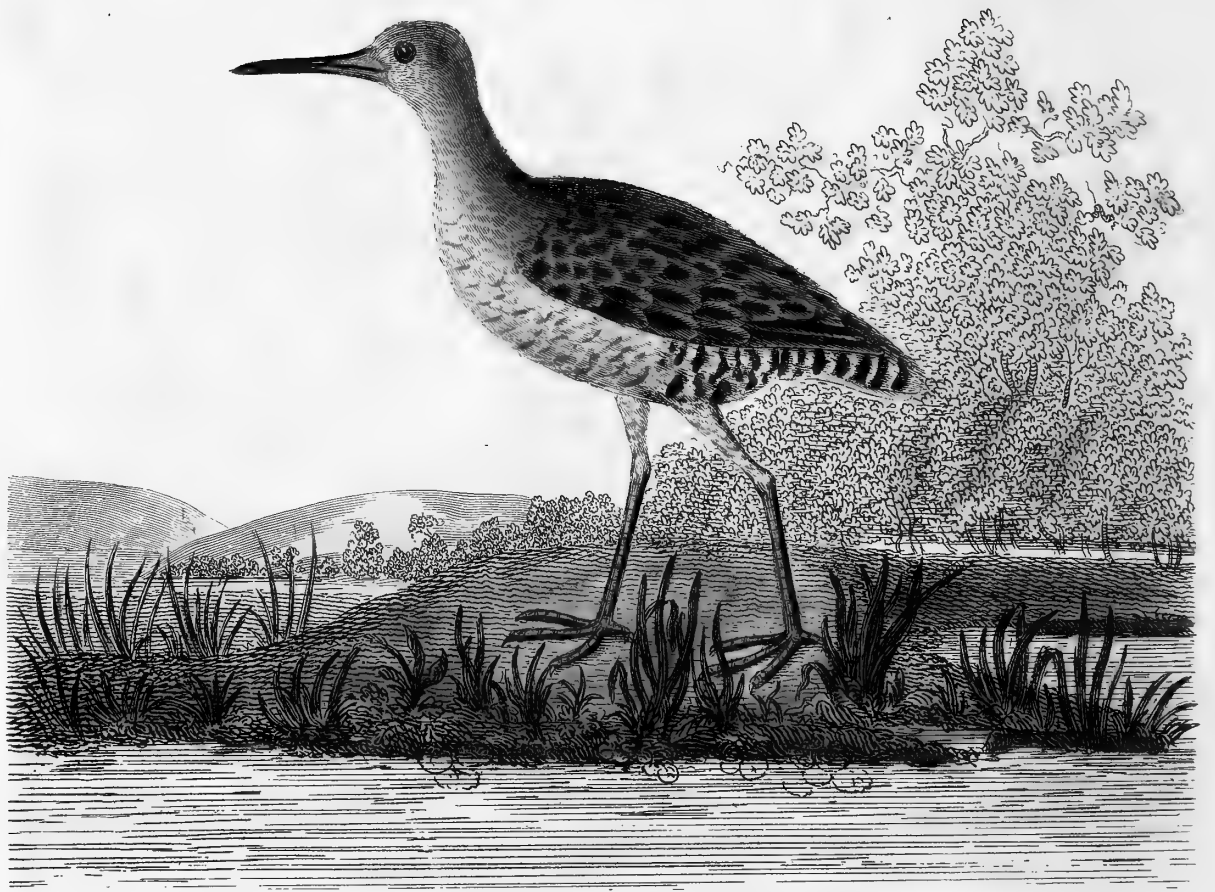
frequently relieved by the male; at this time if they are alarmed, the male will often utter a shrill scream, and sometimes takes wing, and continues a low whistling note until the alarm has subsided.

It feeds on insects, worms, aquatic seeds, and roots, and may frequently after harvest be found in stubble fields, picking up scattered grain; at this time their flesh is well flavoured, though at other seasons it is frequently rank and fishy.

Numbers of the young are destroyed by the Moor Buzzard and other species of hawk, also by trout and pike; when taken young they soon become familiar, and will associate with ducks, and readily attend them to the farm yard. Its provincial names, are Moor-Hen, Moor-Coot, Marsh-Hen, Cuddy, and Water-Hen.







Rallus aquaticus.

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

RALLUS AQUATICUS.

WATER RAIL.

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. *Latb. Syn.* 5. p. 227. 1. *Mont. Orn. Diet.* vol. 2. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2.* p. 28.

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 flirting 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.

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. *Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2.* p. 127.

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 blush 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.





Uria Troilei.

Pub. by G. Graves, Walworth, J., Dec 1821

URIA TROILE.
FOOLISH GUILLEMOT.

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.

URIA TROILE. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 796. 1.

COLYMBUS TROILE. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 220. 2.

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.

EGG. *Ovarium Brit.* Pt. 1.

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.

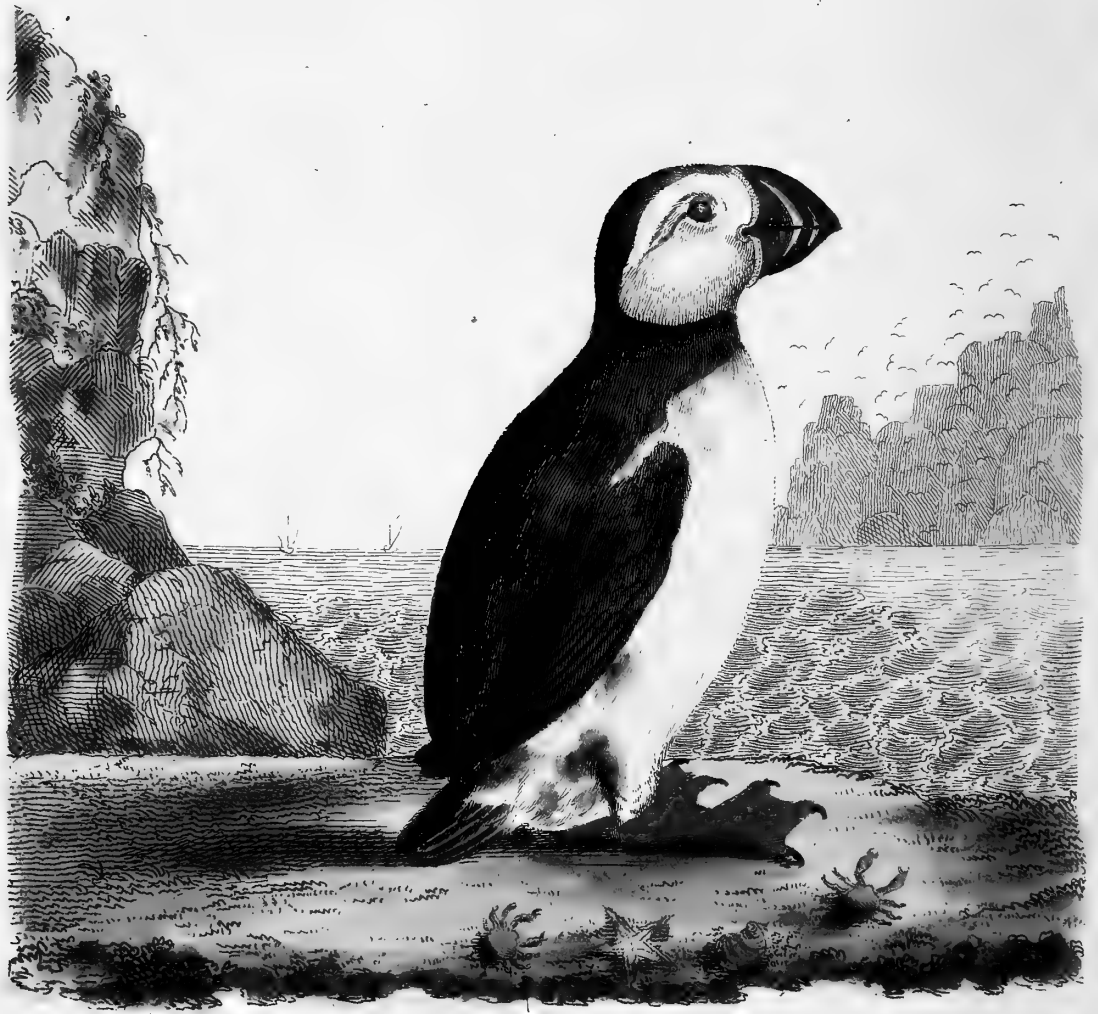
These birds are very numerous on many parts of our coast, where they congregate with the razor-bill and puffin;
in

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 on their breeding places early in May ; their nests are composed of sea-weed, 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 colour, elegantly marbled with dusky green and black ; 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 numbers 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.





Alca arctica.

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

ALCA ARCTICA.

PUFFIN.

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.

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 stick 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.

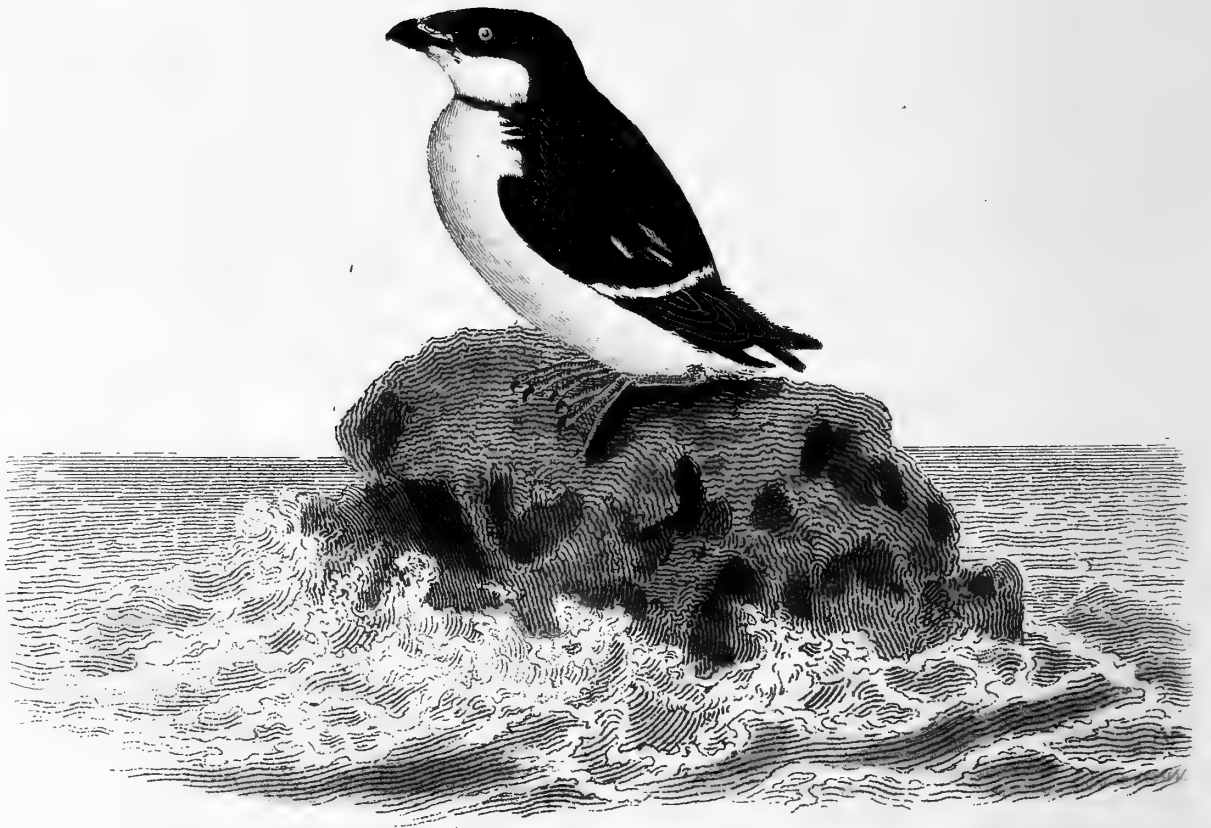
On the coast of Pembrokehire is a rock to which these birds repair in such amazing numbers, that it is almost impossible to set foot on it without treading on them, and when
disturbed,

disturbed, they rise in such numbers as to darken the air ; it is called the Heleghoek Stack. Almost every place to which this bird resorts, has a name peculiar to itself ; the following are the most common, Mullet, Heleghoek, 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.





Alca Allet

Pub. by G. Goussier, 1850, No. 1, rue de la Harpe.

ALCA ALLE.

LITTLE AWK.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Alca Impennis*.

SYNONYMS.

ALCA ALLE. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 211. 5.

GREENLAND DOVE. *Albin's Birds*, 1. tab. 85.

LITTLE AWK. *Br. Zool.* 2. 233. tab. 82. *Ib. fol.* 137.
tab. H. 4. fig. 1. *Arct. Zool.* 2. tab.
429. *Lath. Syn.* 5. p. 327. 11.
Ind. Orn. 2. p. 795. 10. *Mont. Orn.*
Dict. Vol. 1. *Bewick's Br. Birds*, Pt.
2. p. 158.

LENGTH about nine inches. Bill strong, short, and blunt, feathered on the upper sides nearly half its length; irides reddish hazel; legs and feet strong. Colours of the sexes alike.

This is a rare species, being but very seldom met with so far south as Britain, is common in Iceland, Greenland, Spitzbergen, and Newfoundland; Mr. GOUGH, of Middlethaw, informs us, "that one was caught apparently much exhausted, in a brook which runs through his garden, Nov. 21, 1807;" and adds, "that he received accounts of its being seen generally in the same exhausted state, at various places about Kendal and Lancaster."

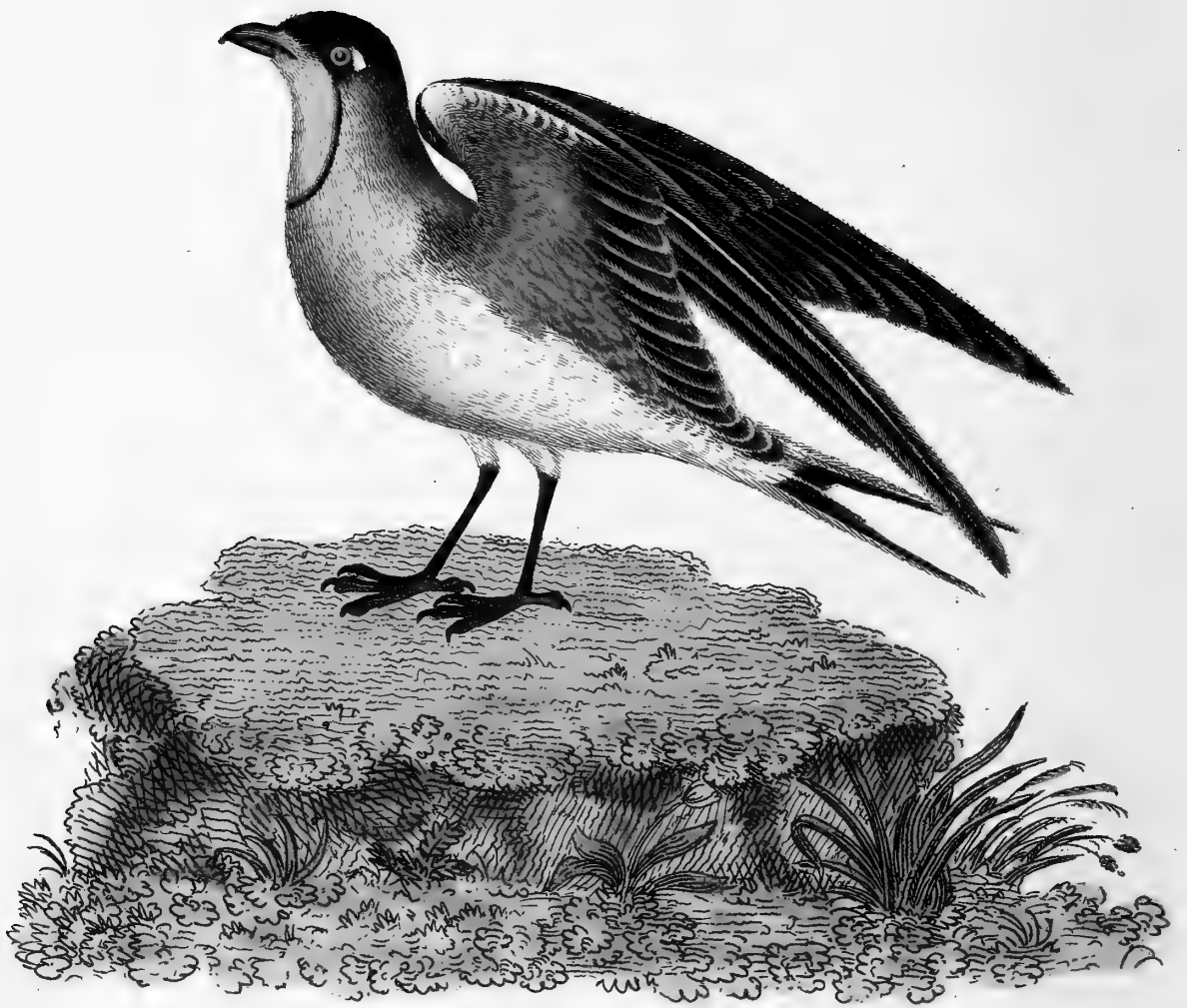
The

The food of this curious little bird is small fish and insects; Bewick mentions that the one from which his figure was taken, “ was caught alive on the Durham coast, and was for a short time fed on grain.”

It breeds in Greenland and the other afore-named places, “ and is said to lay two eggs; they are larger than those of a pigeon, of a bluish white colour.”

About the latter end of May 1812, a fine specimen of *Alca arctica* (the Puffin) was taken on the Thames near Chelsea, by a fisherman, who kept it alive for some days; we are at loss to conceive by what unaccountable accident this bird should have wandered so far from the sea coast, as the nearest place to which the species is known to resort, is the cliffs of Dover.





Glareola Pratincola.

Pub. by G. Graves Wadworth, Nov. 1. 1821.

GLAREOLA PRATINCOLA.

AUSTRIAN PRATINCOLE.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill short, straight, hooked at the end, gape wide.
Nostrils placed near the base, linear oblique.
Toes long, slender, connected by a membrane at the base.
Tail forked, consisting of twelve feathers.

SYNONYMS.

GLAREOLA AUSTRIACA. *Ind. Or.* 2 p. 735. 1.
HIRUNDO PRATINCOLA. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 345. 12.
AUSTRIAN PRATINCOLE.. *Lath. Syn.* Vol. 5. p. 222.
tab. 85. Montague in Lin. Trans. Vol. 9. p 199. *Br. Zool. 8vo. ed.* Vol. 2. p. 110. *Suppl. Mont. Orn. Dict.*

THIS rare visitor is in length ten inches and a half; in breadth twenty-one and a half; and weighs near three ounces. Bill curved; irides light red; tail much forked; legs bare above the knees; toes long.

The PRATINCOLE may be considered as one of the most rare birds that occasionally resort to this country; the specimen from which our figure was taken, was shot near Ormskirk, in Lancashire, in October 1809; and we have received accounts of three others that have been shot at various times
and

and places; one in September 1811, near Truro, in Cornwall; another in the vicinity of Boldness, in Cumberland (1807); and the third on the Eude-Waters, on the estate of the Duke of NORFOLK, in Surrey.

This bird was placed by LINNEUS in the genus *Hirundo*, to which family it is nearly allied; in form and habits it is equally allied to the Genus *Sterna*, and from its being destitute of feathers on its thighs, is placed next that genus in the System. It feeds on winged insects, which it takes during its flight, in the manner of the swallow tribe; it also devours worms and beetles.

From LATHAM'S Synopsis, we learn, "that this bird inhabits Germany, particularly the borders of the Rhine, near Strasburg, and lives on worms and aquatic insects; it is also, at times, seen in some of the provinces of France, especially Lorraine; but it is in the greatest plenty in the deserts towards the Caspian-Sea, frequenting the dry plains in great flocks."

It is common also throughout the whole desert of the Independent Tartars, as far as the rivers Kamyschtoska and Irtish, but not further into Siberia, the plains fit for it being there at an end; and, according to PENNANT, it is not in general observed beyond 53 degrees north.





Y. J. Vermeir del.

Sterna Hirundo.

Ed. by G. Graves, Woburn, Mass. 1852.

STERNA HIRUNDO.

COMMON TERN.

GENERIC CHARACTER. See *Sterna Boissii*.

SYNONYMS.

STERNA HIRUNDO. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 227. 2. *Ind. Orn.*
2. p. 807. 15.

COMMON TERN. *Br. Zool.* 2. 254. *tab.* 90. *Ib. fol.*
144. *tab.* L.* *Lath. Syn.* 6. p. 361.
14. *Mont. Orn. Dict.* Vol. 2. *Be-*
wick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p. 181.

THIS species is fourteen inches in length, and twenty-nine in breadth; it weighs about four ounces. Bill two inches and a half long, very sharp pointed; irides reddish; tail much forked; legs and claws slender. Colour of the sexes alike.

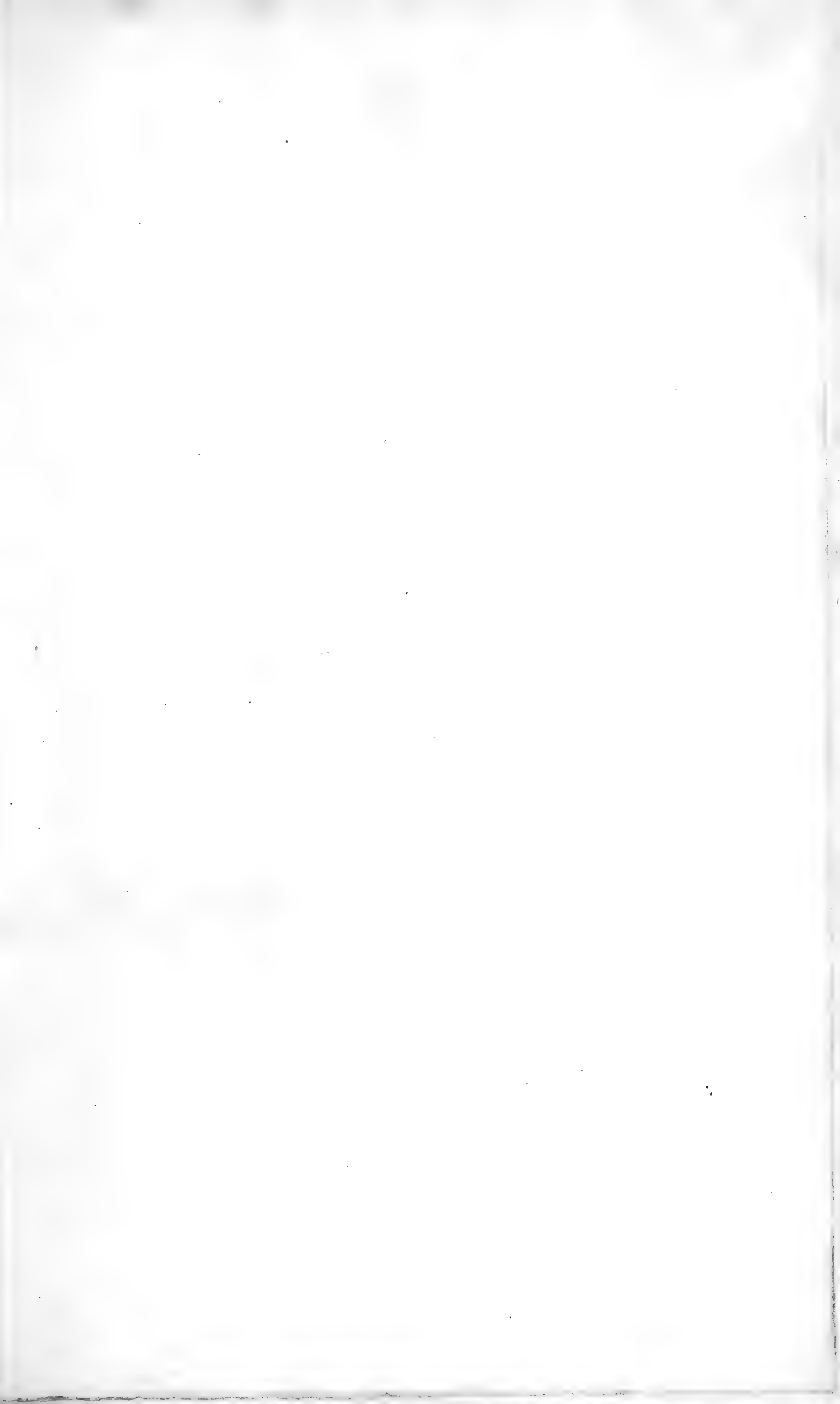
The COMMON is the most abundant of the Tern family; in the spring it is frequently met with at a great distance from the sea; nearly two dozen of them were seen for some days early in the year 1812, skimming over a reservoir of the Grand Surrey Canal, above Sydenham; about the same time we heard of them from several other inland parts.

It

It breeds on the sea-shore, laying its eggs among the loose stones without any nest ; the number of eggs are three or four, of an “ olivaceous brown, blotched and spotted with dusky ;” is a noisy restless bird, particularly during the breeding season.

This is a very active bird, and is seldom met with but on wing, being almost constantly in pursuit of food, which consists of insects and small fish ; on perceiving the latter it plunges with unerring aim into the water, from whence it instantly returns with its prey, and is not known either to swim or dive : it also pursues the smaller species of gulls, these, in endeavouring to escape, frequently disgorge their food, which the Tern catches before it reaches the water ; this persecuting propensity has occasioned its provincial name of Gull-Teaser ; its other provincial names are Sea-Swallow and Black-Head,

The species is dispersed over all the northern shores of Europe and America.





Mergus Merganser.

Pub. by G. Graves Wadworth June 2. 1812.

MERGUS MERGANSER.

GOOSANDER.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill slender, depressed, both mandibles ferrated on the edges, the point of the upper mandible furnished with a curved nail.

Tongue ferrated on the sides.

Nostrils small, situated near the centre of the bill.

Toes as in the duck tribe with these exceptions, that the outer toe is the longest, and the hind one has a kind of fin attached to it.

SYNONYMS.

MERGUS MERGANSER. *Lin. Syst.* 1. p. 208. 2. *Ind.*

Orn. p. 828. 1. *W. Curtis Mfs.*

MERGANSER. *W. Curtis Mfs.*

GOOSANDER OF MERGANSER. *Br. Zool.* 2. 260. *tab.*

92. *fig.* 1. *Ib. fol.* 147. *Arct. Zool.*

2. 465. *Ib. supt. p.* 73. *Lath. Syn.*

6. p. 418. 1. *Mont. Orn. Dict. Vol.* 1.

Bewick's Br. Birds, Pt. 2. p. 228.

“ THIS species varies exceedingly in weight, sometimes weighing above five pounds and at others less than three; its length is about two feet four to six inches, and breadth nearly three feet six inches. Bill three inches and a quarter long, on the inside of the upper mandible are a double row of small serratures,

ferratures, similar to those on the edges of the bill ; the tongue has also a double row of these kind of teeth along the middle, and a single row on each side, interspersed with thick bristles, the teeth on the upper surface are not observable except when it is in the act of taking food ; irides red ; feathers on the hind parts of the head and neck loose and long, these it can raise or depress at pleasure ; tail composed of eighteen feathers ; legs strong." We are at present uncertain with respect to the identity of the female.

The colour of the breast in very old birds is generally white, and we doubt much whether they lose the rosy buff colour till six or seven years old.

The *trachia* of this species is curiously enlarged, having three swellings that it can fill with air at pleasure, and which are most probably provided to assist the bird in respiration under water, where it frequently remains a long time in search of food.

The Goosander is a rare visitant in the southern parts of this island, though not very uncommon on the more northern ; it is said to breed in the Orknies and remain there the year, though in very severe weather it resorts to our rivers and lakes ; on the 29th of November 1811, two of these birds were taken in a net by a fisherman in the Thames, near Woolwich ; they were kept alive for some months (from one of them our description was taken) ; they were fed on small fish, particularly sprats and herrings, and readily came on the approach of any one, in expectation of food ; they always swallow their food head first ; besides fish they frequently had sea-weed given them ;

them ; the only species they would eat, was what the fishermen call sea whip-cord, *Fucus Filum*, this they ate greedily, and would frequently leave fish for it ; unless much pressed by hunger they would not eat any kind of food that was tainted ; in feeding they were very nice, but always preferred salt-water fish to those taken in the river, some of the latter kinds they would not take even when kept two days without food, particularly barbel and tench.

This species is dispersed through the colder parts of Europe, Asia, and America ; it breeds in Greenland, Iceland, Newfoundland, and Hudson's-Bay.

Our figure was executed for the late **WILLIAM CURTIS**.

. By an oversight in the Engraver, our figure is represented as having the centre toe longer than the outer one ; the reverse is the case.





Anas Acuta?

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

ANAS ACUTA.

PINTAIL DUCK.

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.

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.

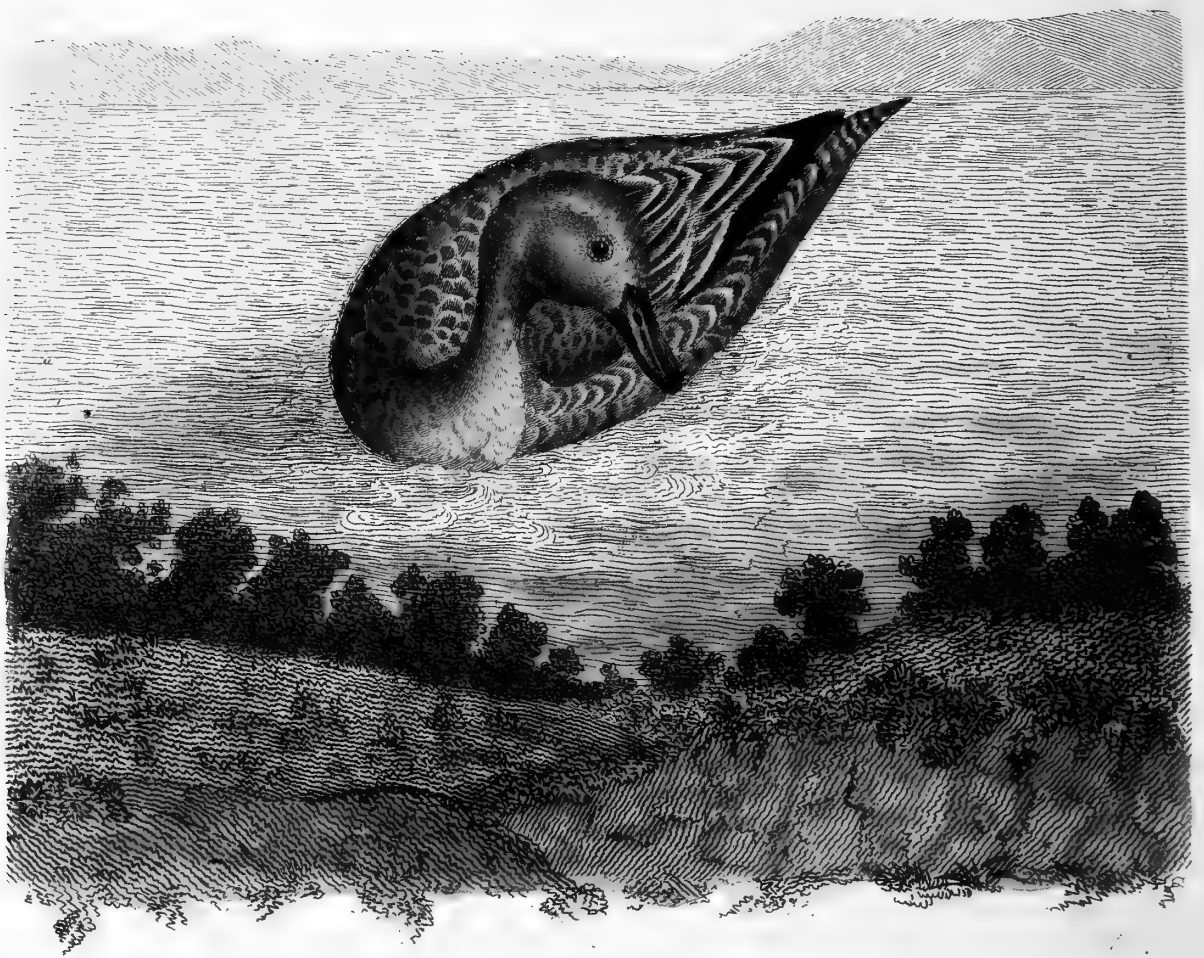
These birds do not breed with us, but quit our shores early in the spring, and retire northward; they are found in immense numbers in Hudson's Bay, Iceland, and on the coasts of Russia and Siberia, during the summer season; and they reappear in this country with the mallard, about the end of
September

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 season ; 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, I. July, 1811.

ANAS ACUTA (FŒMINA.)

FEMALE PINTAIL.

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.

