

CHICAGO
Natural history


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Under the Inspection and Patronage, of the


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## Rev. Mr. P E T E R S.

REVD. and HOND. SIR,

PERMIT me to have the honour of dedicating to you this Oecumenical Hiftory of Britifh Birds, illuftrated by coloured engravings copied from the originals. Vain would be my attempt to difplay your excellence in that noble art which you adorn, and in which the confent of mankind have already raifed you to a diftinguifhed pre-eminence. I might juftly incur the fufpicion of unfeafonable adulation, or of a needlefs repetition of praifes which the public voice has fo frequently beftowed. But although I may not be qualified to defcribe your profeffional merit, the feelings of my heart will not fuffer me to bury in filence, the kind offices, and the marks of benevolence which I have fo often experienced from you. The contemplation of thefe awakens my warment gratitude; and while I indulge fome faint hope of enjoying your approbation in the prefent undertaking, I cannot avoid informing the world of that great refpect with which I am,

Reverend Sir,

## Your moft obliged

and faithful
humble Servant,
THOMAS LORD.

No. I.
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THE following work is fubmitted to the judgment of a candid public, with that diffidence, which is natural to the human mind, confcious of its imperfection; but not without a certain portion of flattering expectation in its fuccefs. The plan, on which it is formed, is, in many refpects original, and is calculated to fupply thofe defects which have been fo prominent in other fyftems of ornithology. The work is publifhed in numbers, of which each contains three plates, four and five birds alternately, with their neft and eggs. All the birds; which the plate can admit, are reprefented as large as life, and copied with a minute and fcrupulous accuracy from the original paintings, executed by the author, and now in his poffeffion. Delineations of nature, fo exact and faithful, will fuperfede the neceffity of laboured and voluminous defcription. Hence, under each portrait is given a fimple and concife natural hiftory of the lineage, character, and property of each bird.

This difpofition, it is obvious to remark, holds out confiderable advantages; for the pieture being prefented to the eye, and a fhort philofophical explanation of the fubject being annexed, the mee mory retains it without much application, and without the labour of that reading which mult be encountered to digeft the excellent treatifes of an Ariftotle, a Buffon, a Derham, a Ray, a Brifon, and a Pennant; writers, whofe deep refearches into the operations of nature, have improved fcience, and have widely diffufed the knowledge of animal life. In former works of this kind, the defription has been tedious and elaborate, while the portraits have been inconfiderable, and thinly fcattered. But here, to an accurate account is prefixed, an exact delineation of every bird, which of itfelf produces a perfect picture; and each number having no communication nor dependance upon that which precedes, and that which is to follow, mult be elteemed intrinfically completed and finifhed. Objeftions may, perhaps, be made to the brilliancy of the colouring, but let it be oblerved (and let the reader carry this obfervation with him through the work) that the author always draws the bird at that particular period, when the plumage is in its full luftre; a circumftance which does not take place before the third year, and is chiefly confpicuous in the breeding feafon.

Such are the outlines of that Oecumenical Hiftory of Britih Birds, to which the Author now folicits the attention of the public: an hiftory which men of tafte, and all the lovers of natural fcience have long and eagerly wifhed to behold. From the reprefentation of its originality and ufefulnefs thus briefly ftated, fhall he be pardoned if he prefumes to indulge an ardent hope of
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patronage and countenance. From that period, when the Royal Society was eftablifhed, the moft happy and fuccefsful refearches into the works of nature have been made, and we every day behold the happy effects of that philofophy which directs its efforts to the improvement of geography, to the inveftigation of vegetable life, and to the difcovery of the ftrueture, and the qualities of animals. They who labour in this extenfive field, where fo much fill remains to be cultivated, are entitled to fome favor from that public, to whofe inftruction and amufement they devote their ftudies and their purfuits. In this point of view, the Author of the prefent work defires to be confidered. He is not fo unreafonable as to expect fuccefs, if it be not deferved: but he may truly affure his patrons, that no pains fhall be fpared by him to render his performance a curious and well executed fyftem of Britifh Ornithology.


## The Chafinch.

THIS bird is here drawn as large as the life. The male, like many others, is not until the third year in the full luftre of its plumage. They build in elm or apple trees, and their nefts have more art and fymmetry than thofe of any birds in this country; as defcribed in the plate. They lay from three to five eggs, and feed chiefly on hay and fmall feeds, and are deftructive enemies to gardens. In the winter, they vifit the farm yards in great numbers, and are fo familiar and domeftic as to fing fitting on the finger : they are alfo frequently purchafed as finging birds, although their note is fhort, but conftantly repeated. A barbarous cuftom prevails of putting out their eyes, to make them fing during the night. They are very docile, and are taught to eat out of the mouth. While young, this bird refembles the female, but gradually improves until the third year in richnefs and brilliancy of colour.

No. I.


## Bohemia Chatterer.

THIS is a bird of paffage, and like the Field-fare, or Red-wing, appears at the latter end of the year. The male and fermale were fhot at Amerfham, in Bucks, as they were feeding on the berries of a Barbery tree, of which, together with thofe of the mounting-afh, they are peculiarly fond. The five fcarlet feathers on the wing have all the appearance of fealing-wax, and not the leaft of feathers feven, are vifible when the wing is expanded. The creft on the head they can erect or deprefs at pleafure. It is a fcaree bird, and feldom to be found but in pairs, which affords ample reafon to conclude they are paired all the year.


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## The common Houfe-Sparrow.

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HIS bird may be thought too rich in colour; but as I have obferved in the preface, fome birds do not arrive at their full beauty until the third year. Particular marks are found in this portrait, which are not diftinguifhed in younger birds. They lay from five to fix eggs, which differ much in colour, fome extremely bright, and others are as dark as thofe of a blackbird. Their nefts I have taken almoft as large as that of a crow, and I have found them compofed of filk, linen, and wortted fragments, ftraw, rufhes, and feathers; they frequently build under the tiles and thatch of houfes, and fometimes under rook's nefts, and they are alfo allured to build in bottles placed for that purpofe. They feed on all kinds of grain, and towards the harveft, make great ravages in the fields of corn : at that feafon of the year they flock together in prodigious numbers, and there are boys whofe only occupation it is to frighten them away with clappers, adapted for that ufe.

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## P L A T E IV.

## The Yellow-Hammer.

IsS one of our molt common birds, and like the Chaffinches feeds on feeds, and flocks with them in the winter. But in the fpring of the year we fee them only in pairs; and it is then they begin to fing : their note confifts but of a few frokes, and is rather melancholy. Their feathers are long, and differ in colour according to their age, as it has been remarked in the preface. Their nefts are built on the fide of a bank, and are compofed of dried flat grafs, lined with horfe-hair. Their eggs, which are generally five in number, are beautifully veined with purple, as defcribed in the plate. They raife, or lay down the feathers on their head at pleafure ; and are very ftrong and vigorous, and capable of fupporting the moft fevere winter; of which circumftance the numbers, which appear in the coldeft feafon, afford an ample proof.

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P L A T E V.
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## The Fack, or Facobine.

THIS Pidgeon is efteemed the moft beautiful of the Dove kind, but differs very much in colour, The Fanciers are fo exact as to hold them of little value, if they diftinguifh any falfe marks in them, as the term is ;-that is, if the colour be not perfectly correfpondent, and the hood from the head to the breaft exactly regular. The right colour is obtained by matching male and female from time to time, until they arrive to what is called a true marked pidgeon; and the breeders then efteem them valuable, and can have their own price. They lay two eggs; the female fits all night, and about eleven o'clock in the morning the comes off to feed, and returns not before the evening, when fhe refumes, and the male quits the neft. They breed, for the molt part, during all the year; and, particularly, if they are kept in a room which is not cold in the winter. Hence it is always endeavoured to give them the utmoft advantage of the fun at that feafon.


## P L A T E VI.

## The Red Wing.

VISITS us in company with the Fieldfare, in the winter, and feeds on the berries of the whitethorn, and fuch food as the hedges at that feafon afford. This bird, is full of flefh, but not remarkably delicious to the tafte, and is difficult of approach, if the feafon be mild: flocks perch on the fummit of the loftieft trees, and if one of them move, the reft are immediately on the wing. It is a neat clofe-feathered bird, and is a fpecies of the thrufh, but has no fong, like our common thrufh.


## P L A T $\quad \mathbf{~} \quad$ VII.

## The Partridge.

THE fporting world is well acquainted with the external difcriminations of this bird; but it does not therefore follow that all its peculiar manners and cuftoms are equally and generally known. Ihall, then, offer fome few remarks،

Thefe birds feed upon green corn, and are likewife very deftructive to wheat in the ear. They continue among the ftubble, until it can no longer afford them provifion, and then refort to the green turnips in covies, which never feparate before the approach of the pairing feafon. They lay fixteen eggs, or more, and in general produce an equal number of young ones, which, although able to run as foon as hatched, are the moft tender of the feathered tribe. The female having found a place for them to drink, they attend it periodically for that purpofe. Her induftry to difcover the neft of the ant, or pifmire, in order to fcratch for their eggs, and feed her little progeny, is extremely curious. Thefe birds are fometimes hatched under a bantam hen, and may be eafily reared by a conftant fupply of ant's eggs. For the fpace of ten or twelve months they will follow the hen, which, during that period, is totally regardlefs of her own fpecies. Their long attendance on the brood renders it evident that partridges fit but once in a feafon, except their eggs be taken. They never feparate but on the report of a gun. They may fcatter, but they have a note, or call, by which they are eafily collected. Wild as they are, you may approach thefe birds, when fitting, fo near as to reach them with the hand; for they never forfake their nefts without the utmoft reluctance. Although their eggs are many, the young ones come all together. It deferves to be remarked, as a curious proof of inftinct, that if the hen is put up, and her young are near, The flies a few yards, and then drops as if wounded : and this fratagem the will repeat until the fuppofed enemy is decoyed away at a confiderable diftance; her little family, in the mean time, being very active on their part in fecreting themfelves from the threatened danger. Then, her artifice having fucceeded, fhe returns to them with anxious concern for their fafety.



## P L A T E VIII.

## The Water Wagtail, or Difh-Wafher.

WE need not repeat the obfervation made in the preface to this work, that every picture in it is exactly copied from original nature.

Thefe Birds frequent horfe-ponds, and muddy waters, for the purpofe of catching thofe flies which hover on the furface in the fummer feafon: but in the winter they feed upon grubs and fpiders. Their nefts, built in piles of wood, or ftacks of faggots, are compofed of dried roots, and dead grafs, and lined with hair, Like moft of our fmall birds they fit fourteen days, and generally lay five or fix eggs. So very fhy are thole birds, that if a finger be lifted up they are inftantly on the wing. They dart at a fly with a fury equal to that of a hawk at his prey. Their motion is amazingly rapid : and their wings carry them feveral yards at one ftroke. They fettle upon the ground, or barns, and the tops of houfes, but feldom upon trees. They run with great fwiftnefs upon the brink of the water after the flies. They are not however much efteemed, nor are they ever caged: but it is a bird of ftately deportment. Here it may not be improper to give the etymology of their former name. They receive it from this circumftance-that every motion of their body is feconded by a quick movement of the tail.


## P L A T E IX.

## The Bullfinch, or Nope.

THE beauty and colour of thefe Birds are exquifite, and their docility in learning tunes is remarkable. Hence they are much efteemed. But they are not long-lived, few of them exifting more than five years in a cage. They will produce five young ones at a time, and fit twice or thrice in one year : but in comparifon of the numbers hatched very few are feen or caught; and this may be occafioned by their incapacity to endure fevere weather. As they are pernicious enemies to young fruit-trees by feeding on the buds, the gardeners fhew them no mercy. In winter, the few which appear are found in the woods, or under hedges. They are paired all the year. Five fhillings each are often given for their purchafe. When caged they feed upon hemp-feed: but this food is deftructive to their health, and fhortens their lives; nor is it lefs injurious to their beauty; for it foon darkens their glowing colours. It may be added, that it is not unufual to make choice of thefe birds for the purpofe of teaching them to pipe a tune from a fmall hand organ, or pipe. But then the key note of the pipe muft be to the pitch of the bird's common note, and they muft be taken young, and hear only the fame tune, which mult be played to them until the following fpring.

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## P L A T E X.

## The Woodpecker.

FROM the obfervation frequently made of thefe birds being feldom found but in pairs, it is concluded that they are paired all the year. In their nature they are very remarkable: they difplay amazing ftrength in their flight, for one ftroke will carry them more than twenty yards: and when their flight is upon the decline, they rife, and renew it, until they arrive at the tree in view. They alight upon the fide, and run fwiftly round and round to conceal themfelves from every beholder ; and having reached that part which is moft diftant from the enemy, they peep on one fide, and then on the other; fo that it is curious to mark the various operations of this flratagem. From this extreme caution they are difficult to fhoot.

Their tail feathers, which are fhort and fumpey, they place clofe to the tree, as a fupport. Then it is they begin to work for their food, the infects, that live between the bark and the tree. Their tongue is much like that of other birds; but when they fearch for their food the ftrength of it is wonderful : they dart it feveral inches, as from a fheath: it is round, and hard, and very wiry at the tip. They work it under the bark of the tree, and the infects, which inhabit there, being difturbed, immediately run out, and, the tongue of the bird having refumed its natural length, the expected aliment is obtained. For the fecurity of their young it is common with them to felect a hollow tree : and, for a neft, their bill is fo hard as to peck a hole in the wood; and this is done with fo much violence and force that the noife of it is heard at the diflance of more than one quarter of a mile. The afh is their general object, and their neft, being very deep in the trunk of the tree, is not eafily acceffible.



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## The Greenfinch.

IS one of our moft common birds. They feed upon every kind of finall feeds, and lay five beaut tiful eggs, as the plate defcribes. They fit three or four times in the courfe of the feafon. Remarkably ftrong and hardy, they can endure the fevereft winter. Their fong is very fhort, and very indifferent. They love to frequent gardens, in which they often build, ad are mortal enemies to feeds recently fown. As they are not very cautious in concealing their nefts, it is found in cut hedges, apple, or fir-trees. In fharp weather, fwarms of them vifit the farm-yards for their food. Docile and familiar, they are eafily taught to draw water, or open a box for their food: and hence numbers are immured in cages by the curious.


## P L A T E XII.

## The Song-Thrufh, or Throfte.

THESE birds are indigenous, and are much efteemed for their note, which is fo loud and powerful, that it has been heard for more than half a mile. They perch on the fummit of lofty trees, and begin their fong foon after chriftmas; which they continue to the latter part of the fummer: and that being moulting feafon, they ceafe to fing, becaufe their health is not then fo perfect as in the fpring; and this, indeed, is the cafe with moft birds. Thrufhes may be thought to refemble the Red-wing, given in a former plate ; but their nature is quite different. Great numbers are never feen together: they are very fhy, and fwift in their flight. In cages they may eafily be tamed, and rendered familiar. Their common food is grubs and caterpillars: and when they are much diftreffed by the intenfe cold the produce of hedges contents them. There is a food called German pafte which they eat in cages, and alfo fig-duft, both which are very good for them. They are often purchafed at a guinea a piece.


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P L A T E XIII.
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## The Hoopoe.

THIS bird was fhot by John Lord Efq. of Murfley Hall, Buckinghamfhire. But as it is a rare and tranfitory paffenger little can be faid of its properties. The creft on the head, which is erected and dreffed at pleafure; confifts of a double row of feathers, of which fifteen are tipt with jet black, as reprefented. The upper mandible of the bill is not incurvated like that of moft other birds, but is flat, and of a high polifh: and the tongue is thick and fhort, as a barley-corn. This bird, being only wounded, was taken alive: and feveral kinds of food were in vain offered : it partook of none, nor would take the lealt notice of any. When dead, the fat broiled through the fkin, fo as to difcolour the plumage. Two authors, whofe works I have read on the fubject of Ornithology, differ very much in their accounts concerning the manner of its building. As the matter is left in obfcurity, I prefer filence to any quotation, which perhaps might prove erroneous.


## P L A T E XIV.

## The Wood Lark.

THE birds in this number, as in all the paft, are delineated as large as the life.

The wood-larks in fize are inferior to the fky -larks, and are, when young, very tender, and fubject to cramp. Hence it is difficult to rear them : nor indeed does it anfwer any effential purpofe to attempt it : for it is well known that birds caught wild far excel thofe which are brought up by hand, in the melody of their fong, and the beauty of the feathers : fo much is nature fuperior to art in all her operations. The eggs of thefe birds are fix in number, and, as the plate exactly reprefents them, very dark. Their neft, which is peculiar in its ftructure, is compofed of fine long dried grafs, and lined with hair. The ufual fpot on which they build is by the fide of large woods and forefts; and their favourite haunts are the plains, and commons near thofe places. Thefe larks perch upon lofty trees; and from that flation, to which their choice appears purpofely directed, their fong echoes through the refounding wood. Their note is lefs fonorous, but equal in fweetnefs to that of the fky-lark. They fing in the night, and as they fly; while the rich variety of their fong is very delightful to the ear. The fize is the only difcriminative quality of the male and female. They feed upon feeds, but, when caged, they fhould be fupplied with clover turf, which they like very much, and which is good for their health. If approached within twenty yards, their nature is to fkulk rather than to take wing, like others of the feathered tribe.
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## The Robin, or Red Breaf.

THESE birds, although fociable and familiar with mankind, feldom meet one another without a reciprocal challenge. Their hoftile difpofition is indicated by a peculiar note in their fong. The challenge is foon accepted, and a battle enfues. In winter they often become domefticated, and take refuge by our fire-fides in the inclement feafon. I remember one of thefe focial birds, with only one leg, which paid an annual vifit to the houfe for many fucceffive feafons. The poets not unfrequently celebrate this Bird. We meet with the following picturefque defcription in the favourite bard of nature

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regular; their nefts are found in the holes of old walls of decayed buildings, and in faw-pits. They follow the gardener as he digs up the mould, and I have remarked them pecking for the reptiles before the fpade could poffibly be put a fecond time into the ground. Their note is cheerful and pleafing, and they begin their fong at that feafon when that of other birds decline: and their favourite time of delighting us with their warbled frains is in the dawn of day, and the clofe of evening: fo that it would almoft appear as if kind nature had deftined them to cheer our gloomy moments in that dreary period of the year, when the foft melody of the grove is dumb. They will fing within very few hours after they are caught, if turned loofe into a room ; but, if caged, not before two or three days; and when their confinement is become a little more tolerable, they will fing by candle light. The country people think it impious to deftroy thefe birds-certainly it is unkind and inhofpitable.


## P L A T E XVI.

## The Madge Owlet, or Owl.

THESE birds are fcarce, and feldom feen but near large forefts and chaces. The original of this portrait was 'hot near Whaddon Chace, in Buckinghamfhire. They frequent the moft folitary and fecret places, and appear only in the night. They depofite their eggs in fome hollow tree, which are two in number, of a white colour, and as large as thofe of a fmall bantam hen. Their young, being unable to provide for themfelves, remain in the neß much longer than other birds. They feed on mice, and other fmall animals.


## P L A T E XVII.

## The Red-Pole.

THESE birds migrate from the fouth of France, and vifit this country in great numbers. In their paffage they have been known to alight, for reft, on the yards and rigging of fhips. They are frequently to be met with in the London market; but are not held in much eftimation. They have no fong, but are docile, and may be taught to open a box for their food. People generally purchafe them as a decoy bird, to catch others of their kind. Few, in the numbers that come over, have arrived at their full beauty: it is therefore with no fmall pleafure the author prefents to the public a portrait, drawn from a living and perfect bird.


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P L A T E XVIII.
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## The Fantail, or Shaker.

$\mathrm{O}_{\mathrm{F}}$thefe birds are various forts, which differ only in colour. The carriage of their head is very majeftic and flately. To be of any value, their bill muft be fhort; and in their tail muft be a double row, which muft contain thirty-two feathers at leaft. They lay white eggs, and fit eighteen days. The male and female fit alternately, as it was remarked of the Jacobine in a former plate. They do not in general rear their young fo well as the common pidgeon.


## P L A T $\quad \mathbf{T}$ XIX.

## The Red Headed Linnet.

THIS bird is very common and well known by the generality of the world, it is much admired for its fong, which is fweet and melodious. Thefe birds, like many others, are in their full beauty the third year, but when caged, and moulted, lofes the red on the head and breaft, which they never more recover. They build in furze about three feet from the ground, and their nelt is eafily found, for whilf the hen fits, the male is frequently perched on fome twigs at a fmall diftance facing the neft, pouring forth his foft fong. He likewife feeds the female while fhe fits, their food confifts of any fort of fmall feeds. They lay five eggs, the nell is compofed of fmall dried roots lined with wool. After harveft, when breeding feafon is over, they flock together in vaft numbers on the lands, to feed on what remains. They fettle by hundreds on one tree, and are frequently fo numerous as to cover the whole top of it, where they jointly unite in a general chorus, and what is not a little fingular they periodically attend at fome clear fream for their drink.


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## The Field Fare

Isa bird of paflage, and accompanies the Red Wing but affociates with no ohter Bird, except the Starling which will fometimes intrude into his company. It vifits us in the winter in great flocks, and feeds on the produce of the hedges. It is a very loofe feathered bird, but rich in colour, and are very fhy and difficult to approach with a gun. The feverer the Froft is, the higher they are in flefh. They are good eating, but no way delicious. When they rife at the approach of a gun they foar fo extremely quick and high as to be foon beyond the reach of fhot,


## P L A T E XXI.

## The Common Canary Bird.

THESE birds are natives of the Canary Illands, but numbers of them are bred in this kingdom, Colchefter and Ipfwich are the two principal places, and the birds bred in thefe towns, are much ftronger, and larger, than thofe brought from Germany, although feveral thoufands are brought over every feafon. They are bred in barns and rooms in which are fixed boxes and bafkets for that purpofe, and are fupplied with deer's hair, of which, together with mofs and dead grafs, they compore their nefts. They will build three or four times in a feafon, and lay from three to five eggs each time. They fit fourteen days reckoning from the day their firft egg is laid. The female leaves them generally at the expiration of fourteen days, when the male bird attends them another week in the neft at which time they commonly leave their neft, though not able wholly to provide for themfelves, and follow the male bird who is their fole provider until they can take care of themfelves. Frequent inftances have been known of the firf brood driving out the female from her fecond neft by which means they deftroy the fecond brood. During nefting feafon the birds fhould be fupplied with hard-boiled eggs, bread and milk, bifcuits, or bread-pudding all which muft be often changed. In a future plate I fhall give the true fancy bird, and a more full account of their cuftoms and manners.


## P L A T E XXII.

## The Gold Finch.

IsS a Bird univerfally admired both for its fong and variety of colour. It is a familiar and docile bird, eafily taught to draw water and open a box for its food, extremely delicate, and tender and will not bear the leaft handling. I have known many inftances of their ftruggling whilft changing cages; which ftruggle has broken a blood veffel and by bleeding at the mouth they have expired inftantly. There are two forts of thefe birds the larger and fmaller, the larger one far furpaffes the other in colour but the fmaller one is more excellent for its fong. Many have not the light fpots at the end of the tail and wing which are obferved in this plate. Another mark which adds much to their value is the red fpot which fome have at the back of their head, which bird is diftinguifhed by the name of the Red-Ear. Great flocks are to be met with at the latter end of the year. The bird catchers are frequently known to take two hundred at one throw. They make it. a point to kill all the hens becaufe if they efcaped they would be fhy of the net and prevent others from being taken. They lay five eggs and fit three or four times in a feafon. In winter they haunt the barn doors whilft the threfhers are at work to feed on the feeds which are feperated from the corn. They are remarkably fond of thiftles and are always to be met with where they grow. The male differs from the female in brilliancy of colour, and is by far the richer of the two ; the black on the pinion is a diftinguifhed mark, as the hen is never fo dark in that part.


## P L A T $\quad$ E XXIII.

## The Male Black-Bird

IS much fmaller and genteeler than the female although long in feather. They are frequently thot and brought to the London markets with other fmall birds for eating. It is a clofe feathered bird, his fong is fhort but much admired, it feldom laft longer than three or four months, which is in breeding feafon, during which time he is to be feen finging on fome branch near his neft which is eafily to be found by obferving him as he always fits facing it. They generally build within three or four feet of the ground. When moft other birds are filent at the clofe of evening, the Blackbird fings until the fun is fet.



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P L A T E XXIV.
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## The Female Black-Bird.

THIS Bird differs much from the male both in colour and fize, is of a folitary nature never affociating with any other than her own fpecies fhe frequents retired places, remote lanes, ditches, and dark walks. In fuch places her neft is to be found it is compofed of dirt and cow-dung lined with the fame mixed with dirty ftraw, which when matted together and dry is hard and folid as a peice of clay. They lay five eggs rather fmall; they feed in the winter on hips and haws, and grubs of all forts. In the fummer they feed on fmall fruit and are deftructive enemies to gardens to cherries in particular, and are bold adventurers in purfuit of them.


## P L A T E XXV.

## The Magpic

## Reflefuntorsun

IsSone of our moft common birds, and is by many fuppofed to be only black and white, which is erroneous, as they fhew the moft brilliant purple, blue, and green, like that difplayed in the neck of our Pheafant. The Magpie is a mifchievous and deftructive bird, for when they become familiar and are at liberty, they will pick up every thing that is in their power to carry, and depofit in fone fecret place, whither they will put every article if there be an hundred. They are extremely attentive to oblerve if they are noticed whilf thus employed, and have couched, under a feeming difregard, a watchful eye, for fear of being difcovered; the pleafure to them appears to be the doing of it flyly; and with refpect to their deftructive qualities, a Hen or Duck cannot lit in peace where one of thefe birds inhabit, for they will encounter with either, and never leave them until they have accomplifhed their defign of fealing the eggs or chicks, and by thefe means they will deftroy whole broods if not timely prevented. They are a bird of all others that will excel in talking if taught early. There are two forts of thefe birds, the larger and fmaller; the one here given is the larger fort, but is reduced for the conveniency of bringing it into the plate; the original meafures nineteen inches from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, and ten inches and an half round the breaft. Thefe build in trees, the fmaller fort in hedges; their neft is compofed of rugged thorny flicks, arched over the top, but not fo clofely as to repel the weather; it is lined with cow-hair and wool, which I have oblerved them collecting from the backs of the cows and fheep. They lay feven eggs. Another particular in which they differ from other birds is, that they have a fort of kell or fkin which they caft from under their eyelid over the eye at pleafure.


## P L A T E XXVI.

## The Pipet.

## Is

 any property which might render it valuable. They build chiefly by the fide of a bank; the neft is compofed of dried grafs, lined with the fame intermixed with hair. They lay five eggs, and feed on fmall feed of any kind. It is a bird of fo little confequence as to be known but to a few; their number is not great, neither do they affociate with any other birds, but are to be met with by the fide of forefts and woods.

## P L A T E XXVII.

## The Sky-Lark



THIS is a bird in the higheft eflimation for its melodious fong and length of note, in which particular none excel them. They begin their fong very early in the fpring and continue it all the fummer. They ufher in the day break with their harmonious fong, and whilft finging foar fo prodigioufly as to be very foon out of fight, though not of hearing; they frequently fall down as if dead, or motionlefs, clofing their wings until they come within a very fmall diftance of the ground, when they will expand them and fly fome paces near the furface of the earth before they fettle. An obfervation worthy of notice is, that they never fettle near their neft, but have from it a track or run iffuing fome diftance, at the end of which they generally fettle, and none but thofe who are perfectly acquainted with this ftratagem can perceive them running and fculking along this tract to their neft. They build three or four times in a feafon, and lay five eggs. It is cuftomary to take the old ones with their young as they will feed them untill they are able to provide for themlelves. When breeding feafon is over they flock to the lower countries until the feverity of the fnow drives them to the downs. Dunftable is a place of note for them, and great numbers of them are caught there to fupply the London markets. Their food is fmall feed, and they are partially fond of grafs; thofe who keep them fhould fupply them with a turf conftantly; many fupply them with a food called German Pafte, but I have known them live ten years on common feeds, as hemp, \&c. with a turf.

No. IX.


## P L A T E XXVIII.

## The Butcher-Bird

## Tirneranferon

IsS one of thofe which pays his annual vifit to us about the month of May, and đays until nefting feafon is over, he makes choice of fome remote place for his abode, and, if not deftroyed, will come to the fame fpot the next year; his neft is eafily found as he feldom leaves the fpot for any long time. It is a dull ftupid bird and not fond of moving far. It will build two or three times in a feafon, the young ones alfo continue near the fame place, their neft is compofed of dried rubilhing grals, lined with the fame, and intermixed with hair; they lay five eggs, of a dufky grey, as defcribed in the plate. As foon as building feafon is over, and the young ones ftrong enough for flight, we fee no more of them until the following May. It is a bird of no fong, nor any particular value. I have frequently remarked their mode of feeding, and obferved them fitting on a tree, regardlefs of all around them, and on a fudden dart down to their food, and inflantly reinftate themfelves on the bough to eat what they have caught, this they repeat when they fee their intended food, which is caterpillars, beetles, grubs, fpiders, \&c. Being a fpecies of carniverous bird they are never made choice of for the table.


## P L A T E XXIX.

## The Spotted Woodpeckers



ARE never to be met with bat in pairs, we have but few of them and they are very feldom to be feen. They build in trunks of trees, and frequently make choice of an hollow apple tree. They feed in the fame manner as the Green Woodpecker given in a former plate, and differ only in fize and colour from that bird. When they alight on the ground they have an aukward appearance, which demonftrates that the tree is more fuitable to their nature. They are a fhy bird and not very eafy of approach, their flight is feldom more than the length of one field or clofe.

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## The Pidgeon

Here reprefented is a crofs breed between a Tumbler and a Pouting Horfeman, therefore is of no more value than a common dove-houfe pidgeon, and fit only for the table. They will breed nearly all the year round, if kept in a room, and are a ftrong hardy bird, and full of flefh. Thefe as well as the common pidgeon differ much in colour.


## P L A $\quad$ T $\quad$ E XXXI.

## The Yellow Wagtail

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IsS one of the genteeleft of the feathered tribe. They vifit us in the fummer feafon, and are fond of frequenting our bean fields and tares, but are partial to the latter, where horfes are feeding, on account of the great number of flies generally attendant, they being their favourite food. They are quick and fhort in their flight, and generally fettle on the firft twig or branch near them. They lay five eggs as reprefented in the plate: the young ones do not change their colour as they grow older fo materially as fome birds do, but only get fomewhat darker in their fhades.


## P L A T E XXXII.

## The Wall Birds



ARE of fuch a nature as to affociate with no other bird, but live entirely to themfelves; they make choice of the moft retired part of a garden, and if there are bees kept, they will frequent their haunts, for they are very deftructive to thofe infects; they will place themfelves on fome poft or pales near the hives and watch them out, when they inftantly dart at them, and feize them as prey; flies and fpiders alfo they feed upon; they are harmlefs in every other refpect but that of deftroying bees. They have not the leaft fong, or hardly any note whatever; they are of a ftill and quiet nature, regardlefs of every thing but their food; and neither quarrelfome nor playfull as moft other birds are. They lay five eggs, fomewhat refembling the Robin's in colour; they build in holes of walls and pofts, or any fuch places, not at all fecreting their neft, which is compofed of a little dried mofs or dirty ftraws, but principally fpider's webbs; they make ufe of a little hair to line it. Although they fit three or four times in a feafon, few are to be feen, which gives reafon to fuppofe that many do not live through the winter.



## P L A T $\quad$ E XXXIII

## The Fay.

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THE bird here given is reduced in fize for the convenience of the plate; when living it meafured thirteen inches from the point of it's bill to the tip of it's tail, and eight inches round the breaft Thefe birds are kept chiefly for their talking property; I have known them excell any Parrot whatever in imitating the human voice; when once taught they are apt at catching any thing they hear; they have a difagreeable wild note of their own which they loofe by degrees when learning to talk, and have a particular noife like the mewing of cats; but this is only to be heard in pairing feafon. They feed on reptiles of all kinds, and are very fond of fruit, which renders them great enemies to gardens; they are rather of a fhy nature, generally watching the abfence of every one before they will appear to notice or touch the fruit. They build with bits of rugged fticks, and are not very nice in the ftructure of their neft, which is made fmall and flight, lined, with a little hair intermixed; they lay five, and fometimes fix eggs, which are fmall compared with the bird; (but that without it's feathers is fmall alfo:) they build chiefly by the fide of an oak tree, feldom more than half way up, on which account the neft is confpicuous before you come to it : they are feldom to be feen fingle any time of the year, or with any other fpecies but their own. They are fond of retiring to woods at night.


## P L A T E XXXIV.

## The Sparrow Hawk.

## शिक्यी

THE bird here reprefented is the mof favage of its kind.-This was fhot at the inflant it was feizing a Swallow as its prey; and although the Hawk was fhot dead with it in his claws, the Swallow made its efcape unhurt. The Hawk when furrounded with fmall birds will appear as if fright. ened and wifhed to efcape from them, artfully watching till fome one of the multitude is feparated from the reft, when, with his ufual velocity, he darts at it, and feldom in vain. I have obferved, when the fmall bird has flown through a hedge to efcape the purfuit, that the Hawk flew over and met him on the other fide. They are not eafily to be fhot, but when purfuing their prey. So great enemies are they to fmall birds, that they are frequently kept in gardens to preferve the fruit, for none dare approach where one of thefe inhabit. There is feldom more than one of them feen at a time. It is to be remarked, that they will frequently feed on mice, \&c.


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P L A T E XXXV.
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## The Tom Tit.

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THIS bird is the largeft of its kind. There are feveral forts, which will appear in future plates. They are very common with us, and frequent our houfes, and home buildings in farm yards in the Winter. They lay from five to eight eggs. They are hardy in their nature, alter very little in their colour by moulting, and are a bird of no fong; therefore feldom caged. They make choice of an hole in a barn or rotten apple-tree to build in. Their food is generally bees, flies, fpiders, \&c.

## P L A T E XXXVI.

## The Bantam Hen.

## 

As this plate is fo exact a portrait from, the life, of a fowl fo well known, I have only to add fome few remarks. Their fize, and the beauty of their fymmetry, caufe them to be univerfally admired: This bird when alive and in full flefh weighed only fifteen ounces; the portrait is fomewhat reduced for the conveniency of the plate. For delicacy of flavour they excell all other fowls, and their eggs are equally delicious; in their properties they are the fame as the common fowls, only that their chickens require more care in rearing. Thefe fowls are much fought after, as they lay a greater number of eggs than the common fort. Some are beautifully muffed, and feathered to their very claws. They are of a fpirited nature, and will encounter with any other fowl, be it ever folarge.


## P $\quad \mathbf{L} \quad \mathbf{A} \quad \mathrm{T} \quad \mathrm{E} \quad$ XXXVII.

## The Hedge Sparrow.

THE bird reprefented in this plate is held in no eftimation either for it's fong or it's beauty, confequently not caged as many fmall birds are. It is of a tame and inoffenfive nature, and frequents fmall cottages, gardens, and yards, in purfuit of it's food, which are grubs, caterpillars, fpiders, \&c. \&c. It's fong is rather fhort, but pleafing, which it warbles morning and evening. It builds it's neft in a hedge commonly by the fide of a wood, which is compofed of both dead and green mofs, lined with cow's hair, and generally built flat and wide, in which the bird lays five eggs which the Cuckoo frequently fucks, and takes poffeffion of to lay her egg in, leaving that to be hatched and brought up by the little bird we are defcribing; which tenderly fupplies the wants of the young Cuckoo till by its fize the Hedge Sparrow is terrified and ftands as if it was afraid to difcharge the office impofed upon it. It is with much difficulty this little bird can procure food fufficient to fupply the wants of its charge. It is to be remarked that when the Cuckoo leaves the neft the Hedge Sparrow takes no further notice of it.


## P L A T E XXXVIII.

## The Jack Daw



IsS a very common bird, and a 〔pecies of the Crow! It much frequents charch fteeples and hollow trees in parks, but never makes choice of a wood or common field. They lay five eggs, and generally bring as many young ones; they build three or four times in the feafon: the young ones are frequently taken and kept, fometimes caged, and fometimes not. This bird is made choice of becaufe it is eafily taught to talk, and very familiar; will perch on the fhoulder or hand, and will follow any one it is ufed to with the fame familiarity as a dog. Their food is flefh of all kinds, fnails, \&c. \&c. I have obferved them in a field of fheep ftanding on their backs picking out the ticks. They are of a hardy nature, and may be kept on any thing.


## P L A T E XXXIX.

## The 'Hay Bird

## Noun

IS a bird of little fong, and lefs value: we therefore fet it down as an Englifh bird, but of no particular properties. It is tender in it's nature, and though it lays five eggs, and brings as many young ones, we feldom fee more than a pair together at a time. They frequent folitary woods and lanes; their food is chiefly flies, fpiders, and fmall grubs of all kinds. The neft is built of dried grafs, lined with the fame, very flight and loofe. The eggs much refemble the neft in colour. They feldom build more than four feet from the ground, and that not very private.

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## P L A. T $\quad$ E XL.

## The Coote.

## Annancon

THIS plate is the full fize of life. They chiefly inhabit the lower fenns, being birds that do not frequent any places but where there is water. They are difficult of approach, for, immediately on obferving any one they fecrete themfelves in the flags and rufhes, or if there be none of thofe near they dive under water, and are no more to be feen. The few with which the London markets are fupplied are taken with nets. They feldom fly, and are fo clofely feathered as to refift common mufquet fhot every where except the head. The neft is compofed of a few rubbilhing flags and fmall ficks but very flightly put together, it is built a few inches above the furface of the water and fupported there by the flags and rufhes, they lay three and four eggs, the young ones quit their neft as foon as they are hatched, as young ducks do; and I have obferved them fwimming and diving in the water at a very early period after they were hatched.


## P L A T E XLI.

## The Dove.

THIS bird is a native of our Kingdom and is delineated the fize of life: it is the fmalleft of the Dove kind, and much frequents the woods about Tring in Hertfordhire. They do not flock together as the Wood-Pidgeons do, but are moflly to be feen in pairs. I have feen them in the London markets before they were full feathered, where they are fold for foreign birds and are often caged. The proper food for them is Tares; and whilft young, once a day is fufficient for them to be fed. They build in fmall low oak trees in woods, the neft is flightly made of a few bits of ficks; they lay two white eggs, and fit eighteen days. They are very tender to rear, and if taken young will breed in cages.


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## P.LA T E XLII.

## The Bunting

## TH Countionenf

IS a fpecies of the Lark, but held in no eftimation, as their fong is fhort and unpleafant. They frequent our corn fields, and feed on fmall feeds of all forts. They are a very frong bird, and will endure the fevereft weather; and what is worthy our remark is, that they have a tooth in the upper mandable of their bill. At the latter end of the year they flock with the Linnet, at which time they are tolerable good eating. There is but little difference between the male and female, except in the ftrength of the marks on the head and breaft. Their neft is built and lined with fine grafs, and is exceeding fmall for the fize of the bird. They chiefly build on the ground, where the grafs grows between the lands of corn; their eggs are beautifully fpotted. In winter when forced by the feverity of the weather they haunt the farm yards and neighbourhood of houfes for food.


## P L A T $\quad$ A XLIII.

## The Green Plover.

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THE Female here delineated is fomething fmaller than the Male Bird and differs in colour, difplaying great effeminacy about its head,-the feathers which grow from the top of it are not fo long as thofe of the Male. It has been afferted by thofe who profefs to underfand Birds in general, that this bird has no hinder claw, which affertion is erroneous; for it has that claw, though it is not fo long as to reach the ground when the bird walks. It commonly vilits us early in the Summer, and inhabits the fallow fields and marfhy grounds, the former of which it makes choice of to depofite its eggs in and, which it does in fome hole by the fide of a clod or bawk, for they build no neft. They lay four eggs which are large in proportion to the bird. The young ones run as foon as they are hatched, and affift in providing food, but being unable to fly the old bird is much difturbed for their fafety; when any one appears fhe has a voice or call which they know, and immediately fculk, and being the colour of the dirt they are not eafily found. The Old Bird will purfue the fuppofed enemy, hovering over them, and partly flapping them with her wings until fhe is fure her young are out of danger; fhe then alights, and feems apparently fatisfied, attentively watching the enemy's departure before fhe returns to her little care: the beft way to find them is with a fpaniel dog. When the breeding feafon is over they appear in great flocks on the marlhy grounds, and frequently fly in the night, at which time alfo they are to be found on the lands: they continue with us till the winter is advanced: The young ones do not come to their colour the firf year, which renders the diftinction between the Male and Female difficult.

No. XV.



## P L A T E XLIV.

## The Wren

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Isone of our fmallelt birds, weighing only four drachms: their plumage is of the richef red brown, as reprefented in the plate. It is a bird held in little eftimation as they will not bear caging; for although they do not appear to be wild in their nature, but will fuffer themfelves to be eafily approached when at liberty, yet when confined in a cage they are totally regardlefs of all kinds of food, and beat themfelves with fuch force againft the wires that a few hours puts a period to their exiftence. There are very few of our fmall birds that can vie with them in fong, their note being powerful and firong, particularly in the morning and evening, when two of them are at fome fmall diffance apart, they will anfwer each other for fome fpace of time as if each were ambitious to excel the other; they frequently fing as they fly, which is not common with other birds: they feed on fpiders and infects of all kinds. Their Neft is generally built in an old Hovel or thatched Barn, and is compofed of Green Mofs lined with Feathers, and one part being hid in the thatch or rafters is fo conflructed that it is impoffible to fee the eggs: they lay from feven to nine, which are exceeding fmall and white fpotted with red. If they are not difturbed in their building place they will return the fucceeding feafon, and appear partial to remote Villages.


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## P L A T E XLV.

## The Swallow

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Isa bird of paffage, and does not make its appearance with us very early unlefs the weather be very fine and open, but generally before either the Martin or Swift. The Swallow chiefly makes choice of a chimney for its neft, and always occupies the corner as the eafieft to build in; it is compofed of dirt as the Martin's is, but not of the fame ftructure as the former, which is left open at top. I have known a Swallow to build in the Paffage of a Houfe for feveral fucceffive feafons, which gives reafon to conclude that the fame bird returns year after year. They lay five eggs fpotted with a ftrong red; they breed three or four times in a feafon; the young ones differ little in colour from the old. Their food is Flies, and they are perpetually on the wing for their prey. The young ones do not wholly provide for themfelves for thirteen or fourteen days after they quit the neft. At the latter end of the year, when the mornings get cold, I have obferved them in great numbers on the tops of houfes in full fong previous to their departure, and make choice of that fide of the houfe on which the fun rifes. Their wings are calculated for long and fwift flight. Some will aver that they hide themfelves in Rocks, others that they repair to fome warmer climate, as they have been feen on the rigging of Ships at Sea.


L A T E XLVI.

## The Game Cock.



THE Game Cock is a well known bird, and highly efteemed for the beauty of its plumage, and its valour : he will bear no rival, ạnd fupports, while he has life, the lordfhip of the walk on which he treads. If one of the fame fpecies be near him a battle is inevitable, wherein one is fure to fall, as neither will yield to the other: and if by chance they are feparated, they watch for, and embrace the firft opportunity of renewing the engagement, and it frequently happens that both birds are fpoiled by the conteft. Should it fo be, that a Game Cock, and a common Cock are in one Yard they are fure to have a battle, which, however, is of no long duration, as the latter quickly fubmits and the former being conqueror is content with his conqueft, and they live afterwards in perfect harmony, it never being known that the true Game Cock will, after gaining the battle, teaze, and torment his opponent as the Common Cocks do each other. Thefe birds fhould always be hatched in the month of March that they may have the whole Summer to grow in-they fhould not breed with the old ftock, but change the Hens, otherwife the breed will degenerate, and become fmall and of little value. If the Game Cock is taken into a Foreign Country he will lofe his courage, and becomes of no more value than a common Fowl. Stately and majeftic in his appearance, he carries a fuperiority over all other Fowls even in his looks; in his colours he difplays great brilliancy, and at the age of three years, is, without doubt, one of the finelt birds we have in this kingdom.


## P L A T $\quad \mathbf{~} \quad$ XLVII.

## The Blue-Headed Tit.

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Isone of the fmaller fpecies of the Tits, and is with us all the year. They are deftructive enemies to Bees,-I have obferved them rapping at the hole of the Hive with all their might, till at laft the Bee by this ftratagem comes out and becomes an eafy prey. In hard weather the Tit will frequent the neighbouring Butcher's Shops, \&c. to pick up fcraps of Meat, and Fat which they are particularly fond of: nay, they fteal into houfes for food when the feverity of the weather has deftroyed the Infects on which they live. They moftly inhabit Gardens, Yards, and Home Places; and build their Neft in fome hollow Tree, or hole in a Barn; they are not very particular in fecreting their Neft, but it is difficult to come at their Eggs they lay them fo far from the entrance, which is compofed of feathers and ftraw loofely laid together in no fort of form. They lay nine Eggs, and fometimes more, white fpotted with red; and it is very feldom the Eggs fail of bringing Young Ones. The Male and Female are fo much alike as not to be known one from the other: the under part of the Feathers near the body is nearly black, though the tips are fo beautifully variegated with blues, yellows, greens, \&c. for fo fmall a bird the Bill is remarkably frong. In the Winter they are eafy to be caught with a horfe-hair noofe baited with a piece of Fat.


## P L A T E XLVIII.

## The Plover.

## Nond

IN this Plate is given the Male Bird, which differs much in colour from the Female given in our laft Number. It has in it's appearance a much bolder, and more mafculine look, and the feathers at the top of the head are confiderably longer, and marked ftronger: their colours are more full and brilliant than they are in the Female; and they are kept in Gardens, where they deftroy the Sluggs, \&c. but are fhy when approached. It is common for them to leave the place in which they were bred, and great flocks of them are feen about the Fenns in Lincolnfhire, as well as other places. Many are fold in the London Markets though they are not particularly delicious to the palate.


## P L A T E XLIX.

## The common Barn Owl.

THIS is a Bird well known, and much valued by farmers, as they are of ufe in deftroying mice in their barns and granaries, in which places, as well as in hollow trees and holes in church walls, they frequently build their nefts. It is a property peculiar to thefe birds, that, as foon as the firft brood are capable of feeding themfelves, the old one drives them out of the neft, that the may lay more eggs in the place they occupied, and on which fhe fits again, the young ftanding round her on the edge of the neft : when this fecond brood is hatched and have like frength with the firft, they are alfo driven away to make room for a third, the old ones procuring food for them all till about the middle of Auguft, when they take their flight together; and though they are by this time well feathered, yet a fine down, long enough almoft to hide the body covers them over, but goes off gradually, and leaves them thus beautifully marked. Tame Owls are fed on raw lean beef and other meats, they are accuftomed very early to make a kind of hiffing, fimilar to that of a goofe, but do not begin hooting till the winter approaches, when they may be heard at a confiderable diftance, anfwering each other for whole nights together. They feldom make their appearance by day, as they cannot fee fo well then as by twilight, but if they do go out at that feafon they are purfued by numbers of fmall birds, who, though they dare not come near them, continue to follow and teaze them as they do other birds of prey.

No. XVII.
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## The Black Headed Tit.

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THESE are of the fmaller kind of Tits, but are not in fuch quantities as we find in many of our fmall birds; they moftly frequent woods, retired lanes, and ragged hedges. Their neft is compofed of a brown and green mofs, intermixed with dried grafs, and is lined with feathers. They lay from nine to fifteen eggs or more, their food is flies, fpiders, infects, and wood ticks; they are feldom feen fitting fill, but are perpetually on their wings flying about the hedges and trees after their prey. When they firt leave their nefts, they refort to the inner parts of the wood, where, among the old and rotten trees they find wood ticks in great abundance. The young ones fo nearly refemble the old, that it is difficult to diftinguilh the one from the other, without examining whether they have the black fpot under their throat, which does not come to its luftre till the latter end of the firft year.


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P L A T E LI.
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## The Creeper.

## singurnomoter

THE bird defcribed on this plate is of the leffer kind, and generally inhabits gardens and plantations of evergreens, where there is fhelter and warmth, it being a tender bird. They build their nefts in low trees and buthes, and fometimes amongft the ling which grows thick under the firs, \&c. The neft is made of dried grafs and bents, and lined neatly with the fame: in thefe they lay five Imall white eggs, fpotted with a faint red, they feed on the infects, flies, \&c. which they find on trees, as they feldom alight on the ground. Their flight is fhort in fearch of food, from branch to branch only, creeping over the trees, from whence they are called creepers. They are a bird of no fong. It is to be remarked, that a kind of hair or brifle grows on the noftril or bafe of the bill, peculiar to all birds" of this clafs.


## P L $\quad \mathbf{L} \quad \mathbf{A} \quad$ T $\quad$ E $\quad$ LII.

## The Larger kind of Sparrow-Hawk.

## 

THE bird this was drawn from, meafured fifteen Inches from the bill to the tip of the tail, and twelve Inches acrofs the breaft, but is reduced for the conveniency of the work. He is not fo much addicted to the deftruction of fmall birds as are others of the Hawk kind, but will frequently feed on mice, watching for them with great affiduity in the open fields, hovering for a confiderable time over the foot where he expects his prey, he moves only his wings, the tail being dropt till he perceives the moufe whom he darts at with great velocity, and having feized retires to fome diftant tree to enjoy his repaft at leifure. Thefe birds are not fo fwift in their flight as are the fmaller Hawks, but are far more numerous. They build in lofty trees, in woods and forefts, lay five eggs, almoft round, and are frequently kept in gardens to frighten fmall birds from the fruit-the young ones differ very little in colour from the old, being marked nearly the fame, but not quite fo brilliant in colour, and are often met with in the London markets: they may be fed on any kind of raw meat, are a hardy bird, and will live many years.
Painted. Engrared \& Publishid, Octrit, 'r92, by


## $\begin{array}{llllll}\mathbf{P} & \mathbf{L} & \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{T} & \mathrm{E} & \text { LIII. }\end{array}$

## The Wheat-Ear.

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T
HERE are not many of thefe birds near London-the few we have are commonly found in pairs; they make their appearance in April, in the beginning of the breeding feafon, and inhabit our fallow fields and dry fandy heaths, being much averfe to wet-for if a cloud obfcures the fun they immediately run under cover to fecure themfelves from the threatening form. In fome parts of our kingdom where there are large heaths, and in the neighbourhood of Lymington and Southampton they are great in number, and the ground is frequently let for the fole purpofe of taking them which is effected by fetting two turfs together edgeways like the roof of a Houfe, and placing a horfe-hair noofe at each end-where on the appearance of a heavy cloud they run for fhelter and are caught. It is cuftomary for thofe who want thefe birds to walk over the plain or heath where the traps are laid, and take away as many as they pleafe leaving for each bird a penny-knowing the ground to be rented by poor men for the purpofe of gain. They feed on fmall feeds, grubs and reptiles; I have taken their nefts compofed wholly of dried grafs from under a heap of ftones-they are very negligent in its ftructure-laying it loofely together, leaving the fides to be fupported by the fones-they lay fix eggs of a brownifh colour, with fpots of a fill darker brown-whilft young they in a great degree refemble the females in colour.


## P L A Tr

## The Female Thrufh.

THE Female Thrufh differs much in it's plumage from the male given in the twelfth plate, its colours are not fo dark as that of the male, and exhibits an effeminacy through it's whole appearance. It lays five eggs of a light blue fpotted with black, and are much rounder than thofe of other birds; they breed three or four times in a year, their young ones are eafily brought up by hand; but their note is inferior to thofe which are wild in the fields-they are in full fong all the breeding feafon, and continue fo till the approach of winter, when they retire to woods, \&c. for fhelter from the inclemency of the weather.-For their food, \&c. fee Plate the Twelfth.


## P L A T E LV.

## The Tit-Larks

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ARE fummer vifitors to us, and ufher in the feafon with their tuneful and melodious note. They are feldom caged, but are principally kept by thofe who breed Canary birds in any quantity, for the purpofe of teaching them their note: for the fame reafon the Nightingale is kept, and by this plan, the Canaries unite their different notes and excel all other birds in fong. They breed three or four times in a feafon, laying five eggs. Their neft is compofed of dried grafs lined with the fame, and intermixed ${ }^{\circ}$ with hair; it is generally built by the fide of a bank, or foot of fome tree. They feed on all kinds of fmall feeds, and are particularly fond of hemp feed; though to keep them conftantly on that food alone, would fhorten their lives. It is fomewhat fingular in thefe birds, that they make choice of the top branch of fome high tree, from whence they foar to a great height, continuing their fong till they again defcend and refume their primary ftation. It is difficult to diftinguifh the male from the female. The moft certain mode is by their fong, or by taking them early in the fummer, as the male bird comes firf. They are not numerous,-thofe we have, are found by the fides of woods, \&c.


## P L A T E LVI.

## The Red-Tail

IS a bird of paffage, and with us only in the fummer: the male birds are firft feen about the latter end of April, or the beginning of May; they are of fhort fong, but rather pleafing, and are not kept in cages ; the reafon I conceive to be is, becaufe they chiefly feed on flies, caterpillars, and grubs; a fpecies of food not eafily procured for them. They much refemble our Robin in their manner of building, as allo in their eggs and young. The fituation generally made choice of by them for their neft, is in fome old faw-pit, or hole in a tree, but care not in what part, as they are feldom difturbed : they lay five eggs, and breed three or four times in a feafon, yet we feldom fee more than one pair of old birds together : they are tender and not very chearful, except when the female fits, and then the male bird fings, as is common with moft birds. There is fome difference in the male and female in fhape as well as in colour.


## $\mathbf{P} \quad \mathrm{L} \quad \mathrm{A} \quad \mathrm{T} \quad \mathrm{E} \quad$ LVII.

## The Crow

FROM which this plate was taken, meafured feventeen inches from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, and fourteen inches round the breaft. The Crow is a clofe feathered bird, and much neater in its appearance than many other birds which come into the fame clafs. They have a fately walk, and fometimes.very fwift in their flight-and generally build their nefts at the top of fome flender elm-tree, much expofed to view: it is compofed of fticks, lined with wool, rags, or any rubbifh they can find; they lay five eggs which are of a dirty blue fpotted with grey, rather pointed at the fmall end, and are not very nice in the choice of their food, but take up with whatever they can meet: in feed time they willingly partake of all kind of grain, nor have they any objection to a meal on a dead fheep, be it ever fo ftale, and frequently watch an opportunity to take away chickens, young ducks, \&c, and feed their young on fuch food. Their young quit the neft at the age of three weeks, and in about fourteen days are able to provide for themfelves, by which time the old one will have another new neft, for they build three or four times in a feafon, and at the latter end of the fummer begin to flock together, and continue in that ftate until the enfuing fpring. They are a fhy cunning bird, not eafily approached, more efpecially if a gun is carried. I know not of any peculiar property they have, except that of deftroying worms and flugs in the fields, and that they cannot bear the approach of a kite-onfeeing one, they inflantly purfue him, endeavouring to be uppermof in flight, darting on him, and with fury buffetting him with their wings, and although the kite frongly endeavours to oppofe the crow and defend himfelf, the crow having more command of his wings always drives him off, and feems to return fenfible of his vi\&ory.


## P L A $\quad$ A $\quad \mathrm{E} \quad$ LVIII.

## The Pheafant

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IS efteemed one of the fineft Birds we have, and the Male here delineated, is from one of the moft beautiful of its kind. The Pheafant inhabits woods, and feldom goes far from thence, being a heavy Bird, and not fond of flying. They feed upon grain of all forts in the fummer, but when winter approaches keep more at home, and are fatisfied with what falls from the buithes, fuch as hips, haws, \&c. even acorns have been found in their craws: they have fome affinity with our poultry ; the male bird crows as our yard fowls do, and will breed with game or bantam hens, tho' by thus croffing the breed they of courfe lofe much of their beauty. When wild they lay fifteen or fixteen eggs, and generally bring as many young ones, who quit their neft as foon as they are hatched, and are conducted by the old ones to fome bank where ants eggs are to be found, on which they chiefly feed whilf young, but as they grow ftronger they pick up corn, or whatever elfe they find about the bufhes, \&c. \&c. They may be confined in a room and will breed there, but have fewer eggs than when in a flate of freedom; nor can they be fo entirely tamed as to appear tranquil or contented, but continually go to and fro as if anxious for liberty. When they are wild in the field and perceive themfelves purfued, they will if poffible run under fome cover rather than fly, fuch is their apparent dillike to the wing. They run exceeding faft, and are confcious of their defeets in flying.

If this bird had been reduced to the ufual fize of the plates in this work he would have appeared to too great a difadvantage, I have therefore enlarged the plate, for the purpofe of conveying a more perfect idea of his beauty and grandeur.


## P L A T E LIX.

## The Martin.

## คrnan

THESE birds make their firlt appearance about the latter end of May, when they begin to build their nefts, which is generally formed againft fome window, or under the eaves of houfes or barns, and is compofed of dirt lined with feathers; they are extremely induftrious till it is finifhed, more than a pair being frequently at work on one neft, and when completed they will fight for it. The Sparrow will fometimes encounter them for their habitation, and often gains the victory, driving the Martins clear away. Tho' the Martin's neft is compofed of dirt, they are a bird which never appear dirty in themfelves, but on the contrary delicately clean; they lay five or fix fmall eggs perfectly white, they feed on fmall flies, and.feem peculiarly formed for flight, which renders it ealy for them to procure food for themfelves and young. If their neft is not difturbed they will hatch their fecond brood in it, or if damaged, repair it ; it is common to fee three or four nefts built clofe together, and feldom unoccupied in the fummer; they beftow infinite pains in working dirt together, and yet they foon complete a neft; they are extremely fond of wafhing themfelves, and in hot weather will fly near the furface of the water and dip as they fly, apparently in danger of remaining on the water; they feldom alight on the ground except for the materials of their neft, and are particularly fond of feathering themfelves on the houfe top when the fun fhines; they affociate with no birds but the Swallow, and with them not till the latter end of the fummer, when they have done breeding. When the mornings begin to get cold and frofly they flock together in great numbers, uniting in a general chorus, and leaving us rather abruptly.


## P L A T E LX.

## The Cuckoo

## Nunn lixn

IsS a bird whofe vifits are conflant to us about May, and is remarkable for its fong, which confifts only of two notes. Being a bird not eafy to approach it is feldom caught, the young ones are fometimes taken, but are unlike the old ones in thape as well as in colour: the old ones are fo much alike 'tis difficult to diftinguifh male from female, and are frequently heard before they are feen; they are a bird in flight like the Hawk, being full of feather and poor in flefh; their food is caterpillars, \&c. On a clear fine day they are generally on the tops of trees, but in hazy dull weather keep clofe to the hedges; they make no neft but depofit their egg, for they lay but one, in fome fmall bird's neft, firft fucking the eggs already in the neft: The Hedge Sparrow is the bird in general which they make choice of as a nurfe for their offspring; I have known inftances of their occupying a Water-wagtail's neft, but they prefer the former, who hatches and provides for the young Cuckoo till it encreafes fo much in fize that the little nurfe approaches its care with great terror, but fill continues to fulfill the duty committed to its charge 'till the Cuckoo is able to provide for itfelf. The egg much refembles that of the Hawk in colour, but fmaller; it is a light brown fpotted with a darker colour. The Cuckoo continues its fong with us but a fhort time.



## P L A T $\quad$ L LXI.

## The Furze Chatter.

THOUGH Birds of no eftimation, in their plumage they excel many others. Being Birds of no fong, they are never kept incages. They are frequently to be met with by the fide of brooks, in fearch of their food; but particularly in fields abounding with furze, where they make their Neft about two feet from the ground, which is eafy to be found by the Male Bird placing himfelf on the top branch, near the Neft, while the Female is fitting: it is compofed of fine dry grafs, lined with the fame, mixed with hair. They lay five Eggs, of a yellowifh colour, fpotted with light brown; their food Infects, Worms, and fmall Seed, which they fwallow whole. They are feldom feen but in pairs, and affociate with no other Birds, though they breed three or four times in a feafon. We have but few of them, and they may be eafily known by their flight, which is fhort and quick, always fpreading their tail as they fly, by which they fhow a clear white, like that of the Wheat Ear in a former plate. When they fettle on a branch they have a motion with their tail, different from moft other birds.

No. III.


## P L A T $\quad$ E LXII.

## The Golden Crefled Wren.

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I$S$ an inhabitant of this kingdom, but more frequently met with in Germany. The few we have with us are chiefly found in Bedfordfhire; they refort principally where there are plantations of evergreens, fuch as firs, \&c. they are fmall tender Birds, and not being able to endure much cold chufe the warmeft parts of the kingdom, always giving the preference to a dry fandy foil. They generally build their Neft on the ground under the fir trees, in the ling or mols: it is compofed of very fine wiry grafs, mofs, \&c. lined with feathers, and fometimes covered over the top. They lay five or fix Eggs, very fmall, and white faintly fpotted with red. The Male Bird differs much in colour from the Female. They are not very apprehenfive of danger, being eafily caught when in fearch of their food, by means of a bird lime twigg placed at the end of a fifhing rod, with which you may approach near enough to touch them. They feed on fmall Infects they find about the trees, which they are continually creeping after. They feldom fly far, and are a Bird of no fong.

## P L A T E LXIII.

## The Duck

## Fifuiteremouny

DESCRIBED in this plate is of the common tame kind, therefore well known. Their colours vary much from each other, and they are of different weights; as from two to three, or near four pounds each. This Bird meafured from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, fifteen inches, and round the breaft fourteen. Early hatched Ducks will begin to lay about October, and continue the greatef part of the Winter, until Spring, when they want to fit. They fit four weeks; can with eafe cover 14 or 15 Eggs; and prefer a fituation near the water for their Neft. Their Eggs are larger, and much fmoother than thofe of a Hen, but not fo mild; fome are of a blueifh colour, others whiter. In places where there are many bred to fupply the London markets, they take away the young as foon as, hatched, put more than 100 in a pen together, and.nurfing them with proper food, in feven or eight weeks make them fit for the fpit. At Aylefbury in Buckinghamfhire, where many are bred, they will not fuffer a coloured one to live, but have a breed peculiar to themfelves. Thefeeders near Town buy all forts, regardlefs of their colour; and I have known a breeder to have at one time in his poffeffion 700 dozen for the fupply of the London market.


## P L A T E LXIV.

## The Twite



Isan emigrant from his native country, and vifits us in the winter like the Red Pole, which indeed it much refembles, except in the red on the breaft, of which the Twite has not the leaft appearance. They are caught in great numbers, for the purpofe of teaching them to draw water, and open a box for their food. They are apt fcholars, and very active. Being a bird of no fong, and not building with us, they are little known in the country, and called the Twite, perhaps, only by the London bird catchers. They feed on any hard feed, or thiftes, and the male is fomething richer in colour than the female.


## P L A T E LXV.

## The Drake

## 20,

IS the male bird to the Duck in the laft Number, and by far the mof beautiful. He is eafily diftinguifhed from the female by the colour when in full feather, by his fize, and voice, which is louder than that of the Duck. Thefe birds give excellent fport in a large pond of water when hunted by dogs; for by their frequent diving, and extreme cunning in fecreting themfelves when they rife on the furface of the water, the dogs are fo often at fault that they are in general much fatigued, and fometimes though feveral are in purfuit the Duck efcapes; much however depends on the excellence both of Dog and Duck. This bird fometimes dives fo well, and poffeffes fo much cunning in not having recourfe to that excellent though fatiguing method of efcape but in cafes of neceffity, that he is fcarce ever taken. This excellence is only obtained by practice, and when obtained renders the bird almoft invaluable to the lovers of the fport.



## P L A T E LXVI.

## The Nut-Hatch

## M,

CLAIMS a place with the Creepers, though of the larger kind. They are beautiful in their colour, but male and female differ very little. They build their neft in the hole of a tree, compofed of a little dryed grafs or any rubbifh, not making it in any kind of form. In their manner of creeping about the trees, thefe birds much refemble the Wood Pecker, only they will run as faft down as up, in fearch of food. At certain feafons of the year they feed on any infects they can find on the bark of the trees, and in the Autumn refort to the nut trees and feed on the kernels, which they get at by laying the nut between two branches and making a hole from whence they obtain the kernel. They do not take to the nut trees till they are quite ripe; and fometimes feed on beech nuts, \&c. They have a note peculiar to themfelves, but no fong; they fomewhat refemble the Quail; and their flight is fhort and quick, like that of the Spotted Wood Pecker.


## PLATE LXVII.

## The Water Rail.

BUT few of this fpecies are found in fmall rivers or ponds; they are in greater abundance where other water-fowl generally refort, and where flags and rufhes are in plenty, as being their beft fhelter. They fly but little, and as foon as approached hide themfelves in the rufhes or dive under water, and will continue down for a confiderable time. They are known in fome places by the name of $D_{0 b}$ Chick, and take that name from their fondnefs for diving. Their toes are long, but not webbed; their nefts are compofed of dry rufhes and bits of fticks fupported by the flags, and not more than three or four inches from the furface of the water.


## P L A T E LXVIII.

## The Bramble Finch

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IS a bird of palfage, and vifits us only in the winter. It is a bird not generally known, having no fong, nor are they numerous. It is for the beauty of their plumage only that the bird catchers who fupply the London markets are attentive to them, a bird in full feather frequently felling for two fhillings. The male and female differ much in colour. They frequent garden grounds near Town, and fometimes affociate with the Chaffinch, feeding on the fame food. They are hardy, ftrong, and eafily tamed.

## PLATE LXIX:

## The Nightingale

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IsS one of our birds of paffage, and vifits us in the Summer, coming early in May: the Male bird firf makes his appearance, at which time the bird catcher is generally in fearch for him, being the only period he is certain of taking him, as the female is fo like the male that they can fcarcely be diftinguifhed the one from the other. The method of catching the Nightingale is with a net trap made for that purpofe:-When the bird-catcher finds the place he is in (and he always keeps in the fame fpot) he drives him gently from it, and near to it takes up the turf, and places the trap on the earth baited with a meal worm; this being done he goes foftly below the place where the bird refted, and again drives him back to his former fituation; when there he foon fees the bait, and inftantly flrikes at it and is taken: the long feathers of his wings are then tied together that he may not beat himfelf againft the wires of his cage ; for his food lamb's heart chopt fine is given him, with a meal worm or two alive, foon after which he feeds on chopt meat alone. The cage muft be kept dark by placing a green cloth before it. The Nightingale is the moft melodious bird we have, and is kept in rooms to teach the young Canary Birds to fing; but more efpecially in Germany, from whence this country is fupplied with many hundreds of Canary Birds annually. Their nefts are in the mof fecret and hidden places, and compofed of any dead leaves, mofs, \&c. they can find, and lined with the fame materials. They lay five eggs.



## P L A T E LXX.

## The King Fijher.



I$N$ their plumage are the mof beautiful of the feathered tribe, difplaying variety of fhades as they move. We have but few of them, and thofe we have frequent our fmall rivers, and are only to be feen in pairs. They feed on fifh, in which their whole time is almoft employed; and though they eat them whole, they do not digeft the bones, but difgorge, as the Owl does, in the place where they make choice of to depofit their eggs, for they make no neft, but frequently take to fome deferted Rat's hole; which is fometimes overflowed with water, and deftroys the brood. By the quantity of bones that have been found, it has been fuppofed by many that they build their nefts with them; but this is erroneous. I have known fix or fometimes feven young ones taken, but not more. I have had two of thefe birds, which differ not in colour, but in their legs-one has been a full orange, the other black, as defrribed in the Plate. The middle claw, and the outer one, are divided no farther than to the firf joint. Their legs are fmall, and very fhort. They are birds of no fong; but remarkable filent and quiet. They affociate with no other birds; but will fit on the branch of a willow-tree, over the water, when they are not in fearch of food. Their colours, though the moft brilliant, will hold their luftre longer than that of any other kind of bird.

No. XXIV.
L I


## The Wry Neck

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TAKES its name from its frequently twifting its neck almoft round. Is fuppoled to be a bird of paffage, as the firft of its appearance is in the fpring, and but a few days before the Cuckoo; and continues with us only the fummer feafon. This bird is called the Cuckoo's attendant; it is a bird of no fong, but has a loud fhriek; which it repeats quick. It has a long round tongue, like that of a Wood-pecker, hard at the end. Its food are infects, and ants in particular ; and, as Mr. Pennant obferves, by laying his tongue acrofs a path, in which ants are continually paffing, it is foon covered with them, when it draws it into its mouth; and, by this means, fupplies itfelf with great numbers. The female differs not from the male in colour. They have alfo two claws behind, and two before, like the Wood-peckers, and much refemble them in their flight, feeding, and building. Their neft is compofed of dried grafs, and is built in a hole of a tree: they lay white eggs, the fhell of which is fo thin and tranfparent, that the yolk may be feen through it.


## PLATE LXXII.

## The Wood Pigeon

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Isreduced, for the conveniency of the Work. The bird, from which this was taken, meafured fifteen inches from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, and twelve inches round the breaft: we have them in great plenty in the winter feafon; they flock together, and refort to the turnip fields for food; at which time they are very fat, and are caught for the London markets in great numbers. They are very fhy birds, and not eafy to approach ; at the fight of any one, though at a diftance, they are all inflantly on the wing. They are fwift in their flight, and refemble our tame Pigeons, in fome degree; but do not differ in their colour, as they do, but are all marked the fame. In the fpring they feparate, and appear only in pairs. Their nefts, which are frequently built by the fide of a tree, and are compofed of a few fmall fticks, fo loofely put together, that the eggs, which are two in number, and white like the common Pigeon, may almoft be feen through. If not difturbed, will return to the fame tree next year. They are fo wild, though hatched under a tame Pigeon, that if you offer to take them, they will ftrike with their wings with great force.


## The Hobby Hawk.

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THESE are birds of prey, and are the moft beautiful of their kind. Their food confifts wholly of fmall birds; and their nature is fuch that they are a terror to birds of a much larger kind, and are known by the name of the Dead Hawk, from the certainty of their taking whatever they attempt; as they are much more fecure in obtaining their prey than any other of that clafs. They build their nefts in the woods, and generally make choice of the loftieft trees for the purpofe: it is compofed of rotten fticks, lined with wool, in which they lay five eggs, nearly round, and fplafhed with brown. They are of a hardy nature, and commonly rear all their young. They are frequently kept in gardens, to preferve the fruit from the fmall birds, who dare not approach where fo fatal an enemy inhabits. There are many brought to the London markets, when young, for it is difficult to take the old ones. The bird, in this Plate, is reduced for the conveniency of the work. It meafured from the bill to the tip of the tail fifteen inches, and round the breaft nine inches.


## PLATE LXXIV.

## Long Tail Tit

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IsS one of the fmalleft of its kind, and differs much in colour from any of that clafs. They inhabit the fides of woods and lanes, and do not difperfe, as moft other fmall birds do. It is a bird of no fong, but may be eafily diftinguifhed by its continual fqueaking. Its neft is of a moft curious fructure, being compofed of mofs, and fo peculiarly interwoven with the branch in which it is built, that it cannot be removed without taking the branch with it; it is lined with feathers, in which are depofited from nine to fifteen eggs ; which are very fmall, fpotted with fmall red fpots indifcriminately all over. It feeds on fmall infects, which the hedges afford, and is inceffantly on the move.


## PLATE LXXV.

## The Snipe,

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Here delineated, is given the full fize of the bird. It is a bird fo well known that it requires little to be faid of it. It vifits us only in the winter, being a bird of paffage. It frequents our fwampy grounds, fmall brooks, \&c. and lives wholly upon fuction; are very feldom to be feen, except in flight, in which they are remarkable fwift. It is a bird moft difficult to be fhot ; but of a peculiar flavour, for which it is much efteemed.


## P L A T E LXXVI.

## The Ruff.

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THE Males or Ruffs, affume fuch variety of colours in feveral parts of their plumage, that it is fcarce polfible to fee two alike; but the great length of their feathers on the neck, that gives name to them, at once diftinguifhes thefe from all other birds. On the back of their necks is a fingular tuft of feathers, fpreading wide on both fides: thefe, and the former, in fome are black, in others white, yellow, or ferruginous; but this tuft and the ruffs frequently differ in the fame birds. The feathers, that bear an uniformity of colouring through each individual of this fex, are the coverts of the wings, which are brown, inclining to afh-colour; the feathers on the breaf, which are often black or dufky; the four exterior feathers of the tail, which are of a cinerious brown; and the four middle, which are barred with black and brown: the bill is black towards the end, red at the bafe. The legs in all are yellow. In moulting, they lofe the character of the long neck feathers, nor do they recover it till, after their return to the fens, the fpring following; it is then they regain that ornament, and at the fame time a fet of fmall, pear-fhaped, yellow pimples, break out in great numbers on their face, above the bill. The ftags, or male birds of the firft year, want thefe marks, and have fometimes been miftaken for a new fpecies of Tringa; but they may be eafily known by the colours of the coverts of the wings, and the middle feathers of the tail. The older the birds are the more numerous the pimples, and the fuller and the longer the ruffs. The length of the Male to the tip of the tail is one foot, the breadth two.—Pennant's Defcription.



## Middle Wood-Pecker.

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THIS fpecies agrees with the preceding in colours and fize, excepting, that the crown of the head in this is of a rich crimfon; the crown of the head in the male of the former black; and the crimfon is in the form of a bar in the hind part. Birds, thus marked, have been fhot in Lancafhire, and other parts of England; but I am doubtful whether they are varieties or diffinct fpecies.—Pernant's Defcription.


## PLATE LXXVII.

## The Reeve.

THE Reeve meafures ten inches, the breadth nineteen: the weight of the former, when juft taken, is feven ounces and a half; and of the latter only four. The Reeves never change their colour, which are pale brown ; the back fpotted with black, flightly edged with white; the tail brown, the middle feathers fpotted with black; the breaft and belly white; the legs of a pale dull yellow. Thefe birds appear in the fens in the earlieft fpring, and difappear about Michaelmas. The Reeves lay four eggs in a tuft of grafs, the firft week in May, and fit about a month : the eggs are white, marked with large rufty fpots. Fowlers avoid, in general, the taking of the females, not only becaufe they are fmaller than the males, but that they may be left to breed. Soon after their arrival the males begin to hill ; that is, to collect on fome dry bank, near a fplafh of water, in expectation of the females, who refort to them. Each male keeps poffeffion of a fmall piece of ground, which it runs round till the grafs is worn quite away, and nothing but a naked circle is left. When a female lights the Ruffs immediately fall to fighting. I find a vulgar error, that Ruffs muft be fed in the dark, left they fhould deftroy each other by fighting on admiffion of light. The truth is, every bird takes its ftand in the room as it would in the open fen: if another invades its circle, an attack is made, and battle enfues; they make ufe of the fame aetion in fighting as a cock, place their bills to the ground, and fpread their ruffs. I have fet a whole room full a fighting, by making them move their ftations; and, after quitting the place, by peeping through a crevice, feen them refume their circles, and grow pacific. When a fowler difcovers one of thofe hills, he places his net overnight ; which is of the fame kind as thofe that are called clap or day nets, only it is generally fingle, and is about fourteen yards long and four broad.-The fowler reforts to his ftand, at day-break, at the diftance of one, two, three, or four hundred yards from the nets, according to the time of the feafon: for the later it is the fhyer the birds grow. He then makes his firft pull, taking fuch birds as he finds within reach: after that he places his ftuft birds, or ftales, to intice thofe that are continually traverfing the fen. An old fowler told me he once caught forty-four birds at one haul; and, in all, fix dozen that morning. When the ftales are fet, feldom more than two or three are taken at a time. A fowler will take forty or fifty dozen in a feafon.-Thefe birds are found in Lincolnfhire, the Ille of Ely, and in the Eaft Riding of Yorkfhire *; where they are taken in nets, and fattened for the table with bread and milk, hemp-feed, and fometimes boiled wheat; but if expedition is required fugar is added, which will make them, in a fortnight's time, a lump of fat. They then fell for two fhillings, and two fhillings and fix-pence a-piece. Judgment is required in taking the proper time for killing them, when they are at the higheft pitch of fatnefs ; if that is neglected the birds are apt to fall away. The method of killing them is by cutting off their heads with a pair of fciffars: the quantity of blood that iffues is very great, confidering the fize of the bird : they are dreffed like the Woodcock with their inteftines, and when killed at the critical time, fay the epicures, are reckoned the moft delicious of all morfels.-_Pennant's Defcription.

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Bainted, Engraved \& Iublivh'd June ngga, לy THord, Maidere Zuene, Cor. Gar.n

## P L A TE LXXIX.

## The Stone Chatter.

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THE Stone Chats are well known: they frequent commons and other places where furze bufhes abound, in which they make choice for their neft, which is compofed of dried grafs, with hair intermixed, and not very correct in its ftructure.

In their manner and haunts they refemble the Furze Chats, but not in colour. They are alfo much fhorter in their feathers. They lay five eggs; and, like other fmall birds, fit fourteen days. They feed upon any infects they can get, fuch as beetles, earwigs, \&c. They are found near the place they firf take to, for they will not go far from the fpot; but are at any time to be met with in the breeding feafon.

## PLATE LXXXI.

## The Creeper.

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$\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{H}}$E birds delineated in this plate are the fmalleft fpecies of Creepers, neither of them weighing more than two drams twelve grains, and differ much from any other clafs of this genus, having a larger tail, in proportion to the fize of the bird. It is frongly feathered, and irriguous, which ferves as a fupport in their creeping on trees. The bill is alfo long and hooked, but flender. They build their neft in gardens, but in a very private manner; it cannot therefore be found but by diligent fearch. They prefer building in a fir-tree, if there be any in the place where they frequent. They do not lay more than five eggs. The young are much like the old ones in colour, though not quite fo dark, and have the power of creeping about the trees as foon as they quit the neft. They are birds of no fong, but have a continual〔queaking, like mice, by which they may be eafily found. They are not fond of flying.


## PLATE LXXX.

## The Hen,

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Here given, is of the game; but as all the fpecies are well known, it would be needlefs to fay much upon this defcription. It may be fufficient to add, that thefe Hens differ principally from others in their fhape, being clofer in their feather, lighter in their make, and, in general, do not fhew that variety of colour which the common yard fowls exhibit. The richnefs of colour in the neck diftinguifhes the Hen of this fpecies from others of the genus. They are the beft breed for the yard, although they are difpofed to fight and worry one another when chickens; but the fame flock fhould not be continued more than three or four years, as it will degenerate.
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## PLATE LXXXII.

## The Goofe,

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Represented in this plate, is the mof common of this kind of fowl, of which there are feveral fpecies; and being everywhere known, it is lefs requifite to be diffufe in the defcription.

The male is generally all white, though fometimes a few grey feathers are found on the thigh. The females are always grey, intermixed with white, in large patches, marked very differently from each other. They do not always lay the fame number of eggs. They fit early in the fpring, and within the fpace of one month bring off their young ones, which will take to the young grafs for fubfiftence. They feldom fit more than once in the feafon; after which they flock with the young during the remainder of the year.

Thefe birds are celebrated for their vigilance in the night. Geefe were maintained in the Capitol of Old Rome, at the public expence, from a principle of gratitude. For when Rome was befieged by the Gauls, and the fentinels flept, the military were called to their duty by the clamour of fome Geefe, in the very moment of furprize; and by their means the city was faved. If permitted to them, geefe will, according to the laws of nature, live to a great age.


Whe Reed espranous.


P L ATE LXXXIII.

## The Reed Sparrow,

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IIN colour, very much refembles our common houfe fparrow, both male and female; but they are not in any other refpect analogous to each other; for the refidence of the Reed Sparrow is about rivers and brooks that are fheltered by a growth of rufhes and flags; which fituation they chufe for their neft. This is compofed of any dried grafs and mofs, loofely laid together, without much form, fupported by rufhes near the bankfide. They do not lay more than five eggs. Their food is the feed of rufhes, infects, or fuch other feeds as may be found by the water-fide; for they are not met with in any other place. We feldom fee more than one pair together. They have no fong, but a twittering peculiar to themfelves, by which they may be found, though fecreted in the rulhes.


## PLATE LXXXIV.

## The Swift,

IsS a bird of paffage, as is the Swallow and the Martin; but thefe laft do not all of them invariably migrate. The Swift makes his appearance the laft in thefe parts, and is one of the firt that leaves us. From the length of his wings the Swift is admirably calculated for flight. Their legs are very fhort, infomuch, that if by accident they fhould fall to the ground, they are unable to recover themfelves again. The place wherein they choofe to depofit their eggs, is under the thatch of an old houfe, and nearly out of reach. Neft they make none; only fcratch what rubbifh together they may find in the thatch, which ferves as a boundary to the eggs. Thefe are five in number, of a moft delicate white, and fmooth, and have a very high polifh, pellucid, and are more tranfparent than thofe of our fmall birds in general. Their legs are fhort, as we have already obferved, and feathered down to the foot, but not the toes.

It is difficult to conceive an idea of the ftrength which they have in their claws; and, unlefs the hand be defended with a glove, it may fuffer alfo from their bite. Their mouth is very large; nature has formed it to take their food as they fly, which confifts of flies, the chief, if not the only food whereon they fubfift. This is poffibly the only bird which, in our climate, doth not take reft on the ground. The feathers, under the lower mandible, are of a fone colour, as are thofe immediately under the fork. The other parts are uniformly of a durky black.



## P L ATE LXXXV.

## The Bittern.

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THE length from the tip of the bill to the end of the claws
from point to point of the wings extended -
from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail
of the bill -

| of the nek - |
| :--- |
| from the knee to the tip of the middle claw - |

Its head is fmall, narrow, and compreffed at the fides. At the angles of the mouth, according to Willoughby, on each fide is a black fpot; but, in the bird here defcribed, it differed. Tail feathers are ten in number. Its bill is frait, ftrong, thick at the head, and fharp at the point, having very fharp fides or edges. The fides of the lower mandible fall within the upper, which hath a long furrow, wherein are the noftrils. The tongue is fharp, and reaches fcarcely to the middle of the bill. The middle claw is ferrated on the interior edge, feemingly for the purpofe of holding faft flippery fifh, as in herons, \&c. According to Willoughby, it begins to bellow about the beginning of February, and ceafes when breeding time is over. The common people are of opinion, that it thrufts its bill into a-reed; by the help 'whereof, it makes that lowing or drumming noife. Others fay, that it thrufts its bill into the water, or mud or earth; and, by that means, imitates the lowing of an ox. It hides itfelf commonly among reeds and rufhes; and fometimes lies in hedges, with its head and neck erect. The gullet, juft below the bill, may be vaftly dilated.

The Bittern, above all other birds, is faid to frike at mens' eyes. It builds upon the ground, commonly in a tuft of rufhes; lays four or five eggs, of a round figure, and whitifh colour, inclining to cinerious or green, not fpotted at all. This, without doubt, is the bird our common people call the Night Raven.


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## PLATE LXXXVI.

## The Goatfucker.

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TTS bill, in proportion to its body, is the leaft of all birds, and a little crooked, and much refembling that of the Swift, defcribed in a former number. Tail of ten feathers. The interior edge of the middle claw is ferrated, as in herons. In the ftomach of one, defcribed by Willoughby, were found fome feeds and beetles. The eggs were long and white, but a little clouded, and fpotted with black. It is found in the mountainous woods, efpecially in many places of England, as in Yorkfhire, Derbyfhire, Shropfhire, \&c.

The bird, of which this is an exact reprefentation, was found in Buckinghamfhire. Its neft, with young ones, was within the trunk of an old willow-tree.


## P L A T E LXXXVII.

## The Stints,



OR Summer Snipes, vifit us in the Spring; and, like the Common Snipes, frequent fmall brooks or ponds, in purfuit of food. They are often feen in pairs; and have to little apprehenfion of danger, that you may approach within feven or eight yards of them, and they will not feem the leaft alarmed, but appear as if they did not fee you. In the latter end of the breeding feafon, I have feen ten or more together in flight, in which they are very fwift, remarkable ftrait, and not very high :-if ever fo near, they are not to be heard. They are a bird of little or no eftimation, being very infipid eating; and, when ftripped of their plumage, are very fimall.

## P L ATE LXXXVIII.

## The Ring Tailed Hawk,

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OR White Rump. The bird this was taken from meafured eighteen inches from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail; twelve inches acrofs the breaft, and thirteen from the pinion to the end of the longeft feather in the wing. Although it appears a large bird, it is but fmall when ftript of its plumage, being a loofe feathered bird. The coverts of the tail (though not defcribed in the plate) are a pure white, each feather having a mark of red in the centre. In the month of Auguft, 1794, I faw a brood of young ones, which had left their neft not more than three or four days, and were providing for themfelves; for the old ones leave them when they quit their neft. They are eafy of approach while young. There were four in number, two of which were like the bird here delineated, and the other two were grey, with black tails and wings. Hence it is obvious to me, that this bird and the Black Winged Hawk, are male and female; though this has not been fo much remarked as the former ones. Their food, whilf young, are frogs, mice, and any fort of vermin ; but when they get older they grow more favage, and feed on young birds, \&c. \&c.


## PLATE LXXXIX.

## The Fack Snipes,



Byweight they do not exceed two ounces. The haunts and food of this fpecies are the fame as the other Snipes. They are difficult to be found, not being. fo numerous as the others, and are beautifully ftriped on the back with yellow feathers (as defcribed in the plate); which feathers are long and flender, like the neck feathers of a game cock; the feathers on their backs are very long, extending from the top of the fhoulders nearly to the end of the tail. The coverts of the wings are alfo long, being equal with the end of the wing feathers when not expanded. The end of the bill is black, which is not properly diftinguifhed in the plate, being fo finall. Their hind claws are remarkable fmall, and appear to be withered and of little fervice to them. Thefe Snipes in general have been found fo frequent in England, that there remains a doubt whether they entirely leave this ifland or not. However, certain it is, that fome of them continue with us all the fummer, building their nefts as well on high mountains as on our moors and marfhes. "Their flefh is efteemed fweet and delicate."
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## PLATEXC.

## The Crofs Bill,

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Isnot only an inhabitant of this country, but of Auftria alfo, where they breed; but I never heard of their breeding with us. They are certainly the moft fcarce bird we have, very few of them being taken; they are fometimes caged on account of their fcarcity, I fhould fuppofe, as they have not any great properties appertaining to them, neither are they fongfters. They have a fhort tongue, which reaches only to the croffing of their bill, from whence the upper mandible is perfectly folid, and flat withinfide to the point. They change their colour from a dirty olive to thofe which the bird of this plate reprefent. They feed upon hard feeds like our Finches. This bird was fhot in the month of November, in Buckinghamfhire.


The ei Bearded. Fimmouse?
Painted. Eingraved \&e Rullishid April, 1796 ly TLLord. No Aos. Strand

## The Bearded Titmoufe,

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ThOUGH a native of this kingdom, is but little known, being a fcare bird, and feldom to be met with; thofe few we have moftly inhabit the fens in Lincolnfhire. They build in hedges; in fhape and colour they much refemble our Hay bird, given in a former plate. They continue in pairs, as many of our fmall birds do, but affociate with no other. The male bird exhibits great fondnefs-for the female, by fpreading his wings over her during the time the is at rooft. Buffon fays little more of them than defcribing their plumage and form; and as thefe portraits are taken from the birds exactly, it would be entirely unneceflary to fay any thing refpecting their exteriors.


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## PLATEXCII.

## The Teal,

IS the fmalleft of the Duck kind. This plate reprefents the female, which in other authors is defcribed very different in colour; but as I pay a frict adherence to nature, the public may rely on every bird being accurately copied. This is given the exaEt fize. It is a bird that breeds in fens, as other wild fowl. The legs of this feecie are remarkably flat. The London markets are fupplied with them in the winter; they differ much in price, according to the quantities brought: fometimes they fell for eight-pence each, and I have known them fetch three fhillings a couple. We feldom have them in town after February, as the flocks then difperfe, and they repair for breeding.


## The Starling.

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IN this plate is given the female. It is a bird well known in all parts of our kingdom; they continue with us all the year, and we have them in great abundance. In the Summer they frequent antiquated buildings and churches, which places they make choice of for their neft ; they are alfo to be found in parks, \&c. but not in any lonely or unfrequented places, as they are averfe to retirement. They lay from five to fix eggs, and generally bring as many young ones, being a very hardy bird. They are early in breeding, and will have three or four nefts in a feafon. As foon as breeding feafon is over they flock together in great numbers, fo as to darken the earth like a cloud. In the Winter they retire to fome large dove-houfes for roofting places. I have known twelve hundred dozen taken in one night, which has been effected by firft clofing the top. If they were not taken they would foon deftroy both the eggs and pigeons, being great enemies to them. They are brought to the London markets, where they feldom fell for more than a fhilling or eighteen-pence per dozen, as they are not efteemed delicious food.

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## PLATEXCIV.

## The Black Winged Hawk,



RefResented in this plate, is the bird alluded to in the defcription of the Ring-tailed Hawk in a former Number, to which the legs and wings of this bear a great refemblance. This bird is reduced, for the conveniency of the work, as the bird this was taken from meafured, from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, feventeen inches, and round the breaft thirteen; from the pinion of the wing to the end of the longeft feather, fourteen inches. This one of the mof difficult birds to approach that we have, though not very fwift in its flight. Is one of the moft defructive of the hawk kind, particularly among young partridges; from the beginning of the breeding feafon they are in continual fearch after them before they have taken wing. I have obferved them go regularly up one furrow and down the next, within a yard of the ground, until they have gone over the whole field, and then proceed to the next.' They are feldom to be feen but at this feafon of the year ; for in the winter they retire to large woods and take up with more ordinary food, fuch as mice, frogs, \&c.


## PLATE XCV.

## The Teal,

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GIVEN in this plate, is the male bird, which is drawn the full fize; being the fmallef of the duck kind; the feathers on its head it can ereft or deprefs at pleafure, being much longer than thofe on the head of the common tame duck; the head is alfo very flat. Thefe do not differ in colour, like the common duck, though the female has fometimes a tuft of down on the head. They feed like the wild fowl, on feeds, worms, and any fuch food as the fens afford; they are there in great numbers. The London markets have a conftant fupply of them all the feafon.


2The Chiotted Wratpectoos.

## PLATE XCVI.

## The Small Spotted Woodpeckers,

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Here given, are the fmalleft of their kind, and has, like the larger ones, a frong brifly tail, which is their fupport againft the trees; for they generally fettle againft the fides, like all of this defcription ; their food is fmall infects of all forts: thefe are more tame than any of this fpecies; their neft is generally to be met with in the hole of an apple-tree. The very few we have of thefe birds are chiefly to be found in gardens. They have no particular quality to render them valuable; nor are they a bird of fong.


## The Quail,



IN its habits and nature, refembles all others of the poultry kind, except that it is a bird of paffage.
When we confider the heavy manner of its flying, and its dearth of plumage, in proportion to its corpulence, it appears furprifing that a bird, fo apparently ill qualified for migration, fhould venture to take extenfive journies : but, however extraordinary, it is certainly a bird of paffage.
Bellonius affures us, that when he went from Rhodes to Alexandria; about autumn, feveral Quails, flying from the north to the fouth, were taken in his fhip; and failing at fpring time the contrary way, from fouth to north, he obferved them on their return, when many of them were taken in the fame manner.
This account is confirmed by the teftimony of many others, who affert, that they choofe a north wind for thefe adventures; the fouth being very unfavourable, as it retards their flight by moiftening their plumage. But though it is univerfally admitted that the Quail is a bird of paffage, it fill remains a doubt whether they take fuch long journies as Bellonius has made them perform. Some have lately afferted that it only migrates from one province of a country to another.
In England, for inftance, it flies from the inland counties to thofe bordering on the fea, and remains there all the winter. If they are driven out of the flubble-fields or marhes, by frof or fnow, they retreat to the fea-fide, take fhelter among the weeds, and live on what the fea cafts upon the fhore. The time of their appearance upon the coafts of Effex exactly coincides with their difappearance from the more internal parts of the kingdom.

Mr. Pennant fays, "They are birds of paffage; fome entirely quitting our illand, and others fhifting their quarters." It is therefore probable, that the account which Bellonius has given us, may be frictly true ; and the affertions which others have made, that they fometimes only migrate from one province of a country to another, may equally deferve to be credited.
The Quail is not fo prolific as the Partridge, feldom laying more than fix or feven eggs, which are whitifh, marked with irregular rufh-coloured fpots. This bird is eafily taken, and may be enticed any where by a call.
Quail-fighting, among the Athenians, was a favourite amufement. They abftained from the flefh of this bird, deeming it unwholefome, as it was fuppofed to feed on hellebore; but they ftaked fums of money on them, as we do with regard to game-cocks, upon the fuccefs of the combat. At prefent, however, the courage of this bird is difregarded, but its flefh is confidered as a very great delicacy.

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## PLATEXCVIII.

## The Male Starling,

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OF this plate, is a bird well known, and very numerous; and, as I have obferved in a former plate of the female, they are a deftructive bird among pigeons. It is totally impracticable to do juftice to the brilliancy of it, as it exhibits fuch a variety of changeable colours. The male bird is capable of receiving inftructions, in either talking or finging, and will fo imitate the human voice as to deceive the niceft ear. There is a method to be obferved in teaching them, which muft be adhered to:-whilf young, the bird intended to be taught mult be kept almoft in darknefs, and never fhifted from one place to another.

Like other young birds, they do not attain to a clearnefs of voice until the fpring following. The Starling is of a ftrong and hardy nature, and does not require any particular tendernefs in the treatment of it. The food they are generally fed upon is fig-duft, mixed with water. Barleyflower may anfwer equally the fame with fome fmall pieces of raw meat put in it.


> The SDuntis.

## P L A T E XCIX．

## The Dunlis，

## 血気我：

OR Dunlin，is a bird of paffage，migrates from the north of Europe：it has fome affinity with the fnipes，and it may be conjectured its properties are much the fame．Buffon having claffed it with them，confines his defeription of it to the colour and fize of the bird only．


## PLATE C .

## The Sheldrake,

IsS reduced for the convenience of the plate. The bird from which this was taken meafured fixteen inches from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail; fourteen inches round the breaft; and from the pinion to the tip of the longeft feather, thirteen inches.

Buffon fays, it is an inhabitant of the northern world, as far as Iceland. They ufually breed in deferted rabbit holes, lay fifteen or fixteen roundifh white eggs, and fit about thirty days. Latham fays, "they are very careful of their young, and will carry them from place to place in their bills." They fhew much inftinctive cunning in preferving them when they are attempted to be caught; they will fly along the ground as if wounded, till the brood are got into a place of fecurity. Their great beauty has induced many unfuccefsful attempts to domeflicate them ; but they never thrive, unlefs in the neighbourhood of falt water. The eggs are thought good, but the flefh of the bird is rank and unfavory.


Painted. Engraved \& Publish'd Sentr.iggs. by T.Tord. N: 468 . Strand.

## PLATE LI.

## The Redfhank.

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As the real fize of this bird is not curtailed in the plate, there remains but little to be faid ; it is, however, obfervable of this fpecies, that when their neft is in danger, they make a noife fimilar to that of a Lapwing; and when the tide flows, they are evidently much agitated, flying from one place of the fhore to another, in flocks, and frequently fettling, but never refting long together.


Painted. Engrand \& Publichid Sept-rzes. by T.Lord. Nesb. Smand.

## The Sand Martins,

 but are not fo well known, we having but few of them ; neither are they fo generally difperfed about as other birds, but confine themfelves to the fandy countries, and in Bedfordfhire particularly they are to be found during the breeding feafon. They build in the holes of fand banks, but their nef differs in its fructure from the Houfe Martin, being compofed of fraws and feathers, loofely put together; they lay five or fix eggs, which are white, with a few very faint red fpots on them; the fhells are very thin and tender; they feldom fettle but when they come to their neft, as they procure food for themfelves and young ones in their flight; in which refpect they refemble the Houfe Martin and Swallow. They are not quite fo large as either, and differ much in colour. They affociate with no bird whatever, but keep entirely to themfelves, and quit us on a fudden about the end of September or the beginning of Ottober.


## P L A T E CIII.

## The Hen Pheafant,



GIVEN in this plate, is reduced in fize. The bird it was taken from meafuring, from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, twenty-four inches, and fifteen acrofs the breaft. Its food is all kinds of growing corn. In the winter, like many other birds, it partakes of more ordinary food, fuch as acorns, black-berries, \&c. and what elfe the woods afford; for being a bird not fond of flying, it feldom goes far from the wood it inhabits. It moft generally makes choice of frong thickets for its retreat. Seldom lays more than nine eggs, which commonly produce as many young ones. They leave their neft as foon as they are hatched, when the old one goes in queft of ants-eggs for them, which they are particularly fond of. With fome trouble this bird may be made to breed in a room, but there muft be a very private place for it to make its neft in ; and, as foon as it has young ones, they muft be well fupplied with ants-eggs, till they are able to eat their accuftomed food, corn, \&c. which is the beft for them. When confined, they may be made to breed with the game or bantom fowls; but they will not produce fuch brilliant colours as with their own fpecies.

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## The Aberduvine, or Sijkin.

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OF all granivorous birds, fays Buffon, the Goldfinch is fuppofed to be the moft nearly allied to the Silkin; both have the bill elongated and flender towards the point; are gentle, docile, and lively. Some naturalifts have confidered them as two proximate feecies of the fame genus. With regard to organization, or inflinct, the difference is friking. The Silkin has a fong peculiar to itfelf, but inferior to that of the Goldfinch. It is fond of the feeds of the alder, which the other will not touch. It creeps along the branches, and fufpends itfelf at their extremities like the Tomtit; fo that it may be confidered an intermediate fpecies between this latter and the Goldfinch. It is alfo a bird of paffage, and in its emigration flies very high; it is heard before it is feen. The Goldfinch continues with us all the year, and never flies very high. It is alfo obferved, that thefe birds feldom or never affociate together voluntarily. The Sikkin may be taught to draw water like the Goldfinch. In an aviary it is always the firft to awake; is harmlefs and unfufpicious. It is more eafily tamed than any other bird, when taken old; and by focial treatment it may be domefticated like the Canary bird. The Sifkin is nice in the choice of its food, but eats plentifully, and enjoys itfelf much if fed to its liking. In an aviary, it choofes a friend of its own fpecies; if this cannot be, it feleets one from fome other, which it feeds like its young. It drinks frequently, but feldom bathes, and then rarely goes into the water, but flands on the rim of the veffel to dip its bill and breatt. It is faid to build chiefly in mountain forefts; its nefl is fo difficult to find, that it is a received opinion with the vulgar, that it has the art of rendering its neft invifible by means of a ftone. Hence no precife account has been met with of the fructure, \&c. of its neft. There is fo marked a fympathy between this fpecies and the Canary bird, that if a cock Silkin be put into a place with Canary birds, they immediately and reciprocally exchange endearments. When a cock Siflkin pairs with a hen Canary bird, he affiduoully helps her to prepare the neft, and feeds her while fitting. But from this alliance, it muft be confefled, that the greateft part of their eggs are clear. A conformity of temperament, as well as a union of difpofition, being neceffary for fecundation. The few mule birds which are the produce of this union, refemble both father and mother.
In Germany, the migration of the Sifkins begin in OClober, or even earlier; at that time they feed on the feed of hops, to the great injury of the proprietors. The place they have flopt in is well known by the quantity of leaves with which the ground is ftrewed. They difappear in the month of December, and return in February. In France they come at vintage time, and return when the trees are in flower ; they are fondeft of the flowers of the apple-tree. They are fometimes feen on their paffaze in great numbers, and at other times in very fmall flocks. The great flights happen every third or fourth year, and then fo great is the multitude, that fome fuppole them to have been brought by the wind.
The fong of the Sifkin is not difagreeable, but is much inferior to that of the Goldfinch, whofe note it acquires with eafe; it will alfo appropriate that of the Canary Bird or Linnet, if it hears them at an early age.

According to Olina, this bird lives to the age of ten years. It is generally agreed, that among birds the females live longer than the males. The Silkins are little fubject to difeafes, except to inflammations of the inteftines, when they have been fed on hemp-feed.


## PLATECV.

## The Dotterell.

As this si a bird of paffage, there eremans litte to be faid of it. Howeere, iti sefleemed a very foolifh bird, and is faid to mimic the actions of the fowler, ftretching out a wing when he fretches out an arm, \&c. regardlefs of the net which is fpreading over it. They appear in England, in fmall flocks, from April to September.


## PLATE CVI.

## The Widgeon,

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REPRESENTED in this plate, is the female. Thefe birds are pretty common in Cambridgefhire and the Ifle of Ely, where the male is called the Widgeon, and the female the Whewer. They feed upon wild periwinkles, grafs, weeds, \&c. which grow at the bottom of rivers and lakes. In fize they are between the Wild Duck and the Teal; their flefh has a very delicious tafte, not inferior to the Teal or Wild Duck.


## P L A TE CVII.

## The Shoveller.

## 为

THIS bird is given the fize of life. It is of the Wild Duck kind. There are but few taken, not being of a numerous fpecie; and thofe which are, more for their beauty than for the table, being very inferior in tafte to the common Wild Duck. They breed in the fens. It is obfervable, that each mandible of the bill is toothed like a comb. The tongue is broad and flefhy, efpecially towards the end, the tip of which is of a fort of fimicircular form.


## P L A T E CVIII.

## The Curlew.

I.ATHAM enumerates eleven fpecies of this bird, differing very much in fize, of which the one here given is the largeft, meafuring from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, twenty-four inches, and twenty-eight from the extremity of each wing, when extended, and round the breaft twelve inches; the bill five inches and a half long. Thefe birds fly in confiderable flocks, and are well known upon the Sea coaft, in moft parts, where and in the marfhes they frequent in the winter, feeding upon worms, frogs, and all kind of marine infects. In April or the beginning of May they retire unto the mountains and unfrequented parts of the Sea fhore, where they breed, and do not return again until the approach of winter. There have been fome advocates in favour of the flefh of this bird; but in general it is ftrong, rank, and fifhy. The feet are divided, but joined by a little membrane at the root. The tongue is very fhort, confidering the length of the bill, and bears fome refemblance to an arrow.


## P L A T E CIX.

## The Widgeon.

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I
N this Plate is reprefented the Male bird, which, like all others of the kind, difplays more brilliancy in his colours, and furpaffes the female both in fize and fhape. He leads, and is followed by a train of females wherever he goes. The male bird has the fupremacy over the female, as fhe has over her young ones. For their habits and manners, we refer to the defcription of a former plate of the female; which precludes the neceffity of any thing more being faid on the fubject.


## PLATE CX.

## The Summer Teal,

Here given, is the Male bird-full fize. It is but little known, except among the fowlers who take them, which however is not frequent, there being but few of this fpecie. It is one of the finalleft of the Duck kind. In fome of its colours it has an affinity to the Shoveller, though not in fize. Its food is the fame as that of the Teal or Widgeon. They are delicious in tafte, furpaffing moft of the Duck kind: it is faid to have the pre-eminence at the table; yet there are but few brought to the markets.


## The Green or Golden Plover.

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IsS one of thofe kind which have no hinder claw or fpur ; but, like the Redfhank, is web'd between the outer and middle claw. It is much about the fize of the Lapwing; and are found in France, Switzerland, Italy, and moft of the counties of England, in moft of which places they are efteemed a choice difh, their flefh being very tender, and of an exceeding agreeable flavour. They feed on worms chiefly, though fome authors have affirmed that they live like the Grafshopper, upon nothing but the dew, their inteftine being generally found empty. There are few gentlemen that delight in gardens, but know how neceffary and ufeful the Lapwing and Plover are for deftroying of worms, fnails, caterpillars, and fuch other infects as generally infeft thefe places; and it is very common to leave the care of that part of the Gardener's office to a few of thefe pretty creatures, after pulling the large feathers from their wings, to prevent their flying abroad.


[^3]
## P L ATE CXII.

## The Buzzard.

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IN this Plate is reprefented the Honey Buzzard. In its appearance it has a kind of fupor, and is infinitely lefs active than any of its fpecie. It inhabits the woods, and feldom goes far from home, as its food is generally frogs, mice, bats, \&c. This bird is often kept in large gardens, for the purpofe of deftroying vermin therein. They build their nefts with fmall fticks, lined with wool, and feldom lay more than four eggs. They are often feen on the ground, and will run very fwift fome paces before they take wing. The Reprefentation in this Plate is reduced; the bird from which it was meafured being thirty-eight inches from the point of one wing to the point of the other, when extended; feventeen from the end of the bill to the tip of the tail, and fifteen round the breaft.

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## PLATE CXIII.

## The Barb.

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ThESE birds are natives of Barbary, in Africa, and receive their name from that country from whence they come. The bird of this Plate is given full fize. The redder the colour and the wider the circle of tuberous flefh round the eye fpreads, the greater is their value; though the circle is very narrow at firf, and does not arrive at its full fize till the bird is four years old. They differ very much from their original colour, that being either dun or black; but croffing the breed with the Mahomet, has thrown them into divers colours. The breeders differ very much in their manner of breeding, by croffing them; for it is certain there is not fo much crofs breeding in any kind of the feathered tribe as in that of Pigeons.


Puineed. Engraved \& Rubtisb'd Oat:5, z796, by T Lord, N. 6, Lambeth Road, near tbe Obelusk, Juryy.

## P L A TE CXIV.

## The Land Rail,

## 

I $_{\mathrm{N}}$ this Plate is given the full fize. In Englapd it is very rarely to be feen; but in Ireland they are much more abundant. The few we have are generally to be met with in the ftanding corn, or long grafs. Their food is fnails, worms, and other reptiles. They are efteemed a delicious difh; which fuppofition arifes more from its being a fcarce bird than from the flavour of its flefh, as I think we have many birds which excel them far in flavour. They have an awkward falking gait, and are not a bird much for flying.
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$f^{\prime}$

 $4-2+2$



[^0]:    The Red-breaft, facred to the houfhold Gods,
    Wifely regardful of th'embroiling fky,
    In joylefs fields, and thorny thickets, leaves
    His fhivering mates, and pays to trufted man
    His annual vifit. Half afraid, he firlt
    Againft the window beats ; then, brilk, alights
    On the warm hearth ; then, hopping o'er the floor,
    Eyes all the fmiling family afkance,
    And pecks, and ftarts, and wonders where he is ;
    Till more familiar grown, the table crumbs
    Attracts his flender feet.

    Thefe birds build earlier than any other: but as the neft is moft accurately defcribed in the plate it is needlefs to employ the attention of the reader by dwelling upon particulars. It muft not however be unobferved that in the manner and place of building they are not always confiftent and

[^1]:    

[^2]:    * They vifit a place called Martin Mere, in Lancafhire, the latter end of March or beginning of April; but do not continue there above three weeks.

[^3]:    ainted. Lngravea' \& Lublisbd Ochinmob.by T.Lord. W.b. Lambens Roud nermpe Obelistc. Sury.

