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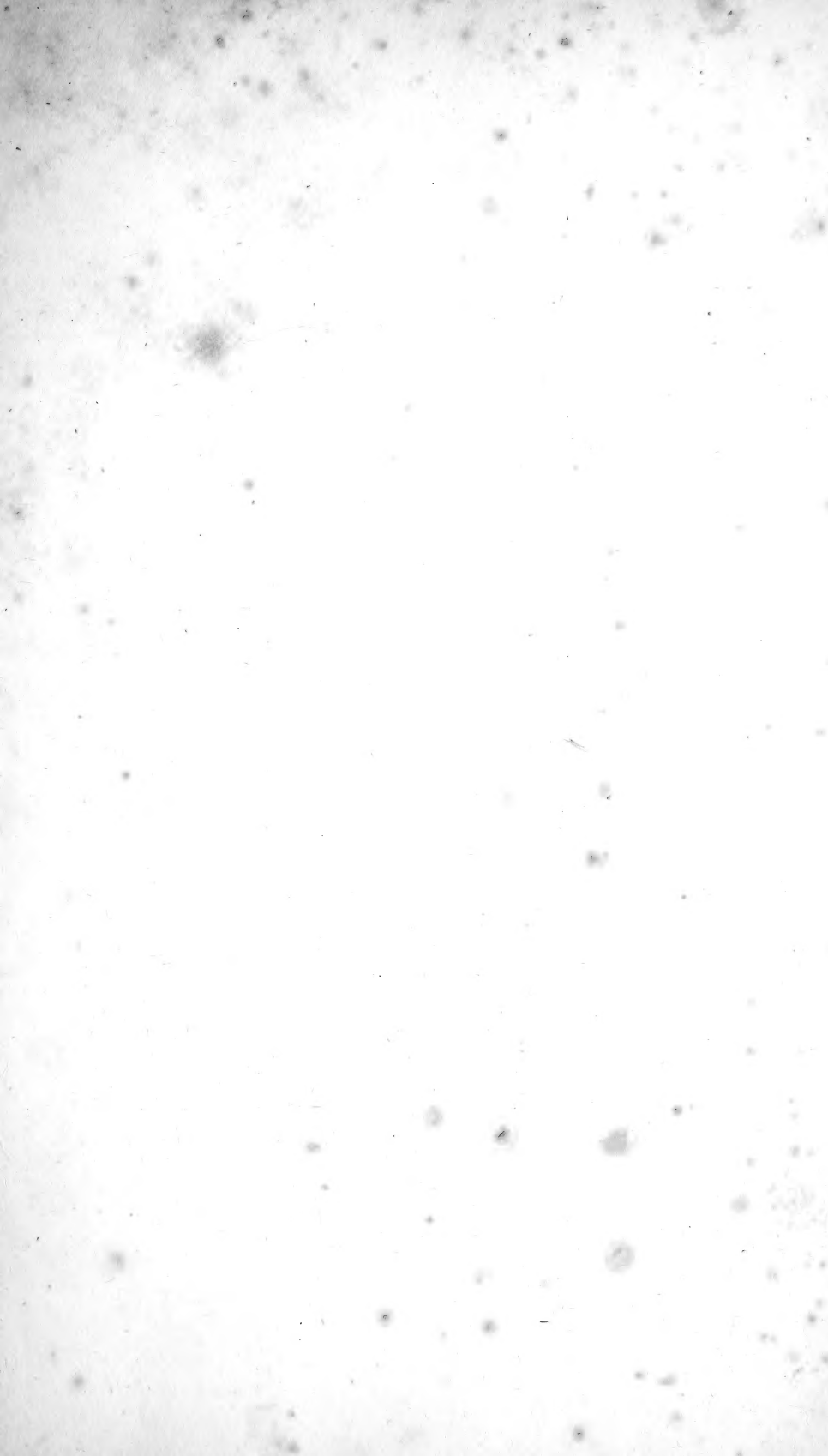
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THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
BRITISH BIRDS;

OR, A

SELECTION OF THE MOST RARE, BEAUTIFUL, AND INTERESTING
BIRDS

WHICH INHABIT THIS COUNTRY:

THE DESCRIPTIONS FROM THE

S Y S T E M A N A T U R Æ

OF

L I N N Æ U S ;

WITH

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS,

EITHER ORIGINAL, OR COLLECTED FROM THE LATEST
AND MOST ESTEEMED

E N G L I S H O R N I T H O L O G I S T S ;

AND EMBELLISHED WITH

F I G U R E S ,

DRAWN, ENGRAVED, AND COLOURED FROM THE ORIGINAL SPECIMENS.

By E. DONOVAN.

V O L. VI.

L O N D O N :

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PLATE CXXV.

COLUMBA TURTUR.

TURTLE DOVE.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, descending towards the tip : nostrils oblong, and half covered with a soft tumid membrane.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Tail feathers tipped with white : back grey : breast flesh colour : each side the neck a spot of black feathers with white tips.

COLUMBA TURTUR : rectricibus apice albis, dorso griseo, pectore incarnato, macula laterali colli nigra lineolis albis. *Scop. Ann.* 1. n. 181.

Turtur. *Olin. ucc.* 34.—*Briff. av.* 1. p. 92. n. 7.—*Norzem. nederl. Vogel.* t. 6.

Tourterelle. *Buff. Hist. Oif.* 2. p. 545. t. 25.—*Pl. Enl.* n. 394.

Turtle, or Turtle-dove. *Brit. Zool.* 1. n. 10² t. 45.—*Albin. av.* 2. t. 47.

P L A T E CXXV.

Turtle Doves inhabit Europe, and some parts of Asia, being met with in China, and India. In Britain they are not uncommon during the summer season, arriving however later in the spring, and leaving the country earlier in autumn than any other of the pigeon tribe.

The constancy of the Turtle-dove to its mate is proverbial. They build in general in the thickest woods, forming their nests on the branches of the loftiest trees: like the rest of the pigeons, they lay only two eggs; and, it is concluded, breed only once in a season. These birds are of a shy and timid disposition, and seldom venture from their woody retreats in the day-time, unless in flocks of about twenty together. They subsist on berries, fruits, and various kinds of vegetables, and are especially partial to peas, the fields of which they visit as soon as the crop begins to ripen, and oftentimes commit vast depredations. There are several supposed varieties of this species, some of which may prove hereafter to be distinct kinds.

This is a bird of extremely beautiful plumage, and measures in length about twelve inches.





PLATE CXXVI.

HIRUNDO RIPARIA.

SAND MARTIN.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill small, weak, incurvated, subulate, and depressed at the base : gape larger than the head : tongue short, broad, and cleft : wings long : tail generally furcated.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Cinereous, throat and abdomen white.

HIRUNDO RIPARIA : cinerea, gula abdomineque albis. *Linn. Fn.*

Suéc. 273.

Kram. el. p. 381. n. 4.

Müll. Zool. p. 34. n. 289.

HIRUNDO RIPARIA. *Gesn. av. 656.*

Aldr. orn. 2. p. 694. t. 695.

Ray av. p. 71. n. 3.

Hirondelle de rivage. *Buff. Hist. Nat. 6. v. 632.—Pl. enl. n. 643.*
f. 2.

Uferschwalbe.

P L A T E CXXVI.

Uferschwalbe. *Frisch. av. t.* 18.

Georg. it. p. 175.

Sand-Martin, or Shore-bird. *Arch. Zool. 2. p.* 430. *n.* 332.

Will. orn. p. 213. *t.* 39.

A small bird of very delicate appearance, measuring rather less than five inches in length, and having the upper part of the plumage brown, the lower white. This little species inhabits various parts of Europe and America: in Britain, it may be considered, if not a rare, at least a very local species.

The Sand-Martin, as its name implies, is in a great measure peculiar to sandy places. Their usual haunts are the sides of sand-banks contiguous to lakes and rivers, where they live in deep openings, dug in an horizontal course, and at the furthest end of which recesses the nest is deposited. Sometimes the nest of the Sand-Martin is built in cavities of rocks, sand-pits, or hollow trees; almost invariably, however, on the banks of lakes or rivers, the old birds subsisting, for the most part, on the insects which it takes on the wing when skimming the surface of the water.

The nest consists of fibres of grass, intermixed with straw, and a few feathers: the eggs, about six in number, are of a beautiful white colour, and transparent. It cannot be absolutely asserted whether the Sand-Martin has two, or only a single brood in the year.



PLATE CXXVII.

MEROPS APIASTER.

COMMON BEE-EATER.

FIG.Æ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill curved, quadrangular, compressed, carinate, pointed: nostrils small, at the base of the bill: tongue slender, the tip mostly jagged: feet gressorial.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Back ferruginous: abdomen and tail green-blue: two tail feathers longest: throat yellow.

MEROPS APIASTER: dorso ferrugineo, abdomine caudaque viridicærulescente, rectricibus duabus longioribus, gula lutea. *Gmel. Syst.* 1. p. 460.—*Linn. Syst.* 1. p. 182. 1.

Merops galilæus. *Hasselt. It.* 247.—*Fn. Arab.* p. 1.

Bienenfraas. *Wirsing. Vog.* t. 27.

La Merope. *Cet. uc. Sard.* t. p. 93.

Ifpida cauda molli. *Kram. El.* p. 327.

BEE-

PLATE CXXVII.

BEE-EATER. *Will. p. 147.*

Albin. 2. t. 44.

Linn. Transf. v. 3. p. 333.

The Common Bee-eater is a bird of very splendid plumage, the male in particular, the colours in that sex being of a more vivid cast than in the female. It has been denominated the European Bee-eater; a term not, perhaps, sufficiently discriminate, since another species of the same genus, the Merops Congenor, is also found in Europe. Neither is the Merops Apiafter peculiar to Europe: it extends both to Africa and Asia: in Europe it is confined to southern countries, and in Asia to more temperate regions.

Till within the last few years, this species was altogether unknown as a native of Britain. The first account we have of its being met with in this country, is recorded in the third volume of the Linnæan Transactions, from which it appears, that a solitary example of the species was shot in the year 1794, and communicated to Dr. Smith.

This bird measures about ten inches, from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail. Its food consists of insects of various kinds, more especially those of the bee tribe, in reference to which it bears the name of Bee-eater. Their nests are said to be composed of moss, and to be deposited, like that of the sand-martin, in deep holes in the banks of rivers. The eggs are smaller than those of a blackbird, of a white colour, and from five to seven in number.



PLATE CXXVIII.

PERDIX COTURNIX.

COMMON QUAIL.

GALLINÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex and strong: nostrils with a prominent margin: orbits papillous: legs naked, and mostly armed with a spur.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Legs unarmed: body grey, spotted: eye-brows white: tail feather with ferruginous edge and crescent.

PERDIX COTURNIX: mutica, corpore griseo maculato, superciliis albis, rectricibus margine lunulaque ferruginea.

Lath. Ind. Orn. t. 2. p. 651. n. 28.

TETRAO COTURNIX. *Linn. Syst. 1. p. 278. 20.—Fn. Suec.*

No. 206.—Gmel. Syst. 1. p. 765.

Quaglia. *Zinnan. Uov. p. 36. t. 5. f. 19.*

Wachtel. *Guntb. Nest. u. Ey. t. 35.*

La Caille. *Buff. 2. p. 449. t. 16.—Pl. enl. 170.*

Quail. *Arct. Zool. 2. p. 320. B.*

Albin, 1. t. 30.

Br. Zool. 1. No. 97.

P L A T E CXXVIII.

The Quail is a small bird, about seven inches and a half in length; the female differs from the male, in being destitute of the black spots on the fore part of the neck, breast, and lateral feathers, and in the rufous space being paler.

This bird occurs in the greatest plenty throughout Russia, Tartary, China, and other parts of India, changing its situation in immense flocks according to the seasons, in the spring proceeding northward, and returning southward in autumn. In the islands of the Archipelago, and the south of Europe, they appear at certain times in immense myriads. Twice in the year, it is said, they come in such vast abundance into the island of Capri, that the bishop derives the chief part of his revenue from them; and on the west coast of the kingdom of Naples, within the space of four or five miles, an hundred thousand have been taken in a day. The Quail is not a common bird in this country, although it breeds with us: during the summer it is found in the northern counties, and migrates south in autumn. These birds feed on corn, and other grain.



PLATE CXXIX.

ANAS ACUTA.

PIN-TAIL DUCK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed and obtuse ; three fore toes solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Tail pointed, elongated, and black beneath ; hind head on each side with a white line : back waved cinereous.

ANAS ACUTA: cauda acuminata elongata subtus nigra, occipite utrinque linea alba, dorso cinereo undulato.
Linn. Fn. Suec. 126.

Anas cauda forcipata pedibus longiore, macula alarum cupreo-fusca.
Kram. el. p. 340.

Anas longicauda. *Bris. av.* 6. p. 369. n. 16. t. 34. f. 1. 2.

Anas Seevogel. *Aldr. Orn.* 3. p. 229.

Canard à longue queue. *Buff. Hist. Nat.* 9. p. 199. t. 13. -- *Pl. Enl. N.* 954.

PLATE CXXIX.

SEA PHEASANT, or CRAKER. *Ray, av. p. 147. A. 5.*

PIN-TAIL. *Arch. Zool. 2. p. 566. n. 500.*

Brit. Zool. 2. n. 282.

A native of Europe, Asia, and America. Sometimes these birds appear in small flocks on the English coasts during the winter season, but depart again to the northward early in the spring. They are seen at this season in Sweden and Denmark, and are supposed to breed in the north of those kingdoms. They abound throughout the Russian territories as far as Kamtschatka, at which latter place they breed and live till the approach of winter. According to Decouver, the species appears at particular seasons, in troops of several hundred together, on the borders of the river Don. It is likewise said to breed at Hudfon's Bay, in America.

The male of the Pintail Duck is an interesting bird, possessing, in addition to a beautifully varied plumage, a peculiar degree of elegance in its manners and general aspect. Its length is twenty-eight inches, and weight twenty-four ounces. The female, as usual in the duck tribe, smaller, and more dusky, and is in particular distinguished by having a spot of straw-colour on the wing instead of violet. The young males remain of a greyish brown, not very unlike the plumage of the females, till the spring after they are hatched, when they assume their proper plumage. The flesh is excellent.





PLATE CXXX.

CORVUS MONEDULA.

JACKDAW.

PICÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, acutely edged: nostrils covered with fetaceous recumbent feathers: tongue cartilaginous and bifid: feet formed for walking.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Blackish brown: hind head hoary: front, wings, and tail black.

CORVUS MONEDULA: fusco nigricans, occipite incano, fronte alis caudaque nigris. *Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 1. p. 367.—*Linn. Syst.* 1. p. 156. 6.—*Fn. Succ. No.* 89.

Cornix garrula. *Klein. av.* p. 59. 4.

Dohle. *Gunth. Nest. und Eyer.* p. 51. t. 11.

Taccola. *Cett. uc. Sard.* p. 72.

Mulacchia hera. *Zinnan. Uov.* p. 71. t. 10. f. 62.

Jackdaw. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 251. C.

Br. Zool. 1; *No.* 81. t. 34.

The

P L A T E C X X X .

The Jackdaw, one of the most familiar and well-known birds of its tribe in this country, does not appear to be by any means so abundant throughout the rest of Europe as some others which are less frequent with us. In England they are seen at all seasons; in France and Germany, which countries they inhabit likewise, they are migratory. In Sweden and Denmark they are pretty constant inhabitants. The species occurs also in the western part of Siberia, and a supposed variety extends as far as Persia.

In a wild state, the haunts of this bird are the most retired places among rocks, or ruined edifices, in the cavities of which they construct their nests: occasionally they build in trees, but not commonly. Their eggs, from five to six in number, are of a paler colour, and have a smaller number of spots, than the hooded crow.

This species feeds on insects, grain, and seeds. It is of a docile disposition, and may be easily rendered tame, but invariably retains its pilfering inclinations even in a state of domestication. The note of this bird is very peculiar:—an ejaculation of the words *Jakdaw*, *Jakdaw*, not indistinctly articulated, and repeated at regular intervals; this note is often heard while the bird is on the wing.



PLATE CXXXI.

PERDIX RUFA.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE.

GALLINÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, and strong: nostrils with a prominent margin: orbita papillous: legs naked, and mostly armed with a spur.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Legs and bill fanguineous: chin white, surrounded with a black band, and spotted with white.

PERDIX RUFA. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 647. n. 12.

TETRAO RUFUS: pedibus rostroque fanguineis, gula alba cincta fascia nigra albo-punctata. *Kram. el. n.* 357. n. 5.

TETRAO RUFUS: rectricibus cinereis, superiore medietate hinc inde rufis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 171.

Perdix græca. *Briff. av.* 1. p. 241. n. 12. t. 23. f. 1.

Bartavelle. *Buff. Hist. Nat.* 2. p. 420.

RED PARTRIDGE. *Albin. av.* 1. p. 27.

GREEK PARTRIDGE, or Great Red Partridge. *Will. Orn.* p. 169.

This

P L A T E CXXXI.

This is a bird of considerable beauty, and is found in such vast abundance in the island of Guernsey, as to have obtained the appellation of Guernsey Partridge. Birds of the same species have been also shot in a wild state on the coasts of Norfolk, Kent, and Suffolk, which latter circumstances tend, in our minds, more fully to establish its claim to a place in the British Fauna, than its being an indigenous inhabitant of Guernsey island. Some attempts have been made to naturalize the species in the southern counties of England, which have not, however, been ultimately attended with the success anticipated. The flesh is in much esteem, and the birds, for this reason, are often brought over to England from Guernsey, or, in times of peace, from France, to supply the tables of the affluent.

Throughout the whole of the south of Europe, and also in Asia and Africa, these birds occur in the greatest plenty; so much, indeed, that in some of the Greek islands, the natives destroy as many of their eggs as possible, in order to diminish their numbers; a precaution highly necessary for the preservation of their corn-harvests, which often sustain vast injury from their depredations, as these birds associate in immense flocks, and subsist principally on grain during that season. In many respects, their manners accord with those of the common partridge, though, in the latter particular, they differ materially, the partridge being a solitary bird; and it is observable likewise, that the Red-legged Partridges occasionally perch on trees, which is altogether unusual with the common kind. There appears to be two or more varieties of this species of partridge.





PLATE CXXXII.

ANAS CLANGULA.

GOLDEN EYE DUCK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth: tongue fringed and obtuse: three fore toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Varied with black and white: head tumid, and violet; at each corner of the mouth a large white spot.

ANAS CLANGULA: nigro alboque varia, capite tumido violaceo: sinu oris macula alba. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 192.—
It. oel. 49.

CLANGULA. *Gessn. av.* 119.—*Aldr. orn.* 3. p. 224.

Garrot. *Buff. Hist. Nat.* 9. p. 222. *pl. enl. n.* 802.

Kobelente. *Frisch. av. t.* 183. 184.

Quakerente. *Bloch Besch. der Berl. Naturf. Fr.* 4. p. 599. *n.* 9.
t. 17. *fig.* 1. 2.

Smaller Reddish Duck. *Will. Orn.* p. 369.

Ray av. p. 143. *n.* 1.

P L A T E CXXXII.

GOLDEN EYE. *Albin.* 1. t. 96.

Arch. Zool. 2. p. 557. n. 486.

Brit. Zool. 2. n. 276.

This species of Duck rather exceeds the common size, measuring nearly twenty inches in length, and weighing thirty ounces. This relates to the male only, the female being much smaller. The latter differs likewise very considerably in the colour of its plumage, which is principally of an obscure brown, varied with black and ash. The head is dark and reddish, the breast and belly white; the middle quill-feathers are also white, but the rest of the wings, except the coverts and scapulars, in which the grey prevails, is black. The tail is of the last-mentioned colour; the legs dusky.

The Golden Eye is of the migratory kind, and visits us only in the winter, at which season it is seen in small flocks on many of our sea-coasts. In the spring these birds retire northward, remaining, during the breeding season, in Russia, Norway, and Sweden. In America it is found throughout the summer in Hudson's Bay, where it is observed to frequent fresh water lakes. Its principal food consists of shell-fish, frogs, and other reptiles, mice, &c. The nest, which is composed of grass, and lined with feathers, is of a rounded form, the eggs from seven to ten in number, and white. Linnæus tells us, this species sometimes builds in trees, a circumstance rather singular, but nevertheless, we believe, correctly stated, as some other species of the duck tribe have been known to build occasionally in the same or similar situations.



PLATE CXXXIII.

PELECANUS CARBO.

CORVORANT.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, hooked at the point, and furnished with a nail : nostrils an obliterated slit : face rather naked : legs equally balancing the body : toes four, palmated.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Tail rounded : body black : head subcrested.

PELECANUS CARBO : cauda rotundata, corpore nigro, capite subcrestatato. *Linn. Fn. Succ.* 145.

Phalacrocorax. *Gesn. av.* 683.

Corvus aquaticus. *Aldr. Orn.* 3. p. 261. t. 263.

Cormoran. *Buff. Hist. Nat.* 8. p. 310. t. 26.

Corvorant. *Arch. Zool.* 2. p. 581. n. 509.

Brit. Zool. 2. n. 291.

P L A T E CXXXIII.

The **Corvorant** measures three feet in length, in breadth four feet, and weighs seven pounds.

Towards the northern parts of Europe these birds are more abundant than in the south. They breed in Kamtschatka, Greenland, Iceland, and other countries of the north, and from their habits of life are almost constantly found contiguous to the sea. Their breeding-places are the highest and most inaccessible cliffs impending over the sea shore. It does not appear that they evince much ingenuity in the formation of a nest, and they lay only about three or four eggs, which are the size of those of a goose, and of a pale green colour. The **Corvorant** is an extremely voracious bird, and preys chiefly on fish, in pursuit of which it is continually seen swimming and darting into the water. The flesh is very indifferent, and eaten only by the Greenlanders, who, however, are by no means partial to it, and their eggs are so disgusting that they are never eaten. The skins, in common with those of most other birds, furnish the natives with an article of dress. In Britain the **Corvorant** is uncommon on the southern coast, but is still more abundant on the sea coasts of the northern counties.

In China the **Corvorant** is trained up for the purpose of fishing, in which employ they are very useful to the fishermen; many of whom keep several of them, and derive a good livelihood from their labours. These birds are taught to plunge into the water at their master's command, and seize the fish in his bill, or with the bill and talons together, and bring it to his master; or if the fish be too large, two of the **Corvorants** assist each other. To ensure obedience, it is however necessary to fasten a ring round their necks, which prevents them from swallowing their prize; and when the business of fishing is over for the day, the master takes off the ring, and rewards them
with

PLATE CXXXIII.

with a share of the spoil. According to Willughby, this mode of taking fish was practised formerly in England: the Corvorants were instructed to dive into the water, and after laying the captive fish at the feet of his master, perch upon his arm. The best writers give little credit to this account, or consider it as a rare instance, at least, of the docile disposition of the Corvorant. A leather thong was fastened round the throat of the bird, which answered the same purpose as the ring put round their neck by the Chinese.

THE STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE, January 10, 1891.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1890.

ALBANY: J. B. LIPPINCOTT & COMPANY, PRINTERS, 1891.



PLATE CXXXIV.

MOTACILLA TROGLODYTES.

WREN.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill fubulate, and fraight: the mandibles nearly equal: noſtrils oval: tongue lacerated at the end.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Grey: eyebrows white: wings waved with black and cinereous.

MOTACILLA TROGLODITES; grifea, alis nigris cinereoque undulatis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 261.

Scop. ann. 1. n. 239.

Nozem. nederl. Vogel. t. 58.

Regulus. *Briff. av.* 3. p. 425. n. 24.

Reattino. *Olin. ucc.* t. 6.

Roitelet. *Buff. pl. enl.* n. 651. f. 2.

Zaunkoenig. *Friſch. av.* t. 24. f. 3.

WREN. *Art. Zool.* 2. p. 414. n. 322.

Ray av. p. 80. n. 11.

Brit. Zool. 1. n. 154.

This

PLATE CXXXIV.

This pretty little bird is esteemed the smallest of the European species, the Golden Crested Wren excepted. It inhabits the temperate parts of northern Europe, and the south of Asia.

The Wren remains in Britain throughout the year. The nest is of an oval form, composed of moss lined with feathers, and having a small entrance in the middle. The female has two broods annually, one in April, the other in June, at each time laying from ten to sixteen eggs, which are of a white colour, and marked at the end with reddish. Its nest is commonly found affixed against outhouses, or old walls, or, if built in the woods, stands generally on a low stump among bushes near the ground.

The note of this bird is a pleasing warble, heard at all seasons of the year, but only in the day-time.



PLATE CXXXV.

ANAS FERRUGINEA.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed and obtuse ; three fore toes solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Chestnut, breast and belly paler ; bill dilated and rounded at the tip ; and with the legs blueish.

ANAS FERRUGINEA : spadicea, rostro dilatato et apice rotundato pedibusque cærulescentibus, *Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat.* 528. n. 99.

ANAS RITULA, *Fn. Succ. n.* 134.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK. *Arch. Zool.* 2. p. 576. N.
Lath. Syn. 3. 2. p. 526. n. 71.

PLATE CXXXV.

This Duck is about the middle size, measuring in length fifteen inches, and weighing twenty ounces. The species has been found in the Swedish rivers, and in Denmark, but very rarely. A solitary specimen was killed in Lincolnshire some years ago, a circumstance recorded by Mr. Pennant in his *British Zoology*.



PLATE CXXXVI.

ALAUDA ARBOREA.

WOOD-LARK.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill cylindric, fubulate, and fraight: the mandibles equal, and a little gaping at the bafe: tongue bifid: hind claw fraight, and longer than the toe.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Head furrounded by a white annular fillet.

ALAUDA ARBOREA: capite annulari alba cincto. *Linn. Fn. Succ.*
3.—*Scop. Ann.* 1. n. 186.

Alauda reatricibus fufcis: prima oblique dimidiato-alba, fecunda,
tertia quartaque macula alba cuneiformi. *Fn.*
Succ. 1. n. 192.

Alauda arborea. *Briff. av.* 3. p. 340. n. 2. t. 20. f. 1.

Alouette de bois ou Cujelier. *Buff. Hift. Nat.* 5. p. 25.—*Pl. enl.*
660. f. 2.

WOODLARK. *Arct. Zool.* 2. p. 395.

Ray av. p. 69. n. 2.

Albin. av. 1. t. 42.

PLATE CXXXVI.

The Woodlark is believed to be a general inhabitant of Europe and Siberia, extending as far as Kamtschatka. In its general appearance it assimilates much more with the skylark, than in its manners of life, and is observed to be far less common than that species. The skylark delights in the open fields and meadows, the other is a more retired and timid bird, prefers woody situations, and often perches on trees, which the skylark never does. The Woodlark whistles like the blackbird, and, like the skylark, emits its note in flight; it sings also during the night while perched on the boughs of trees.

These birds build their nest on the ground, and lay five eggs of a light colour, blotched with brown: the nest, like that of the skylark, is composed of dry grass, lined with soft hair. It pairs earlier in the season than the skylark, and has two broods in the year.



PLATE CXXXVII.

PICUS MEDIUS.

MIDDLE SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

PICÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill angular, straight, cuneated at the tip: nostrils covered with recumbent setaceous feathers: tongue round, worm-shaped, very long, and osseous, missile, daggered, and beset at the point with bristles bent back: tail feathers ten in number, hard, rigid, and pointed: feet climbers.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Variigated with black and white: crown crimson: space round the eyes and sides of the neck white.

PICUS MEDIUS: albo nigroque varius, crisso pileoque rubris.
Linn. Syst. 1. p. 176. 18.—*Fn. Suec. No.* 101.—
Gmel. Syst. 1. p. 426.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 229.
n. 14.

Picus varius minor. *Ray. Syn.* p. 43, 5.

Picus varius. *Briff.* 4. p. 38. 14. t. 2. f. 1.

Der

PLATE CXXXVII.

Der mittlere Buntspechte. *Wirsing. Vog. t. 37.*

Pic varié à tête rouge. *Buff. Pl. Enl. 611.*

MIDDLE SPOTTED WOODPECKER. *Arch. Zool. 2. p. 278. D.*

Brit. Zool. 1. No. 86. t. 37.

A native of Europe; in its manners of life resembling the rest of its tribe, living chiefly in woods, and subsisting principally on insects, which it picks out of the trunks of decayed trees. Its length is about eight inches and a half.

Whether the Middle and the Greater Spotted Woodpeckers are of the same species, differing only in the transition of the plumage from an incomplete to a more perfect state, or that it is in reality distinct, appears to have excited considerable doubts in the opinions of ornithologists; some contending they are, and others that they are not the same. It is possible the former surmise may be correct, though at the same time it cannot but be observed, that the characters of the two kinds appear sufficiently constant and obvious to authorise a different conclusion. The principal distinction that prevails in the two birds consists in the Middle Spotted Woodpecker having the whole crown of the head crimson, while in the Greater Spotted, the crimson space is confined to a broad band on the hind head. The latter bird is rather larger, and measures half an inch more in the length than the other. Except the difference above-mentioned, the plumage in both pretty nearly alike.



PLATE CXXXVIII.

FRINGILLA SPINUS.

SISKIN,

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic, straight, and pointed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Quill feathers yellow in the middle, the first four without spots :
tail feathers yellow at the base, and at the tip black.

FRINGILLA SPINUS: remigibus medio luteis: primis quatuor
immaculatis, rectricibus basi flavis apice nigris.

Linn. Fn. Suec. 237.

Scop. Ann. 1. n. 222.

Acanthus avicula. *Gesn. av.* 1.

Ligurinus. *Briff. av.* 3. p. 65. n. 4.

Tarin. *Buff. Hist. Nat.* 4. p. 221.

Abadavine, *Albin. av.* 3. t. 76.

Zeifchen. *Frisch. av.* t. 11.

Georg. it. p. 174.

SISKIN, or Aberdevine. *Brit. Zool.* 129. t. 53.

P L A T E CXXXVIII.

The Siskin is a pretty little species of the finch tribe, about the size of the common linnet : the crown of the male is black, the back greenish, and the throat brown : in the female the head and neck is greenish ash, with brown spots, and the chin whitish. The plumage of the male is brighter than that of the female, though in other respects their appearance is not materially different.

This bird is common throughout most of the temperate countries of Europe : it occurs also in the western and southern parts of Russia, but does not inhabit Siberia. In the winter season it visits Britain, and departs again in Spring. It feeds chiefly on seeds of various kinds, is of a docile disposition, and breeds freely with the common canary-bird. Its note is indifferent, notwithstanding many rank it among the birds of song.



PLATE CXXXIX.

PROCELLARIA PELAGICA.

STORMY PETREL.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill toothless, a little compressed, and hooked at the point : mandibles equal : nostrils cylindrical, tubular, truncated, and placed at the base of the bill : feet palmated, three toed forward, and armed with a spur behind instead of back toe.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

AND

SYNONYMS.

Black : rump white.

PROCELLARIA PELAGICA : nigra uropygio albo. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 143.—*Aët. Stockb.* 1745. p. 93.—*Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat. t. 1. n. 2. p. 561. n. 1.*

Procellaria. *Briff. av. 6. p. 140. n. 1. t. 13. f. 1.*

Oiseau de tempeete. *Buff. Hist. Nat. 9. p. 327. t. 23.—Pl. enl. n 993.*

PLATE CXXXIX.

PETEREL. *Clus. exot.* 368. *Damp. Voy.* 3. p. 97.

Stormfinch, or little Petterel. *Alb. av.* 3. t. 92.

Will. Orn. p. 295.

STORMY PETREL. *Arch. Zool.* 2. p. 536. n. 464.

This is our smallest kind of Petrel, being in size not larger than a swallow, and measuring in length only six inches. These birds are seldom seen on land except in the breeding season, but are met with in most latitudes at sea; large flocks of them often settle about ships to rest themselves, especially in the Atlantic ocean. When they fly low, and hover close round the stern of the ship, it is considered by mariners as the certain prelude of a storm.

The Stormy Petrel swims and dives extremely well, and is observed to remain much longer under water than almost any other bird. They are generally on the wing, skimming the surface of the waves, or dipping into the water. It is astonishing to see with what a perfect degree of safety this little creature can brave the perils of the tempest, gliding with the utmost velocity over the surface of the waves, then plunging into the deep, and rising again upon the summits of the billows.

The food of these little birds appear to be the small fish and marine worms which they catch in swimming or diving. In the night-time they are very noisy, though seldom heard in the day, unless in cloudy weather. They are supposed to breed in the northern isles of Scotland.

PLATE CXXXIX.

land. Stragglers have been occasionally found inland, but very rarely. We possess one specimen, formerly in the Leverian collection, which is affirmed to have been shot at Walthamstow, in Essex.



PLATE CXL.

ANAS FULIGULA.

TUFTED DUCK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed and obtuse : three fore toes connected ; hind toe solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Crest pendent ; body black : abdomen and wing spot white.

ANAS FULIGULA: crista dependente, corpore nigro, abdomine speculoque alarum albis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 132.

—*Scop. ann.* 1, n. 78.—*Kram. el.* p. 341. n. 12.

Anas fuligula. *Gesn. Av.* 107.

Aldr. Orn. 3. p. 221.

Murillon. *Buff. Hist. Nat.* 9. p. 227. 231. t. 15.—*Pl. Enl. n.* 1001.

TUFTED DUCK. *Arch. Zool.* 2. p. 573. G.

Br. Zool. 2. n. 274.

A winter

PLATE CXI.

A winter inhabitant of the British isles. This bird is fifteen inches in length; the male in general black, finely glossed with purple and green, with the belly white, and the crest long and pendent. The female is like the male, except in having the colour of the plumage more inclining to brown, and being destitute of a crest. In the young birds, the head, neck, and breast are chestnut; the back, wings, and tail black.

The Tufted Duck inhabits most parts of Europe, and northern Asia, visiting, like many other of the Duck tribe, the southern climates in winter, and retiring northward in the summer to breed; the flesh is excellent.



PLATE CXLI.

TRINGA INTERPRES.

TURNSTONE.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, as long as the head: nostrils small, linear: tongue slender: feet four toed: the hind toe of one joint, and raised from the ground.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Legs red: body black, variegated with white, and ferruginous: breast and belly white.

TRINGA INTERPRES: pedibus rubris, corpore nigro, albo ferrugineoque vario, pectore abdomineque albo:
Linn. It. Gall. 217.—*Fn. Suec.* 178.—*Gmel, Linn. Syst. Nat. t. 1. p. 2. p. 671. n. 4.*

Le Coulon-chaud. *Bris. Orn.* 5. p. 132. 1.

Le Tourne-pierre. *Buff. Ois.* 8. p. 130. pl. 10.

TURNSTONE, or SEA DOTTEREL. *Ray Syn.* p. 112. A. 5.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 3. p. 188. n. 37.

This

P L A T E C X L I .

This species of Sandpiper is about eight inches and a half in length. It inhabits the sea-coasts both of Europe and America, and has obtained the name of Turnstone from its peculiar method of turning up the stones on the sea-shore by means of its bill, when in search of the smaller littoral worms and fishes on which it feeds.

In Britain these birds are local, and almost confined to the most remote and unfrequented shores. It occurs at the extremity of the western promontory about Penzance, on the northern shores of Wales, and in the Hebrides. They build only a slight nest, which is deposited on the ground, and lay four eggs of an olive colour, spotted with black. These birds are seen most commonly in flocks of three or four together.



PLATE CXLII.

FRINGILLA CŒLEBS.

CHAFFINCH.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic, straight, and pointed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Limbs black: quill feathers white on both sides, the three first without spots: two of the tail feathers obliquely white.

FRINGILLA CŒLEBS: artubus nigris, remigibus utrinque albis: tribus primis immaculatis, rectricibus duabus oblique albis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 232. t. 2. f. 199.
—*Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat.* t. 1. p. 2. p. 901, n. 3.

Fringilla. *Gesn. av.* 387.—*Ald. Orn.* 2. p. 815.

Fringilla sylvia. *Scop. Ann.* 1. n. 217.

Fringuello. *Olin. ucc.* t. 31.

Pinfon. *Buff. Hist. Nat.* 4. p. 109. t. 4.

P L A T E CXLII.

- CHAFFINCH. *Ray. av. p. 88. n. 16.*
Will. Orn. p. 253. t. 45.
Arch. Zool. 2. p. 381. F.
Brit. Zool. 1. n. 125.
-

One of the most abundant species of the Finch tribe found in Britain. The male Chaffinch is a bird of very beautiful, and elegantly varied plumage; the female more obscure, and inclining to yellow; and it is also destitute of the vinaceous reddish hues conspicuous on the breast, and other parts of the male bird.—There are numberless varieties of this species differing in the colours of their plumage, the most curious of which are those either entirely white or black, or with the crown and collar white.

The Chaffinch is a native of Europe, and some parts of Asia, and is more or less migratory in different countries. With us both sexes are seen at all seasons of the year, from whence it is concluded, that if they do migrate from Britain, it is only in a very partial degree. It is a singular circumstance, that the males do not commonly migrate with the females, whole flocks of the latter being frequently seen in flight from one part to another, unaccompanied by any males. In Sweden in particular, it is well known, that they migrate in flocks to Holland every year, and constantly leave the males behind.

The nest of this bird is composed of dried vegetables, fibres, and moss, lined with hair, wool, or feathers, and is usually

PLATE CXLII.

usually found in the midst of thickset bushes, at no great height from the ground. The eggs, five or six in number, are of a pale reddish grey, marked at the broadest end with blackish spots.





PLATE CXLIII.

PICUS TRIDACTYLUS.

NORTHERN THREE TOED WOODPECKER.

PICÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill angular, straight, cuneated at the tip: nostrils covered with recumbent setaceous feathers: tongue round, worm-shaped, very long, and osseous, missile, daggered, and beset at the point with bristles bent back: tail feathers ten in number, hard, rigid, and pointed: feet climbers.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Variegated with black and white: legs three toed.

PICUS TRIDACTYLUS: albo nigroque varius, pedibus tridactylis.

Linn. Fn. Suec. No. 103.—Gmel. Syst. 1. p. 439.

—Borowfk. Nat. 2. p. 138. 8.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. *Arch. Zool. 2. No. 168.*

Lath. Ind. Orn, 1. p. 243. n. 56.

P L A T E CXLIII.

The Northern Three-toed Woodpecker is an inhabitant of the colder climates of Europe, as Sweden, Lapland, and Russia, as far as the Don river. Towards the south it extends to Austria and Switzerland, in the last of which it appears to be most frequent, the species delighting in the highest mountainous situations. The species, though so widely diffused, is not common, and in Britain particularly is very rare. A solitary individual of this kind was lately shot in the north of Scotland, upon the authority of which the species is inserted among the migratory visitants of the British isles.

In point of size, this bird rather exceeds the greater spotted woodpecker in bulk, and measures in length nine inches: the female is the size of the male, and resembles it in every respect, except in the colour of the crown, which in the male is yellow, and in the female white. Should the southern three-toed woodpecker prove to be a variety of this species, as is generally believed, this is the only three-toed kind of woodpecker at present known, the rest of the genus having four toes, two forward, and two behind.



PLATE CXLIV.

URIA GRYLLE.

BLACK GUILLEMOT.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, and subulate; the tip of the upper mandible slightly bent, the base sub-plumose: nostrils linear, and at the base: tongue nearly same length as the bill: legs compressed, tridactyle, and all placed forward.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Body deep black: wing-coverts white.

URIA GRYLLE. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. p. 797. n. 2.

COLYMBUS GRYLLE: corpore atro, tectricibus alarum albis.

Linn. Fn. Suec. 148.

Brun. No. 113.

Colymbus Grœnlandicus. *Klein. av.* p. 168. 2.

Uria minor nigra, Columba Grœlandica. *Briff.* 6. p. 76. 3.

Le Petit Guillemot noir. *Buff.* 9. p. 354.

Greenland Dove, or Sea Turtle. *Albin.* 2. t. 80.

Black Guillemot. *Arch. Zool.* 2. No. 437.

Br. Zool. 2. No. 236.

This

P L A T E CXLIV.

This is a very scarce species in Britain. It is confined chiefly to the isle of St. Kilda, and Bafs island in Scotland; and the Farn isles on the coast of Northumberland, and has been also seen on the rocks in the north of Caernarvonshire, but rarely. To the north of Europe, as far as Greenland, this bird occurs in vast numbers. The principal food is fish, in pursuit of which it dives and swims with singular dexterity. These birds have a most awkward gait in walking; in flight they appear mostly in pairs, the male accompanying the female.

The length of this bird is about fourteen inches: the plumage very deep black, with a white patch more or less obscured with dusky spots, according to the age of the bird, and the legs scarlet. The plumage is also observed to vary much in different seasons, as well as in the younger birds, the black being often intermixed with dusky brown, and whitish. These birds breed in crevices of the rocks in maritime situations, and lay either one or two eggs, the size of those of the common hen, the colour white, with grey patches, and spots of black.



PLATE CXLV.

STURNUS VULGARIS.

COMMON STARLING.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill subulate, angular, depressed, bluntish; the upper mandible entire, somewhat open at the edges: nostrils surrounded with a prominent rim: tongue notched, pointed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill yellowish: body black, with white dots.

STURNUS VULGARIS: rostro flavescente, corpore nigro punctis albis. *Linn. Fn. Succ.* 213.—*Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat. t. 1. p. 2. p. 301. 1.*

Sturnus. *Gesn. av.* 747.

Aldr. Orn. 2. p. 631.

Storno. *Ol. ucc. t.* 18.

Etourneau. *Buff. Hist. Nat.* 3. p. 176. t. 15.

Stare, or Starling. *Ray av. p.* 67. n. 1.

Brit. Zool. 1. n. 104.

P L A T E CXLV.

The common Starling is from eight inches and a half to nine inches in length ; the male rather larger than the female, and brighter in the colours of the plumage ; the prevailing colour is blackish, in some parts brown, very splendidly glossed with purple, green, and gold, and spotted nearly throughout with milky white.

The Starling is a native of Europe, Asia, and Africa, and is seen in Britain in large flocks during the winter season. They build in the hollows of decayed trees, rocks, and ruined edifices, forming a nest of very slight contexture, consisting of leaves and twigs : their eggs are from five to six in number, and of a greenish-ash colour. In a wild state, they feed on insects, and various kinds of grain : they are of a docile disposition, and easily taught to speak. During the winter season, they are not unfrequently killed in vast numbers, and exposed for sale in the markets, notwithstanding that the flesh is bitter, and ill flavoured,

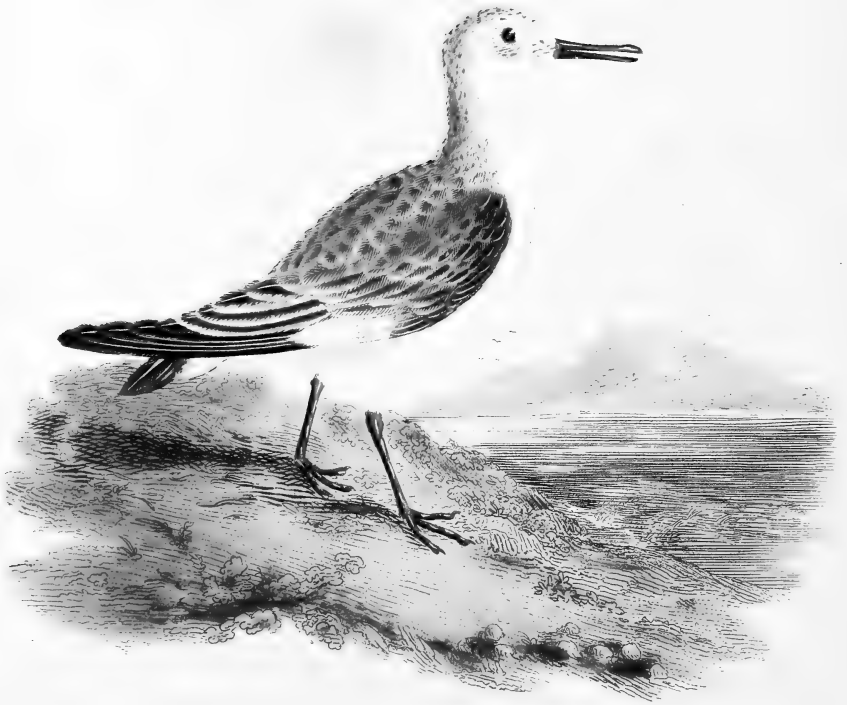


PLATE CXLVI.

CHARADRIUS CALIDRIS.

SANDERLING PLOVER, OR CURWILLET.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, obtuse, straight: nostrils linear: feet formed for running, and three-toed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill and legs black: lores and rump greyish; body beneath white, without spots.

CHARADRIUS CALIDRIS: rostro pedibusque nigris, loris uropygioque subgriseis, corpore subtus albo immaculato. *Georg. It. p. 172.*

Calidris grisea minor. Briss. av. 5. p. 236. n. 17. t. 20. f. 2.

Sanderling, or Curwillet. *Brit. Zool. n. 212. t. 73.—Ray av. p. 109. n. 11.—Will. Orn. p. 303.—Lath. Syn. 3. 1. p. 197. n. 4.*

P L A T E CXLVI.

The name of Sanderling is indiscriminately applied, by different writers, to two very distinct birds of the Grallæ order, namely, the Common Purre, or Ox-bird (*Tringa Cinclus*) and the present species, *Charadrius Calidris*; and to obviate misunderstanding in this respect, it is conceived the latter may, with some propriety, be denominated the Sanderling Plover.

About eight inches is the usual length of this bird: its colours above cinereous, with the head, back of the neck, and sides of the breast, dashed with black streaks: wings greyish and brown, with the edges of the feathers pale, and quill feathers dusky: tail brownish, with pale margins. The species is subject to occasional variation in the colour of the plumage.

These birds appear in small flocks on the sandy shores of Cornwall during the winter season; and are rarely observed, it is believed, on any other part of the English coast. On the continent of Europe the species is not common; in North America it is more abundant.



PLATE CXLVII.

ANAS COLLARIS.

COLLARED DUCK:

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, and obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth: tongue fringed, obtuse: three fore toes connected, the posterior one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

ANAS COLLARIS. Black-brown: beneath white: head glossed with green-violet: neck encircled with a sub-ferruginous ring: wing-spot cinereous.

A specimen of this curious Duck occurred to us in the month of January, 1801, among a number of other wild fowl exposed for sale in Leadenhall-market, London; and so far as we have been hitherto able to determine, it appears to be not only new as a British bird, but altogether undescribed. Its size rather exceeds that of the common widgeon. The colour above is blackish, as is likewise the head and neck, the former of which is richly glossed with purple and green,
and

P L A T E CXLVII.

and the latter surrounded in the middle with a pretty and very distinct collar of deep ferruginous : the lower part of the throat, and upper part of the breast, are black ; the belly white, mottled with dusky towards the posterior end, and in the region of the vent deep fuscous. The bill and legs dusky. This bird is certainly of the male sex, and is supposed to have been taken in the fens of Lincolnshire.



PLATE CXLVIII.

ALAUDA MINOR.

FIELD-LARK.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill cylindrical, fubulate, and fraight: the mandibles equal, and a little gaping at the bafe: tongue bifid: posterior claw fraight, and longer than the toe.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Reddish brown, spotted beneath: chin and belly white: throat and breaft obfcure yellow: exterior edge of the two outer tail feathers white.

ALAUDA MINOR: ex rufefcente fufca, reſtricibus extimis duabus extrorſum albis. *Gmel. Linn. Syſt. Nat. t. 1. p. 2. p. 793. n. 12.*

ALAUDA MINOR: rubro-fufca fubtus maculata, gula abdomineque albis, jugulo peſtoreque obfcure flavefcentibus. *Lath. Ind. Orn. 2. p. 494. 8.*

LESSER FIELD LARK. *Will. Orn. p. 207.*

FIELD LARK. *Arct. Zool. 2. p. 395. D.*
Brit. Zool. No. 139.

Inferior

P L A T E CXLVIII.

Inferior in size to the sky-lark, and larger than the tit-lark, forming, in this respect, an intermediate species between the two.

The Field-lark, in the general aspect of its plumage, resembles the tit-lark; its colour reddish brown, with dusky spots; the chin and belly white; throat and breast yellowish, dashed with dusky. In its haunts and manners of life, it bears more affinity to the wood-lark, preferring woody situations, and often perching on trees. Its note is distinct and melodious. The nest is said to be most commonly built on the ground, or among the lowest bushes.

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