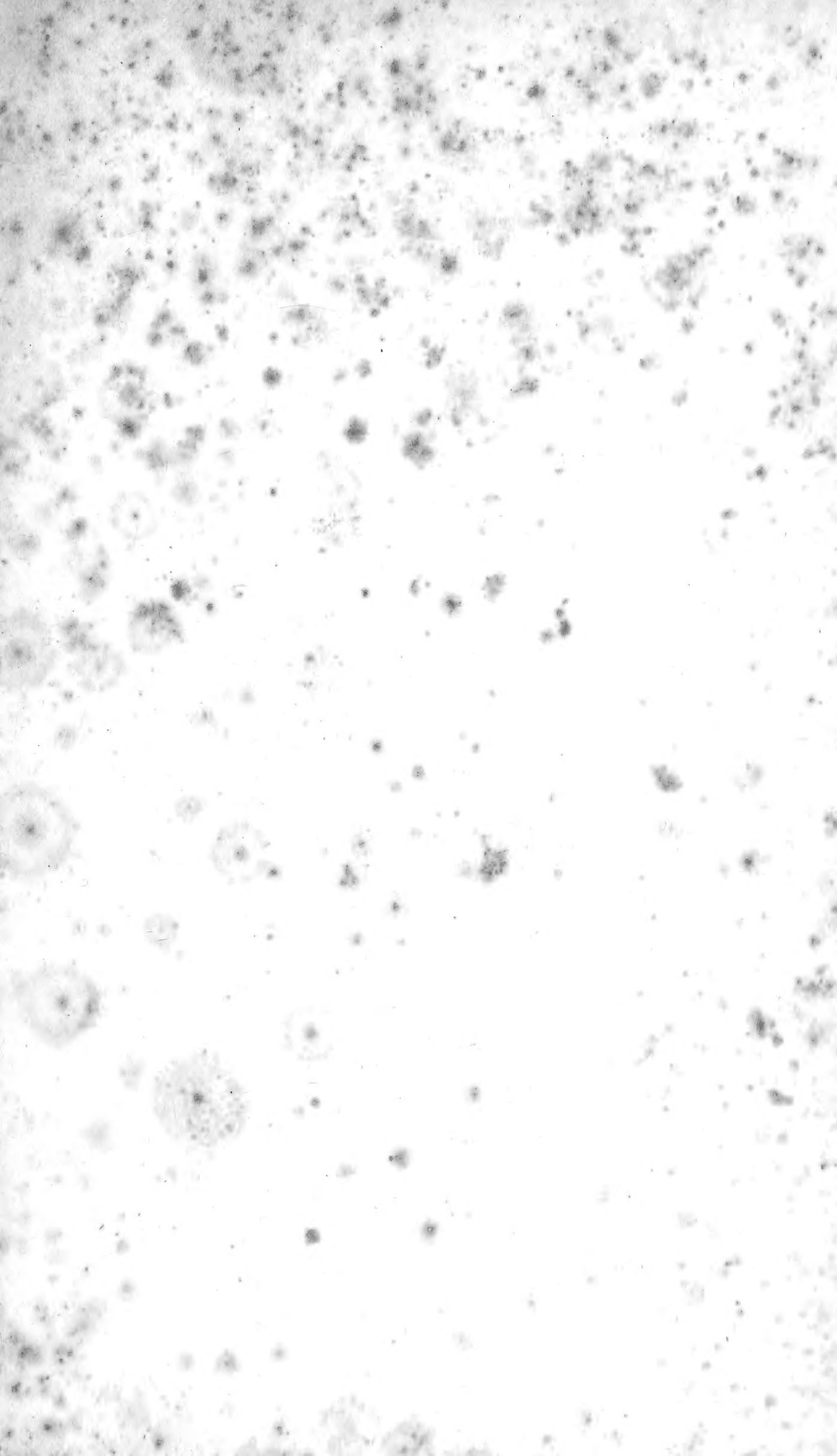


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THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
BRITISH BIRDS;

OR, A

SELECTION OF THE MOST RARE, BEAUTIFUL, AND INTERESTING

BIRDS

WHICH INHABIT THIS COUNTRY:

THE DESCRIPTIONS FROM THE

SYSTEMA NATURÆ

OF

LINNÆUS;

WITH

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS,

EITHER ORIGINAL, OR COLLECTED FROM THE LATEST
AND MOST ESTEEMED

ENGLISH ORNITHOLOGISTS;

AND EMBELLISHED WITH

FIGURES,

DRAWN, ENGRAVED, AND COLOURED FROM THE ORIGINAL SPECIMENS.

By E. DONOVAN.

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PLATE CXLIX.

COLUMBA ALBINOTATA.

SPOTTED NECKED, OR PANCOU TURTLE.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

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

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Feathers of the sides of the neck black, with a round white spot near the tip of each.

COLUMBA TURTUR β : T. pennis ad colli latera omnibus nigris, macula prope apicem rotunda alba notatis. *Gmel.*
Linn. Syst. Nat. 786. 32.

SPOTTED NECKED TURTLE. *Lath. Syn. V.* 4. p. 645. 40 *A. var.*
Ind. Orn. T. 2. p. 606.

There is nothing perhaps in the present state of Natural History that can more effectually impede its promotion than the alteration of
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names sufficiently established to be understood by the generality of collectors. Novelty, in this respect, should be always regarded with caution, because at the least it is calculated to confuse and mislead, and when it arises from affectation merely, becomes highly reprehensible. Neither is it less injurious to the true purposes of Science to weaken the credit of approved opinions without ample reason: the hand of innovation may destroy that which it cannot rebuild: vanity may injure that which it cannot repair ! With these impressions constantly upon our mind, it has ever been our endeavour, on all occasions, to improve upon rather than replant ; and preceding authorities we are inclined to believe, have been in general as sedulously retained by us when they appeared admissible, as by most authors who have pursued the same paths of enquiry as ourselves.

But in opposing innovation we rest perfectly assured that our endeavours have never degenerated into a pertinacious resistance against amendments, founded on the progressive increase of knowledge. The true interests of science oftentimes demand both alterations and improvements, and when these appear evident, no authority, however great, should in our opinion operate as a barrier against their progress. We only wish to inculcate, as an unerring principle, that in the subversion of the authority of those who have preceded us, we should act with a cautious and unbiassed mind, and with every inclination to award that portion of credit, even to the opinions we dispute, to which in candour they are entitled.

We have insensibly fallen into this train of cursory observation at the commencement of our new Volume, from reflecting generally upon those differences of opinion which are found to prevail in the
minds

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minds of British Ornithologists at this period, and those especially which it becomes our peculiar province to examine with more than ordinary attention in the course of the succeeding pages. The digression will serve also as a prelude, among the rest, to the little alteration we are induced to propose in designating the character of the Spotted Necked Turtle, the bird at present under consideration.

It is well known to every Ornithologist, for the Leverian Collection, and the works of Dr. Latham, and Professor Gmelin, are known sufficiently to justify the conclusion, that there does exist a kind of Turtle nearly allied to the common sort, and, in most respects, according with it, but which differs particularly in the form and number of the white spots on the black patch of the collar, and is hence esteemed a variety of the common Turtle.

This bird was preserved originally in the Leverian Museum, and was described from thence by Dr. Latham, whose description has furnished subsequent authors with the particulars of this supposed variety, and if we mistake not, with nearly all the information they possess respecting it.

For various reasons we propose to offer, with deference to future observation, the bird in question appears in our mind to be entitled to consideration, rather as a distinct species than as a variety of the common Turtle. We say rather, because it does seem likely to be distinct, and yet we are far from wishing to conceal our suspicions, that it may have no real claim to be esteemed such: if, however, it should prove a different species, the possibility of which may be inferred, there can be no objection, we apprehend, to distinguish it in future by an appropriate specific appellation; we propose the name

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albinotata, as expressive of the characteristic spots of white on the black patch of the neck; at the same time, that we must observe, there are other particulars in which the plumage differs from the common Turtle, and might afford a suitable specific title, should that selected by us be thought liable to objection.

The first account of this remarkable bird that appears we believe on record, is comprehended in the very concise inscription affixed to a certain case in the late Leverian Museum, containing a specimen and duplicates of the same bird. Dr. Latham mentions only one, but there were more. The inscription briefly denominates them, the "Spotted Necked Turtle," and relates that they were shot in Buckinghamshire. These birds were included in the Museum at the time it was arranged in Leicester House, and possessed by Sir Ashton Lever, as we perceive by the reference of Dr. Latham in the third volume of his General Synopsis, the place in which the first account of this bird occurs; the description is in the following words:—In the Leverian Museum, is a bird, shot in Buckinghamshire, which differs from the common one, in having almost the whole side of the neck black, instead of a patch only; and instead of each feather being tipped with white, there is a round spot of white on each, very near the end, giving the sides of the neck a most beautiful appearance."

In the succeeding work of the same author, (*Index Ornithologicus*) the same opinion is continued, it being still considered as a variety only of the common Turtle. "A priore variat lateribus colli nigris, apicibus pennarum macula alba notatis."

During the interval that elapsed between the publication of these two works, the improved edition of the Linnæan System, by Gmelin,

had

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had appeared. In this work, Gmelin notices this bird as a variety of the common Turtle, with the following distinctive character:—
“*Turtur pennis ad colli latera omnibus nigris macula prope apicem rotunda alba notatis.*” It is worthy of remark, that though Gmelin refers for the Common Turtle to Latham’s Synopsis, and notwithstanding that, he mentions the respective authors, upon the testimony of whom, every other supposed variety of the species is recorded, he is entirely silent, as to the source, from whence his knowledge of this particular variety is derived. From the literal accordance of his latin character with the description given in the General Synopsis, it is nevertheless easy to perceive that the authority upon which he rests must be Dr. Latham’s.

Deeming it a subject of more than usual interest, our investigation of authors did not terminate with Gmelin, we sought further information respecting this curious bird, but with no material success. The bird appears to be unknown to continental writers, so far as we can observe. In a collation of the genus *Touterelle* by Viellot, the continuator of the History of Birds by Audebert, there is a slight account of it which only tends to confirm our suspicion that the bird is unknown upon the continent, for he mentions it as an accidental variety of the Common Turtle which has been killed in England, and is described by Latham: it resembles, he says, the common Turtle, except in having the sides of the neck black, with a round white spot near the extremity of each feather*.

* There appears to be some misconception, or perhaps it may be an oversight on the part of the French translator, in rendering the meaning of our English author into his own language; for his words are these:—“*A les côtés du cou noirs, dont chaque plume est terminée de blanc, avec une tache ronde blanche vers sons extrémité.*”

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The last work to which we can refer, is the Ornithological Dictionary of Mr. Montagu, in which the like repetition from the General Synopsis is detailed: the "*Dove-Turtle spotted-necked*," "appears (says this writer) to be a mere variety of the common Turtle. The difference consists in the whole side of the neck being black, and instead of those feathers being tipped with white, there is a round spot of white on each, very near the end. Dr. Latham says this bird was shot in Buckinghamshire."

From the preceding observations there can be no difficulty in ascertaining the parent source from whence the different accounts of this bird that have hitherto appeared, originally emanated, namely, the description of the bird in the Leverian Museum, inserted in the Synopsis of Dr. Latham; this bird remained in that Museum till the period of its dissolution, and then passed into our possession. There were altogether three examples of it, the whole suite of which we obtained and have now before us.

In the earliest description of this bird, the Author of the General Synopsis assures us, that he has seen this variety well expressed in two collections of Chinese drawings, and that in China it is known by the name of Pancou. He had observed it likewise among a parcel of birds brought either from the South Seas or the Cape of Good Hope. In the "*Index Ornithologicus*," it is recorded finally as a native of Europe, Africa, and Asia; and we are besides assured that it occurs also in Cayenne. All these testimonies prove most clearly that this kind of Turtle, whether a distinct species or a variety, is widely diffused over most parts of the Globe; and that in every climate it exhibits the same permanent distinction from the common Turtle which we observe in those individuals of our own country.

This,

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This, in addition to other circumstances, must tend materially, in our opinion, to confirm its identity as a distinct species. We have less distrust on this subject than in its being aborigine in this country, a point apparently acceded to, with great implicitness, by other writers on British Ornithology that have preceded us.

To whatever cause the appearance of this bird in a wild state in Britain is to be attributed, does not rest with us to determine. Dr. Latham, in the works so fully quoted in the preceding observations, informs us, that many birds of this sort have been observed in this country: we besides learn, that it was, in particular, not unfrequent in Buckinghamshire; and hence, among collectors, it was as distinctly known by the local appellation of the Buckinghamshire, as the Spotted Necked Turtle. If it be really a native of Europe, the silence of continental authors may truly excite surprize; it is obvious from the above remarks, that the continental authors derive their information from the naturalists of this country. It is far more congenial with our ideas to believe, that the bird as an European is peculiar to Britain, or rather that it is an extra European species, introduced by some fortuitous circumstance into the vicinity of Buckinghamshire, and which having become naturalized in that part, has gradually diffused itself over the neighbouring counties; the latter is very probable.

At the first glance we might easily conceive that this bird partook, in a remote degree at least, of some peculiarities of the common Stock or Wood Pigeon, or that it formed an intermediate link between that bird and the common Turtle. It differs from the Turtle in being rather larger; the wings are comparatively longer, and this
difference

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difference is yet more obvious in the length of the tail than even in the wings. The general colour of the plumage is more vinaceous: the wings incline more to grey, with scarcely any of the ochraceous hue observable in those of the Turtle, and the black or dusky marks in the disk of the feathers are totally dissimilar; these in the Turtle form a distinct subtriangular spot of a very dark hue, approaching to black, while in the other there is no indication whatever of such a spot, except an obscure longitudinal dash down the middle of each of the feathers upon the scapulars and wing coverts. Its size exceeds that of the common Turtle, the length of the latter being about twelve inches, that of the Spotted Necked Turtle about fourteen.

It is assuredly a matter of some surprize to us, that these essential differences, the existence of which, on an accurate comparison of the two birds, is so palpably obvious, should escape remark till the present moment; but it appears in truth that the bird itself is scarcely known, and that these distinctions being unnoticed in Dr. Latham's work, those who have compiled on his authority, were not aware that any such distinctions prevail. When these characters are considered duly, in addition to the remarkable and more conspicuous, but not more permanent, distinction of the numerous white dots upon the collar or black space of the neck *, we are inclined to apprehend, no very trivial reasons are advanced for considering the two

* In this bird, the whole side of the neck is black; there is a black space on the neck of the common Turtle, but it only forms a small patch: in the Spotted Necked Turtle the white dots are numerous, every black feather exhibiting one *near* the end. In the common Turtle the end of the feather itself is white, but there is no spot in the disk of the feather, and the shape is different; that of the bird before us being distinctly round; while in the Common Turtle it forms the segment half of a circle, or is rather lunate.

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birds as specifically distinct. Indeed the only doubt that can possibly arise, must result from the differences that may be observable in the Spotted Necked Turtle in its various states of plumage; and this can scarcely be supposed to affect it so materially as to change its plumage to that of the Turtle-dove*! In its present aspect, there can exist, we are persuaded, but one opinion upon the subject, and that must be in confirmation of our first conclusion, that the species is distinct.

* We are fully aware that varieties of the Common Turtle do exist, in which the plumage differs a little from our English variety. The Portugal Turtle-Dove, one of the admitted varieties, is, however, now supposed by some to constitute a different bird, and this may hereafter be the opinion with respect to other varieties.





P L A T E C L.

MOTACILLA SIMPLEX.

GREATER PETTYCHAPS.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill subulate, straight; the mandibles nearly equal: nostrils oboval: tongue lacerated at the end.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Greenish, fuscous, beneath; and eyebrows whitish: quill and tail feathers dusky brown.

SYLVIA HORTENSIS β : viridi-fusca subtus superciliisque albida, remigibus rectricibusque fusco-obscuris. *Lath. Ind Orn. T. 2. 507. 3.*

SYLVIA SIMPLEX *Lath. Ind. Brit. birds. Suppl. I. p. 287.*

GREATER PETTYCHAPS, *ib.*

PETTYCHAPS. *Lath. Gen. Syn. T. 4. p. 413. 3. Lewin Br. Birds. 3. t. 100. Walcot. Syn. 2. t. 230.*

PETTYCHAPS GREATER. *Mont. Orn. Dict. V. 2.—PETTYCHAPS, GREATER Sylvia hortensis, Mont. Orn. Dict. Suppl.*

P L A T E C L.

There is an expression of the late Dr. Johnson that applies, if we mistake not, with peculiar aptitude to the discussions which have taken place among Ornithologists, respecting the warbler before us: they have literally tended to "elucidate" the species "into obscurity." We can scarcely hesitate in admitting this, while we trace the confusion that prevails among authors upon the subject of the greater and the lesser Pettychaps, the Linnæan *Motacilla hortensis*, and the Fauvette of Buffon, all which have been at times confounded together as a single species.

Before we attempt to unravel the web of obscurity, in which these birds and their congeners are entangled, it may not be amiss to consider the greater Pettychaps separately, as the few remarks we have to offer on the other birds involved in the enquiry, may be introduced with most propriety after that bird is duly noticed: indeed, a correct description of the greater Pettychaps, with a few remarks on its haunts and habits of life, must lead, in no very inconsiderable degree, to point out the precise distinctions that prevail between this and the analogous kinds of warblers, with which it has been confounded.

The discovery of the greater Pettychaps in Britain, is attributed to the zealous assiduity of the late Sir Ashton Lever; having been observed by that indefatigable collector, in the first instance, in Lancashire, and communicated by him from thence to Dr. Latham, for the purpose of describing in his general synopsis of Ornithology.

This bird, as it appears, was deemed, at that time, of sufficient interest, to induce Dr. Latham to record its description in its proper place,

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place, even after that portion of the fourth Volume, in which the warblers are described, was worked off; the description being printed upon a single leaf, in a smaller type, and subsequently affixed in the volume, that it might appear in its proper series, among the warbler tribe.

The specimens from which Dr. Latham's description was taken, passed into our possession, with the rest of his collection of British birds, about twenty years ago; and those of Sir Ashton Lever, in the year 1808, the period in which we obtained Sir Ashton's collection of British birds, through the dissolution of that well known establishment, the Leverian Museum. We thus possess every individual bird described originally under the title of the Greater Pettychaps, and, consequently, those upon which all discussion respecting the identity of a species so much mistaken, must, in a material degree, depend: it is from those our figure and description are taken.

This bird is about the size, or rather smaller, than the hedge sparrow; the length, between five and six inches. The upper parts of the plumage greyish brown, tinged with a greenish hue: the under parts dusky white, with a little brown, inclining to blackish; across the breast and over the thighs, on the latter of which, the colour is darkest: the quills are brown, the edges of the feathers with a greenish tint like the upper parts of the plumage, and over the eye, a pale or whitish streak, which passing from the base of the bill, forms a lobate or rounded spot behind the eye. All the tail feathers are uniformly dull brown, the bill and legs brown. Both sexes are nearly alike, except that the colours of the male are rather darkest.

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Dr. Latham, its original describer, assigns no latin specific appellation to the Greater Pettychaps, in the first instance; as he esteemed it only a variety of the Fauvette of Brisson. In the Index of the British birds, contained in the Supplement, it is, however, distinguished as a new species by the name of *Simplex*; but after that time, the opinion of Dr. Latham was again changed, for in the Index Ornithologicus, which succeeded the former mentioned Supplement, it is determined to be new only as a British bird, and no other than a variety of the Linnæan species, *Motacilla Hortensis*.

As the history of this bird became better known, the species was observed in other parts besides the vicinity of Lancashire. But it was rather heard than seen: its extreme shyness, added to the difficulty of penetrating the deep thickets where it usually remains concealed, securing it from the intrusion of all, except the more inquisitive, or impertinently curious. Its song is peculiar, and as this cannot fail to excite attention, from the sweetness, melody, and briskness, as well as compass of its notes, the situation of its hiding place is oftentimes betrayed. By this means its visits to the more southern counties of Britain have been ascertained in the months of April and May, and as far westward as Devonshire in June. The species is certainly local. Mr. Montagu observed it frequently between the eastern parts of Somersetshire, and no where more abundant than between Spalding and Boston in the latter mentioned county, where it occurs even in the few hedges about the village of Wainfleet, and in the thickets surrounding the decoys of the fens in that neighbourhood. Commonly, however, their haunts are in more retired situations. The note, which is by some authors, compared with the whistle of a blackbird; in the opinion of others, is little inferior to that of the nightingale;

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nightingale; and indeed resembles it so nearly, that the bird is said, on that account, to have obtained a name on the continent, synonymous with the english epithet of Mock, or Bastard Nightingale.

In reverting to the authors quoted in our list of synonyms, it will be perceived, that the latest writers on this subject, consider the Pettychaps as a variety of the Linnæan *Motacilla hortensis*. That we cannot be mistaken as to the true Pettychaps, is sufficiently demonstrated, and with the individual specimens originally described before us, we must be allowed to qualify our acquiescence to the popular opinion, with at least so much hesitation as to leave it a matter of opinion for future consideration, whether they are really the same or not. Dr. Latham had his doubts on the subject formerly; those on our mind are not obliterated, we are still inclined to think the two birds may be specifically distinct.

The difference of these birds is obvious in their general appearance: the plumage in *hortensis* is greyish, or ash-coloured brown; that of the Greater Pettychaps, brown, tinged with greenish: in *hortensis*, the mandible is black, with the base of the lower one paler, in the latter the bill is brown. *Motacilla hortensis*, according to the plate in Buffon, (*Pl. Enl. 579.*) has a white spot between the bill and the eye, described sometimes as a streak: and there is a faint whitish mark over the eye of the Pettychaps, which is, however, more inconspicuous. Besides some difference in colour of the quill feathers there is a material distinction in the character of the tail; the latter being uniformly dusky brown, while in the tail of *hortensis*, the exterior feather on each side is white on the outer web, and marked on the inner web, near the tip, with a dirty white spot.

These

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These distinctions are essential, but should they yet appear insufficient to authorise our dissent from the prevalent opinion, we may add a few words further in confirmation of our scruples.—We are but partially acquainted with the history of the Greater Pettychaps; it is a bird by no means sufficiently common in England to leave nothing of its manners unknown, or to render the observations of continental writers, of trivial import, since among them it may be more abundant than with us, and may also have been regarded with more attention.

The Fauvette of Buffon, the bird considered to be the *Motacilla hortensis* of Linnæus, arrives in France in the month of April, the males preceding the females by a few days: they are said to frequent fields and gardens, often building on the pea flicks; more commonly, however, they build on thick bushes in the hedges or among the low thickets; their nest is composed of dry herbs with a little green moss outwardly, and some hair within, as a lining. The nest of the Greater Pettychaps is composed of dried fibres of plants, slightly constructed, and lined with a few hairs; and is deposited in a low bush near the ground. The difference in the formation of the nests, is less observable than in the appearance of the eggs, those of the greater Pettychaps being dirty white, marked with irregular dusky blotches of various sizes, particular about the middle, and here and there a scratch of black.—The egg of the Fauvette is of a dirty white, marked all over with spots of light brown, which are most numerous at the larger end.

The description of the eggs of our Greater Pettychaps, is repeated in the words of the original describer, as he received it from Sir Ashton Lever, for though, in our collection of the eggs of British birds,

PLATE CL.

birds, we have some specimens which seem to accord with the description pretty nearly, we are not sanctioned by any authority in referring them to the particular species before us; we must rest our opinion on the accuracy of those by whom the eggs of the two birds have been seen and ascertained, and by those they are described as being very different from each other.—Upon this subject we must however observe, that the author of the *Ornithological Dictionary* describes the eggs of our greater Pettychaps, in the same terms as those of the Fauvette are described above. This we suspect may arise from a desire in the author to render the history of the bird complete; he concludes the greater Pettychaps must be the true Hortensis, and consequently the Fauvette, and under this persuasion, may have been induced to describe the egg of the latter as that of the Greater Pettychaps; this suggestion will scarcely appear doubtful, when the language of its author is collated with that of the French naturalist *. It appeared very material to the discrimination of the two species to digress on this point, or we should not have mentioned it. The dissimilarity between the eggs of these birds should be carefully regarded. It cannot be unknown that the distinction in the eggs are as permanent as the characters observable in the bird, and should these exhibit the difference stated, as the authorities mentioned, incline us to believe there cannot remain a doubt that the two birds are distinct.

* “It lays four eggs, about the size of a Hedge Sparrow’s, weighing about thirty-six grains, of a dirty white, blotched all over with light brown, most numerous at the larger end, where spots of ash appear.” *Orn. Dict.*—“La femelle y dépose ordinairement quatre œufs pesant chacun trente-six grains, d’un blanc sale, avec de petites taches brunâtres assez nombreuses et plus rapprochées au gros bout.”

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Authors concede, with apparent probability, that the Fauvette of Buffon and the *Motacilla hortensis* of the Linnæan system, are the same; there must ever remain some little obscurity respecting the birds intended by Linnæus, the specimens he describes being long since destroyed or lost, and the figures in authors to which he refers being less satisfactory than might be desired: it was once suggested to us by a Swedish naturalist, that it could not be *hortensis*, but whether the objection arose from a due consideration of the two birds, we are not enabled to determine.

With respect to the Lesser Pettychaps, the *Motacilla Hippolais* of Linnæus, it is so definitively distinct from the Greater Pettychaps, that we should have scarcely deemed it necessary to enter upon the subject in this place, if it had not been observed, that a late ingenious author has described it under the name of *Hippolais*, and thus confounded the Greater and Lesser Pettychaps together as one species. The first we have already described at length, the other is a small bird of very delicate structure, and not larger than the little, or Golden-crested Wren, and is the smallest of the feathered tribe that inhabits Britain.—The Lesser Pettychaps will be found delineated in one of the immediately succeeding Plates.



PLATE CLI.

MOTACILLA OENANTHE.

WHEAT EAR, OR WHITE RUMP.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill fubulate, fraight; the mandibles nearly equal: nostrils oboval: tongue lacerated at the end.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS

Back hoary: front, line above the eyes, rump and base of the tail white; through the eyes a black band.

MOTACILLA OENANTHE: dorso cano, fronte alba, oculorum fascia nigra. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 254. *Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 966. 15.
Fabr. Faun. Groenl. p. 122. 84.
Scop. Ann. I. No. 230.
Brünn. No. 276.
Kramer. El. p. 374—4.
Nozem. nederl. Vogel. t. 81.

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SYLVIA OENANTHE; dorso cano, fronte linea supra oculos uropygio basique caudæ albis per oculos fascia nigra. *Lath. Ind. Orn. p. 529. 79*

Curruca major, pectore subluteo, *Frisch. av. t. 22.*

Oenanthe f. vitiflora, *Aldr. orn. 2. p. 762. t. 763.*

Jonst. Av. 123. t. 45. f. 13.

Vitiflora, *Bris. 3. p. 449. 33.*

Culo bianco Zinnan, *p. 41. t. 6. f. 24.—Cetti ùc. Sard. p. 223.*

Le Cul-blanc, Vitrec, ou Motteux. *Buff. 5. p. 237.—Pl. Enl. 554. f. 1, 2.*

WHEAT-EAR, Fallow-smich, white tail, white rump. *Ray av. p. 75. n. 1.—Will. Orn. p. 233. t. 41.—Albin. av. 1. t. 55. 3. t. 54.—Edwards av. pref. p. 12. Brit. Zool. 1. n. 157.—Orn. Dict.—Bewick v. 1. 229.*

WHEAT-EAR. *Lath. Gen. Syn. 4. p. 465. 75.—Id. Supp. p. 182.*

SNORTER. *Pult. Cat. Dorset. p. 9.*

The Wheat-ear is a bird of very pleasing aspect : there is a peculiar delicacy in its appearance and manner, which, added to the singular contrast of colours its plumage exhibits, entitles it to more than ordinary attention.

This bird is of the migratory kind, residing in Britain during the summer months. The males preceded usually by the females about ten days or a fortnight, arrive on our shores in the month of March,

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or the beginning of April, and from that time till late in May : about the end of September the Wheat-ears assemble and depart, the last flight in October. A few birds occasionally remain in England when the season is mild during the whole winter.

As a bird of passage the Wheat-ear is a species very widely diffused over the globe : towards the north it has been traced as far as the remotest of the Scottish islands, Norway and Iceland, and by Fabricius ascertained even as a native of Greenland, Edwards, and after that writer Latham, speak of it as an inhabitant of the East Indies, and from the late observations of Sonnini, Wheat-ears are by no means uncommon in Egypt. In the Index Ornithologicus it is noticed as a native of Africa.

There are several varieties of this species, the principal of which may be reduced to three, the Grey Wheat-ear of Pennant's British Zoology (*Cul-blanc gris of Brisson*) the Ash-coloured (*Cul-blanc cendré of Brisson*) and the Dwina Wheat-ear. var. δ .

The first of these differs from the usual kind in being olive or tawny above, with a mixture of whitish and fulvous ; the lower part of the neck marked with very small grey spots ; the two middle tail feathers wholly black, the rest, as in the Common Wheat-ear, and fringed with pale rufous ; the bill and legs brown.

In the Ash-coloured Wheat-ear, the plumage as the name implies is of an ashen colour, at least, on the upper parts of the body, and irregularly mixed with grey brown ; the rump of the same colour

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lour instead of white. The forehead white as in the common kind.

That found about the Dwina is white above; the throat, wings, and almost the whole of the two middle tail feathers black; and two spaces of black on the outer feathers of it.

In our Museum we possess also a buff-coloured Wheat-ear, a supposed variety of this species; perhaps allied to, if not the bird intended by Linnæus under the specific name of *Stapazina*: the red or ruffet-coloured Wheat-ear of Edwards.

According to the observations of Buffon the Wheat-ear does not attain the adult plumage till the third year. This may induce a persuasion that some, if not all the birds admitted heretofore as varieties may prove to be no other than the common kind in an immature state of plumage. Before the first moult the young birds are a mixture of reddish, or ruffet, with brown on the head, the neck and upper part of the body to the rump faintly streaked with blackish, the rump itself white: the under parts reddish dotted with blackish or dusky, with the lower part of the belly white. The ash-coloured variety is conceived to be the young of the male bird. The plumage of the female is marked like that of the male, but the colours are more obscure. Preparatory to the commencement of the breeding season, the Wheat-ear seeks some convenient depositary in the ground for the construction of a nest, selecting for this purpose a hollow under the shelter of a stone, or clod of earth, or not unfrequently the deserted burrow of a rabbit. The nest is formed of grass, or moss, mixed
with

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with the wool of sheep and other animals which it easily collects in the places of its haunts, and lined with a few hairs and feathers. The eggs are of a light blue colour, with a circle of deeper blue at the large end. Stragglers have been known to breed here, but the circumstance is rather unusual.

The chief food of the Wheat-ear consists of insects, and worms, upon which latter they are observed to thrive well and become very fat.

The vicinity of Eastbourn in Suffex is a celebrated resort of this little bird, which, generally speaking, though it may occasionally abound elsewhere, is a local species: they seem dispersed, seldom appearing in great numbers together in any one spot. Mr. Pennant attributes their appearance in such abundance, about this particular situation, to the presence of a certain fly which feeds on the wild thyme, that abounds in the neighbouring hills; these flies, in his opinion, constituting the favourite food of the Wheat-ear. Besides the vicinity of Eastbourn we have observed these birds very common in the open grounds to the westward of the coast of Suffex, and no where in greater plenty than about the salt marshes, towards the sea from Chichester to the borders of Hampshire. They fly low, and settle frequently to pick up the worms, and insects that are found on the ground. The peasantry, the shepherds especially, snare them in traps contrived simply in the manner boys take sparrows with traps of brick, except that those for the Wheat-ear are made with stone or clods of earth instead of brick. There is besides another mode of capture which consists merely in placing two clods of earth edgeways, so as

PLATE CLI.

to form a kind of tent or awning, with a stick at the opening to which a running noose of hair is fastened : in the night time, and not unfrequently when disturbed or frightened, the Wheat-ears enter these traps for safety and are taken.

The excellence of the Wheat-ear as an article of food has obtained it the emphatic name of the English Ortolan, for which reason they are sought after with avidity. Mr. Pennant observes, that the numbers ensnared in his time, in the district of Eastbourn alone, amounted to 1840 dozen, which usually sold for sixpence a dozen. Mr. Montagu informs us, it is a common custom in those parts where the Wheat-ear is taken, to visit the traps set by the shepherds, take out the bird, and leave a penny in each as a reward to the owners ; remarking further, that these birds usually sell for a shilling a dozen.

Nor was the moderate price abovementioned unusual in the parts adjacent. In Portland, where these birds are called the Snorter, and are entrapped in great numbers, Dr. Pultney assures us, the price is one shilling per dozen. More than thirty dozen, adds this accurate writer, are said to have been taken in a day, by one person. In 1796, an instance, he says, occurred, of even fifty dozen being caught in one day. It is further stated, that a person in the Weymouth market, had paid thirty pounds to one man for Wheat-ears, in the year 1794, at one shilling a dozen ; and that the same vender had been supplied with fifty dozen more than could be disposed of.

Dr. Latham observes, that quantities of these birds are eaten on
the

PLATE CLI.

the spot about Eastbourn, by the neighbouring inhabitants; others are picked and sent up to the London poulterers, and many are potted, being as much esteemed in England as the Ortolan on the continent.

It is true, the Wheat-ear abounds in those parts as in former times; but the passing stranger, who, from these details, might be induced to expect in his visits to any of the towns or villages in the vicinity, a dish of these English ortolans, at a moderate charge, will be seriously disappointed. The influx of visitors from the metropolis into those parts during the bathing season, (the time in which those birds are common,) has effected a change so material in this respect within the last few years, that we may almost with as much confidence consult the regulations of the "8th Harry" for the prices of the present London markets, as consult the authors of ten or twenty years ago for the present price of Wheat-ears in the neighbourhood of Eastbourn. Five, ten, or fifteen shillings a dozen, is sometimes paid for these birds, and thought not very immoderate;—it certainly is not, compared with that of the potted Wheat-ear, the price of which, in the summer of 1813, as we found charged by a purveyor in these delicacies resident in the town of Brighton, was three half-crowns a pot, each pot containing two birds!—Such are the charges for fresh and potted Wheat-ears, at the watering places of Sussex, at least to the occasional visitors.

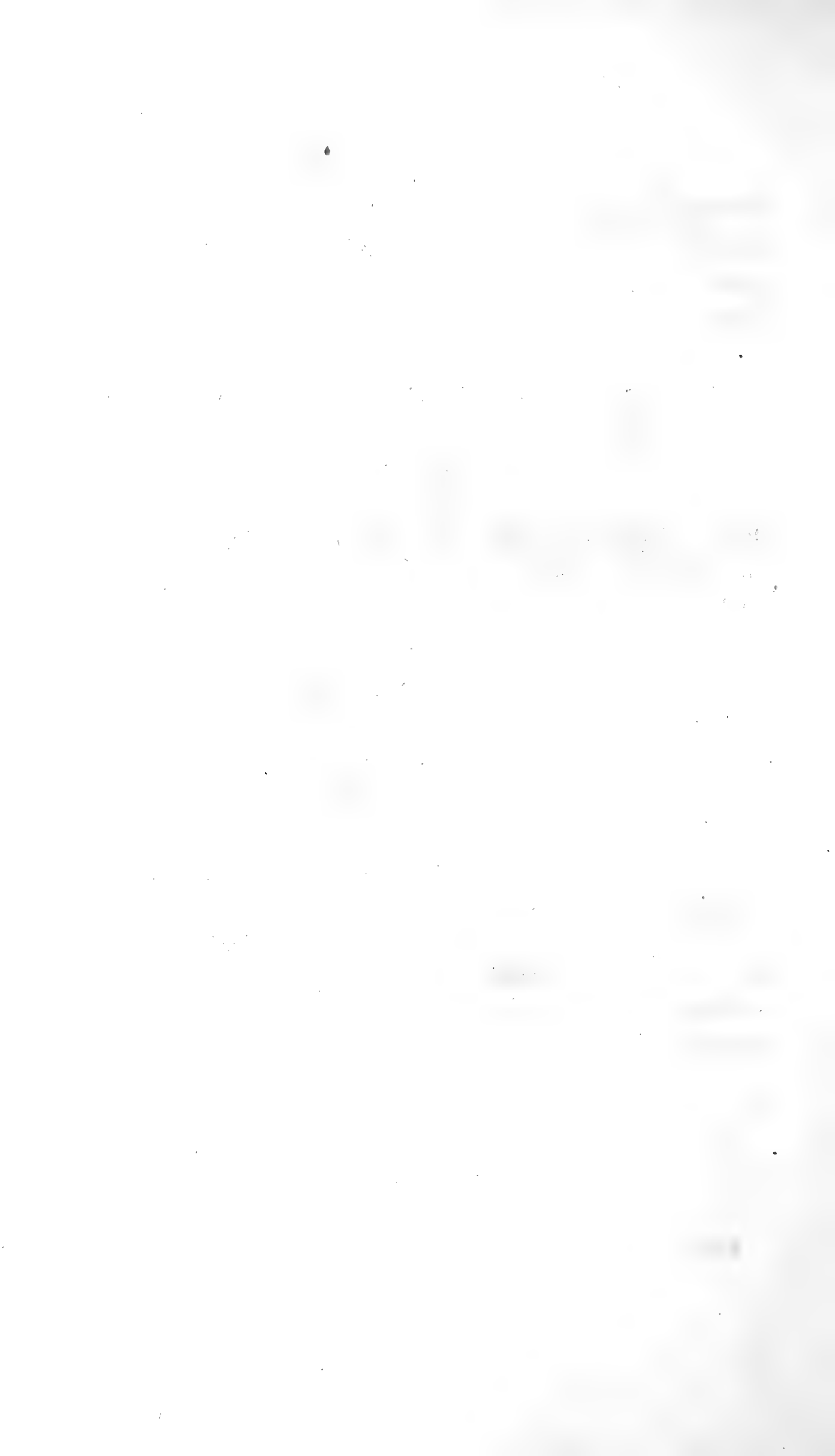




PLATE CLII.

MOTACILLA ATRICAPILLA.

BLACK-CAP WARBLER.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill subulate, straight, the mandibles nearly equal: nostrils oboval, tongue lacerated at the end.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Testaceous, beneath cinereous: cap dusky-black.

MOTACILLA ATRICAPILLA: testacea, subtus cinerea, pileo obscuro. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 256.—*Scop. Ann.* 1. n. 229.—*Brünn. Orn. n.* 278, 279.—*Kram. el. p.* 377. n. 15. *Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 970. 1.

Curruca Atricapilla. *Bris. av.* 3. p. 380. n. 6.

Klein av. p. 79. 14.

Atricapilla, f. *Ficedula Gefn. av.* 348.

Aldr. orn. 2. p. 756. t. 757.

Ray. Syn. p. 79. A. 8.—*Will. orn. p.* 162. t. 41.

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Capinera. *Olin. Ucc. t. 9.*

Zimman. Uov. p. 56. 58. f. 45.

Cetti uc Sard. p. 216.

La Fauvette à tête noire, *Buff. 5. p. 125. t. 8. f. 1.—Pl. Enl. t. 580. f. 1—2.*

Meiffen Moenche, *Gunth. Nest. u. Ey. t. 68.*

Klosterwenzel, *Frisch av. t. 23. f. 1.*

BLACK-CAP. *Penn. Brit. Zool. 1. 148.—Arct. Zool. 2. p. 418. Ray. av. 79. 8.*

BLACK-CAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*). *Lath. Syn. 4. p. 415. 5.—Ind. Orn. 508. 6.*

As the turtle is the emblem of conjugal fidelity, the Black-cap is that of parental tenderness; no bird providing for its young with greater industry, or more anxious sollicitude. In this respect the male is not less attentive than the female; while one quits the nestlings in search of food, the other remains to watch the nest and protect them. When the young are able to fly and leave the nest they associate together in families, accompany each other in their daily excursions, and at night roost together on the same branch, the male on one side, the female on the other, and the infant brood in the middle between them; the whole huddled together as close as possible for the sake of warmth.

The vocal powers of the Black-cap are not surpassed by many of the feathered tribe: it is deficient in that wild variety which constitutes

PLATE CLII.

tutes a chief excellence in the song of the nightingale, but it nevertheless resembles it, and, with that exception, its notes so little inferior, that it has obtained the appellation of the Mock Nightingale.—An instance is recorded by Buffon, of a Black-cap, tutored by the song of the nightingale, whose note at length so far excelled in melody and compass as to silence the song of its instructor.

The Black-cap is a small bird, its length scarcely exceeding five inches; the general colour above is ashen, with a tinge of greenish; the sides of the head and body beneath greyish, becoming white towards the vent: the top of the head black. This is the description of the male bird, from which the female differs in having the head ferruginous.

When this bird first arrives, which is early in the spring, before the insect race appears in sufficient number to afford it sustenance, the berries of various plants furnish it support: these it afterwards rejects as insects become more common, except the fruit of the ivy, which is said to constitute a favourite food at all times.

The nest, which is composed of dried stalks, with an intermixture of wool and green moss, the fibres of roots and horse-hair as a lining, is placed generally in a bush very near the ground: the eggs are five in number, of a pale reddish, mottled with a deeper colour, and a few dark spots.

The

PLATE CLII.

The Black-cap is a summer resident with us, coming to England in spring and returning in autumn. It is not undeserving of remark, that though this bird is not unfrequent in the north as well as south of Europe, it is by no means common in this country.





PLATE CLIII.

EMBERIZA SCHOENICULUS.

REED SPARROW.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic; mandibles receding from each other from the base downwards, the lower with the sides narrowed in, the upper part with a callosity or hard knob within.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Head black; body grey and black; outmost tail-feathers with a white cuneate spot.

EMBERIZA SCHÆNICLUS: capite nigro, corpore griseo nigroque, rectriibus extimis alba cuneiformi. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 231.—*Syst.* 1. 311. 17.—*Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 1. p. 881.
Brünn. Orn. n. 2. 251

Müller.

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Müller. n. 254.

Nozem. nederl. Vogel. t. 44.

Georg. it. p. 174.

Emberiza capite nigro, maxillis rufis, torque albo, corpore rufo nigricante. Linn. Fn. Suec. 1. n. 211. Kram, El. p. 37. n. 5.

Hortulanus arundinaceus. Brisson. av. 3. p. 274. n. 5.

Passer arundinaceus. Gesner. av. 652.

Passer torquatus s. arundinaceus. Raii, Syn. p. 93, A. 3.—Will. p. 196.

Emerling Gunth. Nest. u. Ey. t. 17.

Ortolan de roseaux. Buff. hist. nat. 4. p. 315.—Pl. Enl. 247. 2. (male) 477. 2. (female.)

REED BUNTING : *Brit. Zool. n. 120.—Arch. Zool. 2. p. 368. E.—Lath. Gen. Syn. 3. p. 173. 9.—Suppl. p. 157.*

Greater Reed Sparrow. *Ray. av. p. 93. 3.—Will. Orn. p. 269.—Albin av. 2. t. 51.*

The Reed Bunting is a local bird : an inhabitant chiefly of marshes that abound in reeds : these, with the willow and other trees that grow in watery places, are its favourite haunts, from the neighbourhood of which it is observed to wander over the adjacent cultivated places during the day time, and returning again to its nesting places in the marshes before night, at least during the season of incubation. These birds fly low, seldom perching, except in hedges, or low bushes : their usual food consists of grain of all kinds, corn especially, and insects generally. The fruit of the reed in particular affords

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fords it store of palatable food during part of the year without the trouble of search beyond its ordinary places of resort. The Reed Bunting never associates in large flocks, seldom more than six or eight together; they frequent the same spots as the Sedge Warbler, and it is imagined by some late writers that the fine melodious note attributed to the Reed Bunting belongs to the former bird. As the Reed Bunting, though a timorous bird, is less shy than the Reed Warbler, we can easily conceive a mistake of this kind might have arisen, when both should happen to be in the same bed of rushes, the one concealed, the other conspicuous to the view of the listener; the song of the Warbler concealed might, under such peculiar circumstances, strike upon the ear, and be mistaken for that of the Reed Bunting. The note of the Reed Bunting, according to Mr. Montagu, consists only of two notes, the first three or four times repeated, the last single and more sharp.

These birds form their nest of the dry stalks of grass, sometimes with an intermixture of moss, and line it with various substances of a soft and light texture, such as the down of the reed, horse hair, and, in some instances, it has been known to employ for this purpose the hair of the calf. The nest is usually placed among the rushes, or in a low bush, and not always impending over the water. The eggs are of a dirty blueish white, marked with veins of purplish brown, which are most conspicuous at the larger end.

This bird inhabits northern Europe, as far as Sweden, Russia and Siberia: towards the south it extends no further than Italy,

PLATE CLIII.

where it is esteemed very rare. It is uncertain whether they migrate or not from the country, many are known to remain with us throughout the year.



PLATE CLIV.

CERTHIA FAMILIARIS.

COMMON CREEPER

OR

TREE CREEPER.

PICÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill arched, slender, somewhat triangular, pointed : tongue various, feet formed for climbing.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Grey, beneath white : quill feathers brown, ten of them with a white spot.

CERTHIA FAMILIARIS : grisea, subtus alba, remigibus fuscis, decem macula alba. *Linn. Syst. Nat.* 1. p. 184. 1.
—*Fn. Suec.* n. 106.—*Gmel. Linn. Syst.* 1. p. 469.
Lath. Ind. Orn. T. 1. 280.

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CERTHIA MINOR. *Frisch. t. 39.*

CERTHIA. *Raii Syn. p. 47. a. 5.—Will. Orn. p. 100. t. 23.*

Falcinellus arboreus nostras, *Klein. Av. p. 106. 1.*

Ispida cauda rigida, *Kramer El. p. 337. 2.*

Picchio, Piccolo, *Zinman. Uov. p. 75. t. 11. f. 66.*

Common Creeper, *Br. Zool. 1. No. 92. t. 39.—Lath. Gen. Syn. 2.*

p. 701.—Id. Sup. p. 126.

Of the many species contained in the Genus *Certhia*, this is perhaps the only one that can be introduced with implicit confidence among the series of British Birds. There is another, *Certhia Muraria*, or Wall-Creeper, an European bird of very uncommon scarcity, and no less remarkable for its richly varied plumage of black and crimson, which has obtained a place in the British Fauna, on the authority of a zealous collector, and from respect to that authority it cannot be amiss, in the present instance, to state the circumstance. It must be nevertheless acknowledged, that there is no very satisfactory evidence of its being British, and, therefore, at least, for the present, the *Certhia* familiar is to be considered as the only well authenticated species of its genus found in Britain*.

* Dr. Latham alludes to the prevalence of this opinion in the following observation on *Certhia muraria*. "Buffon does not rank it as a bird of France; and I will venture to say that it was never found in England whoever may assert to the contrary." *Synop. V. 2. p. 1. 731.* As there is no precise reference to the information on which this general opinion rested at that time, we cannot pretend to say whether the late opinion of its being British might be derived from the same source of authority or not. Yet under all its circumstances one fact is certain that *Certhia Muraria* has been considered as a British bird, however questionable may be the authority on which it rests.

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The habits of the Common Tree-Creeper resemble those of its congeners : it subsists on insects which it collects on trees, and in the nest of which this little bird is observed running up and down the trunks of trees, searching among the moss or pecking into the crevices. The moment it perceives itself watched, it turns to the opposite side of the tree, and rests quiet and concealed : and should the observer follow it to that side, it again shifts its position so as constantly to conceal itself on the side opposite the spectator. They breed in the hollows of trees, forming their nest in a convenient recess which they line with dried vegetables, fragments of light rotten wood and a few feathers. Their eggs, from six to eight in number are white powdered or speckled with ferruginous.

This bird is an inhabitant of Asia and America, as well as Europe, and is said to be no where more abundant than in this country. With us it is a resident throughout the year. Its note is weak and monotonous.

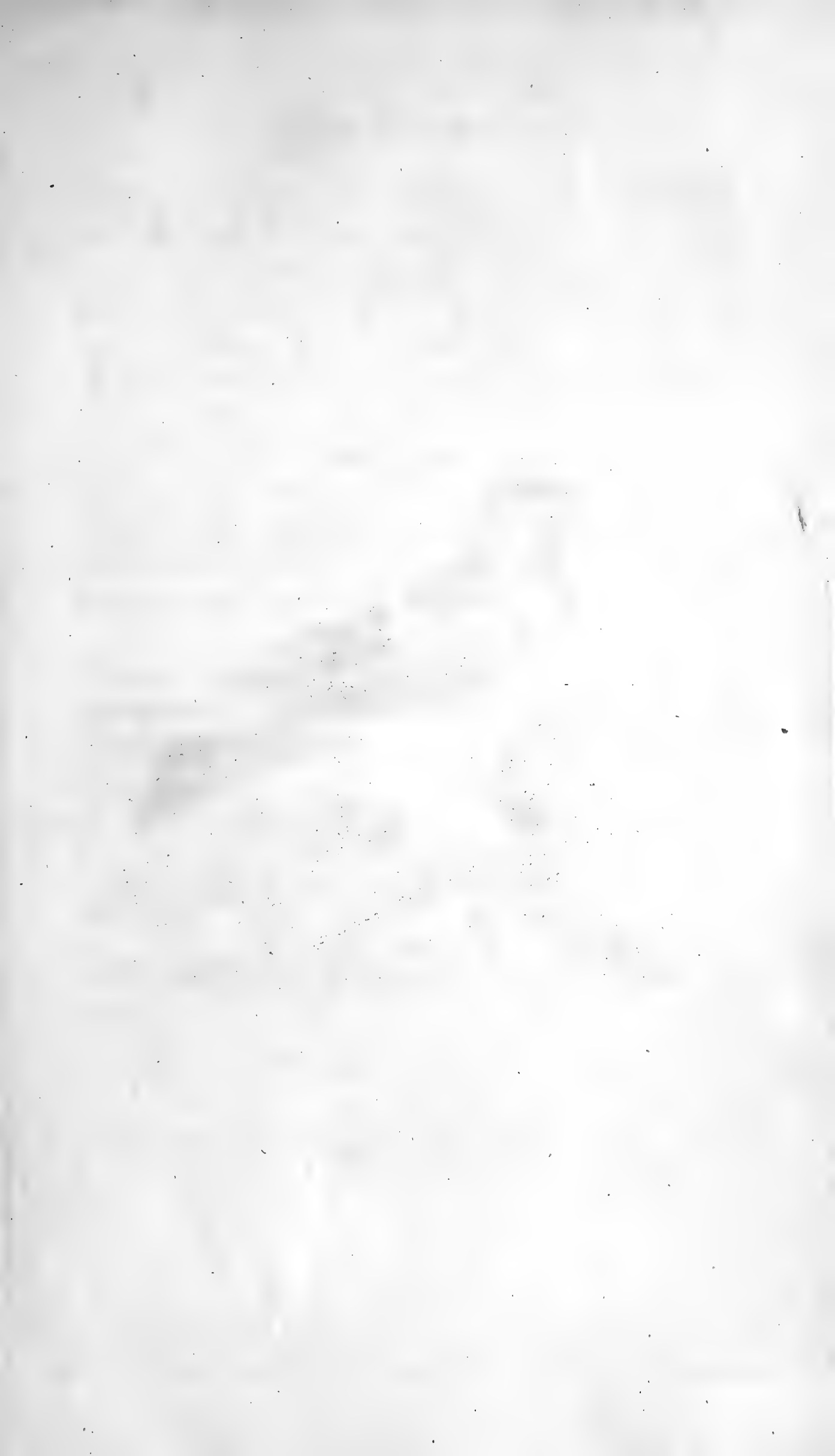




PLATE CLV.

FRINGILLA DOMESTICA.

HOUSE SPARROW.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic, straight and pointed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Quill and tail feathers brown ; body grey and black ; wings with a single white band.

FRINGILLA DOMESTICA : remigibus rectricibusque fuscis, corpore griseo nigroque, fascia alarum alba solitaria. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 242.—*Gmel. Syst. I.* p. 925.—*Lath. Ind. Orn. T. 1.* p. 1. 432. 1.
Kramer El. p. 369. 10.
Frisch. t. 8.
Georgi. p. 174.
Fn. Arag. p. 87.
Borowsk. Nat. 3. p. 144. 11.

Passer

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- Passer domesticus.* *Raii Syn. p. 86. A.*
 Will. Orn. p. 182.
 Brijs. Orn. 3. p. 72. 1.
 Schæff. El. t. 53.
 Roman. Orn. 1. p. 99. t. 16. f. 1.
- Passer domestica.* *Zinman. Uoo, p. 79. t. 11. f. 70.*
 Olin. uc. t. p. 42.
 Cetti uc. Sard. p. 204.
- Rauch-Sperling.* *Gunth. Nest. u. Ey. t. 57.*
- Le Moineau.* *Buff. 3. p. 474. t. 29. f. 1.*
- House Sparrow.* *Will. Orn. p. 249. t. 44.*
 Albin. 1. t. 62.
 Br. Zool. 2. p. 382.
-

The Common Sparrow is worthy of particular observation for the singular diversity, we might almost say the beauty of its plumage; the male bird especially. In the immediate vicinity of great towns, and cities, these familiar inmates of our house tops acquire an habitual footiness from their constant residence about the smoky flues of chimnies, the places to which they seem to resort for the sake of warmth; but in the country, where they are more hardy and cleanly, the sparrows exhibit a brightness of colouring that renders their appearance very different from those which reside in populous places.

In its ordinary state of plumage no bird can be more generally known than the common Sparrow: there are however variations in which its appearance is more ambiguous, particularly those of the pied
kind.

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kind. Sparrows wholly white occur not very unfrequently : those also which are varied with white and dark brown or chefnut, or rufous, occur occasionally, and fometimes the Sparrow is found entirely black. Among other extraordinary varieties of this bird, in our Museum, is one in which all the fore toes are double, fo that each foot is furnished with fix toes in front, the back toe which is fingle as ufual on one fide, is treble on the other, except which there is no material appearance of diftortion, every toe is diftinctly formed, and armed with its proper claw. We are the more explicit in detailing the circumftances of this fingular bird as it presents one of the moft remarkable varieties of the Sparrow we are acquainted with.

'The Sparrow is proverbially a bold and familiar bird, and feems to evince fo far an attachment for man that it is obferved only in fuch places as are inhabited by the human race ; and it is affuredly the leaft of all other birds, the fport of that cruelty and caprice this "terreftrial lord" is prone to exercife over the minor race of creatures. Sparrows are faid to be injurious to gardens, but wherever Sparrows have been deftroyed in any confiderable numbers, the fruits of our gardens, as the corn of our fields have fuffered infinitely greater mifchief from the hofts of infect depredators which thefe birds would have timely deftroyed. Sparrows therefore are ufeful, and are the natural and welcome refident of the cottage, and to a certain extent may be ufeful alfo in cities. Their general food confifts of infects, grain, and fruits of all kinds, befides which they will eat other animal food. The neft is often conftituted under the eaves, and other projections of houfes, in broken walls, dry gutters, and even the tops of chimnies : The eggs

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of the sparrow are well known; they are of a pale or ashen colour with numerous spots and dots of brown.

This bird is an inhabitant of Europe, Asia and Africa, subject however to some trifling variation of plumage in different climates; the male bird constantly darker, and the colours more distinct than in the female.





PLATE CLVI.

MOTACILLA HIPPOLAIS.

LESSER PETTYCHAPS.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill subulate, straight: the mandibles nearly equal: nostrils oval: tongue lacerated at the end.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Greenish-ash, beneath yellowish: abdomen silvery: limbs fuscous: eyebrows whitish.

MOTACILLA HIPPOLAIS: virescente-cinerea subtus flavescens abdomine argenteo, artubus fuscis, superciliis albidis. *Linn. Syst. Nat. I. p. 330. 7.*

Gmel. Syst. I. p. 954.

SYLVA HIPPOLAIS. *Lath. Gen. Syn. 4. p. 413. 3*.*—*Ind. Orn. 507. 4.*

Ficedula Septima Aldrovandi (Pettychaps) *Raii Syn. p. 79. A. 7.*—*Will. p. 158.*—*Ind. Angl. p. 216.*

PLATE CLVI.

LESSER PETTYCHAPS. *Br. Zool. I. 149.*—*Arch. Zool. 11. p. 418.*
—*Lath. Gen. Syn. 4. 414.*—*Lew. Mus.*

There can be no doubt this bird has been sometimes confounded with the Willow Wren, and that even by English authors of respectability. The Willow Wren has already obtained a place in this work, and the specimen delineated and described was the individual bird of Dr. Latham's collection, now in our possession. The example of the Lesser Pettychaps at present before us is no less well authenticated, as being the original bird found by the Duchess of Portland, at Bulstrode, and communicated by her grace to Sir Ashton Lever. No one can, therefore, question, that upon the identity of two species so nearly analogous and yet distinct, we possess the best authority that can be obtained, and are thus enabled to speak with confidence on a subject which might otherwise remain involved in doubt.

The Lesser Pettychaps is a very diminutive bird, the smallest almost, without exception, found in England. It is supposed to be rare; but is, perhaps, more abundant in this country, in the milder parts especially, than may be imagined; though, from the shyness of its manners, it is not often seen. As a migratory species it is one of our early spring visitors; indeed so early, that it is imagined, and with some probability, stragglers may remain with us throughout the winter when the weather is mild. Instances of this nature occur at least in the warmer parts of Britain. Its note, which is a mere *twit, twit*, or, as some liken it, to the words chip chop, is
heard

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heard sometimes as early as March. It feeds on insects, which it takes occasionally on the wing; and it is observed to be most frequent about plantations of fir-trees.

Dr. Latham describes the nest as being of an arched form, composed of dry bents, mixed with a little moss, and thickly lined with feathers: it is placed on the ground under a tuft of grass, or at the bottom of a bush. The eggs, five in number, white and sprinkled all over with red spots, especially at the largest end.





PLATE CLVII.

PHALAROPUS HYPERBOREUS.

RED PHALAROPE.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, straight, and usually somewhat inflected at the top : nostrils minute : feet lobate, or furnished with lateral membranes, generally scalloped.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Cinereous beneath, rump and band on the wing white : breast cinereous : neck at the sides ferruginous.

PHALAROPUS HYPERBOREUS. *Lath. Ind. Orn. T. 2. 775. 1.*—

Gen. Syn. 5. p. 270. 1.

TRINGA HYPERBOREA. Cinereus, subtus uropygio fasciaque alarum albis, pectore cinereo, colli lateribus ferrugineis. *Linn. Syst. Nat. 1. p. 249. 9.*—*Fn. Suec. N° 179. Gmel Syst. 1. p. 675. Faun. Groenl. N° 75 (mas).*

PHALAROPUS

PLATE CLVII.

PHALAROPUS CINEREUS. *Brif.* 6. p. 15. 2.

Cock Coot-footed Tringa. *Edw. t.* 143.

Red Phalarope. *Br. Zool* 2. n. 219. 17.—*Lath. Gen. Syn.* 5. 270. 1.

TRINGA FULICARIA. *Linn. Syst.* 1. p. 676. 6. (*fem.*)

There are certain birds which it is well known to the experienced Ornithologist, exhibit at the two remote periods of the year the winter and the summer, a most striking difference in their appearance, and this indeed so very considerable in certain instances as to misguide the best informed, if they have not the good fortune to ascertain the same bird under both the circumstances of the winter and summer plumage.

Besides these very prominent varieties in which the distinctions are strongly marked, there are intermediate transitions which denote the progressive advancement of one state of plumage to the other, and these are sometimes no less ambiguous, or less calculated to mislead. These remarks will apply generally to all birds which inhabit equally the cold and warmer climates; to the whole of the sandpiper tribe in a particular manner, and as may be conceived to the varieties of that section which are denominated Phalaropes, the natural order to which the bird before us appertains.

This bird appears to constitute one of those ambiguous varieties, but which is probably ambiguous in its first appearance only, for with a little caution it may easily be reduced we think to its legitimate species.

PLATE CLVII.

Species: there can be no doubt in our mind that it is no other than a very pretty and interesting variety of the bird already described by writers under the title of the Red Phalarope; a variety, the effect of season merely, and not entitled as some consider it to the appellation of the "New Red Phalarope." The Red Phalarope in its ordinary state of plumage, is by no means common in Britain; it is better known to the more northern naturalists, as it is an inhabitant of the regions more approximating to the polar circle, and is described by Linnæus under the title of *Tringa hyperborea*. Later authors have determined the Linnæan *Tringa hyperborea*, and *Tringa fulicaria* to be the two sexes of the same species, which opinion has been in its turn amended by subsequent research, the result of which has proved the existence of two sexes in both *fulicaria* and *hyperborea*. Dr. Latham was led to believe them to be the two sexes of one species.

The very singular structure of the feet in the Phalaropes render them particularly curious, besides which their plumage generally is very pleasingly diversified; there is an unusual delicacy in that of the Grey Phalarope, and the Red Phalarope in point of gaiety compensates for the minor defect of being less chaste in its colours and variegations than its very analogous species.

There is some account extant, that the Red and Grey Phalaropes have been shot in Yorkshire, and it was concluded on this or similar authority, that they were the two sexes of the same species, an opinion, as before observed, which has been since removed by the most cogent of all evidence, the demonstration of anatomical investigation.

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Besides these two birds, Dr. Latham describes a third kind from the Bankian collection, found far northward between Asia and Africa, the particulars of which appear in the fifth volume of the Synopsis, and a figure of it in the frontispiece of that volume. This he describes as a variety of the Red Phalarope (fem) in the Synopsis, and the same opinion is retained in his subsequent work (Ind. Orn.) it is this variety which accords more nearly with the bird before us than any that has been described to that period.

We have been long in possession of this bird in our own collection of British birds, and have given it sufficient publicity; nevertheless it was considered among collectors as a new bird. In the year 1807, a communication appeared in the eighth volume of the Transactions of the Linnæan Society, from the pen of Mr. Simmonds, F.L.S. and in this paper, besides other useful information, will be found a general description of the same variety.

Mr. Simmonds conceiving it might be specifically different from the variety of Dr. Latham's last described, proposed to give it the name Phalaropus Williamfii, in compliment to his friend Mr. J. Williams of Dartford: to this there could be no objection, excepting only that it does not appear to be distinct, and would therefore only create confusion should it be described under any other than its original denomination. These birds were found at the edge of two or three fresh water lakes in Sanda and North Ronaldsha, the two most northern of the Orkney islands: in the stomachs of several were found the remains of Monoculi and Onisci. We possess the egg which Mr. Simmonds seems to be unacquainted with, as he expresses
his

P L A T E C L V I I .

his regret that the search after the nests was not attended with the desired success, and respecting the eggs he is entirely silent. The egg is of an olivaceous colour, mottled with dots and splashes of blackish. Mr. Simmonds finally remarks, that as none of the inhabitants had observed them before, they had no provincial name: the bird has been since discovered in the breeding season in some plenty among the islands, from which we may conclude, that although they had escaped the positive observation of the natives, we are not to regard their appearance at that time as a recent or accidental visitation.

Upon a comparison of the Red with the Grey Phalarope it will be found, that independently of other differences, the form of the bill affords a distinction between the two birds, by which they may be readily determined; in the Grey Phalarope the bill is stouter, rather more compressed, and broader: in the red kind it is weaker, the tip pointed and a little bent. It has been urged against this distinction, which appears to us satisfactory that by improper treatment in the drying and preparation of the bird in the hands of an injudicious preserver, these characters may be so far disguised by partial contractions as to be no longer worthy of dependence; an argument in our opinion of little weight, since it will apply equally to the distinctions drawn from the characteristic form of the bill in every other bird as well as this. The variety we have figured is of the same size as the red Phalarope of other authors, and measures in length seven inches.



PLATE CLVIII.

HIRUNDO RUSTICA.

SWALLOW.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill small, weak, curved, and awl shaped, with the base depressed; gape larger than the head: tongue short, broad, cleft: wings long: tail in general forked.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Blueish black; beneath white, front and chin chestnut: tail feathers, except the two middle ones, with a white spot.

HIRUNDO RUSTICA: nigro-cœrulescens subtus albida, fronte gulaque castaneis, rectricibus lateralibus macula alba notatis. *Lath. Gen. Syst.* 2. 572. 1.

HIRUNDO RUSTICA: rectricibus, exceptis duabus intermediis, macula alba notatis. *Linn. Fn Suec.* 270.—*Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 1. p. 1015.—*Scop. Ann.* 1. N° 249.—*Brun. N°* 289. *Kram. El.* p. 380. 1.—*Georgi.* p. 175.—*Frisch. t.* 18.—*Klein. Av.* p. 82. 2.—*Schæff. El. Orn. t.* 40.

HIRUNDO

PLATE CLVIII.

HIRUNDO DOMESTICA. *Raii Syn.* p. 71. *A.* 1.—*Will. Orn.*
p. 155. *t.* 39.—*Brisf.* ii. p. 486. 1.—*Id.* 3vo. 1.
p. 294.

Hirondelle de Cheminée. *Buff.* 6. p. 591. *t.* 25. *f.* 6.—*Pl. Enl.* 543.
f. 1.

Schwalbe, *Gunth.* p. 62. *t.* 15.

Rondine Minore, *Zinnan, Uov.* p. 48. *t.* 7. *f.* 35.

CHIMNEY SWALLOW, or COMMON SWALLOW. *Phil. Transf.*
51. p. 459.—*Id.* 53. p. 101.—*Id.* 65. p. 528.
343. *Br. Zool.* 1. N^o 168. *t.* 58.—*Arct. Zool.*
11. N^o 330.—*Alb.* 1. *t.* 45.

The habits and manners of the Swallow are so well known, as render much general information unnecessary. They occur in almost every part of the globe at different periods of the year, and are also found in great plenty in America. They visit England in immense flights about the latter end of March, and as invariably collect in amazing numbers in September, taking at that time their departure for warmer climates to avoid the rigour of our approaching winter.

The Swallow usually builds its nest, which is composed of mud, mixed with straw or hair, and lined with feathers, in the walls of chimnies, or under the projecting ridges of the roofs of houses, churches, and sometimes trees: we possess a nest with the eggs, built in the hollow of a conch-shell as it laid in the garden of Sir Ashton Lever, at Arlington, in Lancashire.

The

PLATE CLVIII.

The Swallows of our cities, blackened and discoloured with the swarthy vapours of our chimnies exhibit an appearance only of sooty blackness, varied with spots of a dingy white. When in a high state of plumage the Swallow is really a very beautiful bird, the black being of a jetty blackness, finely glossed with shining blue, partaking in different lights of purple and azure, and the white of unfulled purity; the front and chin a rich brown inclining to chestnut.

Varieties of the Swallow wholly white, occur occasionally, and are not more uncommon than the white varieties of the common birds in general. The Swallow is six inches in length: it has two broods in a year; the eggs from four to six in number, of a white colour, and speckled with reddish. Its chief subsistence consists of insects.



PLATE CLIX.

TRINGA ALPINA.

ALPINE SANDPIPER,

OR,

DUNLIN.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

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

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Brown testaceous: breast blackish: tail feathers whitish ash: legs brownish.

TRINGA ALPINA: testaceo-fusca, pectore nigricante, rectricibus cinereo-albidis, pedibus fuscescentibus. *Linn.*

Fn. Suec. 180.

Linn. Syst. 1. p. 249. 11.

Gmel. Syst. 1. p. 676.

PLATE CLIX.

Fabr. Fn. Groenl. n. 77.

Frischav. t. 241.

CINCLUS TORQUATUS. *Bris. 5. p. 216. n. 11. t. 19. f. 2.*

GALLINAGO ANGLICANA, Le becassine d'Angleterre. *Bris. 5. p. 3095.*

LE CINCLE. *Buff. 7. p. 553.—Pl. Enl. 852.*

LA BRUNETTE. *Buff. 7. p. 493.*

DUNLIN. *Ray Syn. p. 109 A. 11.—Will. Orn. 305. Brit. Zool. No 205. Lath. Gen. Syn. 5. p. 185. 33.—Id. Suppl. p. 249.—Tringa Alpina, Ind. Orn. 736. 37.*

A scarce British bird, found as the name implies, chiefly in Alpine situations. It occurs in Asia and America as well as Europe. Length between nine and ten inches.



PLATE CLX.

SCOLOPAX RUFA.

RUFOUS GODWIT.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, obtuse, longer than the head: nostrils linear: face covered: feet four toed: hind toe consisting of many joints.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Ferruginous rufous: head, and back of the neck dashed with black: wings cinereous, the feathers white at the edges: tail barred alternately with white and dusky.

SCOLOPAX HUDSONICA VAR? *Lath. Gen. Syn. Suppl. p. 246—*
Ind. Orn. 720. 20.

There is much reason for presuming that this bird, though not till very lately, introduced to the acquaintance of the more experienced Ornithologist, is by no means to be considered as a recent

PLATE CLX.

acquisition to the British Fauna. The bird has very probably long existed in some collections of the country, which from their privacy have remained unknown, and where it has been perhaps considered as the Red Godwit, or a mere variety of that rare and interesting species.

This conjecture is rendered more than probable from various local circumstances within our knowledge which are not material to repeat. It was not, however, till within the last four or five years that this bird has appeared to be correctly known as a British species; when besides the discovery of a few birds in different parts of the country which fell by accident into the hands of curious sporting gentlemen, some few were captured by the fowlers, and brought for sale to the London market. These, very fortunately for the gratification of the English collectors, were purchased by a dealer in London*, and we believe that most of the London collections at least, were supplied with examples of this curious bird from that accidental source and circumstance.

The impression that struck our mind upon the first view of this bird was the very strong affinity it bore to the *Scolopax Hudsonica* of Dr. Latham, which we had seen some years before, and subsequent reflection does not seem to lessen the similitude in our ideas. We lament sincerely on this account that the means of comparison are too remote either to establish or to remove conjecture, for the individual specimen described by Dr. Latham, under the name of

* Mr. Corbet.

PLATE CLX.

Scolopax Hudsonica exists no longer in the country; we saw it for the last time in the possession of an intelligent German naturalist*, the day previous to its departure for the Imperial cabinet at Vienna about twelve years ago. We have no notes upon the subject, but so far as memory can be relied upon, the size and general aspect could not be materially different, with the exception only of the tail, which was black and white, but not disposed in alternate bands as in the present bird; the base was white and the posterior half, or rather more, black without bands. But for this latter circumstance we should have little hesitation in believing them the same species; nor are we yet entirely satisfied that the distinctions which do exist should be attributed to any other cause than a difference in the state of plumage arising from the effect of climate.

We have seen this bird placed in the arrangement of British birds, under the name of *Scolopax Noveboracensis*, and generally speaking, it has obtained the name of Red-breasted Snipe, and Red Godwit; with respect to the latter it is exceptionable, because it may possibly lead to some confusion between this kind and the bird already known under the same English appellation. As to its analogy with the species described under the name of *Noveboracensis* we must confess we cannot perceive it; nor shall we venture to place it in our list of synonyms, with the mark of doubt, allowing even for the imperfect accounts we happen to possess of the latter bird.

The length of this bird is between fifteen and sixteen inches.

* Mr. Leopold Fichtel.





PLATE CLXI.

EMBERIZA CIRLUS.

CIRL BUNTING.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic: mandibles receding from each other from the base downwards, the lower with the sides narrowed in, the upper with a hard knob within.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Above brown, varied: beneath yellowish, breast spotted: eyebrows pale yellow: two outmost tail feathers with a white cuneated spot.

EMBERIZA CIRLUS: fusca, pectore maculato, superciliis luteis, rectricibus duabus extimis macula alba cuneata.
Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat. T. 1. p. 2. n. 879.

EMBERIZA CIRLUS: supra varia, subtus lutea, pectore maculato, superciliis luteis, rectricibus duabus, extimis macula alba cuneata. *Lath. Ind. Orn. T. 1. p. 1. p. 401.*

EMBERIZA SEPIARIA. *Brisf. 3. 263. 2.*

PLATE CLXI.

Le Bruant Lape, *Buff.* 4. p. 347.—*Pl. Enl.* 653. f. 1, 2.

CIRL BUNTING. *Lath. Syn.* 3. p. 190. 2 B.

The Cirl Bunting is a bird not very uncommon in various countries of the south of Europe, but which till a very late period, remained unknown as an inhabitant of this country. With us it seems to be very local, and confined exclusively to the most southern districts. From its close affinity to the Yellow Bunting, or as it is more usually called the Yellow Hammer, it may be easily mistaken by the superficial observer for that species. It is, nevertheless, distinct.

The natural food of this bird consists of worms and insects as well as the seeds of various plants. Length six inches and a half.



PLATE CLXII.

TRINGILLA LINARIA β .

TWITE.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic, straight and pointed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Above varied, beneath reddish, abdomen whitish: eye-brows and band on the wings pale rufous: crown and rump red.

FRINGILLA LINARIA: supra varia, subtus rufescens, abdomine albido, superciliis fasciaque alarum rufescentibus, vertice uropygioque rubris. *Lath. Ind. Orn.*
459. 83.

TWITE. *Albin. 3. t. 74.*

Lev. Mus.

The Twite was formerly considered as a variety of the mountain Linnet*, and at a later period has been placed with doubt as a variety

* The Mountain Linnet itself has borne successively the specific names *piplans* and *montium*.

PLATE CXLII.

of the lesser Linnet. We are aware that much confusion has, and still continues to prevail among the Linnet tribe, we can however venture to speak precisely as to the bird before us being the Twite of the Leverian Museum, and therefore the individual bird described by Dr. Latham and several other writers under the appellation of the Twite: it passed immediately from that collection into our possession.

The length of this bird is four inches and a half. The red colour of the rump is generally considered as a decisive character of the Twite.





PLATE CLXIII.

ANAS HISTRIONICA:

HARLEQUIN 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 fuscous blue and white; ears, double line on the temples, collar, and pectoral band white (male). Grey, ears white: primary quill feathers blackish.

MAS.

ANAS HISTRIONICA: fusco albo cæruleoque varia, auribus, temporibus linea gemina, collari fasciaque pectora li albis. *Fabr. Fn. Groenl. n. 46.*

ANAS HISTRIONICA. *Linn. Syst. 1. p. 204, 35.—Gmel. Syst. 1.*

PLATE CLXIII.

p. 534.—*Brun. N° 84, 85.*—*Phil. Transf. 62.*

p. 417.—*Frisch. t. 157.*—*Faun. Amer. p. 16.*

Anas torquata ex insula terræ novæ. *Brisf. 6. p. 362. 14.*

Anas Brimond, *Oloff. Ill 2. t. 34.*

Le Canard à Collier de terre neuve, *Buff. ix. p. 250.*—*Pl. Enl. 798.*

STONE DUCK. *Hist. Kamtsch. p. 160.*—DUSKY AND SPOTTED

DUCK. *Edw. av. t. 99.*—HARLEQUIN DUCK.

Arct. Zool. 2. N° 490.—*Lath. Syn. 6. p. 485.*

38.—*Ind. Orn. 849. 45.*

FEM.

ANAS MINUTA: fusca (vel grisea) auribus albis, remigibus primoribus nigricantibus. *Fabr. Faun. Groenl. n.*

46.—*Brun. Orn. n. 86.*—*Linn. Syst. 1. p. 204.*

36.—*Gmel. Syst. 1. p. 534.*

Querquedula freti Hudsonis. *Brisf. 6. p. 469. 41.*—*Id. 8vo. 11. p. 485.*

Le Canard brun, et le Canard brun et blanc. *Buff. ix. p. 253.*—*Pl. Enl. 1007.*

La Sarcelle brune et blanc. *Buff. ix. p. 287.*—*Pl. Enl. 799.*

Little brown and white Duck. *Edw. t. 157.*

Cat. Car. 1. t. 98.

HARLEQUIN DUCK. (female) *Lath. Syn. 6. p. 485. 38.*

It is some years since the Harlequin Duck was first introduced among collectors as a bird appertaining to the British Fauna; and fifteen years have at least elapsed since we became possessed of the
3 specimen

PLATE CLXIII.

Specimen which is figured in the annexed plate : during the whole of that period we understand that it has been only found occasionally perhaps to the amount of three or four specimens at the utmost, and hence we may conclude, that it ranks among the rarer species of the Duck tribe found in this country.

As is frequently the case with birds the two sexes of which differ very materially in plumage, the male and female of this bird has been considered as distinct species. The figure of the male which is shewn in our plate may supersede the necessity of any particular description of that sex, except with respect to size, which corresponds with that of the common wigeon, and is about seventeen inches in length. The female is less by three inches ; very little exceeding in length thirteen inches : the general colour grey ; forehead and between the eye white : lower part of the breast and belly barred with pale rufous and white, and the lower part, together with the thighs rufous and brown : quills, tail and legs dusky.

The species inhabits all the northern parts of Europe and America, retiring a little to the southward as the winter become intensely severe. Its chief food consists of the vast variety of testaceous animals, with which the waters of all the northern lakes and rivers abound, and especially the innumerable host of gnats and other aquatic insects which are there produced in numbers beyond all conception during the short period of the polar summer.







PLATE CLXIV.

PARUS PALUSTRIS.

MARSH TITMOUSE.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill very entire, narrow and somewhat compressed; strong, hard, pointed and covered at the base with bristles: tongue truncated, bristly at the end; toes divided to the origin, the posterior one large and strong.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Head black; back cinereous; temples white.

PARUS PALUSTRIS: capite nigro, dorso cinereo, temporibus albis.

Linn. Syst. 1. p. 341. 8.—*Faun. Suec.* N° 269.

Gmel. Syst. Nat. 1. p. 1009.—*Lath. Gen. Syn.* 4.

p. 541. 8.—*Ind. Orn.* 565. 9.

MARSH TITMOUSE, or BLACK CAP. *Albin.* 3. t. 53. f. 1.

Will. 241. t. 43.

Allied

PLATE CLXIV.

Allied to the Colemouse, and has been considered as no other probably than a variety of that bird. This like the rest of its tribe, is a most prolific bird laying a vast number of eggs, and hatching frequently. Its size is that of the Colemouse: the length four inches. Authors describe it as an inhabitant of northern Europe.

Dr. Latham describes it as being fond of bees.

PLATE



PLATE CLXV.

STRIX PULCHELLA.

SMALLER PENCILLED,

OR,

SIBERIAN EARED OWL.

ACCIPITRES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill hooked: no cere: nostrils oblong, covered with bristly recumbent feathers: head, auricles and eyes large: tongue bifid.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Head eared: body above and wings grey, powdered and waved with rusty and black, and varied with white spots: beneath whitish.

STRIX PULCHELLA. *Pallas. It. 1. p. 456. 8.—Lepech. It. 11. t. 4.—Nov. Com. Act. Petrop. Vol. 15. p. 490. t. 26. f. 1.*

STRIX PULCHELLA: minima, capite aurito, corpore pulveratim cinereo-undulato subtus albido, alis fasciato-pul-

PLATE CLXV.

veratis, litura ad nares alba. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 1.
57. 19.

SIBERIAN EARED OWL. *Lath. Gen. Syn.* 1. p. 130. 16. t. 5. f. 1.

A specimen of this elegant bird has been in our possession for a considerable period, and as our Museum of natural history in which it is contained was allowed to remain open to general inspection for the space of some years, we conceive the bird must have obtained every requisite publicity to entitle us to the credit, if there be any due, of having first introduced it to the notice of our country as a British bird.

Some of our Ornithologists have placed this bird in their arrangements as a new British species under the specific name of Scops, believing it to be the same kind with *le petit duc* of Buffon, a bird found in France, and the south of Europe, and distinguished by Gmelin under the name of Scops. We are ever unwilling to differ from our cotemporary collectors, and would not on any very trivial occasion be inclined to express our dissent to what appears an established notion, but in the present instance there really appears to us the existence of an error material to be corrected. The bird before us is assuredly not the Gmelinian Scops: we have ever considered it as the *Strix Pulchella* described by Dr. Pallas, and have little hesitation in conceiving on a more attentive investigation the opinion of those who think the contrary will gradually yield to ours.

With

PLATE CLXV.

With respect to the general history of this curious bird our knowledge is very circumscribed: to the best of our information it was shot in Yorkshire a few years ago. It is unquestionably one of the most elegant of the Owl tribe: its length is scarcely more than six or seven inches.

PLATE





PLATE CLXVI.

ANAS MARILA.

SCAUP DUCK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

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

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Black: shoulders waved cinereous: belly and spot on the wings white, *male*. Ferruginous brown, spot on the wing abdomen, head and ring at the base of the bill white, *female*.

ANAS MARILA: nigra, humeris cinereo-undulatis, abdomine speculoque alari albis. *Maf. Aet. Angl.* 62. p. 413. *Gmel.* 509. 8.—Fusco ferruginea, speculo alarum abdomine capitisque annulo ad rostri basin albis (*Fem.*) *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 853, 54.

SCAUP

PLATE CLXVI.

SCAUP DUCK. *Will. Orn.* p. 365. *Ray. av.* p. 142. *A. G. Lath.*
Syn. 3. 2. p. 500. n. 49.

Length about twenty inches. The Scaup Duck is a general inhabitant of the colder regions, of Europe, the north of Asia and America: feeds chiefly on aquatic insects and the testaceous animals of the fresh waters, and migrates to warmer climates in winter.

PLATE



PLATE CLXVII.

PEDICEPS HEBRIDICUS.

BLACK-CHIN GREBE.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, acute, nostrils linear, lores naked: tongue somewhat bifid: tail obsolete: legs compressed with a double series of dentations behind: toes furnished on each side with a broad plain membrane.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Head smooth, body blackish: belly cinereous intermixed with silvery: chin of the male black, throat ferruginous.

COLYMBUS HEBRIDICUS: capite lævi, mento nigro, gutture ferrugineo, abdomine cinereo et argenteo. *Gmel.*
Linn. Syst. Nat. T. 1. p. 2. 594. 28.

PODICEPS HEBRIDICUS: nigricans, gula nigra, jugulo ferrugineo,

PLATE CLXVII.

gineo, abdomine cinereo argenteo vario. *Lath.*
Gen. Syn. 5. 292.

BLACK-CHIN GREBE. *Penn. Br. Zool.* 2. 227. f. 79.

With the single exception of the Red-neck Grebe figured in the 6th volume of this work, the bird before us may be esteemed the rarest of the tribe found in Britain; and none among the number which altogether includes seven kinds, can be considered common, exclusive of the Dobchick, or little Grebe, which occurs in most fenny places: The most frequent of the larger kinds is the Crested Grebe, and that is confined chiefly to the fens of Lincolnshire, and two or three other parts of Britain.

The black-chin Grebe, called also the Hebridal Grebe is almost entirely confined to the waters of the island of Tirée, one of the Hebrides, and thence it has received the appellation of Hebridal Grebe. It is rather larger than the Little Grebe, and is in length about eleven inches.

PLATE



PLATE CLXVIII.

FRINGILLA LINOTA.

COMMON GREY LINNET.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic, straight, and pointed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Chestnut brown, beneath whitish; wings with a longitudinal white band: tail feathers each side edged with white.

FRINGILLA LINOTA: fusca castanea, subtus albida, fascia alarum longitudinali alba, rectricibus nigris, marginibus undique albis. *Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat.* 1. p. 916.
Lath. Ind. Orn. 457.

COMMON LINNET.

This ranks among the song birds of Britain; it is very common in England and throughout Europe. It feeds on seeds, principally

PLATE CLXVIII.

those of the hemp, which it is observed to peel before it eats. The rosy colour which appears conspicuous on the breast of this bird denotes the male in full plumage, the female and young birds being destitute of this distinction. The length of this bird is five inches.

The eggs amounting in each nest to five in number are of a whitish colour spotted with chestnut.

PLATE

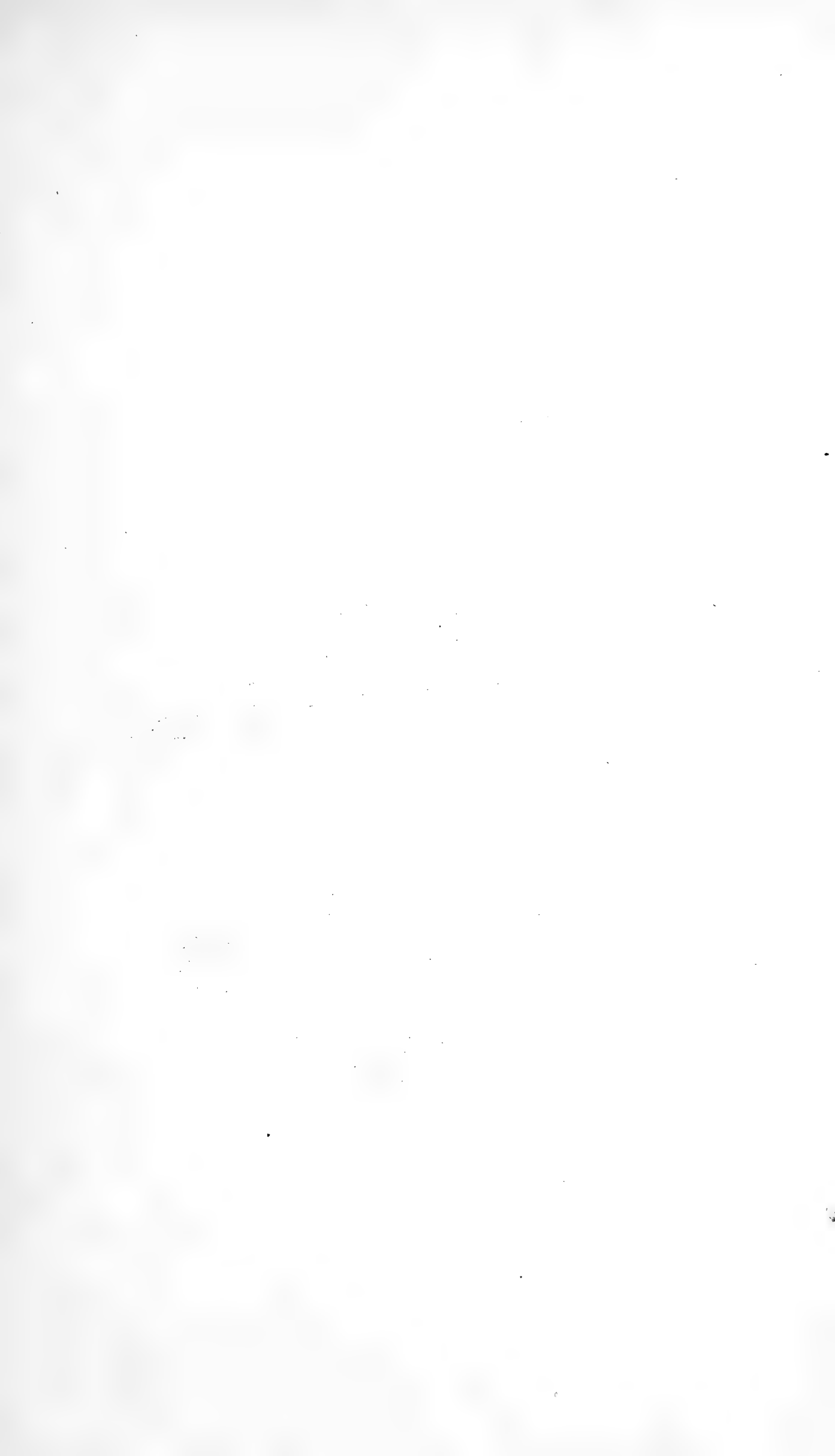




PLATE CLXIX.

SCOLOPAX PYGMÆA.

PIGMY CURLEW.

GRALLÆ.

Bill roundish, obtuse, longer than the head : nostrils linear : face covered : feet four toed, hind toe consisting of many joints.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Arched bill and legs black : body varied with ferruginous brown and white, beneath white.

SCOLOPAX PYGMÆA : rostro arcuato pedibusque nigris, corpore ex ferrugineo, fusco et albo vario, subtus albo.

Gmel. Syst. Nat. 655. 20.

NUMENIUS PYGMEUS : fusco ferrugineo alboque variegatus, corpore subtus uropygioque albo, remigibus retri-
cibusque exterioribus albo marginatis. *Lath.*

Ind. Orn. 713. 11.

PLATE CLXIX.

This may be considered as a curious variety of that rare British bird called the Pigmy Curlew, or the Pigmy Sandpiper in the plumage it assumes in autumn. It was obligingly communicated by Mr. Weighton: the bird was shot by Mr. Lenard, at Holyavon, on the 26th of August, 1812.

PLATE



PLATE CLXX.

MUSCICAPA GRISOLA.

SPOTTED FLY CATCHER.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill nearly triangular, notched each side, bent in at the tip, and beset with bristles at the root: toes mostly divided to their origin.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Brownish, beneath whitish: neck longitudinally spotted: vent pale rufous.

MUSCICAPA GRISOLA: subfusca, subtus albicans, colli longitudinaliter maculato, crisso rufescente. *Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 949. *sp.* 20.

Gobe Mouche. *Buff. Ois.* 4. *p.* 517. *t.* 25. *f.* 2.

SPOTTED FLY CATCHER. *Lath. Syn.* 2. 1. *p.* 323. *n.* 1.

The

PLATE CLXX.

The spotted Fly-catcher is a bird of the migratory kind in England, arriving in the spring, and taking its departure in autumn.

The length is between five and six inches: it frequents gardens, and is observed besides other fruits, to be particularly fond of cherries. The eggs from four to five in number, are of a white colour spotted with reddish.



PLATE CLXXI.

VELVET DUCK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

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

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Black: lower eye-lid and spot on the wing white.

ANAS FUSCA: nigricans, palpebra inferiore, speculoque alarum
albis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 109. *Gmel. Syst. Nat.*
507. 6.

GREAT BLACK DUCK. *Ray. Orn.* p. 141. *A.* 4. *Will. Orn.*
p. 363. t. 70.

VELVET DUCK. *Lath. Gen. Syn.* 3. 2. p. 482. n. 37.

Allied to the Scoter Duck but is more rare. Length twenty inches.

PLATE





PLATE CLXXII.

TRINGA HYPOLEUCOS.

COMMON SANDPIPER.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

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

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill smooth: legs livid; body cinereous with black stripes, beneath white.

TRINGA HYPOLEUCUS: rostro lævi, pedibus, lividis, corpore cinereo lituris nigris, subtus albo. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 181.—*Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 678. 14.

COMMON SANDPIPER. *Lath. Syn.* 5. 178.

Length seven inches and a half: lays its eggs in sand banks; these are four or five in number, and of a dirty yellowish colour with pale spots. Inhabits Europe and America.



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ARRANGEMENT

ACCORDING TO

LATHAM'S SYNOPSIS OF BIRDS.

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