

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY.

ORDER III. PASSERES. PASSERINE.

GENUS XXXI. STURNUS. STARLING.

SPECIES. *S. PREDATORIUS*.

RED-WINGED STARLING.

[Plate XXX. Fig. 1, Male.—Fig. 2, Female.]

Oriolus phæniceus, LINN. *Syst.* 161.—*Red-winged Oriole*, *Arct. Zool.* 255, No. 140.—*Icterus pterophænicus*, BRISS. II., 97.—*Le Commandeur*, BUFF. III., 214, *Pl. Ent.* 402.—LATH. I., 428.—*Acolchichi*, FERNAND. *Nov. Hisp.* p. 14. *Red-winged Starling*, CATESB. p. 13.

THIS notorious and celebrated *corn-thief*, the long-reputed plunderer and pest of our honest and laborious farmers, now presents himself before us, with his copartner in iniquity,* to receive the character due for their very active and distinguished services. In investigating the nature of these, I shall endeavor to render strict historical justice to this noted pair; adhering to the honest injunctions of the poet,

"Nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice."

Let the reader divest himself equally of prejudice, and we shall be at no loss to ascertain accurately their true character.

The Red-winged Starlings, though generally migratory in the states north of Maryland, are found during winter in immense flocks, sometimes associated with the Purple Grackles, and often by themselves, along the whole lower parts of Virginia, both Carolinas, Georgia, and Louisiana, particularly near the sea-coast, and in the vicinity of large rice and corn fields. In the months of January and February, while passing through the former of these countries, I was frequently entertained with

* Wilson here alludes to the Pileated Woodpecker, which in the original edition precedes the Red-winged Starling.

I 70
G 79
M 283