

In addition to the nomenclature above given, the bird is said to be named by the Italians in some localities Becco-Frisone, in others, Galletto del Bosco; and by the bird-catchers of Bologna, Uccello del Mondo Novo; by the Germans, Zinzerelle, Wipstertz, Schenee-Vogel and Schenee-Leschke, and by those in the neighbourhood of Nürnberg, Beemerlee and Behemle; by the Swedes, Siden-Swantz; and by the Bohemians, Brkoslaw.

That the Bohemian Chatterer was known to the ancients there can be little doubt; but a great deal of obscurity prevails as to the names by which it was distinguished. Some have taken it to be the *Incendiaria Avis* of Pliny (book x. c. 13), the inauspicious bird, on account of whose appearance Rome more than once underwent lustration, but more especially in the consulship of L. Cassius and C. Marius, when the apparition of a great owl (*Bubo*) was added to the horrors of the year. Others have supposed that it was the bird of the Hercynian forest (book x. c. 47), whose feathers shone in the night like fire. Aldrovandus, who collected the opinions on this point, has taken some pains to show that it could be neither the one nor the other. The worthy Italian gravely assures his readers that its feathers do not shine in the night; for he says he kept one alive for three months, and observed it at all hours ("quâvis noctis horâ contemplatus sum.")

It is by no means improbable that this bird was the gnaphalos of Aristotle ('Hist. Anim.,' book ix. c. 16).

The geographical range of the Bohemian Chatterer is extensive, comprehending a great portion of the arctic world. It appears generally in flocks, and a fatality was at one time believed to accompany their movements. Thus Aldrovandus observes that large flights of them appeared in February, 1530, when Charles V. was crowned at Bologna; and again in 1551, when they spread through the duchies of Modena, Piacenza, and other Italian districts, carefully avoiding that of Ferrara, which was afterwards convulsed by an earthquake. In 1552, according to Gesner, they visited the banks of the Rhine, near Mentz, in such myriads that they darkened the air. In 1571 troops of them were seen flying about the north of Italy, in the month of December, when the Ferrarese earthquake, according to Aldrovandus, took place, and the rivers overflowed their banks.

Necker, in his Memoir on the Birds of Geneva, observes that from the beginning of this century only two considerable flights have been observed in that canton, one in January, 1807, and the other in 1814, when they were very numerous, and having spent