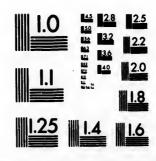


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



Photographic Sciences Corporation

23 WEST MAIN STREET WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580 (716) 872-4503 STILL STATE OF THE STATE OF THE



CIHM/ICMH Microfiche Series. CIHM/ICMH Collection de microfiches.



Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions / Institut canadian de microreproductions historiques



(C) 1984

Technical and Bibliographic Notes/Notes techniques et bibliographiques

The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may elter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming, are checked below.			qu'il de c poin une mod	L'Institut a microfilmé le meilieur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifiune image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.				détails ues du modifier ger une		
	Coloured covers/ Couverture de cou	leur					d pages/ le couleur			
	Covers damaged/ Couverture endom	magée					iamaged/ endommag	ées		
	Covers restored an Couverture restaur						estored ar estaurées			
	Cover title missing Le titre de couvert				\checkmark		liscoloured lécolorées			
	Coloured maps/ Cartes géographique	ues en coule	ur				letached/ létachées			
	Coloured ink (i.e. o Encre de couieur (i				V	Showth Transpa				
	Coloured plates an Planches et/ou illu					•	of print ve inégale de		sion	
	Bound with other I Relié avec d'autres					Inciude: Compre	s supplement of the second duman	entary ma tériel supp	nterial/ plémentai	re
	Tight binding may along interior marg Lareliure serrée pe distortion le long d	jin/ out causer de	l'ombre o			Seule é	ition availedition disp	onible	bscured b	y errata
	Blank leaves added appear within the thave been omitted il se peut que certe lors d'une restaurat meis, lorsque cela pas été filmées.	text. Whenever from filming aines pages t tion apparais	er possible g/ planches aj sent dans l	o, these outées le texte,		ensure t Les pag obscurc etc., on	ssues, etc. the best po es totalem ies par un t été filmé la meilleur	ent ou pa feuillet d es à nouv	age/ ertiellemer 'erreta, ur reau de fe	nt ne pelure
	Additional commer Commentaires sup									
	item is filmed at the ocument est filmé a 14X						26X		30X	
	14X					TT	201	TT	30X	
	12X	16X		20X		24X		28X		32X

The copy filmed here has been reproduced thanks to the generosity of:

York University Toronto Scott Library

The images appearing here are the best quality possible considering the condition and legibility of the original copy and in keeping with the filming contract specifications.

Original copies in printed paper covers are filmed beginning with the front cover and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression, or the back cover when appropriate. All other original copies are filmed beginning on the first page with a printed or illustrated impression, and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression.

The last recorded frame on each microfiche shall contain the symbol → (meaning "CONTINUED"), or the symbol ▼ (meaning "END"), whichever applies.

Maps, plates, charts, etc., may be filmed at different reduction ratios. Those too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom, as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method:

L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grâce à la générosité de:

York University Toronto Scott Library

Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la netteté de l'exemplaire filmé, et en conformité avec les conditions du contrat de filmage.

Les exempleires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminant soit par la dernière page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plat, selor le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminant par la dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

Un des symboles suivents appareîtra sur la dernière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole → signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbole ▼ signifie "FIN".

Les cartes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque le document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angle supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de haut en bas, en prenant le nombre d'Images nécessaire. Les diagrammes suivents illustrent le méthode.

1	2	3

1	
2	
3	

1	2	3
4	5	6

32Y

erreta to

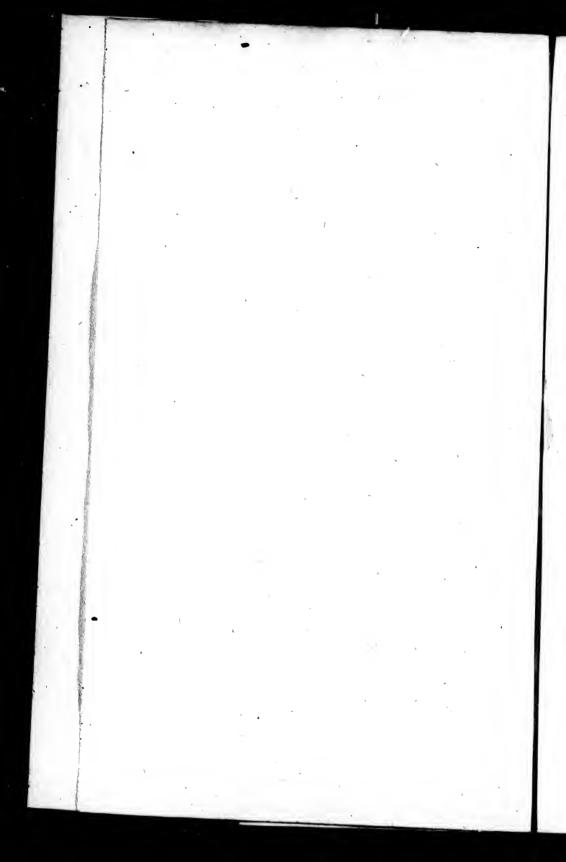
pelure,

étails

s du

odifier

r une Image



NATURAL HISTORY

O F

BIRDS.

FROM THE FRENCH OF THE

COUNT DE BUFFON.

ILLUSTRATED WITH ENGRAVINGS:

ANDA

PREFACE, NOTES, AND ADDITIONS,
BY THE TRANSLATOR.

IN NINE VOLUMES.

VOL. VII.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR A. STRAHAN, AND T. CADELL IN THE STRAND; AND J. MURRAY, N° 32; FLEET-STREET.

M DCC XCIII.

QL 673 B9 V.7 Steacie

OF THE

SEVENTH VOLUME.

			Page
THE Woodpeckers	-		I
The Green Woodpecker	*******		6
Foreign Birds of the	Ancient Cont	inent,	
which are related to the	Green Wood	necker	18
1. The Palalaca, or G		Wood-	
pecker of the Phili	pines		ib٠
2. Another Palalaca, or		Green	
Woodpecker of the			19
3. The Green Woodpe	cker of Goa		20
4. The Green Woodpe	cker of Ben	gal	21
5. The Goertan, or Gre	en Woodpe	cker of	
Senegal -	-		23
6. The Little Striped V	Voodpecker o	f Senegal	
7. The Gray-headed V	-	_	•
Cape of Good Hop	-	_	2 5
BIRDs of the New Conti	nent, which	are	
related to the Green Woo	doecker	-	26
1. The Striped Woodp		Domingo	ib.
2. The Little Olive W		_	
	Promot O		28
a	2	3.	The

T T	age
g. The Green Striped Woodpecker of Cayenn	e aRe
4. The Little Striped Woodpecker of Cayenn	29. e 30
5. The Yellow Woodpecker of Cayenne	32
6. The Ferruginous Woodpecker, Lath.	34
7. The Black breafted Woodpecker	35
8. The Rufous Woodpecker —	36
9. The Little Yellow-throated Woodpecker	37
10. The Least Woodpecker of Cayenne	38
11. The Gold winged Woodpecker —	39,
12. The Black Woodpecker —	41
BIRDS of the New Continent, which are related	
to the Black Wovapecker -	46
1. The White-billed Woodpecker	ib.
2. The Pileated Woodpecker -	48
3. The Lineated Woodpecker -	51
4. The Red-necked Woodpecker -	53
5. The Lesser Black Woodpecker	54
6. The Red-headed Woodpecker	55
7. The Greater Spotted Woodpecker	57
8. The Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	6 1
BIRDS of the Ancient Continent, which are	
related to the Spotted Woodpecker -	64
1. The Nubian Woodpecker, Lath.	ib.
2. The Great Variegated Woodpecker of	
the isle of Luçon —	65
3. The Little Brown-spotted Woodpecker	- 5
of the Moluccas	66
BIRDS of the New Continent, which are related	
to the Spotted Woodpecker -	67
1. The Spotted Woodpecker of Canada	ib.
2. The Varied Woodpecker —	68
3. The Variegated Jamaica Woodpecker	69
4. The Striped Woodpecker of Louisiana	7 I
	The

Page enne

29. nne 30

39, 41

46

64 ib.

65

66

67

ib. 68

69 71 The

		Ŧ	age
5. The Varieg	ated Woodped	cker of Encenada	72
6. 'The Hairy		******	ib.
7. The Little		Voodpecker of	
Virginia,			73
9. The Varieg	gated vv oodpe	ker of Carolina	
10. The Wood			75
	apecker Creep	cis —	77
The Wryneck	-	Militaria de la California de la Califor	79
The Barbets	-	City Services	87
The Tamatia		•	88
The Tamatia with		Throat Red	90
The Collared Tama	tia –	-	91
The Beautiful Tam	atia –	-	92
The Black and Whi	ite Tamatias		93
The Barbets	-		95
The Yellow throate	d Barbet		96
The Black-throated	Barbet	•	9 7
The Black-breasted	Barbet	-	98
The Little Barbet		- Consequent	99
The Great Barbet	 .	-	100
The Green Barbet	-	to the same	IOI
The Toucans	-	-	103
The Toco	-		112
The Yellow-throate	d Toucan	_	
The Red-bellied To	· ·		113
The Cochicat			116
The Hotchicat			118
			119
The Aracaris		-	120
The Grigri	-	-	ib
The Koulick		M-upol	122
The Black-billed A	racari		124
The Blue Aracari		_	ib.
The Barbican	-	-	126
The Cassican	-		128
* '			Th

	Page
The Calaos, or Rhinoceros Birds	130
The Tock —	134
I be Manilla Calao — — —	137
The Calao, of the Island of Panay	138
The Molucca Calao	140
The Malabar Calao	142
The Brac, or African Calao -	147
The Abysfinian Calao	148
The Philippine Calao	150
The Round-belmeted Calao -	153
The Rhinoceros Calao -	155
The King Fisher	158
Foreign King Fishers	173
Great KING FISHERS of the Old Continent	174
1. The Greatest King Fisher -	ib.
2. The Blue and Rufous King Fisher	175
3. The Crab King Fisher -	176
4. The Thick-billed King Fisher 5. The Pied King Fisher	178
5. The Pied King Fisher -	179
6. The Crested King Fisher —	182
7. The Black-capped King Fisher	183
8. The Green-headed King Fisher	184
9. The King Fisher with Straw-coloured Head and Tail -	0 .
	185
10. The White-collared King Fisher	186
The Middle-sized King Fishers of the	
Ancient Continent -	188
1. The Baboucard — —	ib.
2. The Blue and Black King Fisher of	
Senegal — —	189
3. The Gray-headed King Fisher	190
4. Yellow-fronted King Fisher	191
5. The Long-shafted King Fisher	192
	Can all

ib.

> іЬ.

U

		age
Small King Fishers of the Ancien	t	
Continent —	•	193
1. The Blue-headed King Fisher		ib.
2. The Rufous King Fisher		194
3. The Purple King Fisher		ib.
4. The White-billed King Fisher		195
5. The Bengal King Fither	-	197
6. The Three-toed King Fisher		198
7. The Vintsi -		199
The King Fishers of the New Cont.	inent.	
Great Species -	-	201
I. The Taparara —		ib.
2. The Alatli —		203
3. The Jaquacati —	-	205
4. The Matuitui —	-	207
Middle-fized King Fishers of the 1	Vew	
Continent — —	-	209
1. The Green and Rufous King F	isher	ib.
2. The Green and White King F		210
3. The Gip-Gip -		211
Small King Fishers of the New	Continent	t.
1. The Green and Orange King I		212
2. The Jacamars —	-	213
3. The Jacamar properly so called		214
4. The Long-tailed Jacamar		216
5. The Todies —	-	218
6. The North American Tody		219
7. The Tic-Tic, or South Ameri	can Tody	
8. The Orange-bellied Blue Tody		222
The Aquatic Birds	•	224
		Tb

			Page
The Stork -	-		243
The Black Stork		-	261
Foreign BIRDS which are	related to th	e Stork	265
1. The Maguari			ib.
2. The Couricaca		-	267
3. The Jabiru	-		270
4. The Nandapoa	-		275
The Crane			277
The Collared Crane	-		295
CRANES of the New Con	tinent	de bee	296
1. The White Crane	-		ib.
2. The Brown Crane		-	299
Foreign BIRDs which are	related to t	be Crane	30 i
1. The Numidian Cr	ane	-	ib.
2. The Royal Bird	_		306
3. The Cariama		,	313
4. The Secretary, or	Messenger		316
5. The Kamichi		-	323
The Common Heron	-		329
The Great White Heron			350
The Black Heron	-	- '	353
The Purple Heron			354
The Violet Heron			35 5
The White Garzette		-	ib.
The Little Egret	-		357
HERONS of the New Co	ntinent	-	361
r. The Great Egret	-	-	ib.
2. The Rufous Egre	t —		362
3. The Demi Egret		-	362
4. The Soco		-	364
•			5. The

Page 243 261

ib.

	Page
5. The Black-capped White Heron	365
6. The Brown Heron	ib.
7. The Agami Heron —	366
8. The Hocti — —	367
9. The Houhou — —	368
10. The Great American Heron	369
11. The Hudson's Bay Heron —	370
The Crab Catchers — —	37 1
Crab Catchers of the Old Continent	372
1. The Squaiotta Heron -	ib.
2. The Rufous Heron —	373
3. The Chesnut Heron —	374
4. The Sguacco Heron -	375
5. The Mahon Crab Catcher -	376
6. The Coromandel Crab Catcher	ib.
7. The White and Brown Crab Catcher	377
8. The Black Crab Catcher -	ib.
9. The Little Crab Catcher -	378
10. The Blongios — —	379
Crab Catchers of the New World	381
1. The Blue Crab Catchers -	ib.
2. The Brown-necked Blue Crab Catcher	382
3. The Iron-gray Crab Catcher	383
4. The Red-billed White Crab Catcher	384
5. The Cinereous Crab Catcher	385
6. The Purple Crab Catcher	ib.
7. The Cracra -	386
8. The Chalybeate Crab Catcher	387
9. The Green Crab Catcher -	388
10. The Spotted Green Crab Catcher	389
11. The Zilatat	390
vor. vii. b	12. The

12. The Rufous Crab Catcher with Green	Page
Head and Tail	390
13. The Gray Crab Catcher with Green	
Head and Tail — —	39 r
The Open Biil — —	392
The Bittern —	394
Birds of the Old Continent which are related	
to the Bittern —	405
to the Buttin	403
1. The Greater Bittern -	ib.
2. The Little Bittern -	406
3. The Rayed Brown Bittern -	407
4. The Rufous Bittern —	408
5. The Little Senegal Bittern -	409
6. The Spotted Bittern	410
BIRDS of the New Continent which are related	
to the Bittern	41 I
1. The Starred Bittern -	ib.
2. The Yellow Bittern of Brazil	412
3. The Little Bittern of Cayenne	413
4. The Hudson's Bay Bittern —	414
5. The Onore — —	415
6. The Rayed Onore	416
7. The Onore of the Woods —	4:7
The Bihoreau	419
The Eihoreau of Cayenne	422
The Tufted Umbre -	423
The Courlin, or Courlan -	425
The Savacou — —	425
	-
The White Spoon Bill	431
	The

Page

405_ ib.

I be

CONTE	14 1 5.	
The Woodcock —		Page
The Woodcock —		442
VARIETIES of the Woodcock		458
1. The White Woodcock	-	ib.
2. The Rusous Wcodcock		ib.
3. The Greater and Lesser	Woodcock	459
Foreign Bird which is related	l to the Woodc	ock 460
1. The Savanna Woodcoc	k	ib.
The Snipe —		463
The Jack Snipe		470
The Brunette -	Property	472
Foreign Birds which are rela	ated to the Sni	pes 473
1. The Cape Snipe	· ·	ib.
2. The Madagascar Snipe		474
3. The China Snipe		475
The Barges	-	476
The Common Barge -	_	479
The Barking Barge —		480
The Variegated Barge	<u> </u>	481
The Rufous Barge -	<i>'</i> —	482
The Great Rufous Barge	Ministra .	483
The Rufous Barge of Hudson's	Bay	484
The Brown Barge		485
The White Barge		486
The Horsemen —	*******	488
The Common Horseman		489
The Redshank —		499
The Striped Horseman		499
The Variegated Horseman	*	494
The White Horseman -		494 496
. •		7 b
		110

			Page
The Green Horsem	an		497
The Ruff and Rea	eve -	-	498
The Maubeches	-		505
The Common Man	ıbeche		ib.
The Spotted Maui	becbe -		507
The Gray Mauber	:be -		ib.
The Sanderling			508
The Green Sandpip	per -		509
The Common Sand	piper		514
The Sea Partridge	-		516
The Gray Sea Par	rtridge	-	517
The Brown Sea P			518
The Giarole		-	ib.
The Collared Sea	Partridge		519
The Sea Lark		-	521
The Cincle	-	polyme	524

497 498

Page

505

ib.

507 ib.

508

509

514 516

517

518

ib.

519

52 I

524

ΗE

NATURAL HISTORY

R

The WOODPECKERS*

Les Pics. Buff. Pici. Linnæus, &c.

HOSE animals alone, which live upon the fruits of the earth, join in fociety. Nature entertains them with a perpetual banquet, and abundance begets those gentle peaceful dispositions which are fitted for focial intercourse. Other animals are constantly engaged in the pursuit of prey;

* In Greek the Woodpecker was called Audeonohaming. Δρυσκολαπίης from δενδρον, a tree, δρυς, an oak, and κολαπίω. to hollow out by blows; also Ευλοκοπώ, from ξυλον, wood, and nowle, to cut, and in Hesychius Emelerico. Aristophanes calls it, Hedexav, from wedexus, an ax, alluding to the form and office of its bill: in modern Greek Kovekovus: ns. Pliny terms it Picus Arborarius. The Hebrew name is Anapha, and according to others, Bleschiat. In Italian Pico, or Picchio. In German Specht. In Flemish Spi bt. In Spanish Bequebo. In Polish Dzieziol. In Turkish Sægarieck.

. VOL. VII.

urged

urged by want, restrained by apprehensions of danger, they depend for subsistence on the vigour of their own exertions: they have scarce time to satisfy their immediate desires, and no leisure to cherish the benevolent affections. Such is the solitary condition of all the carnivorous birds, except a few cowardly tribes which prowl on putrid carrion, and rather combine like robbers, than unite as friends.

And of all the birds which earn their fublistence by spoil, none leads a life so laborious and so painful as the Woodpecker. Nature has condemned it to incessant toil and slavery. While others freely employ their courage or address, and either shoot on rapid wing, or lurk in close ambush; the Woodpecker is constrained to drag out an infipid existence in boring the bark and hard fibres of trees, to extract its humble prey. Necessity never suffers any intermission of its labours; never grants an interval of found repose: often during the night it sleeps in the same painful posture as in the fatigues of the day. It never shares the cheerful sports of the other inhabitants of the air: it joins not their vocal concerts, and its wild cries, and faddening tones, while they disturb the silence of the forest, express constraint and effort. Its

move-

entions
nce on
they
nediate
beney conexcept

putrid

bbers.

their ife fo ecker. t toil mploy fhoot bush: g out k and mble interts an g the osture never r invocal ening, f the Its

nove-

movements are quick; its gestures, full of inquietude; its looks, coarse and vulgar; it shuns all society, even that of its own kind; and when it is prompted by lust to seek a companion, its appetite is not softened by delicacy of feeling.

Such is the narrow and gross instinct fuited to a mean and a gloomy life. The organs with which the Woodpecker is furnished, correspond to its destination. Four thick nervous toes, two turned forwards, and two backwards*, the one refembling a four, being longest and stoutest; all of them armed with thick hooked nails, connected to a very short and extremely muscular foot, enable the bird to cling firmly, and to creep in all directions on the trunks of trees +. Its bill is edged, straight, wedgeshaped, square at the base, channelled longwise, flat, and cut vertical at its tip like a chisel; this is the instrument with which it pierces the bark, and bores into the wood, to extract the infects, or their eggs. The substance of the bill is hard and solid ||, and rifes out of the cranium, which is very Powerful muscles act upon its short neck, and direct its incessant blows, which

[·] Aldrovandus.

⁺ Aristotle. Lib. ix. 9.

Il Belon and Aristotle.

fometimes penetrate even to the pith of the wood. It darts its long tongue, which is tapered and rounded like an earth-worm, and tipt with a hard bony point; like a needle. Its tail confifts of ten stiff quills, bent inwards, truncated at the ends, beset with hard bristles; and this often serves it as a rest, while employed in a constrained, and often inverted, posture. It breeds in the cavities which it has in part formed itself; the progeny issue from the heart of the tree, and, though furnished with wings, they are almost consined to the verge of its circumference, and condemned to tread the dull round of life.

The genus of the Woodpecker contains a great number of species, which differ in size and in colours. The largest is equal in bulk to the crow; and the smallest exceeds not the titmouse. But sew individuals are included in each species; which must ever be the case where a laborious course of life checks multiplication. Yet nature has placed Woodpeckers in all countries where she has planted trees, and in greater plenty in the warm climates. There are only twelve species in Europe, and in the arctic regions; but we may reckon twenty-seven from the hot countries of America, of Africa, and of Asia. And thus, though

ith of

which

vorm.

like a

quills.

beset

ves it

ained.

ds in

rmed

art of

ings.

of its

d the

tains er in equal st exduals must ourfe ature tries eater are the ntyrica, bugh we

we have considerably abridged the number, thirty-nine species still remain; sixteen of which were hitherto unknown.—We may observe in general, that the Woodpeckers of either continent differ from other birds in the shape of the feathers of the tail, which terminate in a point more or less sharp.

The three species of Woodpeckers known in Europe are the Green, the Black, and the Variegated. These have no varieties in our climates, and would seem to have migrated from the parent families in both continents. After these European ones, we shall range the foreign Woodpeckers akin to them.

The GREEN WOODPECKER*.

Le Pic Vert. Buff.

Picus Viridis. Linn. Gmel. &c. &c.

The Wood-Spite, Rain fowl, High-hoe or Hew-hole. Will.

This is the best known, and the most common of the Woodpeckers. It arrives in the spring, and makes the forests resound with the shrill harsh cries tiacacan, tiacacan, which are heard at a great distance. These sounds are uttered chiesly when it bounds in the air, sinking, and again rising by starts, and describing its waved tracks; but though it mounts only to a small height, it can sly from wood to wood. In the pairing season, it has, besides its ordinary cry, a call of courtship, which resembles in some measure a loud continued burst of laughter tio tio, tio, tio, tio, repeated thirty or forty times in succession †.

* Aristotle terms it Kolio. Among the Romans it received the appellation Picus Martius, being configned to the God of War. In Italian it bears the names Piccio, and Pico Verde. In German, Grun-Specht. In Swedish, Wedknarr, Groen-joeling and Groen-Spick. In Danish and Norwegian, Gron-Spæt and Gnul-Spæt. In Lapponic, Zhiane.

† Aldrovandus says, that it is silent in summer; probably it resumes its cry in autumn, for in that season we have heard it make the woods to resound.



THE GREEN WOODPECKER.

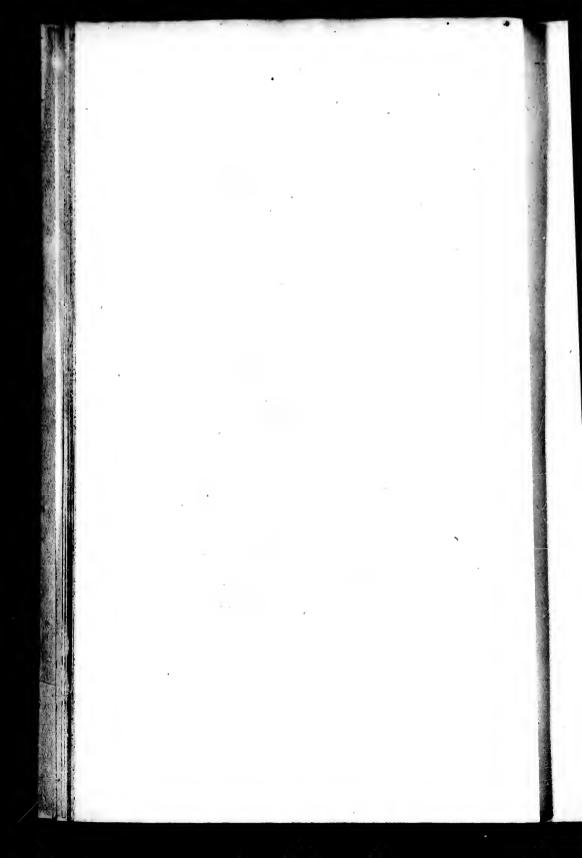
R*.

Will.

most arorests acan,
ance.
en it rising acks;
ight,
paircry,
es in
st of
hirty

it reto the
to, and
Wedd Norbiane.
; proson we

The



The Green-Woodpecker is seen oftener on the ground || than the other Woodpeckers, particularly near ant-hills, where we may be sure to find it, and even to catch it by means of a noose. It inserts its long tongue into the narrow hole, through which the ants commonly issue, and as soon as it feels the tip covered with these insects, it withdraws, and swallows them. But when these little republicans are inactive and still, or torpid with cold, the bird assaults their citadel, and, employing both feet and bill, soon makes a breach, and at ease devours them, and their chrysalids.

At other times it creeps against the trees, which it strikes with incessant blows; and, labouring with the most strenuous activity, it often strips them of all their bark. The strokes of its bill are audible at a distance, and may be distinctly counted. In other respects it is indolent, and will suffer a person to approach near it, and will endeavour only to conceal itself from the sportsman, by warping round the branch, and clinging on the opposite side. It has been said, that, after a few knocks, it removes to another part of the tree to observe if it has pierced it; but its view is rather to

gather on the bark the insects which it has roused and put in motion: and, what is more certain, it judges from the sound of the blow in what cranies the worms are lodged, or where there is a proper cavity for its own accommodation.

It usually forms its nest in the heart of some worm-eaten tree, at the height of fifteen or twenty feet above the ground, and oftenest in the softer kinds of wood, the aspin, or the willow, rather than the oak. Both male and female, by turns, labour incessantly in boring the fresh part of the timber, until they penetrate to the rotten center. Then they fashion and enlarge the cavity, and throw out with their feet the chips and wood dust: sometimes they make the hole so deep and crooked, that the light. cannot enter, and they rear their young in the dark. They commonly lay five eggs, which are greenish, with small black spots. The infant brood begin to creep before they are able to fly. The parents feldom leave them; they rooft very early, and repose in their holes till day.

Some naturalists have thought the Green-Woodpecker was the rain-bird of the ancients, pluvia avis, because it is generally believed to foretell rain by an unusual cry, which is drawling and plaintive, pheu, pheu, pheu,

it has

hat is

nd of

s are

cavity

art of

f fif-

and

, the

oak.

bour

f the

e the

the

nake

ight.

g in

ggs,

ots.

fore lom

re-

en-

an-

ally

ry,

çu,

cu,

otten -

pheu, and may be heard at a very confiderable distance. Hence the English call it rain-fowl, and some provinces of France, fuch as Burgundy, it is vulgarly termed the miller's procurer (procureur du meunier). These observers allege, that as this bird shews a forefight of the state of the atmosphere, superstition would naturally ascribe to it a more profound and wonderful sagacity. The Woodpecker held a principal rank among the auspices *; its history or fable was interwoven with the mythology of the ancient heroes of Latium +; its gestures were regarded as significant, and its appearance foreboded impending fate. Pliny relates a curious incident, which exhibits in the ancient Romans two qualities that might be deemed incompatible, fuperstitious observance, and elevation of sentiment 1.

The

Pici Martii . . . in auspicatu magni . . . principalis Latio sunt in auguriis. Plin. Lib. x. 18.

‡ A woodpecker alighted on the head of the prætor Ælius Tubero, while he was fitting on his tribunal in the forum, and fuffered

[†] Picus, son of Saturn, and father of Faunus, was grandfather of king Latinus. For despising the love of Circe,
he was changed into a Green Woodpecker: he became one
of the rural gods, under the name of Picumnus. While the
she-wolf suckled Romulus and Remus, this facred Woodpecker was seen to alight on their cradle. See farther,
Gesner, p. 678.

The species of the Green Woodpecker is found in both continents; and, though it contains few individuals, they are widely spread. The Green Woodpecker of Louisiana is the same with that of Europe ||; and that of the Antilles is only a variety &. Gmelin mentions his having feen, among the Tunguse Tartars, a cinereous Green Woodpecker, which must be akin to the European *. Nor shall we hesitate to range with it the gray-beaded Woodpecker from Norway, described by Edwards, and which

fuffered itself to be taken by the hand. The augurs being confulted on this prodigy, declared, that the empire was threatened with destruction, if the bird was liberated, and the prætor with death, if it was kept. Instantly Tubero tore it with his hands; shortly after, Pliny adds, the response was fulfilled. Lib. x. 18.

Il Dupratz.

§ There is a bird called carpenter in St. Domingo, no doubt, because it shapes and hollows trees; if it be not the Green Woodpecker of Europe, it is a bird of the same species: it has its colours, its form, its note, and its habits. It does much injury to the palm trees, which it bores in many places, and often quite through, which makes them frail and perishable. It is also very fond of the cocoa nut. We are obliged to hunt it when that fruit comes to maturity. Note of the Chevalier Lefebure Deshayes.

" The Tunguses of Nijaia-tunguoka ascribe virtues to the cinereous Green Woodpecker; they roast this bird, pound it, mix it with any fort of fat, except that of bears, because this quickly grows rancid, and with this compound befmear the arrows which they use in the chace: an animal struck with one of these arrows, instantly falls. Voyage en Siberie,

par Gmelin, tom. II. p. 113.

Klein and Brisson consider as a distinct species. In fact, the only difference between it and our Green Woodpecker, is, that its plumage is paler, and its head not marked with bright red, though there is a tint of that colour on the front. Edwards very justly attributes the alteration of its hues to the influence of climate. Brisson makes the yellow Woodpecker of Persia another * species, though in all probability it is nothing but a Green Woodpecker. Its size and almost its colours, are the same; and A'drovandus formed his description from a sigure exhibited at Venice; and such slender authority merits no attention.

Belon conceived the black Woodpecker to be a species of the Green Woodpecker; and this error has been adopted by Ray, who reckons two kinds of Green Woodpeckers. These oversights are occasioned by the misapplication of terms: such has also been the case with the appellation picus martius, which is often bestowed on the Woodpeckers

Picus Persicus. Gmel.

Picus Luteus Perficus. Briff.

Picus Luteus Cyanopus Perficus. Aldrow.

Picchio Giallo (yellow). Zinn.

Specific character: it is yellow; its upper furface, the tips of the quills of its wings, and the spaces about its eyes are ferruginous.

aufe near uck erie,

ker is

ugh it

videly

ouisi-

; and

ty S.

mong

Green

the

ange

from

hich

g con-

eatenprætor

t with

is ful-

o, no

ot the

fame abits.

es in

them

nut.

es to

und

ein

in general, though originally it belonged exclusively to the Green Woodpecker.

Gesner has asserted, and Aldrovandus has endeavoured to prove, that the Colios of Aristotle was the Green Woodpecker: but almost all other naturalists have maintained that it was the Oriole. It may therefore be proper to discuss these opinions, both with a view to complete the history of these birds, and to elucidate two dissicult passages in Aristotle.

In Theodore Gaza's edition of Aristotle, the word Kirks, which he translates Galgulus, or Oriole, occurs twice in the same chapter. It is first represented as hostile to the Aiscree, and then as associating with that bird, and haunting the sides of rivers and bushes *: that sort of life is not ascribed to the former, which to avoid consustion ought to be read Korios. And what Aristotle mentions in another passage †, when he treats more sully of the Korios ‡; that they are nearly as large as the turtle, that their voice is strong, &c. agrees perfectly with the character of the Green Woodpecker: but it has besides a

[•] Παςα τοδαμον κ) λοχμας; λοχμη denotes a thicket proper for an ambuscade.

[†] Lib. viii. 3.

[†] Observe, that he comprehends under the article birds that live upon insects and gnats.

elonged
r.
dus has
blios of
r: but
ntained
fore be
h with
these
affages

R.

istotle, lgulus, lapter.

AGUOS, land les *:

forto be tions more
ly as rong,

proper

fthe

es a

birds

erty

property peculiar to itself, that it eagerly bores the trees, and procures its subsistence from the rotten parts. The epithet xxwees too, which Aristotle bestows, signifies green, not yellow, as Gaza renders it; and when we consider that the antient philosopher ranges the Kolios after two Woodpeckers and before the creeper, we cannot for a moment doubt, but that he means by it the Green Woodpecker.

Albertus and Scaliger were affured that the Green Woodpecker could learn to speak, and that it sometimes pronounces words distinctly: Willughby justly dishelieves it. The structure of its tongue, which is long and worm shaped, appears entirely unsit to articulate sounds; and its wild intractable nature cannot submit to education: for how could a bird be trained in the domestic state, which lives only upon the insects that lurk under the bark of trees*?

According

^{*} The Viscount de Querhoent afteres us, however, that he kept them at least for some time; but he confirms us in the idea of their untractable disposition. I have seen, says he, young Green Woodpeckers which I was rearing, and which were still in the nest, sight with each other obstinately. When I opened trees where was a brood, the parents constantly forsook them, and less them to perish of hunger. The woodpeckers are vicious and quarressome; birds weaker than them are ever their victims; they break the scull with their bill, without afterwards preying on it. I had one in

14 GREEN WOODPECKER.

According to Frisch, the males alone have red on the head; and Klein makes the same affertion. Salerne says, that they were mistaken, and that the young ones have all the upper side of the head red; even in the nest. According to the observation of Linnæus, this red varies, and appears mixed sometimes with black spots, and sometimes with grey ones, and, in a few instances, without any spots at all. Some individuals, which are probably old males, assume a red tint on the two black mustachoes which arise from the corners of the bill, and their colours are in general more vivid.

Frisch relates, that in Germany during winter, the Green Woodpeckers plunder bee-hives. We doubt this fact, especially as in France sew or none of these birds remain through the inclement season, and it is unlikely that the colder climate of Germany should prove more inviting.

When we diffect them, we commonly find the crop filled with ants. They have no cæcum, which is wanting equally in all birds of this kind; but instead of it there

a room with partridges, and it killed them all one after another. When I entered, it climbed up my legs. It walked out into the fields, and returned to eat in its room. They are very familiar, but feel no attachment.

lone

akes

they

ones

red; fer-

and

ots.

n a

all.

old

ack

of

eral

ur-

un-

pe-

efe

on,

of

nly

ave

all

ere

fter

mé

is

is a dilatation of the intestine. The gall-bladder is large; the alimentary canal two feet long; the right testicle round, the lest one oblong and arched, which is the natural structure, since it was verified on a great number of subjects *.

But the mechanism of the tongue has been a subject of admiration among all naturalists. Borelli and Aldrovandus have described the form and functions of that organ: Olaus Jacobæus, in the Acts of Copenhagen, and Mery, in the Memoires of the Academy of Sciences at Paris, have delineated its curious anatomy. The tongue of the Green Woodpecker is, accurately fpeaking, only the bony tip, and what is usually taken for the tongue is the os byöides invested with a membranous coat, and extending backwards into two long branches, at first oseous, and afterwards cartilaginous: these, after encircling the windpipe. reflect towards the head, and running close in a furrow along the skull, they are inferted on the forehead at the root of the bill. They are elastic cords, furnished with an apparatus of muscles, both extensors and retractors, which ferve to move and direct this fort of tongue. The whole is sheathed

[·] Willughby.

by the prolongation of the skin, which lines the lower mandible, and which extends when the os byöides is protruded, and collapses; in annular wrinkles, as that bone is retracted. The bony tip, which is the real tongue, is connected to the extremity, and covered with a scaly horn, beset with small hooks bent back : and that it may be capable both to hold and to pierce its prey, it is naturally moistened with a viscous fluid, that distills from two excretory ducts which rife from a double gland.—After this structure the tongue of all the Woodpeckers is fashioned; indeed we might conclude from analogy, that it also obtains in such birds in general, as protrude their tongue by extending it.

head, and can bristle the red feathers that cover its crown, which induced Pliny to term it tusted*. It is sometimes caught by the decoy, but very rarely: it answers not the call so much as the noise made by striking the tree where it lodges, and which resembles that usually occasioned by its own boring. Sometimes it is seized by the neck in springs, as it creeps along the stake. But it is very coarse food, and always ex-

^{*} Cirrhos pico martio.

dus fays, that these birds are eaten in winter at Bologna, and are then pretty fat: this acquaints us, at least, that they remain during that season in Italy, while they disappear in France [A].

[A] Specific character of the Picus Viridis: it is green, its head crimfon.

VOL. VII.

C

.

ake. ex-

which

xtends

d col+

one is

e real

, and

fmall pable

fluid,
which
frucers is
from
birds
e by

large that y to t by not by nich own leck

gly

FOREIGN BIRDS

OF THE

Ancient Continent, which are related to the GREEN WOODPECKER.

The PALALACA,

OR

GREAT GREEN WOODPECKER of the Philippines.

First Species.

Picus Philipparum. Lath.

AMEL, in his account of the birds that inhabit the Philippines, and Gemelli Carreri, agree, that in those islands there is a species of Green Woodpecker as large as an ordinary hen; meaning probably with regard to length, and not to bulk. It is called Palalaca by the islanders, but Herrero, or the Forger, by Spaniards, on account of the loud noise which it makes in striking against the trees, and which may be heard, fays Camel, at the distance of three hundred paces. Its voice is coarse and raucous; its head red and tufted; its plumage of a green ground. Its bill is extremely firm and folid, and enables it to excavate its nest in the hardest trees.

DS

d to the

CKER

ds that Gemelli ds there as large ably with the confidence on action makes d which distance is coarse sted; its bill is besit to

Another PALALACA,

OR THE

SPOTTED GREEN WOODPECKER of the Philippines.

Second Species.

Picus Manillenfis. Gmel.

The Manilla Green Woodpecker. Lath.

This differs entirely from the former in its fize and colours. Sonnerat calls it the Speckled Woodpecker (Pic Grivelé). It is of an intermediate bulk between the variegated and Green Woodpeckers, though nearer that of the latter: on each feather in the whole of the foreside of the body, there is a spot of dusky white, framed in blackish brown, which forms a rich enamel; the mantle of the wings is rusous, tinged with aurora-yellow, which, on the back, assumes a more brilliant hue, verging on red; the rump is carmine; its tail rusty gray; and its head bears a tust, waved with yellowish rusous on a brown ground.

The GREEN WOODPECKER of Goa.

Third Species.

Picus Goenfis. Gmel.

I T is smaller than the European. The red feathers on its head are gathered into a tuft, and its temples are bordered by a white stripe, which widens on the arch of the neck; a black zone descends from the eye, and tracing a zigzag, falls upon the wing, whose small coverts are equally black; a fine gold spot covers the rest of the wing, and terminates in greenish yellow on the small quills; the great ones are as it were indented with spots of greenish white, on a black ground; the tail is black; the belly, the breast, and the foreside of the neck, as far as under the bill, are mailed lightly with white and black. This bird is one of the most beautiful of the Woodpeckers; it bears a striking resemblance to the following, which, joined to the circumstance, that they inhabit contiguously, would induce us to conclude that they are the fame, or at least two kindred species.

KER

n. The

gathered dered by

he arch

ds from

ls upon

equally

rest of

ish yel-

ones are greenish

s black;

of the mailed

s bird is

Wood-

lance to

circum-

y, would are the

s.

The GREEN WOODPECKER of Bengal.

Fourth Species.

Picus Bengalenfis. Linn. Gmel. Klein and Gerini. The Bengal Creeper. Albin. The Spotted Indian Woodpecker. Edw.

IT is of the same size with the preceding. and fimilar to it. The gold colour is more spread on the wings, and covers the back also; a white line, rising from the eye, descends on the side of the neck like the black zigzag of the Goa Woodpecker; the tuft, though more displayed, appears only on the back of the head *, whose crown and forefide are clothed with small black feathers, beautifully spotted with white drops; the plumage under the bill, and on the throat, is the same in both birds; the breast and stomach are white, crossed and mailed with blackish and brown, but less fo in this than the preceding. These minute differences would not perhaps be sufficient to distinguish the two species; but

^{*} A character more remarkable than that of black zape, by which Linnaus defines the species.

longer than that of Bengal [A].

With the Bengal Woodpecker, I shall range not only the Green Bengal Woodpecker of Brisson +, but also his Cape-of Good-Hope Woodpecker 1, which indeed bears a closer resemblance. The reason perhaps is, that the one from the Cape-of Good-Hope was described from nature, while the other was taken from Edward's figure, which is only somewhat larger than our Green Bengal Woodpecker. Albin, who describes the same bird, represents it as still larger, and as equal in bulk to the European. But notwithstanding these differences in the colours and fize, it is eafy to fee the same bird through the three descriptions.

[A] Specific character of the Picus Bengalenfis: it is green, its crest red, its nape black; below and before it is white spotted with black.

+ Picus Viridis Bengalenfis. Briff.

Thus described: " it is crested; above yellowish green, below white; the margins of its feathers, brown; its crest. red; the fore part of its head, and the lower part of its neck, variegated with white and black; the upper part of its neck, black; a bright white bar extending from the eyes along the sides of the neck; its tail-quills blackish, "Thaded with dull green."

1 Picus Capitis Bonæ Spei. Briff.

Thus described: " it is orange above, shining with a golden hue; below dirty white; the margins of its feathers, brown; the upper and back part of its head, red; the upper part of its neck and its rump, blackish; a bright white bar extended from the nostrils below the eyes, and along the fides of the neck; its tail-quills, blackish."

The GOERTAN,

D X

Green Woodpecker of Senegal,

Fifth Species.

Picus-Goertan. Gmel.

The Crimfon-rumped Woodpecker.

This Woodpecker, which is termed Göertan at Senegal, is not follarge as the Green Woodpecker, and scarcely equal to the variegated one. The upper surface of the body is brown-gray, tinged with dull greenish, spotted on the wings with waves of faint white, and interrupted on the head and rump by two marks of sine red; all the under surface of the body is gray stained with yellowish. This species and the two following were unknown to naturalists.

third

shall oodpe-of

ideed afon

ture, ard's

than who fill

uronces the

green, white

creft, of its art of n the ckish,

feared; right and

The Little Striped WOODPECKER of Senegal.

Sixth Species.

Picus Senegalenfis. Gmel. The Gold-backed Woodpecker. Lath.

This Woodpecker is not larger than a fparrow; the upper fide of its head is red; a brown half-mask passes over the front, and behind the eye; the plumage, which is waved on the fore part of the body, exhibits small sessions, alternately brown, gray, and dull white; the back is of a fine gold sulvous, which also tinges the great quills of the wing, whose coverts, as well as those of the rump, are greenish. Though much inferior in size to the European Woodpeckers, we shall find that this African species is by no means the smallest of this extensive genus.

The Gray-headed WOODPECKER of the Cape of Good Hope.

Seventh Species.

Picus Aurantius. Linn. and Gmel, Picus Capitis Bonæ Spei. Briss. The Orange Woodpecker. Lath.

in a

the

age,

the

tely

k is

ges

erts.

ish.

10-

his

lest

ALMOST all the Woodpeckers have a mottled plumage, but in the present no colours are set in contrast. A dull olive brown covers the back, the neck and the breast; the rest of the plumage is deep gray, which is only somewhat lighter on the head; there is a red tinge at the origin of the tail.—This Woodpecker is not so large as a lark. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Picus Aurantius: above it is orange; its nape, its rump, and the quills of its tail are black.

BIRDS of the New Continent,

Which are related to the

GREEN WOODPECKER.

The Striped WOODPECKER of St. Domingo.

First Species.

Picus Striatus. Gmel.
Picus Dominicensis Striatus. Briff.
The Rayed Woodpecker. Lath.

BRISSON describes this bird in two different places; first under the name of the Striated Woodpecker of St. Domingo, and again under that of the Little Striated Woodpecker of St. Domingo, which he asserts to be smaller than the former, though the measures which he assigns in detail are the same; and with the salvo, that the second may be the semale of the sirst, he regards them as two distinct species. But a single inspection of the sigures will suffice to shew, that the differences result solely from age

or fex. In the first, the crown of the head is black; the throat gray; the olive tinge of the body lighter, and the black stripes on the back are not so broad, as in the second, which has the whole of the crown of the head red, and the fore part of the body pretty dull, with the throat white; but, in other respects, their shape and plumage are perfectly similar. This bird is nearly as large as the variegated Woodpecker; all its upper garb is cut transversely with black and olive bars; the green tinge appears on the gray of the belly, and more vividly on the rump, whose extremity is red; the tail is black.

The Little Olive WOODPECKER of St. Domingo.

Second Species.

Picus Passerinus. Linn. and Gmel. Picus Dominicensis Minor. Briss. The Passerine Woodpecker. Lath.

THIS species is six inches long, and nearly of the fize with the lark; the crown of the head red, and its fides rusty gray; all the upper surface is yellowish olive, and all the under surface striped across with whitish and brown; the quills of the wing are olive, like the back, on the outfide, and on the infide brown, and fringed on the edge with whitish spots, deeply engrained; a character in which it resembles also the Green Woodpecker: the feathers of the tail are gray mixed with brown. Notwithstanding its diminutive size, this Woodpecker is one of the stoutest; and it pierces the hardest trees. It is alluded to in the following extract from the History of the Buccaneers: " The carpenter is a bird not larger than a lark; its bill is about an inch

inch long, and so strong, that in the space of one day it will bore into the heart of a palm-tree: and we may observe, that this wood is so hard, as to spoil the edge of our best cutting tools [A]."

[A] Specific character of the Picus Pafferinus: it is yellowish-olive, striped below with brown and bright whitish.

The Great Striped WOODPECKER of Cayenne.

Third Species.

Picus Melanochloros. Gmel. The Gold-crested Woodpecker. Lath.

We make no doubt but that this is the fame with the American cressed varie-gated Woodpecker*, described incompletely by Brisson, from a passage of Gesner. The crest is of a gold fulvous, or rather aurorared; there is a purple spot at the corner of the bill; the feathers are sulvous and black, with which the whole body is alternately

· Picus varius Americanus Cristatus. Briff.

Thus described: "it is crested, variegated with sulvous and black; its crest gold-fulvous, its cheeks reddish; a purple spot between its bill and its eyes; its tail-quills black."

variegated:

ER

and ark; fides low-

the ged enbles

uills

this d it

wn.

of oird

an

ich

35 LITTLE STRIPED WOODPECKER.

variegated: and these characters are sufficient to discriminate it. It is of the same size with the Green Woodpecker; its plumage is richly mailed with yellowish sulvous and sine black, which intermingle in waves, in spots, and in sestions; a white space in which the eye is placed, and a black tust on the front, give a marked aspect to this bird, and which is still heightened by the red crest and purple mustachio [A].

[A] Specific character of the Hirundo Melanochloros: this is variegated with black and bright yellow, its creft golden, its tail black.

The Little Striped WOODPECKER of Cayenne.

Fourth Species.

Picus Cayonenfis. Gmel.
The Cayenne Woodpecker. Lath.

Or the Striped Woodpeckers, which Briffon ranges after the variegated Woodpecker, feveral belong undoubtedly to the Green Woodpecker. This is particularly true of the Striped Woodpeckers of St. Domingo, and that of Cayenne, which we are now to describe. In fact, these three have a yel-

flle a yellowish green cast, analogous to the colour of the Green Woodpecker, and the undulated rays that spread on the plumage seem to be enlarged from the model of those which mark the wing of the European bird.

The Little Striped Woodpecker of Cayenne is seven inches and five lines in length. It resembles much the Striped Woodpecker of St. Domingo in its colours, but is smaller; black waved bars extend on the olive gray brown of its plumage; gray, fringed with black, covers the two exterior quills of the tail on each side, the six others are black; the back of the head is red; the front and throat are black, only this black is intersected by a white spot lying under and extending back.

The Yellow WOODPECKER of Cayenne.

Fifth Species.

Picus Exc Vidus. Gmel. Picus Cayanenfis Albus. Briff: Picus Flavicans. Lath.

Those birds, which are enamoured of the folitude of the desert, have multiplied in the vast forests of the new world, and the more so, as there man has yet encroached little on the antient domains of nature. We have received ten species of Woodpeckers from Guiana, and the Yellow Woodpeckers seem peculiar to that country. Most of these are scarcely known to naturalists, and Barrere has only noticed a few. The sirst species is described by Brisson under the name of White Woodpecker *: its plumage is of a soft yellow; the tail black; the great quills of the wing brown, and the middle ones rusous; the coverts of the

[·] Picus Cayanensis Albus. Briss.

Thus described: "it is dirty-white; a red longitudinal bar on either side upon the lower jaw; its tail-quills black-ish."

red of
mulworld,
as yet
ins of
ies of
cellow
untry.
natua few.
criffon
its
clack;
, and

CER

itudinal black-

of the

wings

wings are brown gray, fringed with yellowish white. It has a crest which reaches to its neck, and which, as well as the whole of the nead, being pale yellow, is strongly contrasted with its red mustachoes; its appearance is thus remarkable, and the foft uncommon colour of its plumage distinguishes it from the rest of its genus. The creoles of Cayenne call it the Yellow Carpenter. It is fmailer than the Green Woodpecker, and much more slender; its length nine inches. It forms its nest in large trees, rotten at the core; after it has bored horizontally to the decayed part, it descends, and continues the excavation to the depth of a foot and a half. The female lays three eggs, which are white, and almost round; and the young are hatched in the beginning of April. The male shares the female's folicitude, and, during her absence. he plants himself in the entrance. His cry is a whistle composed of fix notes, the first of which are monotonous, and the two or three last flatter. The female has not the bright red bar which appears in the male on each fide of the head.

There is some variety in this species, certain individuals having all the small coverts of the wings of a fine yellow, and you, yii.

the great ones edged with that colour; in others, such as that probably which Brisson described, the whole plumage is discoloured and bleached, so as to appear only a dirty white or yellowish.

The FERRUGINOUS WOOD-PECKER, Lath.

Le Pic Mordoré. Buff.

Sixth Species.

Picus Cinnamomeus. Gmel.

FINE bright red, which is brilliant and golden, forms the fuperb attire of this bird. It is almost as large as the Green Woodpecker, but not fo ftout. A long vellow crest in pendulous filaments covers the head, and falls backwards; from the corners of the bill, rise two mustachoes of a fine light red, traced nicely between the eve and the throat; fome white and citron spots embellish and variegate the rufous ground of the middle of the upper furface; the rump is yellow, and the tail black. The female, both of this species, and of the Yellow Woodpecker which comes from the fame country, has no red on the cheeks.

Briffon loured dirty

ır; ini

D-

illiant
ire of
Green
long
covers
the
es of
the
itron
ufous
face;
olack.
d of
from
the

The BLACK-BREASTED WOOD-PECKER.

Le Pic a Cravate Noire. Buff.

Seventh Species.

Picus Multicolor. Gmel.

THIS is also one of the Yellow Carpenters of Cayenne. It has a fine black horse-shoe, which meets the neck behind, covers all the forepart like a cravat, and falls on the breast; the rest of the underfide of the body is rufty fulvous, and also the throat and the whole head, whose crest extends to the neck; the back is of a bright rafous; the wing is of the same colour, but the quills crossed with a few black streaks pretty much asunder, and fome of these extend to the tail, which has a black tip. This Cayenne bird is as large as the Yellow Woodpecker, or even the Ferruginous Woodpecker: all the three are alike slender, and similarly crested. The natives of Guiana give them the common name of toucoumari. It appears that the Black-breasted Woodpeckers lead a life as laborious as the others, and that they inhabit St. Domingo also; for Father Charlevoix D 2

Charlevoix affures us, that the wood employed for building in that island is often found bored so much by these wild carpenters, as to be unsit for use *.

The RUFOUS WOODPECKER.

Eighth Species. Pieus Rufus. Gmel.

THE plumage of this little Woodpecker has a fingular property, viz. the under side of its body is of a deeper hue than the upper, contrary to what is observed in all other birds. The ground colour is rufous, of various intensity; deep on the wings; more dilute on the rump and back, more charged on the breast and belly, and mingled, on all the body, with black waves, which are very crowded, and which have the effect of the most beautiful enamel: the head is rufous, embellished and crossed by small black waves. This Woodpecker, which is found in Cayenne, is scarcely larger than the Wryneck, but it is rather thicker: its plumage, though it confifts of

[•] Histoire de l'îsse de Saint Dominique, par le P. Charlevoix. Paris, 1730, t. 1. p. 29.

TELLOW-THROATED WOODPECKER. 37 only two dull tints, is one of the most beautiful and most agreeably variegated [A].

m

en n-

ker

in-

in

is

the

ck.

ind

es,

ave

el :

Ted

er,

ely

her of

har

nly

[A] Specific character of the Picus Rufus: " It is rufous, waved with black,"

The LITTLE YELLOW-THROATED WOODPECKER.

Ninth Species,

Picus Chlorocephalus. Gmel. Picus Isterocephalus. Lath.

This Woodpecker is not larger than the Wryneck. The ground colour of is plumage is brown tinged with olive, and having white spots or scales on the forepart of the body, and under the neck, which is spread with a fine yellow that stretches under the eye, and on the top of the neck; a red hood covers the crown of the head, and a mustachoe of that colour diluted rises from the corners of the bill. This Woodpecker is, as well as the preceding, found in Cayenne [A].

[A] Specific character of the Picus Chlorocephalus: " it is olive, below spotted with white; its neck and its half grested head bright yellow; its top red."

The LEAST WOODPECKER of Cayenne.

Tenth Species.

Yunx Minutissimus. Gmel.

Picus Cayanensis Minor. Briss.

Picus Minutus. Lath. Ind.

The Minute Woodpecker. Lath. Syn.

THIS bird, as fmall as the gold crested wren, is the dwarf of the large family of Woodpeckers. It is not a creeper, and its straight square bill shews it to be a real Woodpecker. Its neck and breast are waved distinctly with black and white zones; its back is brown, spotted with white drops, and shaded with black; the same spots, only closer and finer marked, appear on the beautiful black that covers the arch of the neck; and lastly, a little gold head makes it look as handsome, as it is delicate. This little bird, at least if we judge from the stuffed specimen, must be more sprightly and agile than any of the other Woodpeckers; and nature would feem to have thus compensated for its smallness. It is often found in company with the creepers, and like like them it clambers on the trunks of trees, and hangs by the branches [A].

[A] Gmelin makes this bird a fecond species of wryneck under the name of Yunx Minutissimus: its specific character:

46 Above, it is black cinerous, below dirty white.".

The GOLD-WINGED WOODPECKER.

Eleventh Species.

Picus Auratus. Linn. Gmel and Borowsk. Picus Canadensis Striatus. Briss. Cuculus alis deauratis. Klein.

HOUGH I place this beautiful bird in the close of the family of the Green Woodpecker, I must remark, that it seems to emerge from even the genus of the Woodpeckers, both by its habits and some of its features. Catesby, who observed it in Carolina, tells us, that it is oftenest on the ground, and does not creep upon the ranks of trees, but perches on their branches like other birds. Yet its toes are disposed two before, and two behind, like the Woodpeckers; and, like them too, the feathers of its tail are stiff and hard; and, what is peculiar to itself, the side of each is terminated by two fmall filaments. Its bill

K

ed ily nd

ed its ps, ts,

on of

te. m ly

kus

en id

ke

40 GOLD-WINGED WOODPECKER.

bill is, however, diffimilar to that of the Woodpeckers; it is not fquared, but rounded, and somewhat curved, pointed, and not formed into an edge. If this bird refembles then the Woodpeckers in the structure of its feet and tail, it differs in the shape of the bill, and in its habitudes, which necesfarily result from the conformation of that principal organ in birds. It feems to form an intermediate species between the Woodpeckers and the Cuckoos, with which some naturalists have ranged it; and it furnishes another example of those shades by which nature connects her various productions. It is about the fize of the Green Woodpecker, and is remarkable for its beautiful form, and the elegant disposition of its rich colours; black spots, like crescents and hearts, are scattered on the stomach and belly on a white ground of a dingy cast; the forepart of the neck is vinous cinereous or lilack, and, on the middle of the breaft, there is a broad black zone, shaped like a crescent; the rump is white; the tail black above, and lined below with a fine yellow resembling dead leaves; the upper side of the head, and the top of the neck, are of a lead gray, and the back of the head is marked with a fine scarlet spot; from the corners of the bill two large black mustachoes

the of of cef-hat

orm odome Thes

ons.
oodiful
rich
and and aft;

ous

east, ke a lack llow le of of a d is the usta-

N.º 163



THE GREAT BLACK WOODPECKER.

choes take their origin, and descend on the sides of the neck, and they are wanting in the semale; the back is of a brown ground, with black streaks; the great quills of the wing are of the same cast; but what decorates it, and suffices alone to discriminate the bird, the shafts of all these quills are of a gold colour. It is sound in Canada and Virginia, as well as in Carolina [A].

[A] Specific character of the Picus Auratus: "It is streaked transversely with gray and black, its throat and breast are black, its nape red, its rump white."

The BLACK WOODPECKER.*

Picus Martius. Linn. and Gmel.

Picus Niger. Briss. Klein and Fris.

Picus Maximus. Ray and Will.

The Great Black Woodpecker. Alb. and Lath.

Turs second species of European Woodpecker appears to be confined to some particular countries, and especially to Germany. However, the Greeks, as well as

In Italian Picchio, Sgiaia: In German, Holtz Krähe, or Woodcrow, and Krähe Specht, Groß Specht, Schwartz-Specht, or the crow, the large, the black spight or woodpecker: In Swedish, Spill-Kraoka: In Norwegian, Sort Spat, Trapikke, Lie Hast: In Polish, Dzieciol Naywiekszy.

we, were acquainted with three species of Woodpeckers, and Aristotle mentions them all +: The first, says he, is smaller than the Blackbird, and is our variegated Woodpecker; the fecond is larger than the Blackbird, and is the Kolio, or our Green Woodpecker ‡; and the third, he reprefents as equal in fize to a hen, which must be understood of its length, and not of its thickness; and it is therefore our Black Woodpecker, the largest of all the Woodpeckers of the antient continent. It is fixteen inches long, from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail; the bill meafures two inches and a half, and is of a horn colour; a bright red hood covers the crown of the head; the plumage of the whole body is deep black. The German names Krähe specht and Holtz-krahe, crow fpight and woodcrow, mark both its colour and its fize.

It is found in the tall forests on the mountains of Germany, in Switzerland, and in the Vosges: it is unknown in most of the provinces of France ||, and feldom descends into the low country. Willughby

⁺ Hift. Anim. Lib. ix. q.

¹ Id. Lib. viii. 3.

Il " The Black Woodpecker is not found in Normandy, nor in the vicinity of Paris, nor in the Orleanois. Salerne.

es of

them

than ood-

the

reen

epre-

must

f its

3lack

ood-

It is

the

mea-

of a

the

the

man

row

lour

the

and

t of

de-

hby

andy

rne-

ires

assures us, that it never occurs in England; and indeed that country is too open for a bird of such a nature, and for the same reason, it has deserted Holland*: And this is evidently not on account of the cold of those regions, since it inhabits the forests of Sweden +. But it is difficult to imagine why it is not found in Italy, as Aldrovardus asserts.

n in the fance country, these birds prefer particular districts that are solitary and wild; Frisch mentions a forest in Franconia ‡, noted for the multitude of Black Woodpeckers which it contains. In general, the species is not numerous; and, in the extent of half a league, we can seldom find more than a single pair. They settle in a certain spot, which they scare ever leave.

This bird strikes the trees with such force, that according to Frisch, it may be heard as far as a hatchet. It bores to the heart of the trunk, and forms a very capacious cavity; as much as a bushel of wood-dust and chips is often seen on the ground below its hole; and sometimes it hollows out the substance of the trees to such a degree that they are soon borne

^{*} Aldrovandus.

⁺ Fauna Suecica. No. 79.

The forest of Spessert.

down by the wind ||. They prefer the decayed trees, but, as they also attack those which are found, the careful proprietors of woods are at pains to destroy them. M. Deslandes, in his Eslay on the Ship-Building of the Ancients, regrets, that there are few trees fit for making oars forty feet long, which are not bored by the Woodpeckers §.

The Black Woodpecker lays, in the bottom of its hole *, two or three eggs, which are white; as in all birds of the genus, according to Willughby: It feldom alights on the ground; the ancients affirmed even. that no Woodpecker ever descends from its tree+: When they clamber, the long hind toe is fometimes placed fidewife, and fometimes forwards, and is moveable in its joint with the foot, fo as accommodate itself to every position: This power is common to all the Woodpeckers.

After the Black Woodpecker has perforated into the cavity of the tree, it gives

^{||} Ariftotle, Hift. Anim. Lib. ix. 9.

⁹ But M. Deslandes is much mistaken in the same place, when he fays that this Woodpecker employs its tongue like an augre to bore the largest trees.

^{*} Pliny has afferted with too great latitude that the Woodpeckers are the only birds which breed in hollow trees (Lib. x. 18); many other small birds, such as the Titmice, do the same.

[†] Aristotle. Hift. Anim, Lib. ix. 9.

de-

hofe

s of

M.

ild-

are

ong,

rs §.

bot-

hich

nuş,

ghts

ven,

1 its

ind

me-

oint

tself

mon

rfo-

ives

lace,

e like

t the

trees mice.

oud

a loud shrill and lengthened scream, which is audible at a great distance. It also makes at times a cracking, or rather a scraping, by rubbing its bill rapidly against the sides of its hole.

The female differs from the male in its colour, being of a lighter black, and having no red but on the back of the head, and fometimes none at all. It is observed that the red descends lower on the nape of the neck in some individuals, and these are old males.

The Black Woodpecker disappears during winter. Agricola supposed that it remained concealed in hollow trees *: but Frisch affirms, that it retires before the rigour of the season, when its provisions fail; for, continues he, the worms then sink deep into the wood, and the ant-hills are covered with ice and snow.

We know not of any bird of the ancient continent, whether in Asia or Africa, that is analogous to the European Woodpecker; and it would seem to have migrated hither from the New World, where many species occur that closely resemble it. I proceed to enumerate these [A]:—

[·] Apud Gefnerum, p. 677.

[[]A] Specific character of the Picus Martius, Linn. "It is black with a crimfon cap."

BIRDS of the New Continent;

Which are related to the

BLACK WOODPECKER.

The WHITE BILLED WOODPECKER.

Le Grand Pic Noir a Bec Blanc. Buff. *
First Species.

Picus Principalis. Linn. and Gmel. Picus Carolinensis Cristatus. Brist. †

This Woodpecker is found in Carolina, and is the largest of the genus, being equal or even superior in bulk, to the crow. Its bill is white like ivory, and three inches long, channeled through its whole length, and so sharp and strong, says Catesby, that, in an hour or two, the bird often makes a bushel of chips: Hence the Spaniards term it carpenteros, or carpenter.

* The Great Black Woodpecker with a white bill.

[†] Brisson probably measured a very small specimen, when he stated the length of this Woodpecker at sixteen inches; that in the Royal Cabinet, sigured in the Illumined Plates, was eighteen inches.

Its head is decorated behind by a great fearlet tuft, parted into two tufts, one of which falls on the neck, and the other is raised, and covered by long black threads, which rise from the crown and invest the whole head, for the scarlet feathers lie behind: a white stripe, descending on the side of the neck, and making an angle on the shoulder, runs into the white that covers the lower part of the back and the middle quills of the wing; all the rest of the plumage is a jet deep black.

It hollows its nest in the largest trees, and breeds during the rainy season. It is found, too, in hotter climates than that of Carolina; for we recognise it in the picus imbrifætus of Nieremberg ‡, and the quatotomomi of Fernandez §, though there are some differences which would seem to indicate a variety ||; its white bill, three

R.

ina,

be-

the and

its

ays

ird

the

er.

hen

es ;

tes,

Its

t P. 223.

[§] Hift. Nov. Hifp. p. 50. cap. 186.

If The Quatotomomi a kind of Woodpecker of the bulk of a hoopoe; it is variegated with black and fulvous; its bill with which it hollows and bores trees, is three inches long, flout, and bright white... Its head is decorated by a red creft three inches long, but its upper part black on either fide of the neck, a bright white bar descends to near the breast. It inhabits Tototepeco, in higher Missea not far from the South Sea. It nessles in losty trees: feeds on the grashoppers, tlaolli, and on small worms. It breeds in the rainy season, that is, between May and September:" Fernandez, His. Nov. Hisp. p. 50. cap. 186.

inches

48 PILEATED WOODPECKER.

inches in length, suffices to discriminate it. This Woodpecker, says Fernandez, inhabits the regions bordering on the South Sea: The North Americans work the bills into coronets for their warriors, and as they cannot procure these in their own country, they buy them of the more southern Indians, at the rate of three deer-skins for each bill [A].

[A] Specific character of the Picus Principalis: It is black, its creft scarlet, a line on either side of the neck; the secondary feathers of its tail, white." It is a scarce bird in North America, and never penetrates beyond the Jerseys. It breeds in a winding hole, the better to screen the young from the infinuating rains.

The PILEATED WOODPECKER.

Le Pic Noir a Huppe Rouge. Buff.

Second Species.

Picus Pileatus. Linn, and Gmel.

Picus Niger Virginianus Cristatus. Brist.

Picus Niger, toto capite rubro. Klein.

The Larger red-crested Woodpecker. Catesby.

THIS Wooodpecker, which is common in Louisiana, occurs equally in Carolina and in Virginia: It resembles much the preceding, but its bill is not white, and it The Red-crested black Woodpecker.

is

13

ced

Th

13

leć

wa

is

ar

the the

pa

an

she

wi

wi the

wa he

the

tei

an

int

an

no

in

on

is rather smaller; though it somewhat exceeds the Black Woodpecker of Europe. The crown of the head, as far as the eyes, is decorated by a large scarlet crest, collected into a fingle tuft, and thrown backwards in the shape of flame; above there is a black bar, in which the eye is placed: a red mustachoe is traced from the root of the bill on the black fides of the head: the throat is white; a fillet of the same colour passes between the eye and the mustachoe, and extends on the neck as far as the shoulder; all the rest of the body is black, with fome flight marks of white on the wing, and a larger spot of that colour on the middle of the back; under the body, the black is lighter, and mixed with gray waves; in the female, the forepart of the head is brown, and there are no red feathers, but on the hind part of the head.

Catefby fays that these birds, not content with rotten trees which supply their usual food, attack also the plants of maize; and do much injury, for the wet infinuates into the holes which they make in the husk, and spoils the seeds. But is their motive not to get some kind of worms that lurk in the ear, fince no bird of this genus feeds

on grain?

e it.

bits

ea: nto

an→

ry,

In-

for

ack,

e fe-

d in feys.

ung

Ŕ.

on

rothe

it

is

Vol. vii.

E

With

50 PILEATED WOODPECKER.

With this bird, we must also join a Woodpecker which Commerson brought from the country contiguous to the Straits of Magellan: Its bulk is the same, and its other characters pretty fimilar; only it has no red, except on the cheeks and the forepart of the head, and the back of its head bears a tuft of black feathers. Thus, the fame species occurs, in the corresponding latitudes at the two extremities of the great continent of America. Commerson remarks that this bird has a very strong voice, and leads a very laborious life; a character that belongs to all the Woodpeckers, which are enured to toil and hardship [A].

[A] Specific character of the Picus Pileatus: "It is black, its creft red, its temples and wings marked with white spots." It is half the weight of the preceding species: It spreads over the whole extent of North America: lays six eggs, and hatches in June. The Indians decorate their calumets with its scarlet tust.

oin a ought aits of

nd its

it has
forehead

, the

nding great

n re-

frong

ife; a

Woodil and

s black,

th white

ecies: It

lays fix

The LINEATED WOODPECKER.

* L'Ouantou, ou Pic Noir Huppé de Cayenne. Buff.

Third Species.

Picus Varius Brafiliensis. Ray.
Picus Viger Cayanensis Cristatus. Brist.

THIS bird is the ooantoo of the Americans, which Barrere has inaccurately pronounced ventoo, and the bipecoo of Marcgrave. It is as long as the Green Woodpecker; but not fo thick; its upper furface is entirely black, except a white line which, rifing from the upper mandible, descends like a cincture on the neck. and strews some white feathers on the coverts of the wings; the stomach and belly are waved with black and white bars, and the throat is speckled with the same; from the lower mandible, proceeds a red mustachoe; a beautiful crest of the same colour covers the head and falls backwards; lastly, under the long threads of this crest,

[•] The Qantoo, or Crested Black Woodpecker of Cayenne.

52 LINEATED WOODPECKER.

we perceive small feathers of the same red which clothe the top of the neck.

Barrere is right in referring this Woodpecker to the bipecoo of Marcgrave, as much as Briffon is wrong in referring it to the great Carolina Woodpecker of Catesby: the latter is larger than a crow, and the hipecoo exceeds not a pigeon. And the rest of Maregrave's description agrees with the ouantoo as much as with the great Carolina Woodpecker, which has not the underside of its body variegated with black and white, as the ooantoo and the hipecoo; and its bill is three lines, not fix. But these characters belong as little to the Black Woodpecker of Louisiana; and Brisson was mistaken too in placing with it the ooantoo, which as we have just feen, is nothing but the hipecoo, and would have been better ranged with his eleventh species.

The ooanto of Cayenne is also the tlaubquechultototl of New Spain, described by Fernandez. It bores trees, its head and the upper part of its neck are covered with red feathers. But there is a circumstance accidentally introduced in his account which seems to discriminate it from the other Woodpeckers: "The red feathers on the top of the neck, if applied or rather glued to the head, relieve a head-ach; whether R. me red

Woods much to the

nd the nd the es with

not the h black pecoo;

c. But e Black fon was

ooannothing een bet-

e tlaubbed by ad and ed with mstance

om the feathers or ra-

ad-ach; whether RED NECKED WOODPECKER. 53

whether this was learnt from experience, or was suggested by seeing them glued near the head of the bird [A].

[A] Specific character of the *Picus Lineatus*: "It is black, its crest crimson; a white line on either side of the neck from the bill to the middle of the back."

The RED NECKED WOODPECKER.

Fourth Species.

Picus Rubricollis Gmel.

This bird has not only its head red, but its neck as far as the breast of the same beautiful colour. It is rather longer than the Green Woodpecker, its neck and tail being elongated, which makes its body appear less thick, all the head and neck is covered with feathers to the breast, where the tints of that colour melt into the fine fulvous that covers the breast, the belly and the sides; the rest of the belly is deep brown, almost black where the sulvous mixes with the quills of

E 3

the

54 LESSER BLACK WOODPECKER. the wing.—This bird is found in Guiana, as well as the preceding and the following

ones [A].

[A] Specific character of the Picus Rubricollis: "It is brown, below fulvous; its crefted head, and its neck, ferruginous."

The LESSER BLACK WOODPECKER.

Fifth Species.

SPicus Flavipes Gmel.
Picus Hirundinaceus. Linn. and Gmel.
Picus Niger Novæ Angliæ. Briff.
Picus Niger Minimus. Klein.
The Yellow legged Woodpecker. Penn.

Woodpeckers, being only of the fize of the Wryneck. A deep black with blue reflections, covers the throat, the breaft, the back and the head, except a red spot found on the head of the male; it has also a flight trace of white on the eye, and some small yellow feathers near the back of the head; below the body and along the sternum, there extends a bar of a fine poppy-red; it terminates at the belly, which like

ER. uiana, owing

"It is ck, fer-

CK

Black the fize the blue to breaft, d fpot us also , and

as alfo back along a fine which like LESSER BLACK WOODPECKER. 55

like the fides is well enameled with black and light gray; the tail is black.

There is a variety of this Woodpecker, which, instead of the red spot on the crown of the head; has a yellowish crown compleatly encircling it; and this is the opening of those small yellow feathers seen in the former, and probably results from age.—The female has neither a red spot nor a yellow circle on the head.

To this species, we shall refer the lesser black creeper of Albin, which Brisson makes his seventh species, under the name of the Black Woodpecker of New England *.

* Mr. Pennant reckons the authority of Albin very suspi-

The RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.

Le Pic Noir a Domino Rouge. Buff.

Sixth Species.

Picus Erythrocephalus. Linn. Gmel. and Briff. Picus capite colloque rubris. Klein.

This bird described by Catesby, is found in Virginia: It is nearly as large as the variegated Woodpecker of Europe. Its whole

whole head is enveloped in a beautiful red domino, which is filky and glossy, and falls on the neck; all the under surface of the body and the rump are white, and so are the small quills of the wing, of which the black joins that of the tail, to form, on the lower part of the back, a great white space; the rest is black, and also the great quills of the wings, and all those of the tail.

Very few of these birds are seen in Virginia during winter; there are more of them in that season in Carolina, though sewer than in summer; it would seem that they retire to the South to escape the cold. Those which remain approach the villages, and even rap on the windows of the houses. Catesby adds that this Woodpecker consumes much fruit and grain; but it probably never recurs to these, unless in case of want of other sustenance, else it would differ from all the rest of the genus.

falls
f the
fo are
which
n, on
white
great
f the

them fewer they cold. lages, oufes. conprocafe

Vir-

The GREATER SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

L' Epeiche ou Le Pic Varié. Buff.

First Species.

Picus Major. Linn. Gmel. Bor. Kram. Scopo. Picus Varius Major. Ray. Will. and Briss. Picus Discolor. Fris. *

This is the third species of the European Woodpeckers. Its plumage is agreeably variegated with white and black, embellished with red on the head and belly. The crown of the head is black, with a red bar on the occiput, and the hood terminates in a black point on the neck; thence rise two branches of black, one of which stretches on each side to the root of the bill and marks a mustachoe, and the other descending to the lower part of the neck, decorates it with a collar; this black streak unites near the shoulder with the black piece that

occupies

^{*} In Greek Πιπεχ. In Italian Culrosso: In German Bunt-Specht, Veisi-Specht, and Elsterspech, from which the French name Epeiche is derived. In Swiss Ægerst-Specht: In Danish Flag-Spaet: In Swedish Gyllenrenna: In Norwegian Kraak-Spinte: and in Polish Dzieciol Pstry Wieksly.

occupies the middle of the back; two great white spaces cover the shoulders; in each wing the great quills are brown, the others black, and all mixed with white; the whole of the black is deep, and the whole of the white is pure and unmixed; the red on the head is bright, and that of the belly is a fine scarlet. Thus the plumage of this bird is charmingly diversified, and surpasses that of all the other Woodpeckers in beauty.

This description answers only to the male exactly; the female figured in the Planches Enluminées has no red on the back of the head. Some spotted Woodpeckers are clothed with a less beautiful plumage, and some even are entirely white. There is also a variety whose colours appear more obscure, and though all the upper side of the nead and the belly are red, the tint is pale and dull.

Of this variety, Brisson makes his second Variegated Woodpecker, though he had before produced it under the name of the Great Variegated Woodpecker; yet these two birds are both nearly of the same size, and have ever been referred to the same species. Belon, who lived in an age when the rules of nomenclature and the errors of system had not multiplied the divisions in the ar-

rangement

rs are
and
ere is
more
de of

int is

ty.

e male

Plan-

econd d bef the e two and ecies. rules yftem e ar-

ment

GREATER SPOTTED WOODPECKER. 59

rangement of natural objects, classes all these varieties with his epeiche or Variegated Woodpecker. But Aldrovandus justly blames both him and Turner for applying to that bird the name Picus Martius, which belongs only to the Green Woodpecker.

The Variegated Woodpecker strikes against the trees with brisker and harder blows than the Green Woodpecker; it creeps with great ease upwards, or downwards, and horizontally under the branches; the stiff quills of its tail serve to support it, when it hangs in an inverted posture, and knocks keenly with its bill. It is a shy bird; for when it perceives a person, it hides itself behind a branch and remains still. Like the other Woodpeckers, it breeds in a hollow tree. In our provinces, it approaches the habitations during winter, and feeks to fettle on the bark of fruit trees. where the cryfalids and eggs of insects are deposited in greater quantity than on the trees of the forest.

In summer during droughts, the Variegated Woodpeckers are often killed at the wood meres, whither these birds repair to drink: it approaches the spot in silence, fluttering from tree to tree; and each time it halts it seems anxiously to examine if any

danger

60 GREATER SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

danger threatens: it has an air of inquietude; it listens, and turns its head on all fides, and even looks through the foliage to the ground below; and the least noise is fufficient to drive it back. When it reaches the tree next the mere, it descends from branch to branch, until it gets to the lowest on the margin of the water; it then dips its bill, and at each fip, it hearkens, and casts a look round it. After its thirst is quenched, it retires quickly, without making a pause as on its arrival. When it is shot on a tree, it seldom drops; but as long as a spark of life remains, it clings firmly with its nails, fo that one is often obliged to fire a fecond time.

This bird has a very large sternum; its intestinal canal is sixteen inches long, but there is no cæcum; its stomach is membranous; the point of its bill is bony, and sive lines in length. An adult male which had been taken from a nest of sive young, weighed two ounces and an half; these weighed three gros each, and their toes were disposed as in the father; their bill wanted the two lateral ridges, which, in the adult, took their origin beyond the nostrils, went below them, and extended two thirds of the length of the bill; the nails, though

KER.
inquieon all
liage to
noise is
reaches
s from
lowest
en dips
is, and
hirst is
ut ma-

n it is

as long firmly

obliged

im; its
ig, but
embraind five
ich had
young,
thefe
es were
wanted
adult,
s, went
irds of
though

yet white, were already much hooked. The nest was in an old hollow aspin, thirty feet above the ground.

[A] Specific character of the Picus Major. "It is variegated with black and white, its vent and the back of its head, red." It is found even in the most northern parts of Europe. Its length nine inches, its weight 23 ounces.

The LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

Le Petit Epeiche. Buff.

Second Species.

Picus Minor. Linn. Gmel Bor Kram. &c.
Picus Varius Minor. Aldrov. Briss. and Gerini.
Picus Discolor Minor. Frisch and Klein.*

This species resembles the former so closely, that it might be regarded as the same formed on a smaller scale, only the fore part of its body is dirty white or rather gray; and it wants the red under the tail, and the white on the shoulders. As in the large species too, it is the male only that has its head marked with red.

[•] In Italian Pipra or Pipo. In German Spechele, Grass Speche. In Norwegian Lille, Tra-pikke: and in Polish Dzieciol Pstry Mnieyszy.

This

62 LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

This little spotted Woodpecker is scarcely fo large as a sparrow, and weighs only an ounce. In winter it reforts near houses and vineyards. It does not creep very high on large trees, and feems to prefer the circumference of the trunk,* It nestles in some hole of a tree, and often disputes the posfession with the Colemouse, which is commonly worsted in the struggle and compelled to furrender its lodging. It is found in England, where it has received the name of bickwall. It also inhabits Sweden: and this species, like that of the greater spotted Woodpecker, would appear to be diffused even to North-America; for in Louisiana a small spotted Woodpecker is seen which resembles it almost entirely, except that the upper side of the head, as in the Variegated Woodpecker of Canada, is covered with a black cap, edged with white.

Salerne fays that this bird is unknown in France, yet it occurs in most of our provinces. The mistake originated from his confounding the lesser spotted Woodpecker with the Wall Creeper, with which he owns that he was unacquainted. He was equally deceived in asserting that Frisch makes no mention of this Woodpecker, from which he

R.

arcely
aly an
es and
the on

fome

commpelind in

me of

d this
otted
ffused

ffused isiana vhich

it the

gated ith a

vn in ovin-

conwith

ually s no

ch he

nfers

LITTLE SPOTTED WOODPECKER. 63

infers that it exists not in Germany: for that naturalist says only that it is rare, but

gives two excellent figures of it.

M. Sonnerat saw, in the island of Antigua, a small Variegated Woodpecker, which we shall refer to this, since the characters which he gives are insufficient to discriminate two species. It is of the same bulk; black, striped and streaked with white, covers all the upper surface of the body; the under surface is spotted with blackish, on a pale yellow, or rather yellowish white ground; a white line marks the sides of the neck. M. Sonnerat did not perceive red on the head, but he remarks that it was perhaps a female.

[A] Specific character of the Picus Minor: It is variegated with white and black, its top red, its vent brick-coloured.

BIRDS

BIRDS of the Ancient Continent,

Which are related to the

SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

The NUBIAN WOOD-PECKER. Lath.

* L'Epeiche de Nubie Ondé et Tacheté. Buff.

First Species.

Picus Nubicus. Gmel.

This bird is a third smaller than the spotted Woodpecker of Europe: all its plumage is agreeably variegated with drops and waves broken and, as it were, vermiculated with white and rusty on a gray brown ground, and blackish on the back, and tears of blackish on the whitish complexion of the breast and belly; a half crest of fine red covers, like a cowl, the back of the head; the crown and the forepart consist of delicate black feathers, each tip'd with a small white drop; the tail is divided horizontally by brown and rusty waves. The bird is very handsome, and the species is new.

^{*} The waved and Spotted Woodpecker of Nubia.

15.14

The GREAT VARIEGATED WOODPECKER,

Of the Isle of Luçon.

Second Species.

Picus Cardinalis. Gmel.
The Cardinal Woodpecker. Lath.

THIS bird, which is described by Sonnerat, is as large as the Green Woodpecker: the feathers of the back and the coverts of the wing are black, but their shafts are yellow, and there are also yellowish spots on the latter; the small coverts of the wing are striped transversely with white; the breast and the belly are variegated with longitudinal black fpots on a white ground; there is a white bar on the fide of the neck, extending below the eye; the crown and back of the head, are of a bright red, and for this reason, Sonnerat would apply to it the epithet of Cardinal; but the red hood is rather a generie than a specific character, and therefore the name

VOL. VII.

F

which

he

he

all

th

re,

a

he

iſh

aif

he

re-

ich

is

ſtу

ind

66 BROWN SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

which that traveller would impose, is not fufficiently descriptive. [A]

[A] Specific character of the *Picus-Cardinalis*. "It is black; below, white, fpotted with black, its top and the back of its head red."

The LITTLE BROWN SPOTTED WOODPECKER,

Of the Moluccas.

Third Species.

Picus Moluccensis. Gmel. The Brown Woodpecker. Latle.

This little Woodpecker has only two dull and faint shades; its plumage is blackish-brown, waved with white on the upper side of the body, whitish spotted with brown speckles below; the head and tail, and also the quills of the wings, are all brown. It is hardly so large as the lesser spotted Woodpecker.

BIRDS

w

fa

di

CO

011

wl an

Ca au

BIRDS of the New Continent,

Which are related to the

SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

The SPOTTED WOODPECKER, Of Canada.

First Species.

Picus Canadenfis. Gmel.
Picus Varius Canadenfis. Briss.

This bird is of the same size with the European Spotted Woodpecker, and differs only in the distribution of its colours. It has no red; and the space which encircles the eye is not white, but black: there is more white on the side of the neck, and white or faint yellow on the back of the head. These differences however are slight, and the two contiguous species are perhaps the same, only altered by the change of climate.

is

re

h

11

er

The Quauhtotopotli alter of Fernandez, which is a Woodpecker variegated with black and white, appears to be the same with this Canadian Woodpecker; especially as that author never mentions its having any red,

F 2

and

and seems to infinuate that it comes to New Spain from the North. And there must be Spotted Woodpeckers in those tracts, since travellers have found them in the isthmus of Darien [A].

[A] Specific character of the Pieus Canadensis: "It is white; its top, its back, its shoulders, and the two middle quills of its tail, black; the rest, and the wings, variegated with white and black."

The VARIED WOODPECKER.

L' Epeiche du Mexique. Buff.

Second Species.

Picus Tricolor. Gmel.

I am much inclined to think that the great Variegated Mexican Woodpecker of Brisson, and his Little Variegated Mexican Woodpecker, are the same bird. He borrows the first from Seba, on whose authority Klein and Moehring have inserted it in their systems: but it is well known how inaccurate are most of the descriptions of that compiler. Klein mentions the same bird twice, and it is one of those which we have rejected from the samily of Woodpeckers. On the other hand, Brisson, for a reason which we cannot guess, applies

be ce us

is ldle rie-

R.

eat on, ter, om

eht it of ein one the

nd, ess, lies applies to his fecond Mexican Woodpecker the epithet little, though Fernandez, the only original author, fays that it is large, which he repeats twice in four lines. According to him, it is equal in bulk to the Mexican crow; its plumage is varried with white transverse lines on a black and brown ground; the belly and breast are vermillion. This Woodpecker inhabits the coolest parts of Mexico, and bores the trees like the rest of the kind.

The VARIEGATED JAMAICA WOODPECKER.

Third Species.

Picus Carolinus. Linn. and Gmel.

Picus Varius Jamaicensis. Briss.

Picus Varius Medius. Sloane.

Picus Varius Medius Jamaicensis. Ray.

The Jamaica Woodpecker. Edw.

The Red bellied Woodpecker. Catesby.

The Carolina Woodpecker. Penn. and Lath.

This Woodpecker is of a middle fize between the Green Woodpecker and the Spotted Woodpecker of Europe: Catefby makes it too small, when he compares

it

70 VARIEGATED JAMAICA WOODPECKER.

it to the Spotted Woodpecker; and Edwards represents it too large, in asserting it to be equal in bulk to the Green Woodpecker. The same author reckons only eight quills in the tail, but probably the two others were wanting in the subject which he describes; for all the Woodpeckers have ten quills in the tail. It has a red hood which falls on the arch of the neck; the throat and stomach are rusty gray, which runs by degrees into a dull red on the belly; the back is black, striped transversely with gray waves in festoons, which are lighter on the wings, broader and entirely white on the rump.

The figure which Sir Hans Sloane has given of it is very defective, and it is the only one that this naturalist and Brown found in the island of Jamaica, though there are great many others on the continent of America. The present occurs also in Carolina, and notwithstanding some differences, it may be recognized in the red bellied Woodpecker of Catesby. The front is a rusty white, and in the male, red.

[A] Specific character of the Picus Carolinus: "Its cap and its nape are red; its back marked with black stripes; its middle tail quills, white, dotted with black."

s

r

e h

0

IS

ie.

n

f

d

a

The STRIPED WOODPECKER, of Louisiana.

Fourth Species,

Picus Carolinus var. Gmel. and Lath:

T T is rather larger than the Spotted Woodpecker; all the upper furface is agreeably striped with white and black, disposed in cross bands; of the quills of the tail, the two exterior and the two middle ones, are mixed with white and black, the rest are black; all the under furface and the fore part of the body are uniform white; gray, and a little dilute red tinges the lower belly. Of two specimens lodged in the royal cabinet, the one has the upperfide of the head wholly red, with some streaks of the same colour on the throat and under the eyes; the other has its front gray, and no red but on the back of the head, and is probably the female, this being the usual difference between the fexes: in both of them, this red is of a feebler and lighter cast than in the other Variegated Woodpeckers.

The VARIEGATED WOODPECKER of Encenada.

Fifth Species.

Picus Bicolor. Gmel.

This bird is not larger than our Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and is one of the handsomest of the genus; its colours are simple, but its plumage is richly mailed, and the white and brown gray, with which it is painted, are so finely broken and intermingled, as to produce a charming effect. The male has a full crest, and some red feathers appear in it; the female wants the crest, and its head is entirely brown.

The HAIRY WOODPECKER.

Sixth Species.

Picus Villosus. Linn. Gmel. and Klein. Picus Varius Verginianus. Beif.

I SHALL borrow the name of Hairy Woodpecker from the English settlers of Virginia, because it expresses a discriminating character of the bird, viz. 2 white bar, consisting

ER

ller.

the

are

ed,

ich inef-

me nts

at-

ar, ng consisting of loose feathers, that extends quite along the back to the rump: the rest of the back is black; the wings too are black, but marked pretty regularly with spots of dull white, round, and in the form of tears; a black spot covers the crown, and red the back of the head, from which a white line extends to the eye, and another is traced on the side of the neck; the tail is black, all the under surface of the body is white. This Woodpecker is rather smaller than the Spotted Woodpecker.

The LITTLE VARIEGATED WOODPECKER, of Virginia. Buff.

Seventh Species.

Picus Pubescens. Linn and Gmel.

Picus Varius Virginianus Minor. Briss. and Klein.

The Smallest Woodpecker. Catesby.

The Downy Woodpecker. Lawson and Penn.

The Little Woodpecker. Lath.

We owe to Catesby the account also of this small Woodpecker: it weighs rather more than an ounce and half, and resembles the Hairy Woodpecker so much, it is said, in its spots and colours, that, but

74 The VARIEGATED WOODPECKER,

but for the difference of fize, they might be regarded as of the fame species: Its breast and belly are light gray, the four middle quills of its tail are black, and the rest barred with black and white. The semale is distinguished from the male, as in all the Woodpeckers, by having no red on the head.

The VARIEGATED WOODPECKER, of Carolina.

Eighth Species.

Picus Varius. Linn. and Gmel.

Picus Carolinensis. Briss. and Klein.

The yellow-bellied Woodpecker. Catesby, Penn, and Lath.

Though this Woodpecker has a yellow tinge on the belly, we shall not exclude it from those which are variegated with white and black, since these colours appear on the upper surface, which really characterizes the plumage. It is scarcely so large as the lesser Woodpecker; all the upper side of its head is red; four stripes, alternately black and white, cover the space between

fpa the wh bla eac and a l fpe

Th

Wo

witton two ed wh

one

fca

be

eaft Idle

rest

ale

all

the

h.

el-

ot

ed

ırs

lly

fo

p-

ıl-

ce

en

fpace between the temple and the cheek, and the last of these stripes bounds the throat, which is of the same red with the head; the black and white intermingle and intersect each other agreeably on the back, the wings, and the tail; the fore part of the body is a light yellow, sprinkled with some black speckles. The semale wants the red. This Woodpecker inhabits, according to Brisson, Virginia, Carolina, and Cayenne.

The VARIEGATED UNDATED WOODPECKER,

Ninth Species.

Picus Tridactylus var. Linn. Gmel. &c. The Southern three-toed Woodpecker, Lath.

THE plumage resembles that of the Spotted Woodpecker; the back is black, with white disposed in waves or rather scales on the great quills of the wing, and these two colours form, when it is closed, a checked bar: the under surface of the body is white, variegated on the sides with black scales; two white streaks stretch backwards, one from the eye, the other from the bill, as the top of the head is red.

The

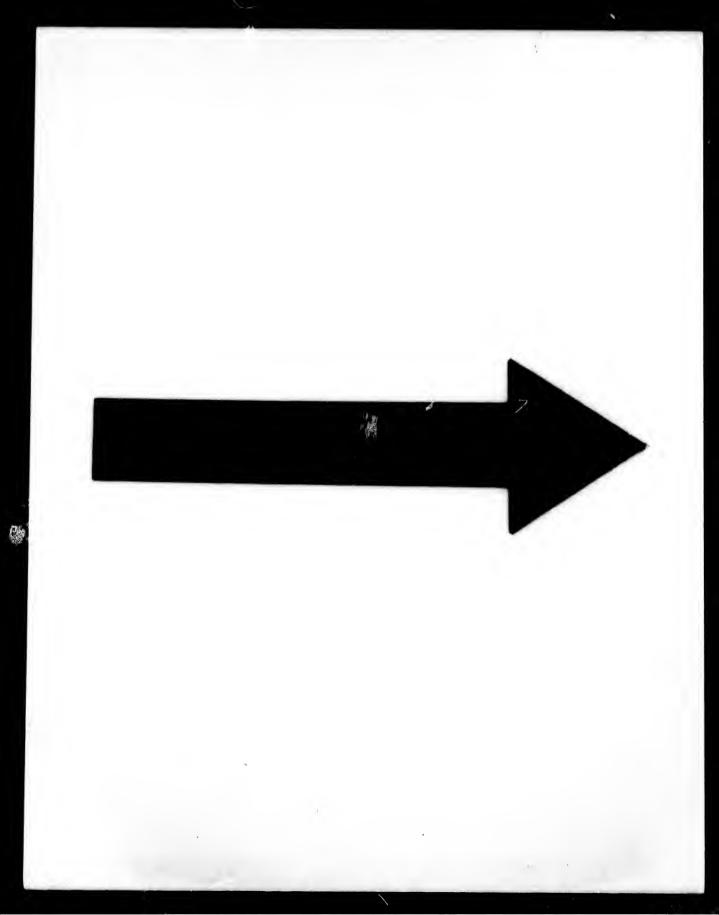
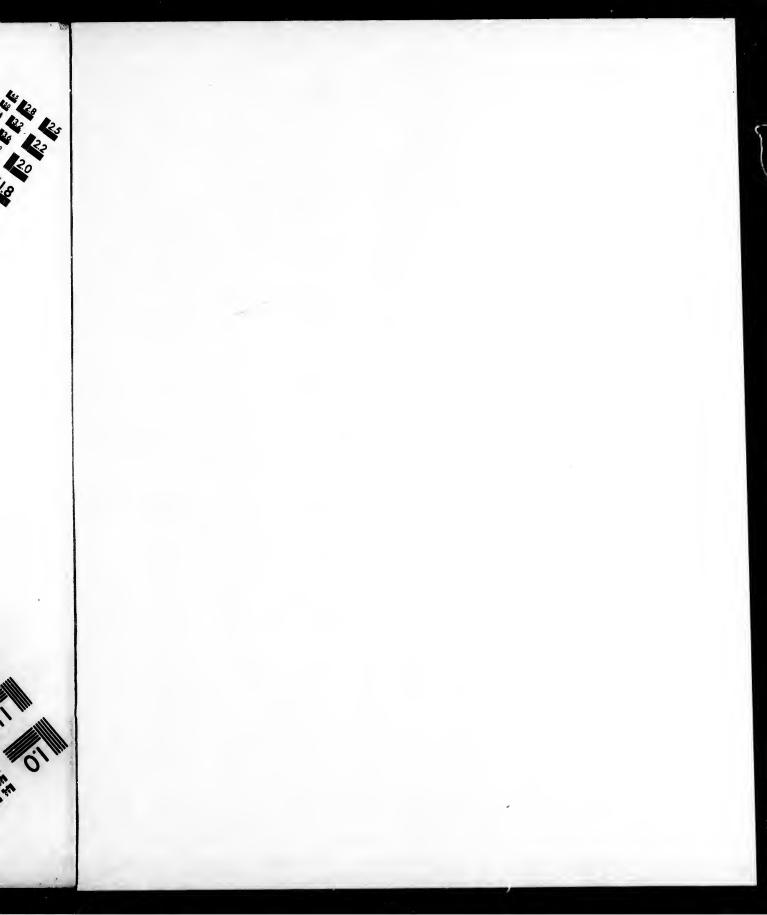


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



Photographic Sciences Corporation

23 WEST MAIN STREET WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580 (716) 872-4503 OT STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF TH



The figure of this bird agrees perfectly with Brisson's description of the Variegated Cayenne Woodpecker, except that the former has four toes as usual, and the latter only We cannot therefore doubt the existence of three-toed Woodpeckers: Linnæus describes one found in Dalecarlia; Schmidt, one in Siberia; and we are informed by Lottinger* that it occurs also in Switzerland. The three-toed Woodpecker appears therefore to inhabit the north of both continents. Ought the want of the toe to be regarded as a specific character, or confidered as only an accidental defect? It would require a great many observations to answer that question; but it may be denied that the same bird inhabits also the equatorial regions, though after Briffon it is termed the Spotted Cayenne Woodpecker in the Planches Enluminees.

After this long enumeration of the birds of both continents that are akin to the Woodpeckers, we must observe that we have been obliged to reject some species noticed by our nomenclators. These are the third, eighth, and twentieth, which Brisson ranges with the Woodpeckers, Seba with the herons, and Moehring with the

CI

be

th

th

pe

W

ar

q

[•] Extract of a letter from M. Lottinger, to M. de Montbeillard, dated Strasburg, 22d September, 1774.

ectly

rated

mer

only

the Lin-

rlia;

are curs oodorth f the

cter,

debfer-

may

alfo

Brif-

Vood-

irds

the

we

no-

the

Brif-

Seba

the

Iont-

WS.

crows. Klein calls these birds barpooneers; because, according to Seba, they dart from the air upon sish and transfix them. But this habitude belongs not to the Woodpeckers; and the disposition of the toes, which in Seba's figure are disposed three and one, besides demonstrate that they are quite a distinct kind.

The WOODPECKER-CREEPERS.

Les Pic-Grimpereaux. Buff.

THE genus of these birds, of which we know only two species, appears manifestly discriminated, and constitutes the intermediate link between the Woodpeckers and the Creepers. The first and largest species resembles most the creepers, by its curved bill; and the second, on the contrary, is more analogous to the Woodpeckers since it has a straight bill. Both of them have three toes before and one behind, like the Creepers; and at the same time the quills of their tail are stiff and pointed, like the Woodpeckers.

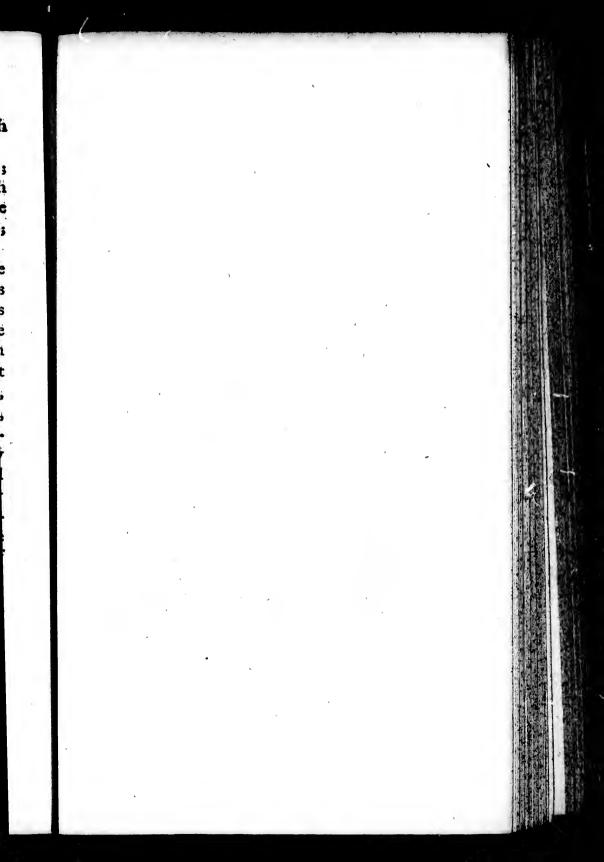
The first was ten inches long; its head and throat spotted with rusous and white; the upper side of the body, rusous, and the

underside.

underside, yellow, striped transversely with blackish; the bill and feet black.

The second was only seven inches long; its head, neck, and breast, spotted with rusous and white; the underside of the body is rusous, and the belly rusty brown; the bill gray, and the feet blackish.

Both these birds have very nearly the same natural habits; they creep against trees like Woodpeckers, supporting themselves by the tail; they bore the bark and the wood with much noise, and they feed upon the infects thus detected: they inhabit the forests and seek the vicinity of springs, and rivulets. The two species live together, and often on the same tree, on which many other small birds are perched; yet they are only fond of each others fociety, and never intermix the breed. They are very agile, and flutter from tree to tree, but never perch or fly to a distance. They are commonly found in the interior parts of Guiana, where the natives of the country confound them with the Woodpeckers; which is the reason that a phave received no appropriated name. It is probable that they also inhabit the other warm climates of America, though no traveller has mentioned them.



Nº 164



THE COMMON WRYNECK.

1

twin vert and acti rept

con alfo eng natu fure

most distorcollo, man in Su

in Sv an Sa

The WRYNECK.

Le Torcol. Buff.

Yunx-Torquilla. Linn. and Gmel.

Iynx, feu Torquilla. Aldrov. Gefner. Will. &c.

Torquilla. Briff.

This bird may be distinguished at first fight by a habit peculiar to itself; it twists and turns back its neck, its head reverted on its back, and its eyes half-shut, and the motion is slow, tortuous, and exactly similar to the waving wreaths of a reptile. It seems to be occasioned by a convulsion of surprize and fright; and it is also an effort which the bird makes to disengage itself when held, yet this motion is natural to it, and depends in a great measure on its structure; for the callow brood

In Greek twy; in modern Latin Torquilla; and almost all its other names in various languages refer to the distortion of its neck; in French Torcol; in Italian Tortocollo, Capotorto, Verticella; in Spanish Torzicuelle; in German Wind-balz, Nater-balz, Naterz wang, Nater-wendel; in Swedish Gioek-tita; in Danish, Bende-balz; in Norwegian Sao-gouk; in Polish Kretoglow; in Russian Krutiholowa.

⁺ Aristotle, Hist. Anim. Lib. ii. xii. Schwenckfeld.

have the fame vermicular wreathing, and many a timorous nest-finder has fancied them to be young serpents ||.

The Wryneck has also another singular habit. One which had been shut twenty-four hours in a cage, turned towards a person who approached it, and, eyeing him steadily, it rose upon its spurs, stretched slowly forwards, raising the feathers on the top of its head and spreading its tail; then it suddenly drew back, striking the bottom of the cage with its bill, and retracting its crest. It repeated this gesture, which was also observed by Schwencfeld, to the number of an hundred times, and as long as the spectator remained beside it.

These strange attitudes and natural contortions seem antiently to have prompted superstition to adopt this bird in enchantments, and to prescribe its sless as the most powerful incentive to love; insomuch, that the name Iynx denoted all fort of enchantments, violent passions, and whatever we call the charm of beauty; that blind power which irresistibly commands our affections. Such is the sense in which Heliodorus, Lycophron, Pindar, Æschylus, and Sopho-

|| Belon.

cles

cles critu love Mou fon, hear once her e ed of form and Soph mus

num
ered
arriv
neve
fema
dom
in S
the f
midf
the e

† (April.

VC

of b

 \mathbf{d}

ed

lar

y-

a

ng

h-

on

il;

:he

re-

re,

ld,

ind

it.

n-

ed

nt-

oft

nat

nt-

we

ver

ns.

us,

10-

les

cles employ it. The enchantres in Theocritus makes this charm, to recall her lover. It was Venus herself that, from Mount Olympus, brought the Jynx to Jafon, and taught him its virtue, to win the heart of Medea, (Pindar). The bird was once a nymph, the daughter of Echo: by her enchantments, Jupiter became enamoured of Aurora; and Juno, in wrath, performed the metamorphosis. See Suidas, and the Scholiast of Lycophron, Æschylus, Sophocles, Heliodorus, Pindar, and Erasmus.

The species of the Wryneck is no where numerous: each individual leads a sequest-ered life, and even migrates solitarily. They arrive singly in the month of May+. They never enter into any society but that of the semale, and it is only transitory, for the domestic union is dissolved, and they retire in September. The Wryneck prefers, for the sake of solitude, a straggling tree in the midst of some broad hedge-row. Towards the end-of summer, it is sound alone among the sields of corn, particularly oats, and in the small paths that run through patches of buck-wheat. It feeds on the ground,

VOL. VII.

G

and

[†] Gefner fays that he has feen them in the month of April.

and does not clamber on the trees like the Woodpeckers, though it is closely related to these birds, and has the same conformamation in its bill and feet. Yet it never intermixes with them, and seems to form a

fmall separate family.

The Wryneck is as large as the Lark, being seven inches long, and ten inches across the wings; all its plumage is a mixture of gray, of black, and of tawny, disposed in waves and bars, contrasted so as to produce the richest enamel with these dusky shades ||; the underside of the body is of a white gray ground, tinged with rufty on the neck, and painted with small black zones, which separate on the breast, and stretch into a lance-shape, and are scattered and diluted on the stomach; the tail consists of ten flexible quills, which the bird spreads when it flies, and which are variegated below with black points on a dusky-gray ground, and intersected by two or three broad waved bars like those on the wings of night flies; the same mixture of beautiful undulations of black, of brown, and of gray, among which are perceived zones, lozenges, and zigzag lines, paints all the upper furface on a deeper and more rufty

Il Pindar calls the Jynx, variegated. Gesner.

ground.

the p Woo ed, i of a cast and discri

grou

longe Th branc bent to th it nev feeks which as the it in but t four the a back viscou is sha sion, and,

> ing t Wood

the

ated

ma-

ever

m a

ark,

ches

s a

ny,

d fo

hefe

y is

ruf-

mall

east,

cat-

tail

the

are

n a

two

the

e of

and

nes,

the

usty

ind.

ground. Some describers have compared the plumage of the Wryneck to that of the Woodcock; but it is more agreeably varied, its tints are clearer and distincter, of a softer feeland, have a finer effect; the cast of the colour is rusous in the male, and more cinereous in the female, which discriminates them; the feet are rusty gray; the nails sharp, the two exterior much longer than the two interior.

This bird holds itself very erect on the branch where it fits, and its body is even bent backwards. It clings in the same way to the trunk of a tree when it sleeps; but it never clambers like the Woodpecker, nor feeks its food under the bark; its bill, which is nine lines in length and fashioned as those of the Woodpeckers, does not affift it in finding its nourishment, and is nothing but the sheath of a large tongue three or four fingers in length, which it darts into the ant-hills, and which it again draws back covered with ants that stick to its viscous humidity. The point of the tongue is sharp and horny; and, to give it extenfion, two great muscles rise from its root, and, after inclosing the larynx, and stretching to the crown of the head as in the Woodpeckers, are inserted in the front.

It also wants commonly the cacum; and Willughby says, that in its stead, there is only a fort of inflation of the intestines.

The cry of the Wryneck is a very shrill drawling whistle, which the ancients properly termed firidor, and the Greek name 17 feems to imitate the found||. It is heard eight or ten days before the cuckoo. It lays in holes of trees, without making any nest, and on the dust of rotten wood, which it throws to the bottom of the cavity, by striking the fides with its bill. It has commonly eight or ten eggs, which are white as ivo-The male carries ants to his mate during incubation; and the young brood against the month of June, writhe their neck, and whistle loud when one approaches them. They foon abandon their lodgment, and acquire no attachment for each other, fince they separate and disperse as soon as they can use their wings.

+ Albin.

|| Scaliger derives Ivy from Iv fire, which occurs in the 17th book of the Iliad, and fignifies to scream.

† On the 12th of June, we received ten eggs of a Wryneck, taken out of a hole in an old apple-tree, five feet from the ground, and which rested on rotten wood; and three years before, Wryneck's eggs were brought to us from the same hole.

They

being food time them ter t ger § tried days infect guor

grow
fo th
name
by th
its to
from
feafor
Septe
none

\$ On taken of taken of the taken of the taken of the taken of the taken of taken of

in or

N

They can hardly be raised in a cage, it being very difficult to procure the proper food. Those which had been kept some time, touched the paste that was offered them with the tip of their tongue, and after tasting, rejected it, and died of hunger §. An adult Wryneck, which Gefner tried to feed with ants, lived only five days: it constantly refused to eat other infects, and perithed feemingly from languor.

About the end of summer, this bird grows very fat, and is then excellent meat; fo that in many countries it goes by the name of ortolan. It is fometimes caught by the spring, and the sportsmen tear out its tongue with the view to prevent its flesh from contracting the taste of ants. The feafon is from August to the middle of September, when the Wrynecks depart, none of them remaining during the winter in our climates.

§ On the 10th of June, I caused a Wryneck's nest to be taken out of an old crab five feet from the ground; the male remained on the high branches of the tree, and cried very loud, while his female and his young were dislodged. I fed them with paste made of bread and cheese; they lived near three weeks: they were familiar with the person who took care of them, and would come to eat out of his hand. When they grew large, they refused the usual paste, and as no infects could be procured for them, they died of hunger."

Note, communicated by M. Gueneau de Montbeillard.

a Wry-

the 17th

and

re is

hrill

pro-

name

neard

. It

g any

which

y stri-

mon-

s ivo-

mate

brood

neck,

them.

nd ac-

fince

s they

es.

eet from nd three from the

They

The species is spread through all Europe, from the southern states to Sweden*, and even Lapland+: it is common in Greece||, and Italy.= We learn from a passage of Philostratus‡ that the Wryneck was known to the Magi, and found in the region of Babylon. Edwards assures us, that it occurs in Bengal. In short, though its numbers are in each country rare, they are dissufed through the whole extent of the ancient continent. Aldrovandus alone speaks of a variety in the species; but his description was made from a drawing, and the differences are so slight, that we have thought it unnecessary to separate it. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Wryneck, Yunx-Torquilla.

The

baf

lon

reć

une

ent

hav

Ma

bee

tha

hav

for

tog

nat

ted

mu

belo

tam

ate

Fauna Succica.

⁺ Rudbeck.

Belon.

⁼ Aldrovandus.

[‡] Vita Apollon.

[&]quot;It is variegated with white, gray, and ferruginous." Its Swedish name Gioèk-Tita, signifies the Cuckoo's explainer: and the Welsh Gwas y gog, means the Cuckoo's attendant. In fact the Wryneck usually appears a little before the Cuckoo. It weighs an ounce and a quarter. Its egg is white, and semi-transparent.

ope, and cell,

of own

gion

OC-

um-

are

the

lone

his

and

ave

1

lla.

ous."

ainer:

ckoo.

and

The BARBETS.

MATURALISTS have applied the epithet bearded to feveral birds that have the base of their bill beset with detached feathers. long and stiff like bristles, all of them directed forward. But we must observe, that under this defignation, some birds of different species and from very distant climates have been confounded. The tamatia of Marcgrave, which comes from Brazil, has been ranged with the Barbet of Africa and that of the Philippines; and all those which have a beard on their bill, and two toes before and two behind, have been grouped together by our nomenclators. Yet the natives of the old continent are discriminated from those of the new, their bill being much thicker, shorter, and more convex below. We shall therefore give the name tamatia to the former kinds, and appropriate barbet folely to the latter.

The

The TAMATIA.

First Species.

Bucco-Tamatia. Gmel.

Tamatia Brasiliensis, Marcg.

Tamatia Guacu. Pison.

The Spotted-bellied Barbet. Lath.

We have already remarked that Brisson was mistaken in ranging this bird with the little thrush of Catesby; for it is entirely different in the disposition of its toes, and the shape of its bill, as well as in its beard, and the largeness of its head, a property common to the whole genus. Marcgrave is inaccurate too, in afferting that it wants the tail; this is indeed short, but his specimen was probably incomplete. All the other characters correspond; and as the bird occurs not only in Brazil, but also in Cayenne, whence it has been sent to us, we can easily compare the description.

Its total length is six inches and a half, of which the tail occupies two inches; the bill is sifteen lines, its upper extremity hooked, and as it were, divided into two points; the beard which covers it, extends more than half its length; the upper side of the

head



THE SPOTTED-BELLIED BARBET.

rd it

its in us.

at ut **A11**

he in 15,

of ill

d, S;

re he

ad

hea the and abo each is a and bod gro fam

gen refic fore ing app riou alig as leav

one have the felve large it to the exact out that

head and the front, are rusty; on the neck, there is an half-collar variegated with black and rusous; all the rest of the plumage above is brown, shaded with rusous; on each side of the head behind the eyes, there is a pretty large spot; the throat is orange, and the rest of the lower surface of the body is spotted with black on a rusty white ground; the bill and feet are black.

The habitudes of this Tamatia are the fame with those of all the birds of the same genus found in the New Continent: they reside in the most sequestered parts of the forests, and constantly remote from dwellings and even cleared grounds: they never appear in flocks, or in pairs: they fly laboriously, and to short distances, and never alight but on low branches, preferring fuch as are thickest clothed with sprays and leaves: they have little vivacity, and when once feated, they remain a long time: they have even a dull, melancholy aspect, and they might be faid to affect giving themfelves an air of gravity, by finking their large head between their shoulders; and it then feems to cover all the forepart of the body. Their disposition corresponds exactly to their massy figure and their serious deportment. They are so unwieldly that they have much difficulty to move; and a person may advance as near as he pleases and fire several times, without driving them to flight. Their slesh is not bad, though they live on caterpillars and other large insects. In short, they are exceedingly silent and solitary, homely and remarkably ill shaped [A].

[A] Specific character of the Bucco-Tamatia: "It is rufous brown; below rufous white, spotted with black; its throat orange; it is half-collared."

The TAMATIA with the Head and Throat Red.

Second Species.

Bucco-Cayanenfis. Gmel. and Briff. The Cayenne Barbet. Lath.

This bird, which we have delineated in the same plate under two different denominations, appears however not to form two species, but only to include a variety; for in both, the head and throat are red; the cheeks and all the under surface of the body black; the bill blackish, and the feet cinereous. The only difference is, that in the first figure the breast is yellowish white, but in the second it is brown diluted

COLLARED TAMATIA. 91

diluted with yellow; the former has black spots on the top of the breast; it has also a small white spot above the eyes and white spots on the wings, which are wanting in the second. But as, in other respects, they are similar, and are of the same size, we do not regard the differences of colour sufficient to constitute two distinct species, as our nomenclators have presumed. These birds are sound not only in Guiana, but in St. Domingo, and probably in other hot climates of America [A].

[A] Specific character of the Bucco Cayanenfir: "It is. black, below ochry-white, its front and throat red."

The COLLARED TAMATIA

Third Species.

Bucco Capenfis. Linn. and Gmel. Bucco. Briss. The Collared Barbet. Lath.

THE plumage is agreeably variegated; the underside of the body deep orange, striped transversely with black lines; about the neck there is a collar, which is very narrow above and so broad below as to cover all the top of the breast; and this black

; its

is ru-

s he

driv-

bad.

ther

ngly

ably

the

ted rent to

vaare face and

is, owwn

ted

92 BEAUTIFUL TAMATIA.

black collar is accompanied with a half collar of a tawny colour; the throat is whitish; the lower part of the breast is rusty white, which constantly inclines more to rusous as it descends under the belly; the tail is two inches and three lines in length, and the whole bird measures seven inches and a quarter, its bill an inch and five lines, and the legs which are gray, seven and a half lines in height. It is found in Guiana, but is rare [A].

[A] Specific character of the Bucco Capenfis: 46 It is rufous with a fulvous stripe on its shoulder, a black stripe on its breast."

The BEAUTIFUL TAMATIA.

Fourth Species.

Bucco Elegans. Gmel.

Bucco Maynanensis. Briss.

The Beautiful Barbet. Lath.

This bird is the most beautiful, or rather the least ugly of the genus: it is better made, smaller and more slender than the rest, and its plumage is so variegated that it would be difficult to give a full description. It is five inches eight lines in length, including the tail which is near two inches;

inches; the bill measures ten lines and the legs the same.

lf

is

is

re

3

in

a d

bi

n

d

n.

0

It is found on the banks of the river Amazons, in the country of the Maynas: but we are informed that it inhabits equally the other parts of South America.

The BLACK and WHITE TAMATIAS.

Fifth and Sixth Species.

We can scarce separate these two birds, for they differ only in size; and besides their general resemblance in the colours, they have both an appropriated character; viz. their bill is stronger, thicker and longer than the other Tamatias in proportion to their body; in both also the upper mandible is very hooked, and terminates in two points as in the first species.

The largest * of these Black and White Tamatias is very thick compared with its length, which is hardly seven inches: it is a new species sent from Cayenne by M. Duval, and also the other species which is

Bucco Macrorynchos. Gmel.
The Greater Pied Barbet. Lath.

94 BLACK AND WHITE TAMATIAS.

fmaller and exceeds not five inches in length. It would be tedious to enter into a minute description. Their similarity is so striking that but for their difference of size, we might regard them as the same species. [A]

[A] Specific character: It is black; its front, the tips of its tail-quills, and the under-fide of its body, are white; it has a black stripe on its breast."

fe tin fic

th in cli an Be

fo fee eq

an

fed the

tia for the

The BARBETS.

is

of

Les Barbus. Buff.

W E applied the name Tamatia to the bearded birds of America," and reserved Barbet for those of the ancient continent. As both these fly with great difficulty, on account of the thickness and unwieldiness of their body, it is improbable that they could migrate from one continent into another, fince they inhabit the hottest climates. Accordingly, they are different, and we have therefore discriminated them. But still they resemble in many characters: for, besides the long slender bristles that cover the bill either wholly or partly and form the beard, and the position of the feet, which is the same in both; they have equally a fquat body, a very large head, and a bill exceedingly thick, fomewhat curved below, convex above, and compresfed on the fides. In the Barbets however, the bill is fensibly shorter, thicker, and rather less convex below than in the Tamatias. Their dispositions also differ; the former are sedate and almost stupid, while the latter, which inhabit the East Indies, attack

attack the small birds, and, in their œconomy, resemble nearly the Shrikes.

The YELLOW THROATED BARBET.

First Species.

Bucco Philippensis. Gmel. and Briff.

It's length is seven inches; the tail only eighteen lines; the bill twelve or thirteen lines, and the legs eight lines: the head is red, and also the breast; the eyes are encircled by a large yellow spot; the throat is pure yellow, the rest of the underside of the body yellowish, variegated with longitudinal spots of dull green. The female is smaller than the male; and has no red on the head or breast. They are found in the Philippines [A].

[[]A] Specific character of the Bucco Philippensis: " It is green, the top of the head (of the male); the space about the eyes, the throat, and the underside of the body, yellow."

N.º 166

ly rad re at of is

on he

t is out rel-

THE BARBET.

is b la
th
be
he
th
blo
or
th
lo
w
ftr
th
lo
as
of
is

The BLACK THROATED BARBET.

Second Species.

Butco Niger. Gmel.

This species, which, as well as the preceding, is found in the Philipinnes, is yet very different. It is thus described by Sonnerat.

"This bird is rather larger and particularly longer than the Grosbeak of Europe: the front or fore part of the head is of a beautiful red; the crown, the back of the head, the throat, and the neck, are black: there is also, above the eye, a semi-circular black stripe which is continued by another one, straight and white, that descends to the lower part of the neck on the fide; below the yellow stripe and the white one, which continues it, there is a black vertical stripe, and between this and the throat, there is a white longitudinal stripe, that is lost at its base in the breast, which, as well as the belly, the sides, and the upper surface of the tail, is white; the middle of the back is black, but the feathers on the fide, between the neck and the back, are black, **speckled** VOL. VII. H

98 BLACK THROATED BARBET.

fpeckled each with a streak of yellow; the four first, including the stump, are tipt with white, and the fifth with yellow, which forms a cross stripe on the top of the wing; below this stripe, are black feathers, speckled each a yellow point: the last feathers finally, which cover the great quills of the wing, are likewise entirely black; but the others have over their whole length, on the side where the webs are longest, a yellow fringe; the tail is black in the middle, tinged with yellow on the sides; the bill and feet are blackish." [A]

y

tl

m

W

th

th bl

on

T

bro

tion

fou

bill

chal

win

[A] Specific character of the Bucco Niger: "It is black, below white, a yellow streak above the eye produced on either side to the neck, a white collar."

The BLACK-BREASTED BARBET.

Le Barbu à Plastron Noir. Buff.

Third Species.

Bucco Niger. Var. Gmel.

This is a new species sent to us from the Cape of Good Hope, but without any account of the natural habits of the bird. It is six inches and a half long; its tail eighteen eighteen lines; its feet eight or nine lines. It is of a middle fize, smaller than the Grosbeak of Europe; its plumage is agreeably mingled and contrasted with black and white; its front is red; there is a yellow line on the eye, and drops of a bright shining yellow scattered on the wings and the back; the same yellow tinge extends in dashes to the rump; and the quills of the tail, and the middle ones of the bill, are slightly fringed with the same colour; a black plate covers the breast as far as the neck; the back of the head is also enveloped in black, and a black bar between two white ones descends on the side of the neck.

The LITTLE BARBET.

Fourth Species.

Bucco Parvus. Gmel.

he

ith

ich

g;

led-

llv,

are

ave

ere

the

7e]-

are

d on

D

om

out

the tail

een

This is a new species, and the smallest in the genus. It was given to us as brought from Senegal, but without mention of any other circumstance. It is only four inches long: its large head and thick bill shaded with long bristles, sufficiently characterize it. Its tail is short, and its wings, when closed, reach almost to its H 2 extremity;

extremity: all the upperfide of the body is of a blackish brown, shaded with sulvous, and tinged with green on the quills of the wing and of the tail; some small white waves form fringes on the former: the underside of the body is whitish, with some traces of brown; the throat is yellow, and from the corners of the bill a small white bar passes under the eyes. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Bucco Parvus: "It is blackish brown, below, white, spotted with brown; its throat yellow."

The GREAT BARBET.

Fifth Species.

Bucco Grandis. Gmel.

The principal colour in its plumage is a fine green, which mingles with other colours on different parts of the body, and especially on the head and neck: the head entirely, and the forepart of the neck, are green mixed with blue; so that they appear green or blue, according to their exposure to the light; the origin of the neck, and that of the back, are of a chesnut brown, which varies also in differ-

ent

w

de

gı

is th

it

W

dI

fr

gre

th

fee

th

far

yel

IS.

he

te

he

ne

nd

ite

ng. age

her

dy,

the

ck.

hey

ieir

the

a

er-

ent

ent aspects, being intermingled with green; all the upperside of the body is of a very sine green, except the great quills of the wings, which are partly black; all the underside of the body is of a much lighter green; there are some feathers below the tail, which are of a very sine red: the bill is ten lines in length, and an inch broad at the base, where there are black hard bristles; it is whitish, but black at the point: the wings are short, and scarcely reach the middle of the tail. This bird was sent to us from China. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Bucco Grandis: "It is green, the lower coverts of its tail red."

The GREEN BARBET.

Sixth Species.

Bucco Viridis Gmel.

It is fix inches and a half long; the back, the coverts of the wings, and of the tail are of a very fine green; the great quills of the wing are brown, but that colour is not feen, being hid by the coverts of the wings; the head is brown gray; the neck is the same colour, but each feather is edged with yellowish, and above and behind the eye,

there is a white spot; the belly is of a much paler green than the back; the bill is whitish, and the base of the upper mandible is surrounded with long black and hard hairs; the bill is an inch and two lines in length, and seven lines broad at its base, the wings are short, and reach only the middle of the tail. We received it from the East Indies. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Bucco Viridis: "It is green, its head and neck gray-brown, the space about its eyes white."

11

8

aı

to

aı ca T po w T fel w ta On ch th fu a hi in fo 1w

The TOUCANS.

ill n-

nd wo its

ıly

m

en.

yes

THAT may be termed the physiognomy of animated beings results from the aspect of their head in different positions. Their form, their figure, their shape, &c. refer to the appearance of their body and of its members. In birds, it is easy to perceive, that such as have a small head and a short slender bill, exhibit a delicate, pleasing, and sprightly physiognomy. Those, on the contrary, with an over-proportioned head, fuch as the Barbets, or with a bill as large as the head, fuch as the Toucans, have an air of stupidity, which feldom belies their natural talents. A person who faw a Toucan for the first time might take the head and bill, in the front view, as one of those long-nosed malks that frighten children; but when he seriously examined this enormous production, he would be furprized that nature had given fo huge a bill to a bird of fuch moderate fize, and his astonishment would increase on reflecting, that it was useless and even burthensome to its owner, which it obliged to fwallow its food whole without dividing or crushing. H 4

crushing. And so far is this bill from serving the bird as an instrument of defence. or even as a counterpoise, that it acts like a weight on a lever which tends constantly to destroy the balance, and occasion a fort of hobbling motion.

The true character of nature's errors is disproportion joined to inutility. All those parts of animals which are overgrown or misplaced, and which are useless or inconvenient, ought not to be ranged in the great plan of the universe; they should be imputed to her caprice or overfight, which however tend equally to their object, fince these extraordinary productions evince, that whatever can be, actually exists; and that though a regular symmetry commonly obtains, the disorders, the excesses, and the defe ts which are permitted, demonstrate the extent of that power which is confined not to those ideas of proportion and fystem that we are apt to regard as the standards.

And as nature has bestowed on most animals all the qualities that conspire to beauty and perfection of form, she has also admitted more than one defect in her careless productions. The enormous and useless bill of the Toucan includes a tongue, still more useless, and whose structure is very

ve gi

lai

wl pli fu on ſh to th th on th fe fo

> is ce w bi

T

tra

121

ot bit

very uncommon; it is not fleshy or cartilaginous as in other birds, but a real feather misplaced.

:e, ke

ly

ort

is

ose

or

n-

he

be

ch

ice

nat

nat

b-

he

ate

111-

nd

he

ni-

ıu-

lfo re-

fe-

uc,

is

ry

The word Toucan means feather in the language of Brazil, and Toucan tabourace. which fignifies feathers for dancing, is applied by the natives to that bird which furnishes them with the decorations worn on festival days. Indeed these birds, so shapeless and monstrous in their bill and tongue, have a brilliant plumage; their throat is orange of the most vivid hue; and though such beautiful feathers are found only in some species of Toucans, yet have they given name to the whole genus. Thefe feathers are even in Europe in request for making muffs. The huge bill of the Toucan has acquired it other honours, and translated it among their southern constellations, where nothing is admitted but what is striking or wonderful *. Besides the excessive length of this bill, it is through its whole length wider than the head of the bird; Lery has termed it, the bill of bills +, other voyagers have named the Toucan the bird all-bill ‡, and the Creoles of Cayenne

[•] Journal des Observations Physiques du P. Feuillée, p. 428.

⁺ Voyage du Brafil. p. 174.

¹ Dampier's Voyage round the World.

apply to it the epithet of Grosbeak. The magnitude of the bill would exceedingly fatigue the head and neck, were it not very thin, infomuch that it may eafily be crushed between the fingers. Authors | were therefore mistaken in afferting, that the Toucans bored trees, like the Woodpeckers; or they were at least mislead by the Spaniards, who have confounded these birds under the fame name carpenteros (carpenter), or tacticacas in the language of Peru. But it is certain that the Toucans are very different from the Woodpeckers, and could not imitate them in that habit; and indeed Scaliger has before us remarked that as their bill was hooked downwards, it feemed impossible for them to make a perforation.

The form of this huge unwieldly bill is very different in each mandible: the upper one is bent into the shape of a sickle, rounded above, and hooked at the extremity; the under one is shorter, narrower and less curved below. Both of them have indentings on the edges, but which are much more perceptible on the upper than on the under; and what appears still more singular, these indentings do not sit into each other, nor even correspond in their relative position, those on the right side not

| Hernandez.

being

bei beg mo

ble are hav fea a ca for ent wh to t and and fup hav utte fo c the bira this in 1 **fup**

on the and y feath rivier Paris

+

being opposite to those on the left, for they begin more or less behind, and end also more or less forward.

g-

ue

n,

)e-

'e-

u-

or

ls,

er

or

it

r.

ot

ed

eir

n-

is

er

le,

e-

er

ve

re an

re

to

ot

þg

The tongue of the Toucans is, if possible, more wonderful than the bill: they are the only birds which may be faid to have a feather instead of a tongue, and a feather it certainly is, though the shaft is a cartilaginous substance two lines broad; for on both fides there are very close barbs, entirely like those of ordinary feathers, and which are longer the nearer they are inferted to the extremity. With an organ fo fingular and so different from the ordinary substance and organization of the tongue, we might suppose that these birds were mute; yet they have a voice as well as the rest, and often utter a fort of whistling, which is reiterated fo quickly, and with fuch continuance that they have been denominated the preaching birds. The favages ascribe great virtues to this feathery tongue *, and use it as a cure in many disorders. Some authors + have supposed that the Toucans had no nostrils;

^{*} M. de la Condamine speaks of a Toucan which he saw on the banks of the Maragnon, whose monstrous bill is red and yellow; its tongue, he says, which resembles a delicate feather, is esteemed to have great virtues. Voyage a la riviere des Amazones, Paris, 1745. See also Gemelli Carreri, Paris, 1719. tom. v1. p. 24, &c.

⁺ Willughby and Barrere.

but we may see them by stroking aside the seathers at the base of the bill, which in most species conceal them; in others, they are bare, and consequently very apparent.

The Toucans have nothing in common with the Woodpeckers, but the disposition of their toes, two placed before and two behind. Even in this character, a distinction may be perceived; the toes are much longer and differently proportioned than in Woodpeckers; the outer fore-toe is almost as long as the whole foot, which is indeed very short, and the other toes are also very long, the two inner ones are the least so. The feet of the Toucans are only half the length of the legs, so that they cannot walk, but hop, and that awkwardly: the feet are not feathered, but covered with long foft scales. The nails are proportioned to the length of the toes, arched, and somewhat flattened obtuse at the end, and furrowed below lengthwife by a channel; they are of no service to the bird in attack or defence, or even for climbing, but only to support it firmly on the boughs on which it perches.

The Toucans are scattered through all the warm parts of South America, and never occur in the ancient continent. They flit rather than migrate, following the maturity of the fruits on which they feed, particularly particu these t margin situatio on the mud. they ear

from fi laborion wings a bill; y on the always but the their du a ferion their la

their fo

Thef

As the Wothey exonly two abundance afily ta

short, t

the mor

[•] Fernai

particularly those of the palms; and as these trees delight in wet places near the margin of water, the Toucans affect such situations, and sometimes they even lodge on the mangroves, which grow in deluged mud. And hence it has been supposed that they eat fishes *, but these must at least be very small, since they are obliged to swallow their food entire.

These birds generally go in small bodies from six to ten; their slight is heavy and laborious, owing to the shortness of their wings and the weight of their enormous bill; yet they rise above the tallest trees, on the summits of which they are almost always perched, and in continual flutter; but the vivacity of their motions dispels not their dull air, for the huge bill gives them a serious melancholy countenance, and their large dull eyes augment the effect: in short, though lively and active, they appear the more heavy and awkward.

As they breed in the holes abandoned by the Woodpeckers, it has been supposed they excavate these themselves. They lay only two eggs, yet all the species contain abundance of individuals. They may be easily tamed, if taken young; it is even

[·] Fernandez and Nieremberg.

faid that they will propagate in the domeftic state. They are not difficult to rear, for they swallow whatever is thrown to them, bread, flesh, or fish; they also with the point of their bill, lay hold of the bits that are held near them; they toss these up, and receive them in their wide throat. But when they are obliged to provide for themselves, and to gather their food from the ground, they feem to grope, and feize the crumb sidewise, that it may leap up, and be caught in its fall. They are fo delicate to impressions of cold, as to be affected by the coolness of evening in the hottest climates, even of the new continent; they have been observed in the house to make a bed of herbs, of straw, and of whatever they could gather. Their skin is in general blue under the feathers, and their flesh, though black and hard, is yet palatable.

The genus of these birds subdivides itself into the Toucans and Aracaris: these differ from each other; 1. in size, the Toucans being much larger than the Aracaris, 2. by the dimensions and the substance of their bill, which in the Aracaris is much longer, harder, and solider; 3. by their tail, which is longer in the Aracaris, and very sensibly tapered, whereas it is rounded in the

in t

ones diferi in the Toucans +. The Toucans properly fo called, contain five species.

:ſ-

or n, he

at

p,

ıt.

m ze

ft y a

£

† The Brasilians were the first who distinguished these two varieties, calling the large ones toucans, and the small ones Aracaris: The natives of Guiana have made the same discrimination, giving the former the name of kararouima, and the latter that of grigri.

The TOCO.

First Species.

Ramphastos-Toco. Gmel.

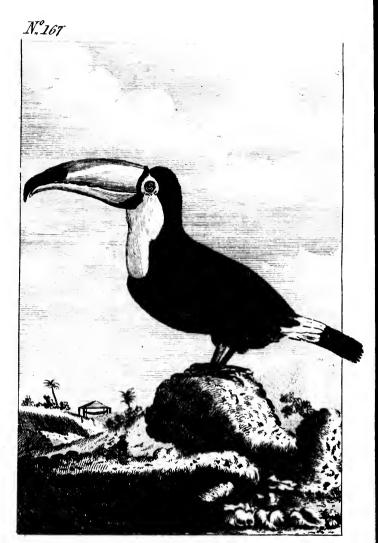
THE body of this bird is nine inches long, including the head and tail; its bill is feven inches and a half; the head, the upper fide of the neck, the back, the rump, the wings, the whole tail, the breaft, and the belly, are deep black; the coverts of the upper fide of the tail are white, and those of the under side are fine red: the under fide of the neck and throat are white, mixed with a little yellow: between this yellow below the throat and the black of the breast, there is a small red circle; the base of the two mandibles is black; the rest of the lower mandible is reddish yellow; the upper mandible is of the same reddish yellow colour, as far as two thirds of its length; the rest of this mandible is black to the point: the wings are short, and reach hardly the third of the tail: the feet and nails are black. This species is new, and we have given it the name of toco. [A]

[[]A] Specific character of the Ramphastos-Toco: It is blackish; its throat and rump, white; its orbits, a circle on its breast, and its vent, red.

its
ad,
the
aft,
erts
ite,
ed;
oat
w:
and
hall
idiible
far
this

ngs the 'his the

ack-n its



THE TOUCAN.

The

Ty first throat secon can of ly bo the i yellov vivaci the ag fuperi fome

[A] S
is black
its throa
[B] S
is blacki

VOL

The YELLOW-THROATED TOUCAN.

Second Species.

Stamphastos Dicolorus. Linn. and Gmel. Ramphastos Tucanus. Linn. and Gmel.

Tucana { Cayanensis Brasiliensis. } gutture luteo. Briss.

Two birds of this kind have been figured in the Planches Enluminees; the first under the denomination of the Yellow throated Toucan, of Cayenne [A], and the second under that of the yellow-throated toucan of Brazil. [B] But they inhabit equally both countries, and appear to us to form the same species. The difference in the colour of their bill, in the extent of the yellow plate on the throat, as well as in the vivacity of their colours, may be owing to the age of the bird: It is certain, that the superior coverts of the tail are yellow in some individuals, and red in others. In

vol. vii. i both,

[[]A] Specific character of the Ramphaftor Dicolorus. "It is blackish; its breast, its belly, its vent, and its rump red; its throat yellow."

[[]B] Specific character of the Ramphastos-Tucanus. "It is blackish; a bar on its belly, its vent and ramp yellow."

YELLOW-THROATED TOUCAN.

both, the head and upper fide of the body, the wings, and tail, are black; the throat orange, more or less bright; under the throat, a red bar of various width stretches on the breast; the belly is blackish, and the inferior coverts of the tail are red; the bill is black with a blue stripe running from its top all its length: the base of the bill is furrounded by a pretty broad yellow or white bar; the nostrils are concealed in the feathers at the root, and their apertures are round; the legs are twenty lines in length, and bluish; the bill, four inches and a half long, and seventeen lines high above the base; the whole bird, from the end of the bill to the extremity of the tail, is nineteen inches; and if from this we deduct fix inches and two or three lines for the tail, and four inches and a half for the bill, there remains hardly nine inches for the length of the head and body.

It is from this species of Toucan, that those brilliant feathers used as ornaments are obtained; all the yellow part is cut off from the skin, and sold at a high price. The males only furnish these fine yellow feathers, for the throat of the females is white: and this distinction has missed the nomenclators, who have regarded the male and female

fem fom ever two four may whi its l

Tı

as 1 fo v is vo exac mof mer Cay and the ther pinie

have

ły,

oat

he

nes

the bill

its

l is

or

in

res

in

hes

igh

the

ail.

we

for

the

for

hat

ents

off

The

fea-

ite;

ien-

land

nale

female as of different species *, and finding some variation of colours in both, have even gone so far as to make each include two separate species. But we reduce these sour pretended species to one, and we may also join a sisth mentioned by Laét +, which differs only in the white colour of its breast.

In general, the females are very nearly as large as the males; their colours are not so vivid, and the red-bar below the throat is very narrow; in other respects, they are exactly similar. This second species is the most common, and perhaps the most numerous of the Toucans. They abound in Cayenne, particularly in the swampy forests, and on the mangrove trees. Though like the rest of the genus, they have only a feathery tongue, they articulate a sound like pinien-coin, which the creoles of Cayenne have employed as its designation, but which

Ramphastos Pisciworus. Linn. and Gmel.
Ramphastos Erythrorhynchos. Gmel.
Tucana Cayanensis gutture albo. Briss.
Tucana Brasiliensis gutture albo. Briss.
Picus Americanus. Fernandez.
Altera Xochitenacatl. Fernandez.
Passer Longirostrus, Xochitenacatl distus. Nieremberg.
The Toucan, or Brasilian Pye. Edw.
The Redbeaked Toucan. Edw.

[†] Histoire du Nouveau Monde. p. 553.

we have not adopted, it being common also to the Toco.

Specific character of the Ramphaftos Piscivorus. "It is blackish; the bar on its belly, and its vent, are red; its rump is white."

Specific character of the Ramphastos Erythrorynchos: "It is blackish; its cheeks, and its throat, white; the upper coverts of its tail, brimstone-coloured; the lower, and a crescent on its breast, red."

The RED-BELLIED TOUCAN.

Third Species.

Ramphastos Picatus. Linn. and Gmel-Tucana. Briss. Nasutus Simpliciter. Klein. The Brasslian Pye, or Toucan. Alb. and Will. The Preacher Toucan. Lath.

This Toucan has a yellow neck, like the preceding; but its breast is a fine red, which in the other is black. Thevet, who first mentioned this bird, says that its bill is as long as its body. Aldrovandus admits the bill to be two palms in length, and one palm in breadth; and Brisson reckons the palm three inches. As we have never seen the bird, we can only speak from the accounts given by the two former writers. We may observe however, that Aldrovandus was mistaken in assigning it three toes before, and one behind; Thevet expressly

and natu

black is of that and likew of wroun include the of the

on potities flory and y would They fome

on th

[A] blackiff sail-qui

per.

lo

t is

It

per

ia

he

ne

et, its

us

th,

k-

ive

:ak

1er

at

it vet sly expressly mentions, that it has two before and two behind, which is conformable to nature.

The head, neck, back, ...d wings, are black, with whitish reflections; the breast is of a fine gold colour, with red above it, that is, under the throat; the belly, too, and the legs, are of a very bright red, and likewise the extremity of the tail, the rest of which is black; the iris is black, surrounded by a white circle, which itself is inclosed within another yellow circle; the lower mandible is only half as large near the extremity than the corresponding part of the upper mandible; both are indented on the edges.

Thevet assures us, that this bird lives on pepper, of which it swallows such quantities as to be obliged to vomit it. This story has been copied by all the naturalists; and yet there is no pepper in America. It would be difficult to imagine what spice Thevet meant, unless it was pimento, which some authors have termed Jamaica pepper. [A]

[[]A] Specific character of the Ramphastos Picatus. # It is blackish; its breast, yellow; its vent, and the tips of its sail-quills, red; its rump black."

The COCHICAT.

Fourth Species.

dez

fro

and

enti

fpo

the

wit

inh

Me

Pfittacus Torquatus. Gmel. Ramphaflos Torquatus. Lath. Ind. Tucana Mexicana Torquata. Briss. The Collared Toucan. Lath. Syn.

IN E have shortened the Mexican name Cochitenacatl into Cochicat. Fernandez is the only author who fays he has feen it, and I shall here borrow his account. " It is nearly of the same bulk with the other Toucans; its bill is feven inches long, the upper mandible white and indented, and the lower black; the eyes are black, and the iris reddish yellow; the head and neck, black, as far as a cross red line which encircles it like a collar, after which the upperfide of the neck continues black, and the underfide whitish, sprinkled with red spots and small black lines; the tail and wings are also black; the belly is green; the legs, red; the feet, of a greenish-ash colour, and the nails black. It frequents the fea-shore, and lives on fish [A]."

[A] Specific character of the Pfittacus Torquatus: "Above it is black, below, whitish, its belly green, its hind part red, its collar red."

The HOTCHICAT.

Fifth Species.

Ramphastos Pavoninus. Gmel. Tucana Mexicana Viridis. Briss. The Pavonine Toucan. Lath.

This name is contracted also for the Mexican Xochitenacatl*; and Fernandez is the only author who has described it from the life. "It is, he says, of the size and shape of a parrot; its plumage is almost entirely green, only sprinkled with some red spots; the legs and feet are black and short; the bill is four inches long; it is variegated with yellow and black." This bird also inhabits the sea-coast in the hottest parts of Mexico. [A]

* The Xo is pronounced Ho.

me

dez

and

arly

ns;

ian-

wer

red-

, as

like

the fide

nall

alfo

the ails ives

> bove part

[A] Specific character of the Ramphaftos Pavoninus: "It is green, sprinkled with red and iris feathers."

nom ipec that

it co

the

is q

fam

out Lin

the T

blac

bell

tail

yel

the

is f line

tex

tor

the

the

bir

fix

gree

The ARACARIS.

THE Aracaris, as we have already faid, are smaller than the Toucans; we are acquainted with four species of them, all natives of America.

The GRIGRI.

First Species of Aracari.

Ramphastos Aracari. Linn. and Gmel.
Ramphastos Viridis. Linn. and Gmel.
Tucana Brasiliensis Viridis. Briss. and Gerini.
Tucana Cayanensis Viridis. Briss.

The Aracari Toucan. Lath.
The Green Toucan. Lath.

This bird is found in Brasil, and is very common in Guiana, where it is called *Gri-gri*, because that word expresses its shrill short cry. It has the same natural habits as the Toucans; it also inhabits the swamps, and lodges among the palms [A]. This species contains a variety which our

[A] Specific character of the Ramphastos-Aracari: "It is green; the bar on its belly, the vent, and the rump, are red; its belly, bright yellow.

nomenclators

nomenclators have regarded as a separate species [B]. Yet the difference is so slight that it may be imputed to age or climate: it consists in a cross bar of fine red on the breast. There is likewise some difference in the colours of the bill; but that character is quite dubious, since these vary in the same individual according to the age, without following any regular order: so that Linnæus was wrong in drawing the specific characters of birds from the colours of the bill.

id.

all

is

is

es

al

he

].

ur

It

ure

The head, the throat, and the neck are black; the back, the wings and the tail are dull green; the rump, red; the breast and belly, yellow; the inferior coverts of the tail, and the feathers of the legs, olive yellow, variegated with red and fulvous; the eyes large, and the iris yellow; the bill is four inches and a quarter long, sixteen lines high, and of a more solid and harder texture than the bill of the Toucans; the tongue is of the same feathery nature; the feet, blackish-green, very short, and the toes very long: the whole length of the bird, including the bill and the tail, is sixteen inches and eight lines.

The

[[]B] Specific character of the Ramphaftos Viridis: "It is green, its belly bright yellow, its rump red."

The female differs from the male only in the colour of the throat and of the underfide of the neck, which is brown, but black in the male, which usually has its bill black and white, whereas in the female the lower mandible is black, and the upper one yellow, with a longitudinal black bar refembling a long narrow feather.

The KOULIK.

Second Species of Aracari.

Ramphastos Piperivorus. Linn. and Gmel. Tucana Cayanensis Torquata. Briss. The Green Toucan. Edw. The Piperine Toucan. Lath.

The word koulik, pronounced fast, refembles the cry of this bird, which is the reason why the Creoles of Cayenne have imposed that name. It is rather smaller than the preceding, and its bill shorter in proportion; the head, the throat, the neck, and the breast, are black; on the upper side of the neck, there is a yellow narrow half-collar; there is a spot of the same colour on each side of the head, behind the eyes; the back, the rump, and the

with tail terrethe three an male wheeless a second the tis a second to the tis a secon

the

bell

[A

a fi

var

in ide

in

ack

ver

m-

reich
ine
her
bill
oat,
on
elof
ad,
ind

the wings, are of a fine green, and the belly, which is also green, is variegated with blackish; the inferior coverts of the tail are reddish, but the tail itself is green, terminated with red; the feet are blackish; the bill is red at the base, and black through the rest; the eyes are encircled by a naked bluish membrane.

The female is distinguished from the male by the colour of the top of the neck, where the plumage is brown, but black in the male; the underside of the body, from the throat to the lower part of the belly, is gray in the female, and the half-collar is of a very pale yellow, whereas it is of a fine yellow in the male, and the underside variegated with different colours. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Ramphastos Piperiworus: 66 It is green, its foreside black, its vent and thighs red."

bill i

varie It

fome

passa

The BLACK BILLED ARACARI.

Third Species.

Ramphaftos Luteus. Gmel. Tucana Lutea. Briff. The Black-billed Toucan. Lath.

We derive our account of this bird from Nieremberg. It is as large as a pigeon; its bill is thick, black, and hooked; its eyes, too, are black, but the iris yellow; its wings and tail are variegated with black and white; a black bar rifes from the bill, and extends on each fide to the breast; the top of the wings is yellow, and the rest of the body yellowish white; the legs and feet are brown, and the nails whitish.

The BLUE ARACARI.

Fourth Species.

Ramphassos Cæruleus. Gmel. Tucana Cærulea. Briss. The Blue Tucan. Lath.

nandez, and his description is this:
"It is of the fize of a common pigeon; its
bill

BLUE ARACARI.

bill is very large and indented, yellow above and reddish-black below; all its plumage is variegated with cinereous and blue."

It appears from the same author, that some species of Aracaris are only birds of passage in certain parts of South America.

ts ts k

l,
ic
of

The BARBICAN.

Bucco Dubius. Gmel.
The Doubtful Barbet. Lath.

11.

I HAVE applied the term Barbican to denote a bird that occupies a middle rank between the Barbets and Toucans. It is a new species, and though it has not hitherto been noticed by naturalists, it belongs to no very distant climate, for we received it from the coast of Barbary, yet without its name, or any account of its natural habits.

The toes are disposed two before and two behind, as in the Barbets and Toucans; it resembles the latter in the distribution of its colours, in the shape of its body, and in its large bill, but it is shorter, much narrower, and solider than that of the Toucans; it resembles at the same time the Barbets in the long bristles which shoot from the base of the bill and extend considerably beyond the nostrils; the shape of the bill is peculiar, the upper mandible being pointed, hooked at its extremity, with two blunt indentings on each side; the lower mandible is striped transversely with small sur-

rows:

dow:

on a of the that

It inche long an in walk

[A] black, black. rows; the whole bill is reddish, and curved downwards.

The plumage of the Barbican is black on all the upper part of the body, the top of the breaft and belly; and it is red on the rest of the under surface, nearly as in that of the Toucans.

It is nine inches long; the tail three inches and a half; the bill eighteen lines long and ten thick, and the legs are only an inch high; so that the bird can hardly walk [A].

a

0

it

ts

S. 70 it of in r-S ; ts he ly is d, nt liır-S ; [A] Specific character of the Bucco Dubius: " It is black, below red; the bar on its breast, and its vent, black."

The CASSICAN.

Coracias Varia. Gmel. The Pied Roller. Lath.

THIS bird partakes of the properties of the Casiques and Toucaus, and therefore I have termed it Cassican. It is a new species sent by Sonnerat. We are uncertain what climate it inhabits, only we prefume that it comes from the fouthern parts of America; it certainly resembles the American Cassiques in the shape of its body and the bald spot on the foreside of the head, at the same time that it is analogous to the Toucan in the bulk, and shape of its bill, which is round and broad at the base, and hooked at the extremity. So that if its bill were larger, and the toes disposed two and two, it might be regarded as a proximate species of the Toucans.

It will be superfluous to describe the colours of this bird; its body is slender and long, being about thirteen inches; the bill is two inches and a half; the tail sive inches, and the legs fourteen lines. We are unacquainted with its natural habits; but if we were to judge from the shape of N.º168

THE CASSICAN.

of

in ne of rind at he ill, nd nd ate

:0nd ill

ive Ve

s; of its

its live whi fub bill fo t

black and that Rolle hard

its bill and feet, we should suppose that it lives on prey. Yet the Toucans and Parrots which have their bill and nails hooked, subsist entirely on fruits; and the nails and bill are much less hooked in the Cassican: so that we shall regard it as a frugivorous bird till we are better informed. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Coracias Varia: "It is black; its underfide, the lower part of its back, its rump, and the superior coverts of its tail, white; its tail equal and black, tipt with white." Mr. Latham justly observes that this bird partakes so much of the characters of the Rollers, of the Orioles, and of the Toucans, that it can hardly be referred to any one genus.

Vol. vii.

The CALAOS, Or RHINOCEROS BIRDS.

We have feen that the Toucans, so remarkable for their enormous bill, belong all of them to the continent of South America. We are now to view other birds, natives of Africa and of India, which wear a bill as prodigiously large, and of a shape still more excessively monstrous. For nature is more vigorous in the ancient than in the new world, and even her errors are more luxuriant.

When we consider the uncommon expanfion and cumbrous overgrowth which fwells and deforms the bill of these birds, we are ftruck with the incongruity and discordance of their structure. But nature exhibits other examples of inconfistency; the crossbills are almost incapacitated for taking their food, and are unable to defend themselves against even the weakest and smallest In the quadrupeds also, the sloths, the ant-caters, the short-tailed manis, &c. naked or miserable, by reason of the shape of their body, and of the disproportion of their members, drag out a laborious and painful

pain the ency ble i alon mair

by n

T weak ing t a lo near extre tende and t ken b inden effect for th and t were terval ner, t be uf

We the n birds, stowed natura

lected

painful existence, continually oppressed by the exuberance, or cramped by the deficiency of organization. The life of fuch feeble imperfect species is protected by solitude alone, and could never be supported and maintained, but in desert recesses, untrod by man or the powerful animals.

)f

ı.

h

a

JI.

11

re

ls

re

ce

ts

s-

 \mathbf{g}

1-

ft

s,

c.

ne

 of

hđ

ul

The bill of the Calao, though large, is weak and ill compacted, and so far from being useful, it proves burthensome: it is like a long lever where the force is applied near the fulcrum, and confequently the extremity acts feebly: its substance is so tender, that it shivers by the least attrition, and these accidental cracks have been mistaken by naturalists for a regular and natural indenting. These produce a remarkable effect on the bill of the Rhinoceros Calao; for the mandibles meet only at the point and the rest remains wide open, as if they were not formed for each other. terval is worn and broken in such a manner, that this part would feem intended to be used only at first, and afterwards neglected.

We follow our nomenclators in applying the name calao to the whole genus of these birds, though the people of India have bestowed it only on one or two species. Many naturalists have given them the appellation Rhinoceros*, on account of the fort of horn which rifeson the bill; but almost all of them have seen only the bills of those extraordinary birds †. We will range the calaos according to the most striking character, the singular shape of the bill. We shall find that even in her aberrations, nature proceeds by insensible gradations, and that of the ten species which compose the genus, there is only one perhaps that merits the designation of Rhinoceros bird.

These ten species are;

- 1. The Calao-rhinoceros.
- 2. The round-helmeted Calao.
- 3. The concave helmeted Calao of the Philippines.

4. The Abysfinian Calao.

- 5. The African Calao, which we shall term Brac.
- 6. The Malabar Calao, which we have feen alive.
- 7. The Molucca Calao, of which we have a stuffed preparation.
- 8. The Calao of the island of Panay, of which we have stuffed specimens of both the male and female.

a stu

of Se

by we confident it is In the ceived diffine excrephilist from the feet of the ceived the ceived

bill,

the

toes

the

[·] Edwards .- Grew .- Clusius .- Willighby, &c.

[†] Edwards, Belon, &c.

^{9.} The

rn m

ry d-

n-

nat

by

en

is

a-

the

all

ave

ave

of oth

`he

9. The Manilla Calao, of which we have a stuffed specimen.

10. Lattly, the Tock, or red-billed Calao of Senegal, of which we have a stuffed specimen.

It we invert the order of these ten species, we shall be able to trace all the steps by which nature arrives at this monstrous conformation of bill. The Tock has a broad bill fashioned as the rest like a sickle; but it is simple, and without any protuberance. In the Manilla Calao, a swell may be perceived on the top of the bill: this is more distinct in the Molucca Calao: still more considerable in the Abyssinian Calao: the excrescence is prodigious in those of the Philippines and Malabar, and quite monstrous in the Rhinoceros-Calao. But though these birds admit of such varieties in the bill, they have one general resemblance in the conformation of the feet, the lateral toes being very long, and almost equal to the middle one.

The TOCK.

First Species.

Buceros Nasutus. Linn. and Gmel.

{ Hydrocorax Senegalensis Erythrorynchos. Hydrocorax Senegalensis Melanorynchos. } Brist.

The Black-billed Hornbill. Lath.

THIS bird has a very large bill, but this is simple, and without any excrescence; yet still fashioned as in the other Calaos, like a fickle. It resembles them for the most part also in its natural habits, and occurs too in the hottest climates of the ancient The negroes of Senegal give it continent. the name of Tock, which we shall retain. The young bird differs very much from the adult; for its bill is black, and its plumage ash-gray, and, with age, the bill becomes red, and the plumage blackish on the upper side of the body, on the wings, and on the tail, and whitish quite round the head, on the neck, and on all the lower parts of the body: it is also said, that the legs are originally black, and grow afterwards reddish. It is not therefore surprizing that Brisson has made two species; his first defignation fign Too

one nect join toe, is ve

is ve inde T inch

bill and fubfi legs

 \mathbf{T}

Sene fuffe and fcare age i posit shy, while branfeelly

shou The the o fignation feems applicable to the adult Tock, and his fecond to the young Tock.

This bird has three toes before and only one behind; the middle one is closely connected to the outer toe as far as the third joint, and much more loosely to the inner toe, and at the first joint only. The bill is very thick, bent downwards, and slightly indented on the sides.

The subject which we describe was twenty inches long; its tail six inches, ten lines: its bill three inches sive lines, and twelve lines and a half thick at the base; its horny substance of the bill is thin and light: the legs are eighteen lines high.

e;

S,

ſť

rs

nt

it

n.

he

ge

es

p-

on

ıd,

of

re

d-

at

le-

on

These birds which are pretty common in Senegal, are very simple when young; they suffer a person to approach and catch them; and they may be shot at without being scared, or even without their stirring. But age instructs them by experience; their disposition quite alters; they grow extremely shy, and escape to the summits of the trees; while the young ones remain on the lowest branches and the bushes, and continue perfectly still, their head sunk between the shoulders, so that the bill only is seen. The young birds scarce ever sly, whereas the old ones soar in a losty and rapid course.

The young Tocks are numerous in the months of August and September: they may be caught with the hand, and appear as tame as if they had been reared in the house. But this conduct proceeds from their stupidity, for they do not pick up the food that is thrown to them, and it must be put in their bill; which affords a prefumption that the parents are obliged to maintain them for a great length of time.

The Tock is very different from the Toucan, and yet one of our most intelligent naturalists has confounded them. Adanson says, in his voyage to Senegal, that he killed two Toucans in that country; but it is certain that there are no Toucans in Africa. I should therefore presume that our philosophical traveller meant the Tocks. [A] The

M. form

a h

mo pro upp flat

wit wa the

frii wii

col are

[[]A] Specific character of the Buceros Nafutus: " Its front is smooth, its tail-quills white at the base and at the tip."

The MANILLA CALAO.

Second Species.

Buceros Manillensis. Gmel. The Manilla Hornbill. Lath.

THIS species was hitherto unknown; it was fent to the King's Cabinet by M. Poivre, to whom we owe much other information, and many curious preparations. The bird is scarcely larger than the Tock; it is 20 inches long; its bill two inches and a half, less curved than that of the Tock, not indented, but as sharp at the edges, and more pointed; above this bill, there is a prominent light festoon, adhering to the upper mandible, and forming a simple inflation; the head and neck are white, stained with yellowish, and marked with brown waves; there is a black spot on each side of the head at the ears; the upperfide of the body is blackish brown, with some whitish fringes wrought slightly in the quills of the wing; the underside of the body is dirty white; the quills of the tail are of the same colour with those of the wings, only they are intersected in their middle by a rufous bar,

bar, two fingers broad. We are unacquaintzed with the economy of this bird. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Buceros Manilliensis: "Above it is blackish brown, below dirty white, its bill not serrated; a small prominence."

The CALAO, of the Island of Panay,

Third Species.

Buceros Panayensis. Gmel. The Panayan Hornbill. Lath.

This bird was brought by M. Sonnerat, Correspondent of the Cabinet. I shall transcribe the account which he gives of it in his voyage to New Guinea: he calls it the chiseled bill Calao; but that epithet is equally applicable to other Calaos.

"The male and female are of the same fize, and nearly as large as the great European Raven, rather longer and narrower shaped; their bill is very long and arched into the form of a sickle, indented along its edges above and below, terminated by a sharp point, and depressed at its sides; it is furrowed up and down, or across two thirds of its length; the convex part of these furrows is brown, and the concave spaces are of the colour of orpiment; the rest of the bill

bill the exc flat righ alo nat hali circ feat fho lafh the win blu fem exc ten bel

> gre in t

> > ma of a and red

of yell ver bill near the point, is thin and brown; at the root of the bill, there rifes upwards an excrescence of the same horny substance, flat at the fides, sharp above, and cut at right angles before; this excrescence extends along the bill to its middle, where it terminates, and its uniform height is equal to half the breadth of the bill; the eye is encircled by a brown membrane devoid of feathers; the eyelid bears a ring of hard, short, stiff bristles, which form real eyelashes; the iris is whitish: in the male, the head, the neck, the back, and the wings are greenish black, changing into bluish, according to the position. In the female, the head and the neck are white, except a broad triangular fpot, which extends from the base of the bill, below and behind the eye, as far as the middle of the neck across the fides; this spot is dark green, fluctuating like the neck and back in the male: the female has also the neck and wings of the fame colour as in the male; the top of the breast in both sexes is of a light brown red; the belly, the thighs, and the rump are equally of a deep brown red; they both have ten quills in the tail, of which the upper two thirds are of a rusty yellow, and the lower third is a black transverse bar; the feet are lead colour, and composed 140

composed of four toes, one of which is directed behind and three before; the middle one is connected to the outer toe as far as the third joint, and to the inner toe as far as the first only." [A]

[A] Specific character of the Buceros Panayenfis. "It is greenish black, below red brown, the prominence of the upper mandible sharp above, and stat at the sides."

The MOLUCCA CALAO.

Fourth Species.

Buceros-Hydrocorax. Linn. and Gmel.
Hydrocorax Briss.
Corvus Indicus Bontii. Will.
Corvus Torquatus. Klein.
Cariocatactes. Mærh.
The Indian Hornbill. Lath.

THE name Alcatraz has improperly been applied to this bird; and Clusius is the author of the mistake. He has inaccurately translated the passage of Oviedo; for the Spanish word alcatraz, according to Fernandez, Hernandez, and Nieremberg, denotes the Pelican of Mexico. This mistake has occasioned another, which our nomenclators have transferred to the whole genus of the Calaos; they suppose that these birds

by in and Ca

nei

bir

the

ince the charles for Care ince blace ho ex

pa ba

he

is

wi

W

birds haunt the margin of water, and hence they bestow the appellation of bydrocorax (Water-raven.) But this opinion is resuted by all the observers who have viewed them in their native abodes: Bontius, Camel, and, what carries still more weight, the Calao itself, by its structure, the shape of its feet and bill, demonstrate that it is neither a Raven nor an aquatic bird.

The Molucca Calao is two feet four inches long; the bill eight inches; but the legs are only two inches two lines: this character of the shortness of the legs belongs not only to it, but to all the other Calaos, which walk with the utmost difficulty; the bill is ave inches long, and two inches and a half thick at its origin; it is blackish cinereous, and supports an excrescence, whose substance is solid and like horn; this excrescence is flat before, and extends rounded to the upperfide of the head; it has large black eyes, and its aspect is disagreeable; the sides of the head, the wings, and the throat, are black, and that part of the throat is furrounded with a white bar; the quills of the tail are whitish gray; all the rest of the plumage is variegated with brown, with gray, with blackish, and with fulvous; the feet are brown gray, and the bill blackish.

142 MALABAR CALAO.

These birds, says Bontius, do not live on slesh, but on fruits and particularly nut-megs, to which they prove very destructful; and that food communicates to the slesh, which is tender and delicate, an aromatic odour, that renders it more grateful to the palate. [A]

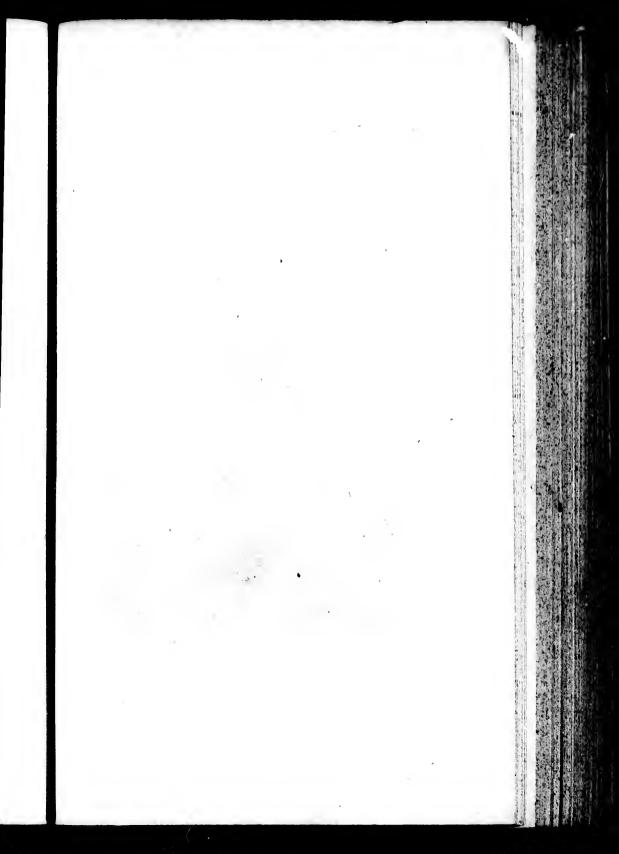
[A] Specific character of the Buceros Hydrocorax: "Its bony front is flat and truncated before, its belly fulvous."

The MALABAR CALAO.

Fifth Species.

Buceros Malabaricus. Gmel. The Pied Hornbill, Lath.

This bird was brought from Pondichery; it lived the whole of the summer 1777, in the court-yard of the Marchioness de Pons, who was so kind as to present it to me, for which I take this opportunity of expressing the warmest gratitude. It was as large as a Raven, or twice as large as the common crow; it was two feet and a half long, from the point of the bill to the extremity of the tail, which had dropt off in its passage home, and the feathers were begun to grow again, but had





THE HORN-BILL.

ha tha of wa be: a l cu wi it

had not nearly attained their full fize: fo that we may presume that the entire length of the bird was about three feet; its bill was eight inches long and two broad, and bent fifteen lines from the straight position; a fecond bill, if it may be so called, fat like a horn close on the first, and followed its curvature, and extended from the base to within two inches of the point of the bill, it rose two inches three lines; so that, measuring in the middle, the bill together with its horn formed a height of four inches; near the head, they were both of them fifteen lines thick across; the horn was fix inches long, and its extremity appeared to have been shortened and split by accident, so that we may reckon it to be half an inch longer: on the whole, this horn has the shape of a true bill, truncated and closed at the extremity, but the junction is marked by a very perceptible furrow, drawn near the middle and following all the curvature of this false bill, which does not adhere to the skull; but its posterior portion, which rifes on the head, is still more extraordinary, it is naked and fleshy, and covered with quick skin, through which this parafite member receives the nutritious juices.

The true bill terminates in a blunt point; it is strong, and consisting of a horny, and almost bony, substance, extended in laminae, and we may perceive the layers and undulations: the false bill is much thinner, and may be bent even by the singers; it is of a light substance disposed internally in little cells, which Edwards compares to those of a honey comb: Wormius says that this false bill consists of a matter like crabs shells.

The false bill is black, from the point to three inches behind, and there is a line of the same black at its origin, and also at the root of the true bill; all the rest is yellowish-white. Wormius remarks precisely the same colours; only he adds that the inside of the bill and of the palate, is black.

A white folded skin meets the root of the true bill above on both sides, and is inserted near the corners of the bill in the black skin that encircles the eyes; the eyelid is bordered with long lashes arched behind; the eye is red brown, and grows animated and sparkles when the bird is in commotion; the head, which appears small in proportion to the enormous bill which it bears, resembles much in its shape that of the Jay: in general, the sigure, the gesture, and the whole form of this Calao,

move Magg most

The 1 T black and i Jay; black tion cove irreg bund ftom amoi are l the p again from are with long hold with wife.

walk

appears to us composed of the seatures and movements of the Jay, the Raven, and the Magpie. These resemblances have struck most observers, and hence the bird has been called, the India Raven, the Horned Crow, The Horned Pie of Ethiopia.

The feathers on the head and neck were black, which it had the power of briftling, and they were often in that state, as in the Jay; those of the back and wings were also black, and all of them had a flight reflection of violet and green: on some of the coverts of the wings, there was an edging irregularly traced, and the feathers seemed bunched out like those of the Jay; the stomach and belly were of a dirty white; among the great quills of the wings, which are black, the outer ones only are white at the point; the tail, which had begun to grow again, confifted of fix white quills black at the root, and four which were springing from their shafts entirely black; the legs are black, thick, and strong, and covered with broad scales; the nails, which were long, but not sharp, seemed calculated for holding and clenching. This bird hopped with both its feet at once, forward and fidewise, like the Jay and Magpie, but did not walk. When at rest, its head seemed to VOL. VII. recline

recline on its shoulders; when disturbed by furprize and inquietude, it swelled and raised itself, and seemed to assume an air of boldness and importance. Yet its usual gait was mean and studid; its movements sudden and difagreeable; and its refemblance in features to the Magpie and the Raven, gave it an ignoble aspect *, suited to its dispofitions. Though there are species of Calaos that appear to be frugivorus, and we have feen this bird eat lettuces, which it first bruised in its bill; it swallowed raw slesh: it caught rats, and devoured even a small bird, which was thrown to it alive. It often repeated the hoarse cry ook, ook; it uttered also from time to time another found, which was feebler, and not fo raucous, and exactly like the clucking of a Turkey-hen when she leads her brood.

We have feen it spread and open its wings to the fun, and shudder at a passing cloud, or a flight breeze. It did not live more than three months at Paris, and died hefore the end of summer. Our climate is therefore too cold for it.

We cannot forbear remarking, that Brisfon is mistaken in referring the figure d of the bill in Pl. 281 of Edwards Gleanings to his Philippine Calao: for that

figur bears cave lippi

[A] is black above,

The

as th feen a head eighte yellov are ed

the b

fubst

of a

excre

it is

Bontius.

BRAC OR AFRICAN CALAO. 147

figure represents our Malabar Calao, which bears a fimple excrescence, and not a concave double horned-helmet, like the Philippine Calao. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Bucco Malabaricus: " It is black, below white; the prominence of its front rounded above, sharp towards the front, extended behind the eyes."

The BRAC or AFRICAN CALAO.

Sixth Species.

Buceros Africanus. Gmel. Hydrocorax Africanus. Briff. The African Hornbill. Lath. .

TATE shall retain the name Brac given to this Calao by father Labat, especially as that traveller is the only person that has feen and observed it. It is very large, its head alone and its bill making together eighteen inches in length; this bill is partly yellow, and partly red; the two mandibles are edged with black: at the upper part of the bill, there is an excrescence of a horny fubstance, which is of the same colour, and of a confiderable fize; the fore part of this excrescence projects forward like a horn, it is almost straight, and does not bend upwards;

148 ABYSSINIAN CALAO.

upwards; the hind part is on the contrary rounded and covers the top of the head; the nostrils are placed below this excrescence, near the origin of the bill: the plumage of this Calao is entirely black.

The ABYSSINIAN CALAO.

Seventh Species.

Buceres Abysfinicus. Gmel. The Abysfinian Hornbill. Lath.

This Calao appears to be one of the largest of the genus; yet, if we were to judge from the length and thickness of the bills, we should reckon the Rhinoceros Calao still larger. The bill of the Abysfinian Calao seems fashioned after that of the Raven, only it is more bulky; the total length of the bird is three feet two inches; it is entirely black, except the great quills of the wings, which are white, the middle ones and a part of the coverts, which are of a deep tawny brown; the bill has an easy, equal arch through its whole length, and it is flat and compressed at the sides; the two mandibles are hallowed internally with furrows, and terminate in a blunt point. The bill is nine inches long; it bears a semicircular

circula root t half i at its is of t thinne height to the lines ; half: twent almof long, thick, black nails, sharp near lids a

fkin o

cover

the n

ABYSSINIAN CALAO. 149

circular prominence that reaches from its root to near the front, two inches and a half in diameter, and fifteen lines broad at its base over the eyes; this excrescence is of the same substance with the bill, but thinner and yields under the fingers; the height of the bill taken vertically and joined to that of its horn, is three inches eight lines; the feet measure five inches and a half; the great toe, including the nail, is twenty-eight lines; the three fore toes are almost equal; the hind one is also very long, being two inches; all of them are thick, and covered, as well as the legs, with blackish scales, and furnished with strong nails, but which are neither hooked nor sharp: on each side of the upper mandible near its origin, is a reddish spot; the eyelids are provided with long lashes: a naked skin of violet brown encircles the eyes, and covers the throat and part of the forefide of the neck.

Geor

birds of of Cala

present

count

ciety of

in the

Art. II

termed

India,

the up

on the

of wild

tachio

We fh

bill is

ash col

the eye

the eye

fomew

of the

dible i

the mi

in heig

top fla

bearing

tongue

The PHILIPPINE CALAO.

Eighth Species.

Buceros Bicornis. Linn. and Gmel. Hydrocorax Philippenfis. Briff. The Philippine Hornbill. Lath:

HIS bird is, according to Brisson, of the fize of the Turkey-hen; but its head is proportionally much larger, which is indeed requifite to support a bill nine inches long, and two inches eight lines thick, and which carries, above the upper mandible, a horny excrescence six inches long, and three inches broad; this excrefcence is a little concave on the upper part, and the two anterior angles are produced before into the shape of a double horn; it extends rounding on the upper part of the head; the nostrils are placed near the origin of the bill, below this excrescence. All the bill, as well as this excrescence, is of a reddish colour,

The head, the throat, the neck, the upperfide of the body, and the superior coverts of the wings and tail, are black; all the underside of the body is white; the quills of the wings are black, and marked with

a white

PHILIPPINE CALAO. 151

a white spot; all the quills of the tail are entirely black, except the two exterior ones, which are white; the legs are greenish.

George Camel has, along with the other birds of the Philippines, described a species of Calao, which feems to be much like the present, but not exactly the same. His account was communicated to the Royal Society of London, by Dr. Petiver, and printed in the Philosophical Transactions, No. 285. Art. III. It there appears, that this bird termed Calao or Cagao by the people of India, does not haunt streams, but inhabits the uplands, and even the mountains, living on the fruits of the baliti, which is a fort of wild fig-tree, and also on almonds, piftachio nuts, &c. which it swallows entire. We shall here insert a translation: "The bill is black; the rump and back dufky ash colour; the head small, and black about the eyes; the eye-lashes black and long; the eyes blue; the bill is a span in length. fomewhat curved, ferrated, diaphanous, and of the colour of cinnabar; the lower mandible is about an inch and a half broad at the middle; the upper mandible is a palm in height, more than a fpan in length, the top flat and about a span in measure, and bearing a helmet of a palm in breadth. The tongue is small for such a bill, being hardly

an inch. Its voice refembles more the grunting of a fow, or the bellowing of an ox, than the cry of a bird. Its legs with the thighs are a span in length: the feet have three toes before, and only one behind, which are scaly, reddish, and armed with folid black talons: the tail confifts of eight great white quills, of a cubit in length; the quills of the wings are yellow. The Gentiles revere this bird, and relate stories of its fighting with the Crane which they call Tipul or Tibol; they fay, that after this battle, the Cranes were obliged to remain in the wet grounds, and that the Calaos would not fuffer them to approach the mountains *."

• We are forry to remark that the translation which the Count de Buffon here gives is exceedingly inaccurate. Sefquiuncia is rendered half an inch, &c. We have therefore altered it in some places; but, as the last sentence is that from which our ingenious author draws his conclusion, we have preferred it as it flood in the text. We shall now compare it with the original: "Calao, (fays Camel,) Gentiles superstitiose colunt et observant, sabulantur cum Grue Tipul seu Tihol pactasse, ut hæc palustribus, Calao sylvosis, contenta viverent (hinc Tipol si ligno quocunque insederit, in pænam transgress fæderis sese loco movere non valere, e contra Calao si aquosis et humilibus." That is, the idolatrous Indians have a superstitious veneration for the Calao, and relate that it has entered into a compact with the Crane that it should live contented with its marshes, and the Calao with the woods, thence the Crane, if it perch on a tree, cannot stir from the spot, as a punishment for infringing the treaty; and on the other hand, the Calao incurs the same punishment, if it alights in the low fens.

This

Thi clearly and a ters a pine ceive of th

The

we j bulk to the and inch it is from

rifes

wer

alm

PHILIPPINE CALAO. 153

This fort of description seems to prove clearly that the Calaos are not aquatic birds; and as the colours and some other characters are different from those of the Philippine Calao, described by Brisson, we conceive that this should be reckoned a variety of the other.

The ROUND HELMETED C A L A O.

Ninth Species.

Buceros Galeatus.
The Helmet Hornbill. Lath.

We have only the bill of this bird, and it is like that given by Edwards. If we judge of the fize of the bird from the bulk of the head, which remains attached to the bill, this Calao is one of the largest and strongest of the genus; the bill is six inches long, from the corners to the point; it is almost straight, and not indented: from the middle of the upper mandible there rises and extends as far as the occiput, a wen shaped like a helmet, two inches high, almost round, but a little compressed on the

the fides; this protuberance where it joins the bill, has an altitude of four inches and a circumference of eight. The faded and embrowned colours of this bill, which is deposited in the Cabinet, no longer exhibit that vermillion tinge which appears in Edwards' figure.

Aldrovandus gives a distinct figure of the bill of this round helmeted Calao under the name of Semenda, a bird of India, whose bistory is still almost entirely fabulous. This bill, which belonged to the Cabinet of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, had been brought from Damascus. The helmet was of an oval shape; it was white before and red behind; the bill was a palm in length, pointed, and channeled. When we compare this description with the figure, we find that this is the bill of the round helmeted Calao.

The

Some with the care Roma and mative

The iff Europand is Its oddly rifes a

which back

The RHINOCEROS CALAO.

Tenth Species.

Buceros Rhinoceros. Linn. and Gmel.

Nasutus Rhinoceros. Klein.

Hydrocorax Indicus. Briff.

Topau. Borousk.

Rhinoceros Avis. Johnst.

Corvus Indicus Cornutus. Bontius.

Tragopan. Mochring.

The Horned Pie of Ethiopia. Charlton.

The Horned Indian Raven, or Rhinoceros Bird. & Edw.

The Rhinoceros Hornbill. Lath.

Some Authors have confounded this bird with the *Tragopanda* of Pliny, which is the cassowary, known to the Greeks and Romans, and which was found in Barbary and the Levant, very remote from the native seat of this Calao.

The Rhinoceros bird seen by Bontius in the island of Java, is much larger than the European Raven; it has an offensive smell, and is very ugly. Bontius thus proceeds; "Its plumage is all black, and its bill oddly sashioned; for on its upper part, there rises an excrescence of a horny substance which extends forward, and then bends back towards the top like a horn, and which

is of a prodigious fize, for it is eight inches long, and four broad at the base: this horn is variegated with red and yellow, and as if divided into two parts by a black line that extends on each of the sides lengthwise; the nostrils are placed below this excretcence near the root of the bill. It is found in Sumatra, in the Philippines, and in other hot parts of India."

Bontius relates some particulars with regard to the economy of these birds; he tays that they live on carrion, and commonly follow the hunters of wild cows, boars, and stags, who to lessen the trouble of conveying their game, are obliged to divide carcases, and send them to the boats on the river, left the Calaos should devour them. Yet these birds attack no animals but rats and mice, and for that reason the Indians rear fome of them. Bontius tells us that the Calao first flattens the mouse in its bill to soften it; and then tosses it in the air, receives it in its wide throat, and swallows it entire: indeed this is the only mode of eating compatible with the structure of its bill, and the smallness of its tongue, which is concealed almost in the throat +.

Su

has

enou

ing;

exul

defe

facu

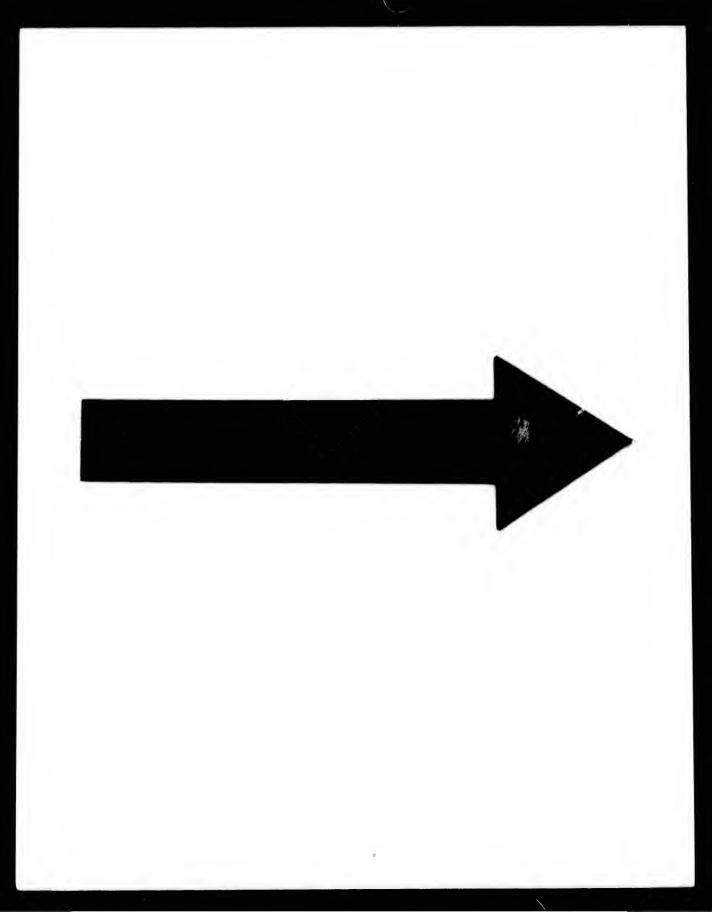
and

heav

⁺ Philosophical Transactions, No. 285.

RHINOCEROS CALAO. ,

Such is the manner of life to which nature has reduced it, by bestowing a bill strong enough for prey, but too weak for fighting; cumbrous for use, a mere shapeless exuberance. The external superfluities and defects seem to have affected the mental faculties of the animal: it is melancholy and savage; its aspect is coarse, its attitude heavy.—Bontius' figure is inaccurate.



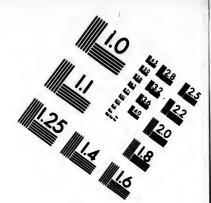
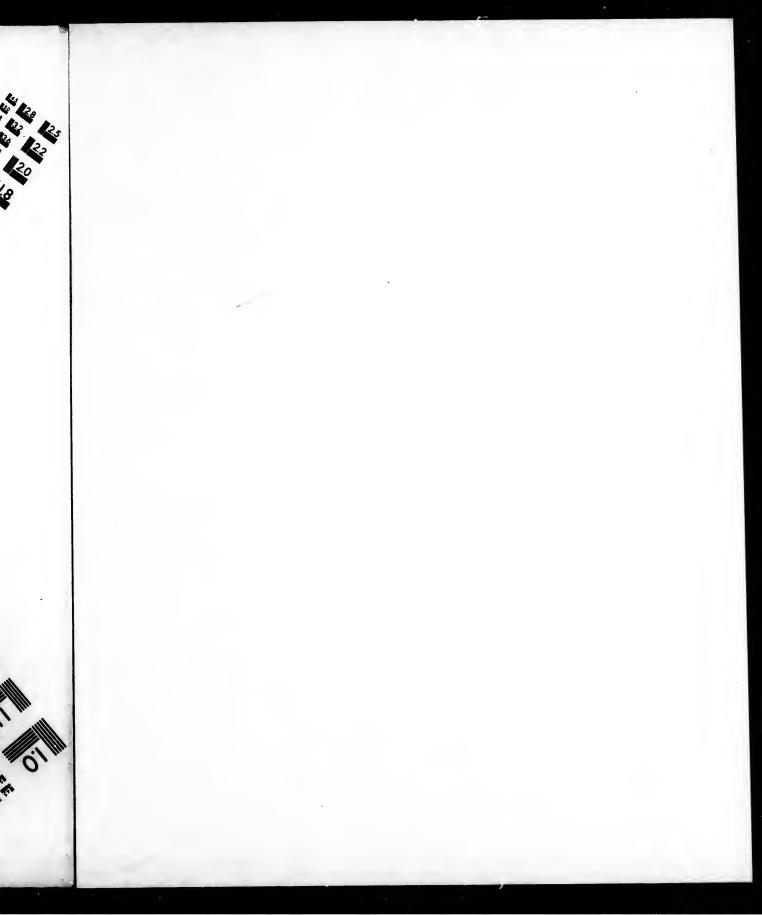


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



Photographic Sciences Corporation

23 WEST MAIN STREET WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580 (716) 872-4503 OTHER SERVICE SERVICE



The KING-FISHER.

Le Martin Pecheur, ou L'Alcyon. Buff.

* Alcedo Ifpida. Linn. Gmel.

Ifpida. Briff. Aldrov. Will. Klein, &c.

Alcedo Fluviatilis. Schwenckf.

THE French name Martin-fisher is beflowed on this bird, because, like the
Martin, it skims along the surface. Its
ancient appellation Alcyon or Halcyon is
nobler. It was celebrated among the
Greeks: the epithet Alcyonian was applied by them to the sour days before and
after the winter solstice +, when the sky is
serene, and the sea smooth and tranquil ‡.

Then.

* In Greek Αλκυων, Κηυξ and Κηςυλος; in modern Greek Φασιδυνικ: in Latin Alcedo and Alcyon; in modern Latin Ispida; in Italian Piombino, Picupiolo & Uccello Pescatore, Uccello del Paradiso, Uccello della Madonna, Pescatore del Re; (i. e. Fisher-bird, Bird of Paradise, Bird of our Lady, King-sisher); in Lombardy Merlo Acquarolo, (i. e. water Black-bird); in German, Eiss-wogel, Wasser beunlein, and See Schwalme (Ice-bird, Water-pullet, Sea-swallow); in Polish Zimorodek Rzeczny.

+ Seven according to Aristotle.

‡ We shall quote Ovid's description:

Perque dies placidos hiberno tempore septem.

Incubat halcyone pendentibus æquore nidis:

Tum via tuta maris: ventos custodit, et arcet

Æolus egressu.

Met. lib. xi.

Thus

Nº 170

N., 1.70



THE KING FISHER.

Then, venture shape of calm her you simple of the was made ocean a cyone, called ocean and complete the cyone, called ocean and cyone, c

This is, like of its n that A discussion the bird of Ari

Ceyx, w

it, and

Seven

[&]quot; Calms

[‡] Arif

^{15 &}quot; D

ee Eur

Then, the timorous navigators of antiquity ventured to lose fight of the shore, and to shape their course on the glassy surface of the main. This kind suspension of the horrors of the season, this happy interval of calm was granted the Alcyon, to breed her young ‡. Imagination amplified the simple beauties of nature by the addition of the marvellous; the nest of that bird was made to float on the placid face of the ocean ||; Æolus bound up his winds; Alcyone, his plaintive solitary daughter §, still called on the billows to restore her hapless Ceyx, whom Neptune had drowned, &c. ***

This mythological tale of the bird Alcyon is, like every other fable, only the emblem of its natural history; and it is astonishing that Aldrovandus should close his long discussion on the subject by concluding that the bird is now unknown. The description of Aristotle alone sufficiently discriminates it, and shews that it is the same with the

Thus translated by Mr. Dryden. "Alcyone compress'd

- Seven days fits brooding on her watery nest
- " A wintry queen; her fire at length is kind,
- Calms every ftorm, and hushes every wind.
 - 1 Ariftotle, Hift. Anim. dib. v. 8.
 - Alian and Plutarch.
 - S . Defertus alloquor alcyonas." Propertius.
 - Euripides, Ovid, Ariofto.

King-fisher

King fisher. The Alcyon, says that philosopher, is not much larger than a sparrow; its plumage is painted with blue and green, and lightly tinged with purple, these colours are not distinct, but melted together, and shining variously over the whole body, the wings, and the neck; its bill is yellowish *, long and slender +.

It is equally characterized by the comparison of its natural habits. The Alcyon was folitary and pensive; the King-fisher is feen almost always alone, and the pairing feason is of short duration ||. Aristotle, while he represents the Alcyon as an inhabitant of the fea-shore, relates that it also ascends high up the rivers, and haunts their banks: and there is no reason to doubt, but that the river King-fisher is equally fond of the sea-shore, where it can obtain every convenience fuited to its mode of life. The fact is proved by eye-witnesses +: yet Klein denies it, though he speaks only

as we f Alcyon Italy; admire and Pl Alcyon wheeled **Stantly** shore ‡

with th

of the

The from th its prey Oppiar and plu diving Italian Thus the na applica stotle. the Al fea: tl has no

tal ho

sea-bea

The epithet υποχλωεοs is translated greenifb by Gaza; Scaliger more properly renders it yellowifb. The primitive xxon is applied not only to the verdant mead, but to the yellow harvest. T ា នៅជីវៈពេល ១០ 🗥

⁺ Lib. ix. 14.

^{||} Aldrovandus.

⁺ The King-fisher is fond of the brink of the sea and of the little rivulets which flow into it; it feeds on the smallest shell-fish, takes them in its bill, and crushes them by dashing against the pebbles. It seeks also the large worms which abound on the fea-shore. Its sless smells of musk. Note accompanying a package from M. Gays. of

[&]amp; Dia

¹ Arif Δυπ

VOL

of the Baltic Sea, and was little acquainted, as we shall find, with the King-fisher. The Alcyon was not common in Greece or Italy; Chærephon, in Lucian's Dialogues §, admires its song as a novelty. Aristotle and Pliny say, that the appearance of the Alcyon was rare and fugitive, that it wheeled rapidly round the ships, and instantly retired into its little grot on the shore ‡. This character agrees perfectly with the King-sisher, which is seldom seen.

The King-fisher may be recognized also from the mode in which the Alcyon caught its prey: Lycophron calls it the diver *, and Oppian fays that it drops perpendicularly, and plunges into the Sea. This peculiarity of diving vertically has given occasion to the Italian appellation piombino, or plummet. Thus all the external characters, and all the natural habits of our King-fisher, are applicable to the Alcyon described by Aristotle. The poets represented the nest of the Alcyon as floating on the furface of the fea: the naturalists have discovered that it has no nest, but drops its eggs in horizontal holes in the brinks of rivers or in the sea-beach,

[§] Dial. Aleyon.

Aristotle, lib. v. g. Pliny, lib. v. g.

[•] Δυπ]η

The love season of the Alcyon, which was placed about the time of the folftice, is the only circumstance that does not coincide with the history of the King fisher, which however breeds early and before the vernal equinox. But, besides that this fable may. have been added for embellishment, it is possible that, in a hotter climate, the amours of the King-fisher commenced earlier. There are different opinions too with regard to the time of the Alcyonian days: Aristotle says that in the Grecian Archipelago, they were not always contiguous to the folftice, but more constantly so in the fea of Sicily +. Nor did the ancients agree in respect to the number of these days ||. And Columella refers them to the Kalends of March, I which is the time when our King-fisher begins to hatch.

Aristotle speaks distinctly of one kind only of Alcyon; and it is from a doubtful and probably corrupted passage, where according to the correction of Gesner, he treats of two species of Swallows *, that natura-

voice make and t its ch

lists

·Th in a have who fes th fisher appea into t Belon himse the f Of th closel far as make broad more very ! thick the ta

It i

† T

⁺ Lib. v. 8.

Wide Coel. Rhodig, lett. antiq. lib. xiv. 11.

I Ibidem.

Lib. VIII. 3. To Tor Andorws yeros, which Gaza and Niphus translate Alcedones, though and properly fignifies a nightingale. It were better therefore to read with Gesner, Xilidorus, or "the tribe of swallows;" especially as in the sollowing line, Aristotle begins to speak distinctly of the Alcyon as of a different bird.

lists have inferred the existence of two Alcyons, the one small and endowed with voice, the other large and dumb. Belon makes the need thrush the vocal Alcyon, and the King sisher the mute Alcyon, though its character is quite the reverse.

These critical discussions seemed necessary in a subject which most of the naturalists have left in the greatest obscurity. Klein, who makes the fame remark, only increafes the confusion, by ascribing to the Kingfisher two toes before and two behind. He appeals to Schwenckfield, who has fallen into the same error +, and to a bad figure of Belon, which however that naturalist has himself corrected, by describing accurately the foot of this bird, which is fingular. Of the three fore toes, the outer one is closely connected to that of the middle as far as the third joint, so as apparently to make only one toe, which forms below a broad flat fole; the inner toe is very short, more so than the hind one; the legs are also very fhort; the head is large; the bill long. thick at the base, tapered straight to a point; the tail is commonly short in this genus.

It is the handsomest bird in our climates; none in Europe can compare with the King-

[†] This error was first propagated by Albertus, as Aldrovandus remarks, while he rectifies it.

fisher in the elegance, the richness, and the luxuriance of colours: it has all the shades of the rainbow, the brilliancy of enamel, and the glosly softness of silk : all the middle of the back, with the upper furface of the tail, is light blue and brilliant, which, in the fun has the play of fapphire, and the luftre of turquois stone; green is mixed on the wings with blue, and most of the feathers are terminated and dotted with the tints of beryl; the head and the upper fide of the neck are dotted in the same manner, with lighter specks on an azure ground. Gefner compares the glowing yellow-red, which colours the breast, to the red glare of a burning coal.

It would feem that the King-fisher has strayed from those climates where the fun pours incessant torrents of the purest light, and sheds all the treasures of the richest colours *. And though our species belongs not precisely to the countries of the East and South; yet the whole genus of these charming birds inhabits those genial regions.

There

There in Al more, Amer is fca many Egyp and 1 Greec

the ho gours along emerg Germ birds that i

Th

lt traces the fu on th voice,

[&]quot; "There is a species of King-fisher common in all the islands of the South Sea: we have remarked that its plumage is much more brilliant between the tropics, than in the regions fituated beyond the temperate zone, as in New Zealand." Forfter, Observations made in Captain Cook's second Voyage. The King-fisher is called eroore, in the language of the Society Islands.

[†] Na 1 Th fome pl called t Id. 06/ found i we are mate th even ra

^{||} Scl § G

There are twenty species in Africa and in Asia, and we are acquainted with eight more, that are settled in the warm parts of America. Even the European King-fisher is scattered through Asia and Africa; for many King sishers sent from China and Egypt are found to be the same with ours, and Belon says that he met with them in Greece +, and in Thrace ‡.

This bird, though it derives its origin from the hottest climates, is reconciled to the rigours of our seasons. It is seen in the winter along the brooks, diving under the ice and emerging with its fishy-prey ||. Hence the Germans have called it Eisvoges, or Icebirds; and Belon is mistaken in asserting that it is only migratory in our climates.

It spins with a rapid slight; it usually traces the windings of the rivulets, razing the surface of the water. It screams while on the wing ki, ki, ki, ki, with a shrill voice, which makes the banks to resound.

[†] Nat. des Oiseaux, p. 220.

The banks of the river Hebrus. (now Melissa) are in some places pretty high, where the river-alcyons, vulgarly called the martinets pecheurs (King fishers), make their nests." Id. Observations, p. 63. The King fisher is probably not found in Sweden, since Linnaus does not mention it: but we are more surprized that he places in that northern climate the Bee-eater, which is little known in France, and even rare in Italy.

H Schwenckfeld, Gefner, Olina.

⁶ Gefnet.

In spring, it has another song which may be heard through the murmur of the stream, or the noisy dashing of the cascade ‡. It is very shy, and escapes to a distance; it sits on a branch projecting over the current; there it remains motionless, and often watches whole hours to catch the moment when a little fish springs under its station; it dives perpendicularly into the water, where it continues several seconds, and then brings up the fish; which it carries to land, beats to death, and then swallows it.

When the King-fisher cannot find a projecting bough, it sits on some stone near the brink, or even on the gravel; but the moment it perceives the little fish, it takes a spring of twelve or sisteen feet and drops perpendicularly from that height. Often it is observed to stop short in its rapid course and remain still, hovering in the same spot for several seconds: such is its manner in winter when the muddy swell of the stream, or the thickness of the ice, constrains it to leave the rivers, and to ply along the sides of the unfrozen brooks: at each pause, it continues as it were suspended at the height of sisteen or twenty feet;

finks
furface
again
nual
for re
and
travel

and v

It brook by c and bone but v eggs those plast it by gour feawhich beco Plin fom Kin and qui delid

the

[†] The name Ispida is, according to the author de natura rerum, in Gesner, formed from the cry of the bird; probably from the first,

and when it would change its place, it finks and skims along within a foot of the furface of the water; then rises and halts again. This repeated and almost continual exercise shows that the bird dives for many small objects, sishes or insects, and often in vain; for, in this way, it travels many a league.

It nestles in the brinks of rivers and brooks, in holes made by the water-rats, or by crabs, which it deepens and fashions: and contracts the aperture. Small fishbones and scales are found in it among fand. but without any arrangement, and here its eggs are deposited: though we cannot find those little pellets with which Belon says it plasters its nest, or trace the form imputed to it by Aristotle, who compares this nest to a gourd, and its substance and texture to those fea-balls or lumps of interwoven filaments which cut with difficulty, but when dried become friable.* The balcyonia, of which Pliny reckons four kinds +, and which fome have supposed to be the nests of the King-fishers, are only clusters of Sea-weeds: and with regard to the famous nests of Tonquin and China, which are esteemed such delicacies, and have also been ascribed to the Alcyon, we demonstrated that they

^{*} ΑλΦ-αχτη, or Sea-spume. Hist. Anim. Lib. ix. 14.

were the production of the Salangane or esculent Swallow.

The King-fishers begin to frequent their hole in the month of March; and at this time the male is observed in ardent pursuit of the female. The ancients believed that the Alcyons were extremely amorous, for they relate that the male expires in the embrace *; and Aristotle asserts that they begin to breed when only four months old +.

The species of our King fisher is not numerous, though these birds have six, seven, or even nine in a hatch, according to Gefner. Their mode of life proves often fatal, nor do they always with impunity brave the rigours of our winters, for they are found dead under the ice. Olina describes the method of catching them at day break, or in the dusk of the evening, by setting a trap at the edge of the water; he adds, that they live four or five years. We only know that they may be kept some time in rooms, where are placed basons of water full of fmall fish 1. M. Daubenton, of the Academy of Sciences, fed some for several months, by giving them every day young fry, which is

their

their King twent as la out o two o earth of hu a litt lived the K alway odou food room and l the i rolled very is ve red o

> + T + C

the b

beillar feven ate ear King-

Ming-

[.] Tzetzes, and the Scholiast of Aristophanes.

⁺ Lib. ix. 14.

¹ Volmaer.

their only proper nourishment: for four King fishers were brought to me on the twenty-first of August, 1778; which were as large as their parents, though taken out of their hole in the bank of a river, and two of these constantly rejected slies, ants. earth worms, paste and cheese, and died of hunger in two days; the two others ate a little cheese and some earth-worms, but lived only fix days. Gefner observes that the King-fisher can never be tamed, and is always equally wild. Its flesh has the odour of bastard musk *, and is unpalatable food; its fat is reddish +; its stomach is roomy and flaccid, as in the birds of prey; and like them too it discharges by the bill the indigested fragments, scales and bones rolled into small balls: the stomach is placed very low, and consequently the æsophagus is very long |; the tongue is short, of a red or yellow colour, like the infide and the bottom of the bill &.

Tt

[·] Tragus.

⁺ Geiner.

[|] Idem.

^{§ &}quot;On the seventh of July, 1771, says M. de Montbeillard, I received five young King-sishers (there had been seven of them in the nest by the brink of a rivulet): they ate earth-worms, that were given to them. In these young King-sishers, the outer toe was so closely connected to the middle one as far as the last joint, as to give the appearance rather

It is fingular, that a bird which flies fo fwiftly and with such continuance, has not broad wings; they are, on the contrary, very fmall in proportion to its bulk, and we may hence judge of the vast force of the muscles that impel them. For no bird perhaps flies so rapidly; it shoots like an arrow: if it drops a fish from the branch on which it is perched, it often fnatches it before it touches the ground. As it feldom fits but on dry branches, it is faid to wither the tree on which it settles 1.

It has been supposed, that the dried body of the Kingfisher has the property of preferving cloth and woollen stuffs from moths;

rather of a forked toe than of two distinct toes; the tarfus was very fhort; the head was striped across with black and greenish blue; there were two fire-coloured spots, one on the eyes before, and the other longer under the eyes, which extending behind, becomes white; below the neck, near the back, the blue grows predominant, and a waving band of blue mixed with a little black runs the whole length of the body, and extends to the extremity of the coverts of the tail, where the blue becomes more vivid; the twelve quills of the tail were of an enbrowned blue; the twenty-two quills of the wings were each half brown, and half embrowned blue lengthwise; the breast was rufous shaded with brown; the belly whitish; the under side of the tail rusous inclined to orange; the bill was feventeen lines; the tail was very short, broad, and pointed; the ventricle very capacious."

Observation communicated by M. de Montbeillard.

tars a Siberia the T The fo preserv of the will fa

and their

perha

can kind

dries

never

tues :

relate the fi

the f thun

and each

fays !

peace

it dr

Suc

* G

† A

t W

bill,

and as

it,

and

¹ Schwenckfeld.

and for this rea' a drapers hang it in their shops. Its thiell of bastard musk may perhaps repel those insects, but the effect can be no greater than that of any other kind of penetrating odour. As the body dries easily, it has been alledged that the flesh never putrefies *. But these imaginary virtues are nothing compared to the wonders related by fome authors, who have collected the superstitious notions of the ancients on the subject of the Alcyon: it averted the thunder; it augmented hidden treasure; and though dead it renewed its plumage each season of moulting +: it bestows, fays Kirannides, on the person who carries it, gracefulness and beauty; it preserves peace at home; it maintains calm at fea; it draws together the fishes in abundance. # Such fables charm the fondness for credulity;

[·] Gefner.

⁺ Aldrovandus. Lib. iii. p. 621.

[†] What is singular, they are sound also among the Tartars and Siberians. "The Kingsishers are seen over all Siberia, and the seathers of these birds are employed by the Tartars and the Ostiacs, for many superstitious uses. The former pluck them, cast them into water, and carefully preserve such as sloat; and they pretend, that if with one of these seathers they touch a woman or even her cloaths she will fall in love with them. The Ostiacs take the skin, the bill, and the claws of this bird, and shut them in a purse; and as long as they preserve this sort of amulet, they believe

lity; but unfortunately they are only the offspring of an heated imagination. [A]

that they have no ill to fear. The person who taught me this mean of living happy, could not forbear shedding tears; he told me that the loss of such a skin that he had, made him lose also his wise and his goods. I told him that such a bird could not be so very rare, since a countryman of his had brought me one, with its skin and its feathers: he was much surprized, and said, that if he had the luck to find one, he would give it to no person." Voyage en Siberie, par M. Gmelin, tom. ii. p. 112.

[A] Specific character of the King-fisher, Akedo-Ispida:

"It is short-tailed, sky-blue above, sulvous below, its straps rusous." Mr. Pennant has given an excellent history of this bird, with critical discussions, in the British Zoology.

Fore

bitant the H fingle origin enum first sconti

nitud than

Foreign KING-FISHERS.

As the number of foreign species is very considerable, and as they are all inhabitants of the warm climates, we may regard the European King-sisher, which occurs single and detatched, as expatriated from the original stock. To give regularity to the enumeration of this multitude, we shall first separate the King-sishers of the Ancient Continent from those of America, and then range them in the order of their magnitude, beginning with such as are larger than the European species.

GREAT KING-FISHERS of the Old Continent.

The GREATEST KING-FISHER.

First Species.

Alcedo Fusca. Gmel.
Alcedo Gigantea. Lath. Ind.
The Great Brown King-fisher. Lath. Syn.

This bird, which is the largest of its kind, occurs in New Guinea; it is sixteen inches long, and of the bulk of a Jackdaw; all the plumage, except the tail, appears stained with bistre*, and embrowned on the back and on the wing; the colour is lighter and faintly crossed by small blackish waves on all the foreside of the body and round the neck on a whiter ground; the feathers on the crown of the head, as well as a broad streak below the eye, are of the brown bistre of the back; the tail is of a rusty fulvous crossed with black waves, and is white at the end: the lower mandible is

orange,

bent a fome King-ragree

BI

The

110

_

IT is and inches

half of ing to green should in Ma

brown

the r

figure

^{• &}quot;A colour made of chimney foot boiled and then diluted with water; used by painters in washing their drawings."

orange, the upper one black, and slightly bent at the point; a character which, in some degree, detaches the bird from the King-fishers, though all its other properties agree with those of that tribe.

The BLUE and RUFOUS KING-FISHER.

Second Species.

Alcedo Smyrnensis Var. 1st. Linn. and Gmel. Ispida. Klein.
Ispida Madagascariensis Cærulea. Briss.
The Great Gambia King-sisher. Edw. and Lath.

It is a little more than nine inches long, and its bill, which is red, measures two inches and a half; all the head, the neck, and the upperside of the body, are of a fine brown rutous; the tail, the back, and half of the wings, are blue, varying according to its position into sky-blue and seagreen; the point of the wings and the shoulders are black. This species is found in Madagascar, it is also seen in Africa, on the river Gambia, according to Edwards. A King-sisher from the Malabar coast, figured in the Planches Enluminees, and which

176 BLUE AND RUFOUS KING-FISHER.

which Brisson makes his fourteenth species *, resembles exactly the present, except that its throat is white, a difference which may be imputed to distinction of sex. In that case, it must inhabit the zone that stretches across the whole continent; and if the Smyrna King-sisher of Albin, which Brisson reckons his thirteenth species +, be the same, as appears to us most probable, this bird is dispersed through a still greater extent. [A]

* Alcedo Smyrnensis Var. 2d. Linn. and Gmel. Ispida Bengalensis Major. Briss.
The Great Bengal King sisher. Albin. and Lath. † Alcedo Smyrnensis. Linn. and Gmel.
Ispida Smyrnensis. Briss.

[A] Specific character: "It is long-tailed, ferruginous; its wings, its tail and its back green."

The CRAB KINGFISHER.

Third Species.

Alcedo Cancrophaga. Lath. Ind.

Alcedo Senegalensis. Var. 1. Gmel.

The Crab-eating King-sisher. Lath. Syn.

This King-fisher was sent us from Senegal under the name of Crabier. It is probably found also at the Cape de Verdislands,

iflands, by For to refe we faw kind of large re the hole tail an which great a their p that co body, a it were fide of streak s legs are

> * This Arabia Fe gant and

of this

VOL

CRAB KING-FISHER. 177

islands, and the following indication, given by Forster in Cook's second voyage, seems to refer to it. "The most remarkable bird we saw at the Cape de Verd islands was a kind of King-fisher, which lives upon the large red and blue land crabs that croud in the holes of the dry and parched foil *." The tail and all the back are of a sea-blue. which also paints the outer margin of the great and middle quills of the wing, but their points are black, and a large spot of that colour covers all the part next the body, and marks on the wing the trace, as it were, of a second wing; all the underfide of the body is light fulvous; a black streak stretches behind the eye, the bill and legs are of a deep rust colour. The length of this bird is a foot.

This observer adds: "The same species is sound in Arabia Felix, and also in Abyssinia, as appears from the elegant and precious drawings of Mr. Bruce."

The THICK-BILLED KING-FISHER.

Fourth Species ..

Alcedo Capenfis. Linn. and Gmel. Ispida Capitis Bonæ Spei. Briff. The Cape King-fisher. Lath.

The bill of the King-fishers is in general large and strong: but in the present, it is uncommonly thick and stout. The whole length of the bird is fourteen inches; that of the bill alone is above three inches, and its thickness at the base eleven lines; the head is capped with light gray; the back is water-green; the wings are aquamarine; the tail is of the same green with the back, and lined with gray; all the underside of the body is a dull weak sulvous; the bill has the red tint of Spanish wax. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Alcedo Capensis: "It is short-tailed, ash-blue, below sulvous, its breast brick colour, its bill red."

The

Th

intermit the A black g is a bla fide of is white white the top and the

This Good I ther for the Plane regarding

The tot

inches.

[B] Spe

The PIED KING-FISHER.

Fifth Species.

Alcedo Rudis. Linn, and Gmel.

Ispida ex albo et nigro varia. Brist.

The Black and White King-fisher. Edw. and Lath.

fifts of black and white, broken and intermixed; and we have therefore termed it the Pied King-fisher. The back is of a black ground, clouded with white; there is a black zone on the breast; all the fore-side of the neck, as far as under the bill, is white; the quills of the wing are black on the outer edge, intersected within by white and black, and fringed with white: the top of the head and the crest are black; and the bill and legs of that same colour: The total length of the bird is near eight inches. [B]

This King-fisher came from the Cape of Good Hope. On comparing it with another sent from Senegal, and delineated in the *Planches Enluminees*, we cannot help regarding it one of the same species: since

N 2

[[]B] Specific character of the Alcedo Rudis: " It is short-tailed, black variegated with whitish, below white."

the differences which occur in the two figures are inconsiderable; for instance, the black in the Senegal bird is lighter and more dilute; the feathers on the head which are represented lying flat are yet capable of rifing to a creft: but the most material disparity is, that it has a larger proportion of white, and the other from the Cape of Good Hope, has a somewhat larger proportion of black. Edwards gives one of these birds sent from Persia; but his figure is defective, and the colours altogether miftaken. He tells us indeed that he received it prepared in spirits of wine, and observes himself, that after a long immersion in that liquor the tints of the plumage are greatly weakened and disordered. But it is quite improbable that the black and white variegated King-fisher of Jamaica mentioned by Sloane, of which he gives a figure that merits hardly any attention, is the same species with that of Senegal or of the Cape of Good Hope; yet Brisson makes no scruple in ranging them together. A bird which flies only fhort distances, and skims along the shores, could never traverse the vast Atlantic Ocean; and nature, so diversified in all her operations, feems never to have repeated any of her forms in the other continent, but to have fashioned her productions

tions most propi it occ with which Sea, Forft fecond they v Uliete five h tinent green, white islande for the the w qualiti

Alcyon

In the The month is famile Cook. In my he catua or go her: her her, feen mounting to spare the same birds. Veration for by Forfer

PIED KING-FISHER, 181

tions after entirely new models. This is most likely an indigenous species, and appropriated entirely to those countries where it occurs; and the same may be the case with the King-fishers seen in those islands which are scattered in the midst of the South Sea, and discovered by the latest navigators. Forster, in his account of Captain Cook's fecond voyage round the world, observes that they were found in Otaheite, Xuaheine, and Ulietea, which are more than one thousand five hundred leagues distant from any con-These King-fishers are of a dull green, with a collar of the same about their white neck. It appears that some of the islanders entertain a superstitious veneration for these birds; and thus, from one end of the world to the other, have marvellous qualities been ascribed to the family of the Alcyons *.

1

d

t

at

e

h

ıg

ft

in

ve

n-

C-.

19

In the afternoon we shot (at Ulietea) some King-sishers. The moment that I had fired last, we met with Oreo and his family, who were walking on the beach with Captain Cook. The Chief did not observe the bird which I held in my hand, but his daughter wept for the death of her eatua or genius, and sled from me when I offered to touch her: her mother and most of the women who accompanied her, seemed also concerned for this accident; and the Chief, mounting on his canoe, entreated us in a very serious tone to spare the King-sishers and the Herons of his island, at the same time granting us permission to kill all the other birds. We tried in vain to discover the cause of this veneration for these two species." Captain Cook's Second Voyage, by Forster.

The CRESTED KING-FISHER.

Sixth Species.

Alcedo Maxima. Var. Linn. and Gmel. The Great King fisher. Lath.

his King-fisher is one of the largest, being sixteen inches in length; its plumage is richly enamelled, though not marked with brilliant colours; it is entirely sprinkled with white drops, strewed in transverse lines on a blackish gray ground, from the back to the tail; the throat is white with blackish streaks on the sides; the breast is enamelled with the same two colours, and with rusous; the belly is white; the slanks and the coverts under the tail are of a rust colour.

Sonnerat describes a species of King-sisher from New Guinea, which bears a great refemblance to this, in its size and in part of its colours. We shall not however venture to decide on their identity.

The

Covers wings black plate

bends head of a b tion It is

Great menti specie

The BLACK CAPPED KING-FISHER.

Seventh Species.

Alcedo Atricapilla. Gmel.

oŧ

ly

[_

m

te

ft

s,

ne

of

er

e-

of re This is one of the most beautiful of the King-fishers; a soft silky violet covers the back, the tail, and half the wings; their tips, and the shoulders are black; the belly is light rusous; a white plate marks the breast and the throat, and bends round the neck near the back; the head wears a large black cap; a great bill of a brilliant red completes the rich decoration of this bird: its length is ten inches. It is found in China; and we reckon the Great King-fisher of the island of Luçon, mentioned by Sonnerat, as a contiguous species, or merely a variety.

The GREEN HEADED KING-FISHER.

Eighth Species.

Alcedo Chlorocephala.

A GREEN cap, with a black edging, covers the head; the back is of the fame green, which melts on the wings and tail into a sea-green; the neck, the throat, and all the fore side of the neck, are white; the bill, the legs, and the underside of the tail are blackish: the length is nine inches. This bird, which appears to be of a new species, is represented in the Planches Enluminées as a native of the Cape of Good Hope; but we find from Commerson's papers that he saw and described it in the island of Bouro, near Amboyna and one of the Moluccas.

The

... ---V

the fring the ibody lour white the the voya cies, what matic fmal

[A] bluewhite

rive

The K I N G-F I S H E R, with Straw-coloured Head and Tail.

Ninth Species.

Alcedo Leucocephala. Gmel. The White-headed King-fisher.

g,

he

hd

at,

e;

he

es.

w

u-

od

ı's

he

of

This is a new species: the wings and the tail are of a deep turquois-blue; the great quills of the wings are brown, fringed with blue; the back is of a fea-green; the neck, the fore and under fides of the body white, tinged with straw or doe colour; small black strokes are traced on the white ground of the crown of the head; the bill is red and near three inches long; the total length of the bird is a foot. [A] The King-fisher of Celebes, mentioned by voyagers, seems to belong to a similar species, though rather smaller: but it is somewhat embellished perhaps by their imagi-This bird, fay they *, lives on a small fish which it watches to catch on the river. It circles, razing the furface of the

[[]A] Specific character of the Alcedo Leucocephala: "It is blue-green; its head, its neck, and its under furface white; its wing-quills brown."

[•] Histoire Generale des Voyages, tom x. p. 459.

186 WHITE COLLARED KING-FISHER.

water, till its prey, which is very nimble, fprings into the air, as if to dart down upon its enemy; but the bird is always dextrous enough to prevent the blow. It feizes the fifth with its bill, and transports it to its nest, where it subsists a day or two on its spoil, and spends the whole time in singing. It is scarcely bigger than a lark; its bill is red; the plumage on its head and back is entirely green; that of the belly verges on yellow, and its tail is of the finest blue in the world, This wonderful bird is called Ten-rou-joulon*.

*This bird is reckoned by Gmelin and Latham a different species under the name of Alcedo Flavicans. Specific character: "Below yellowish, its head and back green; its bill and its tail blue."

The WHITE COLLARED KING-FISHER.

Tenth Species.

Alcedo Collaris.

Sonnerar describes this new species. It is rather smaller than the Blackbird; its head, its neck, its wings, and its tail, are blue, shaded with green; all the underside of the body is white, and there is a white

a whit this bi reason

China.

WF

The a draw Indian much I may be

white collared king-fisher. 187 a white ring round the neck. He found this bird in the Philippines, and we have reason to believe that it occurs also in China.

The bird which Brisson describes, from a drawing, under the name of the Collared Indian King-fisher, and which he says is much larger than our European King-fisher, may be a variety of this tenth species.

The Middle-fized KING-FISHERS of the Ancient Continent.

The BABOUCARD.

First Middle Species.

Ispida Senegalensis. Briff.
Alcedo Ispida. Var. Gmel.

The name of the King-fisher at Senegal is in the language of the country Baboucard. The species are numerous on that great river *, and they are all painted with the most variegated and vivid colours. We apply the generic term Baboucard to Brisson's seventh species, which resembles so closely the European King-fisher, that they may be regarded as contiguous kinds, or perhaps as really the same; since we have already observed that our own derives origin from the hot climates. [A]

The I

Al

feven is middle the reft and the fide of the thirth the upp bill is

Adanfon.

[[]A] Specific character of the Alcedo Senegalensis: "It is long-tailed, below sky-blue, its head hoary, the coverts of its wings black."

The BLUE AND BLACK KING-FISHER of Senegal.

Second Middle Species.

Alcedo Senegalenfis. Var. 3. Gmel.

This appears to be rather larger than our King-fisher, though it is scarcely seven inches long: the tail, the back, the middle quills of the wing, are deep blue; the rest of the wing, including the coverts and the great quills, is black; the underside of the body is rusty sulvous as far as the throat, which is white, shaded with bluish; this tint a little deepened covers the upper side of the head and neck; the bill is rusous, and the legs reddish.

The GRAY HEADED KING-FISHER.

Third Middle Species.

Alcedo Senegalenfis. Linn. and. Gmel. The Senegal King-fisher. Lath.

This King-fisher is intermediate between the large and the small kinds. It is nearly of the size of the Throstle, being eight inches and a half long. Its head and neck are enveloped with brown gray, which is lighter and inclined to white on the throat and the foreside of the neck; the under surface of the body is white; all the upper surface sea-green, except a great black bar stretching on the coverts of the wing, and another which marks the great quills; the upper mandible is red, the lower black. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Alcedo Senegalensis: "It is long-tailed, sky-blue, below white, its head hoary, the coverts of its wings black.

The

1

Engli to the his en from tinges the fi and fi there streak

[A]
short-tarump p

dirty

The YELLOW FRONTED KING-FISHER.

Fourth Middle Species.

Alcedo-Erithaca. Linn. and Gmel. Ispida Bengalensis Torquata. Briss. The Bengal King-sisher. Alb. The Red-headed King-sisher. Lath.

is

g

y,

n.

10

10

ck

g,

S;

er

is

he

ALBIN gives an account of this bird, and tells us that it is the fize of the English King-fisher. If we may trust more to the descriptions of this author than to his engravings, this species is distinguished from the rest by the Leautiful yellow which tinges all the underside of the body and the front; a black spot rises at the bill and surrounds the eyes; behind the head there is a bar of dull blue, and then a streak of white; the throat also is white; the back deep blue; the rump and tail dirty red; the wings, faint iron gray. [A]

[[]A] Specific character of the Alcedo Erithaca: "It is short-tailed, its back blue, its belly yellow, its head and rump purple, its throat and nape white."

The LONG SHAFTED KING-FISHER.

Fifth Middle Species.

Alcedo-Dea. Linn. and Gmel. Ispida Ternatana. Briss. Pica Ternatana. Klein. The Ternate King-sisher. Lath.

THIS species is distinguished by a remarkable character; the two middle quills of the tail project and taper into two long shafts, which are naked three inches of their length, and have a small beard of feathers at their ends: foft and deep turquois blue, and black velvet brown cover and intersect the upper surface with four large spots; the black occupies the top of the back and the point of the wings, the deep blue their middle, the upper part of the neck and head; all the under surface of the body and tail is white, lightly tinged with dilute red; the bill and legs are orange, on each of the two feathers in the middle of the tail, there is a blue fpot, and the long shafts are of the same colour. Seba calls this bird, on account of its beauty, The Nymph of Ternate: he adds, that the feathers of the tail are one third longer in the male than in the female.

[A] Specific character of the Alcedo-Dea: "Two of its tail quills are very long, attenuated in the middle, its body dark-bluish, its wings greenish."

Smal

The

them nity Todic ber; the the e white blue, the grow stain verda porti

This vo

Small K I N G-F I S H E R S of the Ancient Continent.

The BLUE HEADED KING-FISHER.

First Small Species.

Alcedo Caruleocephala. Gmel.

COME King-fishers are as small as the Gold Crested Wren, or, to compare them with a family that bears more affinity to them, they are as small as the Todies. That from Senegal is of this number; it is scarcely four inches long; all the under surface of the body, as far as the eye, is of a fine rufous; the throat is white; the back is of a fine ultramarine blue, the wing is of the same blue, except the great quills which are blackish; the crown of the head is of a bright blue, stained with small waves of a lighter and verdant blue; the bill is very long in proportion to the body, being thirteen lines. This bird was fent to us from Madagascar.

The RUFOUS KING-FISHER.

Second Small Species.

Alcedo Madagascariensis. Linu. and Gmel. Ispida Madagascariensis. Brist.

It is scarce five inches long; all the upper surface of the body from the bill to the tail, is of a bright shining rusous, except that the great quills of the wing are black, and the middle ones only fringed with that rusous on a blackish ground; all the under surface of the body is white tinged with rusous; the bill and legs are black. Commerson saw and described it at Madagascar.

The PURPLE KING-FISHER.

Third Small Species.

Alcedo Purpurea. Gmel.

It is of the same size with the preceding: of all these birds it is the handsomest, and perhaps the richest in colours; a fine aurora rusous, clouded with purple, intermingled with blue, covers the head, the rump,

rump
of th
groun
azure
purple
termin
vivid
bill re

WH

The

broug

1

K

SEB.

a red be coloured are cin of the be and be about f

WHITE BILLED KING-FISHER, 195

rump, and the tail; all the under side of the body is gold rusous, on a white ground; its mantle is enriched with an azure blue on a velvet black; a spot of light purple rises at the corner of the eye, and terminates behind in a streak of the most vivid blue; the throat is white, and the bill red. This charming little bird was brought from Pondicherry.

The W H I T E B I L L E D K I N G - F I S H E R.

Fourth Small Species.

Alcedo Leucoryncha. Gmel,
Ispida Americana Cærulea. Briss.
Ispida rostro albo. Klein.
Alcedo Americana, seu Apiastra. Seba.

SEBA, from whom we borrow the account of this little King-fisher, says that its bill is white, its neck and head of a red bay tinged with purple; the sides are coloured the same; the quills of the wing are cinereous; their coverts and the feathers of the back are of a very fine blue, the breast and belly are light yellow: its length is about four inches and a half. When Seba

afferts that these birds of the Alcyon tribe live on bees, he consounds them with the Bee-eaters; and, for the same reason, Klein corrects a capital error of Linnæus, who takes the Ispida for the Merops; whereas the latter inhabits the wild tracts near forrests, and not the margin of streams, where it would find no bees. But Klein himself is guilty of an inaccuracy, in saying that the Alcyon of Seba appears like our Kingssisher; since, besides the disparity of bulk, the colours of the head and bill are totally different.

Vosmaer has described two small Kingfishers * which he refers to this Alcyon of Seba, but at the same time afferting that they have only three toes, two before and one behind. This fact required to be proved, and has been so by an excellent observer, as we shall afterwards find. T

close and mak not l uppe fea-g the and the oran this color diffe with place King is n thou

> here delir

[·] Alcedo Tridactyla. Linn. and Gmel.

The BENGAL KING-FISHER.

Fifth Small Species.

Alcedo Bengalensis. Gmel.

Ispida Bengalensis. Briss.

The Little Indian King-sisher. Edw. and Lath.

RDWARDS gives in the same plate two fmall King-fishers which appear to be closely related species, or perhaps the male and female of the same, though Brisson makes them two separate species. They are not larger than the Todies; in the one the upper surface is sky-blue, and in the other fea-green; the quills of the wings and of the tail are brown gray, in the former, and of the same green with the back, in the latter; the under fide of the body is orange fulvous in both. Klein fays that this species is like the European in its colours; he might have observed that it differs widely in fize: but always impressed with the false notion that the toes are placed two and two in the genus of the King-fishers, he complains that Edwards is not sufficiently distinct on that point, though the figures of this naturalist are here, as usual, very accurate and well delineated.

The THREE TOED KING-FISHER.

Sixth Small Species.

Alcedo Tridactyla. Var. Linn. and Gmel.

XX E have already found in the Woodpeckers a fingularity of this nature in regard to the number of the toes: this is less surprizing in the family of the Kingfishers, where the little inner toe is so short and almost useless, that it may be easily omitted. We are indebted to Sonnerat for the account of this small three-toed Kingfisher, which is one of the richest and most brilliant in regard to plumage of the genus: all the upperfide of the head and back is of a deep lilac; the feathers of the wings are of a dull indigo, but heightened by a border of vivid and shining blue, which furrounds each feather; all the underfide of the body is white; the bill and legs are reddish. Sonnerat found this bird in the island of Lucon. Vosmaer says merely that his specimens came from the East Indies.

We regard this species, the preceding of Seba and that of our purple King-fisher, as to might if it differ from under which he can be fidention, vatur flende two a

† In poses to

V

King-

THREE TOED KING-FISHER. 199

as three contiguous species, and which might be reduced to two, or even to one, if it were easier to estimate the arbitrary differences of descriptions, or to rectify them from the objects themselves. Vosmaer gives, under the name of Alcyon, two other birds which are not King-sishers; the first, which he calls the Long-tailed American Alcyon, besides that its tail is too long in proportion, is excluded from the genus by the curvature of its bill; the second has a longish, slender, quadrangular bill, and its toes bent two and two, and is therefore a Jacamar +.

† In a long note, which we shall omit, our author exposes the peculiarities, the inelegancies, and the mistakes of Vosmaér.

The VINTSI.

Seventh Small Species.

Alcedo Cristata. Linn. and Gmel. Ispida Philippensis Cristata. Briss. Ispida rostro luteo. Klein. The Crested King fisher. Lath.

VINTSI is the name given by the inhabitants of the Philippines to this small King-fisher, which those of Amboyna, according to Seba, term the Toborkey and Hito.

Hito. The upper furface of the wings and the tail are sky-blue; the head is thick covered with long narrow feathers, neatly dotted with black and greenish points, that rise to a crest; the throat is white; on the side of the neck, there is a tawny rusous spot; all the under surface of the body is dyed with this colour: the whole bird is hardly five inches long.

The seventeenth species of Brisson appears to be much related to the present, if it is not entirely the same; for the slight difference that occurs seems to indicate no more at least than a variety. We cannot ascertain to what species the small bird of the Philippines, which Camel calls Salaczac*, and which appears to be a King-sisher; but nothing more than the name is given in the enumeration of the Philippine birds inserted in the Philosophical Transactions.

Brisson describes also another species of the King-sisher, from a drawing that was sent him from the East Indies; but as we have not seen the bird, we can add nothing to his delineation. **fpec**i

is as

head

fine

und

of the

in a

exce

blue a bl

[•] Latham supposes it to be a variety of the Vints: it is the Alcedo cristata elegantissime picta of Seba, and the Ispida Indica Cristata of Brisson, mentioned in the next paragraph.

The KING-FISHERS of the New Continent. Great Species.

The TAPARARA.

First Great Species

Alcedo Cayanenfis. Gmel.

Ispida Cayanenfis. Briss.

The Cayenne King-fisher. Lath.

TAPARARA is the generic name of the King-fisher in the language of the natives of Cayenne; and we shall apply it to this species, which is found in that island. It is as large as a Stare; the upper side of the head, the back, and the shoulders, are of a sine blue; the rump is of a sea-green; all the underside of the body is white; the quills of the wing are blue without, black within and below; those of the tail are the same, except that the two mid-ones are entirely blue; below the back of the head, there is a black cross bar. The vast abundance of water

water in the country of Guiana is favourable to the multiplication of the Kingfishers. Accordingly, their species are numerous, and ferve to point out the rivers that are stored with fish, they being frequently found by their banks. There are many King-fishers, says M. de la Borde, on the river Ouassa; but they never congregate, and always appear fingle; they breed in those regions, as they do in Europe, in the perpendicular banks; there are always a number of these holes near each other, though each of their lodgers lives folitary. M. de la Borde faw their young in the month of September, which in that climate is perhaps the time of incubation; the cry of these birds is carac, carac. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Alcedo Cayanensis: " It is blue, below white, a transverse black bar below the back of the head."

the b Ferna King long those over a colou white quills inter ings; broad the b more it is f is wh

fide of and libird;

The ALATLI.

Second Great Species.

Alcedo Torquata. Linn. and Gmel. Ispida Mexicana Cristata. Briss. The Cinereous King-sisher. Lath.

IN E form this name by contraction for achalala&li or michalala&li, which the bird receives in Mexico, according to Fernandez. It is one of the largest of the King-fishers, being near sixteen inches long; but its colours are not so brilliant as those of the others: bluish gray is spread over all the upperfide of the body, and that colour is variegated on the wings with white fringes in festoons at the point of the quills, the largest of which are blackish, and intersected within by broad white indentings; those of the tail are marked with broad stripes of white; the underside of the body is chefnut-rufous, which grows more dilute as it rifes on the breast, where it is scaled or mailed with gray; the throat is white, and that colour, extending on the fide of the neck, makes an entire circuit, and hence Nieremberg calls it the collared bird; all the head and the nape of the neck

neck are of the same bluish gray with the This is a migratory bird; it arrives at a certain time of the year in the northern provinces of Mexico, and probably comes from the hotter regions, for it is found in the Antilles, and we received it from Martinico. Adanson savs, that it occurs likewife, though rarely, in Senegal, in the places near the mouth of the Niger. But the difficulty of supposing that a Mexican bird could be found also in Senegal struck himself, and he sought to trace the differences between the Achalalactli of Fernandez and Nieremberg and this African Kingfisher; and it thence appears that the bird described by Brisson, and delineated in our Planches Enluminees is not the real Mexican Achalalactli, but that of Senegal. Indeed the distance between the climates is so vast. that we cannot doubt that birds unable to perform a long passage must be different species. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Alcedo Torquata: " It is fhort tailed, half-crefted, hoary bluish, with a white collar, its wings and tail spotted with white."

W

cupies cient which other Brazil der t and t Catest preys wards where Briffo three thoug marke ceived Louis

percei the fo tle ru

The JAGUAC TI.

Third Great Species.

Alcedo-Alcyon. Var. 3d. Ifpida Brafiliensis Cristata. Brist.

l-

it

c.

in

ıt

in ck

r-

11-

grd

ur

an

ed ft.

to

ent

t is

col-

We have feen that the European species of King fisher occurs in Asia, and occupies perhaps the whole extent of the ancient Continent: the present is another which is found from the one extremity to the other in the new, from Hudson's Bay to Marcgrave has described it under the Brafilian name Jaguacati-guacu, and the Portuguese appellation Papapeixe. Catesby saw it in Carolina, where he says it preys both on lizards and on fish. wards received it from Hudson's where it appears in the spring and summer: Briffon introduces it three times from these three authors, without comparing them, though the refemblance is obvious and remarked by Edwards himself. We have received this bird from St. Domingo and from Louisiana: some slight differences may be perceived; the most material one is that the scarf of the throat is marked with little rufous festoons in that from St. Domingo,

mingo, but is merely gray in the other, and the tail of the former appears somewhat more dotted and regularly sprinkled with drops on all the quills, which drops are less visible in the latter, and never appear except when the tail is spread: the compass of the neck is white, and also the throat; there is some rusous on the breast and on the fides; the quills of the wing are black, marked with white at the point, and intersected in the middle by a small white fringe, and which is only the border of the indentings on the inner webs, which appear when the wing is expanded. Marcgrave compares the bulk to that of the Field-Klein, who was not acquainted with the Great King-fishers of New Guinea. takes this for the largest of the kind *.

charace bill, if ble ve and be liarity of New all the fide of tail, a yellow the the are we grave

In I

natura

[A] S brown, brown;

[•] It nestles in high banks, into which it penetrates deep in a horizontal direction. It lays four eggs, and hatches in June. It seems to migrate from the northern parts of America to Mexico; where it is eaten, though it has a rank sishy taste. T.

The MATUITUI.

Fourth Species.

Alcedo Maculata. Linn. and Gmel'. Ispida Brasiliensis Navia. Brist. The Brasilian spotted King sisher. Lath.

MARCGRAVE also describes this Brafilian King-fisher, and marks its true characters: the neck and legs, short; the bill, straight and strong, its upper mandible vermillion, extending over the lower, and bending somewhat at its point, a peculiarity observed already in the King-fisher of New Guinea. It is as large as the Stare; all the feathers of the head, of the upperfide of the neck, of the back, and of the tail, are fulvous or brown, spotted with yellowish white, as in the Sparrow-hawk; the throat is yellow, the breast and belly are white, dotted with brown. Marcgrave mentions nothing particular of its natural habits. [A]

In Fernandez and Nicremberg we find fome birds which are improperly termed

[[]A] Specific character of the Alcedo Maculata: " It is brown, spotted with yellowish; below white, spotted with brown; its throat, bright yellow."

King-fishers. Such are 1. the beattli whose legs are a foot long, and therefore is by no means a King-Fisher: 2. the axoquen whose neck and legs are equally long: 3. the acacaboactli, or the aquatic bird with a raucous voice of Nieremberg, which stretches and bends back its long neck, and appears to be a kind of Stork or Jabiru, much like the boacton, which Brisson terms the crested Mexican beron. We may fay the same of the tolcomoEtli and boexocanaubtli of Fernandez, which resemble more this genus, but have fome habits opposite to those of the Kingfishers *, though the Spaniards name them, as they do the preceding birds, Martinetes Pefcadors (Martin-fishers): Fernandez observes that the same appellation has been bestowed on these very different species, merely because they all live on fish.

Midd

The

deep with we disting rusous all the green, spots, about two in a leng

VOL

thicke

[•] Fernandez fays of the first, that the stroke of its bill is dangerous; this cannot be a King-fisher, which is an innocent timid bird: and of the second, that it neftles among the willows; but all the King-fishers which have been observed, breed in the banks of freams.

Middle-sized KING-FISHERS, of the New Continent.

The GREEN and RUFOUS KING-FISHER.

First Middle Species.

Alcedo Bicolor. Gmel.

This King-fisher is found in Cayenne: all the underside of the body is of a deep gold rusous, except a zone waved with white and black on the breast, which distinguishes the male; a small streak of rusous extends from the nostrils to the eyes; all the upperside of the body is of a dull green, sprinkled with some small whitish spots, thinly scattered; the bill is black and about two inches long; the tail measures two inches and a half, which gives the bird a length of eight inches, though it is not thicker than the common King-sisher.

The GREEN and WHITE KING-FISHER.

Second Middle Species:

Alcedo Americana. Gmel.

It is species too occurs in Cayenne: it is smaller than the preceding, being only seven inches long, though its tail is still of considerable length; all the upperside of its body is glossed with green on a blackish ground, intersected only by a white horse-shoe, which, rising under the eye, descends on the back of the neck, and by some white streaks thrown on the wing; the belly and stomach are white, and variegated with some spots of the colour of the back; the breast and the fore part of the neck are of a fine rusous in the male, and this character distinguishes it from the female, which has a white throat.

T n graceoun

Lark, a which i rican K black; wings a bay, mi underfict brown i its cry g turkeys.

The GIP-GIP.

Third Middle Species.

Alcedo Brafiliensis. Gmel. Ispida Brasiliensis. Briss.

it

ıg

is

r-

a

te

e,

by

g;

ie-

he

he

nd eThis is the anonymous bird of Marcgrave, which may be called Gip-gip on account of its cry. It is as large as the Lark, and of the form of the Matuitui, which is the fourth great species of American King-fishers; its bill is straight and black; all the upperfide of the head, neck, wings and tail, is reddish, or rather shady-bay, mixed with white; the throat and the underside of the body, are white, and a brown streak runs from the bill to the eye: its cry gip gip resembles the puling of young turkeys.

SMALL KING-FISHERS of the New Continent.

The GREEN and ORANGE KING-FISHER.

Alcedo Superciliosa var. Linn. and Gmel. Ispida Americana Viridis. Briss.

This is the only species in America which may be termed a Small Kingfisher, and it is scarce five inches long: all the underside of the body is of a brilliant orange, except a white spot on the throat, another on the stomach, and a deep green zone below the neck in the male, and which is wanting in the female; both of them have a half-collar of orange behind the neck; the head and all the upper furface, are covered with green-gray, and the wings are spotted with small rusty drops near the shoulder and on the great quills which are brown. Edwards, who gives the figure of this bird *, fays that he could not discover from what country it was brought; but we received it from Cayenne.

W siri.

fishers

two be the Ki one be them i bill, ar middle probab have ra claffed the disi and the though are diff fince th bill, an stiff, no fore, th

rate ge

The little green and orange-coloured King-fisher. Gleanings, pl. 245.

[•] Edwa

⁺ Will

The JACAMARS.

KAN E have formed this name by shortening the Brasilian appellation Jacamaciri. These birds differ not from the Kingfishers, except that their toes are disposed two before and two behind, while those of the King-fishers are placed three before and one behind. But the Jacamars resemble them in the shape of their body and of their bill, and they are of the same size with the middle species of King-fishers; and this is probably : reason that some authors * have ranged them together. Others + have classed the Jacamars with the Woodpeckers, the disposition of their toes being similar, and the shape of their bill nearly the same, though longer and more slender; but they are discriminated from the Woodpeckers, fince their tongue is not longer than their bill, and the feathers of their tail are neither stiff, nor wedge-shaped. It appears therefore, that the Jacamars constitute a separate genus, which has as great affinity to

E

icã

ng-

all

ant

oat,

een ich

the

lur-

the

ops

uills

the

not

ght;

fisher.

the

^{*} Edwards, &c.

⁺ Willughby, Klein, &c.

214

the Woodpeckers, perhaps, as to the Kingfishers; it contains only two species, which are both natives of the hot climates of America.

The I A C A M A R, properly fo called.

First Species.

Alcedo Galbula. Linn, and Gmel. Galbula. Briff. Galbula Viridis. Lath. Ind. The Cupreous Jacamar. Penn.

* The Green Jacamar. Lath. Syn.

THIS bird is about the fize of a lark, and its whole length is fix and a half inches; the bill is an inch and five lines: its tail, only two inches, yet it projects an inch beyond the wings, when they are closed; the quills of the tail are very regularly tapered; the legs are very short, and of a yellowish colour; the bill is black, and the eyes are of a fine deep blue; the throat is white, and the belly rufous; all the rest of the plumage is of a very brilliant goldgreen, with red copper reflections.

In

Nº 17

The favages of Cayenne call this bird Venetou; and the Creoles give it the appellation Colibri des grands bois (the Forest-Colibri).

gh of

rk,
alf
es;
an
are

guand and roat rest old-

d the

In



THE GREEN JACAMAR.

flesh,

In i well a only upper brillia

be att and in prefer abund join in most siflight, on the the wl perpet numb fponse is tole

[A] S is wedge fcanfory

In some subjects, the throat is rusous, as well as the belly; in others, the throat is only a little yellowish; the colour of the upperside of the body, also, is more or less brilliant in different specimens, which may be attributed to age or sex.

These birds are found both in Guiana and in Brazil; they inhabit the forests, and prefer the wet places affording in most abundance their in Ct. id; they never join in society, but constantly reside in the most sequestered and darkest coverts; their slight, though rapid, is short; they perch on the middle boughs, and remain at rest the whole of the night and the greatest part of the day; they always are alone, and almost perpetually tranquil: yet there is usually a number in the same district, that make responses in a feeble broken warble, but which is tolerably pleasant. Piso says that their sless, though hard, is eaten in Brasil. [A]

[[]A] Specific character of the Alcedo-Galbula: " Its tail is wedge-shaped, its body green gold, below rusous, its feet scanfory."

The Long-tailed JACAMAR.

Second Species.

Alcedo Paradisea. Linn and Gmel.
Galbula Longicauda. Briss.
Galbula Paradisea. Lath. Ind.
Ispida Surinamensis. Klein:
The Swallow-tailed King-fisher. Edw.
The Paradise Jacamar. Lath. Syn.

THIS bird is rather larger than the preceding, from which it differs by its tail having twelve quills, while in that of the other there are only ten; the two middle quills of the tail are besides much longer, exceeding the rest two inches and three lines, and measuring in all fix inches. It resembles the former Jacamar however in the form of its body and of its bill, and in the disposition of its toes; yet Edwards gives it three toes before and one behind, and this mistake probably has induced him to reckon it a King-fisher. It differs from the first Jacamar by the tints and distribution of its colours, which have nothing common to both but the white on the breast; all the rest of the plumage is of a dull and deep green, in which we distinguish only some orange and violet reflections.

We

the p
fent
two
much

T

perh the dista trees so so

> A] middi fcanfo

ther

whe

LONG-TAILED JACAMAR. 217

We are unacquainted with the female of the preceding species; but that of the present is distinguished from the male by the two middle quills of the tail, which are much shorter, nor has its plumage any of the orange and violet reslections.

These long-tailed Jacamars live on insects like the others. But all their other habits perhaps differ; for they sometimes frequent the cleared grounds, they fly to great distances, and they perch on the tops of trees; they go also in pairs, nor are they so solitary or sedentary as the others; they have not the same warble, but a cry or rather a soft whistle, which is heard only when near, and is seldom repeated. [A]

its of ider,

It in in

rds

to the

on the

eep

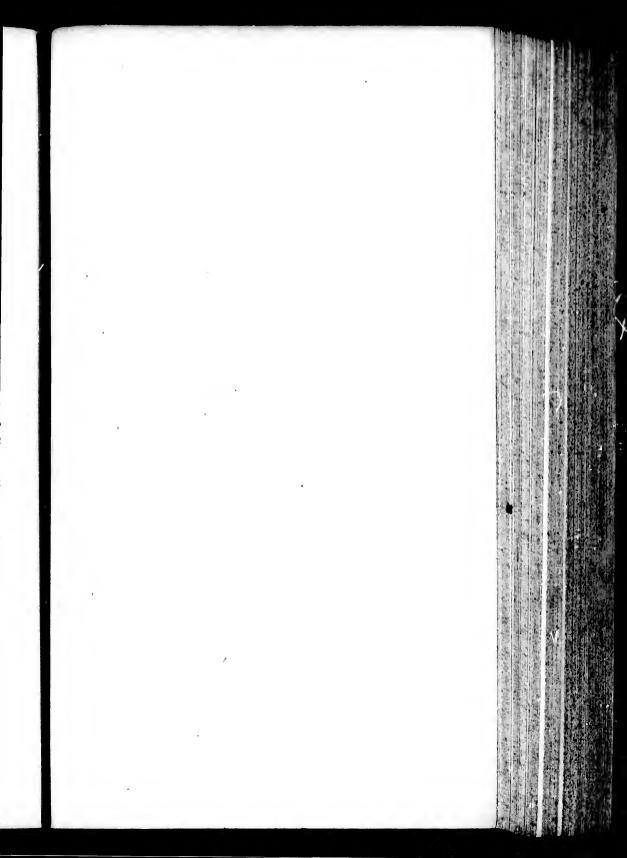
me We

[[]A] Specific character of the Alcedo Paradifea: " Its two middle tail-quills very long, its body green gold, its feet fcanfory."

The TODIES.

Les Todiers. Buff.

CLOANE and Browne are the first who have described one of these birds, which they term Todus. But besides this species from Jamaica, we know two or three others, which all feem to be natives of the hot climates of America. The discriminating character of the genus is, that as in the King-fishers and the Manakins, the mid-toe is closely connected, and as it were glued to the outer-toe as far as the third joint, but cohering to the inner-toe in the same way only at the first joint. If we rested on this property therefore, we should class the Todies with the Manakins or King-fishers; but they are distinguished from these and indeed from all other birds, by the form of the bill, which is long, straight, blunt at the end, and flattened above and below, fo that they have been called by the Creoles of Guiana, Little Pallets or Little Spatulas. This fingular confirmation of their bill is alone sufficient to constitute a distinct genus.



1.272



TODY. THE GREEN

The

inch long and eafy the of blue in

and of but

legs Th

and two

The NORTH AMERICAN TODY.

First Species.

Todus Viridis. Linn. and Gmel.

Sylvia Gula Phanicea. Klein.

Todus Viridis peetore rubro. Browne.

Rubecula Viridis elegantissima. Ray and Sloane.

The Green Sparrow, or Green Humming-bird. Edw.

The Green Tody. Penn. and Lath.

THIS Tody is not larger than the Gold-Crested Wren, being about four inches long. We shall not here copy the long descriptions given by Browne, Sloane, and Briffon; because it will always be eafy to distinguish the bird; for, besides the peculiarity of the bill, the upper side of the body, in the male, is of a dilute blue, and the under fide rose colour; and, in the female, the back is of a fine green, and the rest of the plumage similar to that of the male. In both, the bill is reddifh, but lighter below and browner above; the legs are gray, and the nails long and hooked. The bird feeds on infects and small worms, and inhabits wet and sequestered spots. The two subjects designed in the Planches Enluminees were fent us from St. Domingo by M. Chervain, under the name of Land Parrots, but with the description of the female only. He observes that, in the love season, the male has a feeble, though pleasant, warble: that the female builds her nest on the dry ground, and preferably on the friable mold; and, for that reason, these birds chuse the ravines and water-gullies; they often nestle also in the low galleries of houses, yet always on the ground; they make an excavation with their bill and claws, give it a round form, hollow out the bottom, and place pliant straws, dry moss, cotton, and feathers, which they artfully arrange; they lay four or five eggs, which are gray and spotted with deep yellow.

They catch, with great dexterity, flies and other small winged infects; they are difficult to tame, yet we may succeed if they are young, and fed by their parents in a cage until they can eat by themselves; they have a strong attachment to their brood, and will not leave them as long as they hear them cry.

We have feen that Sloane and Browne found this bird in Jamaica; it occurs also in Martinico, whence M. de Chanvalon fent it to M. de Reaumur. It appears therefore that

that continued Americal Americal Americal Marce

[A] its brea

1

as fme exactle confocolou blue of the for

but a there on the a diff

the d

SOUTH AMERICAN TODY. 221

that this species inhabits the islands and continent in the warmest parts of North America; but we cannot discover whether it also resides in South America, at least Marcgrave makes no mention of it.

[A] Specific character of the Todus Viridis: "It is green, its breaft red."

The T I C - T I C, OR SOUTH AMERICAN TODY.

Second Species.

Todus Cinereus. Linn. and Gmel.
The Gray and Yellow Fly-catcher. Edw.
The Cinereous Tody. Lath.

The natives of Guiana call this bird Tic-tic, in imitation of its cry; it is as small as the preceding, which it resembles exactly in the shape of its bill, and in the conformation of its toes; it differs in its colours, being cinereous mixed with deep blue on the upper side of the body, whereas the former is of a light sky-blue on the same parts: this difference in the shade of the colours would only mark a variety; but all the under side of the body is yellow, there is no rose-colour on the throat or on the slanks, and as the bird belongs to a different elimate, we reckon it a distinct species.

t

e

t

222 SOUTH AMERICAN TODY.

species. It differs from the North American Tody, also, because the tips of the lateral quills of the tail are white, for the space of five or fix lines; yet this property is peculiar to the male, for in the semale, the extreme quills are of an uniform colour, and of the same ash-gray with the upper side of the body; all these tints are also sainter and more dilute than in the male.

This bird lives on infects, like the preceding; it prefers the cleared grounds for its haunts; it is scarcely ever found in the forests, but often among thickets and bushes.

[A] Specific character of the Todus Cinereus: "It is cinerous, below yellow."

The ORANGE BELLIED BLUE TODY.

Third Species.

Todus Cæruleus. Gmel. The Blue Tody. Lath.

We have caused this Tody to be delineated from a specimen in good prefervation in the cabinet of M. Aubry, rector of St. Louis: it is three inches and six lines in length; the upper part of the head, neck,

neck, the ta are of face of head lower the ey This of this T

The

describ

of the

condentauthor Crested are blacked and the blue, be no not Aldrov has see point, belongs

Todus
 Ispida 1
 The Va

[A] Se

neck, and all the back, are of fine deep blue; the tail and the tips of the wing-coverts are of the same colour; all the under surface of the body; and also the sides of the head and neck, are of a fine orange, the lower part of the throat is whitish; near the eyes are small dashes of violet purple. This description will suffice to distinguish this Tody from others of the kind.

There is a fourth bird which Brisson has described from Aldrovandus under the name of the Variegated Tody*, and we shall here condense the account given by these two authors. It is of the size of the Gold Crested Wren; its nead, throat and neck are blackish blue, the wings green, the quills of the tail black edged with green, and the rest of the plumage variegated with blue, black and green. But as Brisson takes no notice of the shape of the bill, and as Aldrovandus, who is the only person that has seen this bird, is equally silent on that point, I cannot decide whether it really belongs to the genus of the Todies. [A]

[•] Todus Varius. Gmel.
Ispida Indica. Aldrov.
The Variegated Tody. Lath.

[[]A] See note at the end of No. 8.

The AQUATIC BIRDS.

THE Aquatic are the only class of birds. which, to their common inheritance of the air and of the earth, join also the possession of the sea. Numerous species, containing vast multitudes of individuals, inhabit its shores and its level surface; they float on the billows with as much ease and with more fecurity than they foar in their Their provisions are ever native element. abundant, their prey cannot escape their pursuit: some plunge into the waves, others only sweep the face of the water: all of them dwell on the fluctuating face of the deep, as if it were a stable abode; they form a great fociety, and live in tranquillity amidst the storms: they seem even to play with the billows, to contend with the winds, and to expose themselves to the vehemence of the tempest, without apprehending or fuffering shipwreck.

It is with reluctance that they leave their favourite residence, and never until the concerns of incubation detain them on shore, or permit only short excursions into the sea; but, as soon as their young are hatched.

hat pro lon thei they rest nigh are expo retir to t and cour the fign ance

not the flutter force of aspect Forster + " are no feen the

the a

feven quentl more of fpecies regard with t

reckor

hatched, they introduce them into their proper element: there, they may continue as long as they chuse; no water can penetrate their plumage, and when fatigued by flying, they may recruit their exhausted vigor by resting on the surface. The long dark nights, or the continued violence of storms * are the only hardships to which they are exposed, and which at times oblige them to retire to the shore. Then they announce to the navigator the proximity of the land, and serve, by their flight, to guide his courfe. Yet Captain Cook advises to regard the appearance of these birds as no certain fign +, fince they often rove at vast distances on the main; and it appears from the accounts of mariners that the greater

ce

he

es,

ls,

ey

nd

eir

ver

eir

ers

of

the hey

lity

olay

ads,

nce

g or

heir

the

on

into

are

hed,

Vol. vii.

number

^{* &}quot;The disorder of the elements (in a great storm) drove not the birds from us: from time to time a Black Tern stuttered on the troubled face of the sea, and broke the force of the waves by exposing itself to their action. The aspect of the ocean was then threatning and terrible." Forser.

^{† &}quot;The Blue Petrels which are found on this immense sea are no less insensible to cold than the Penguins. We have seen them between New Zealand and America, more than seven hundred leagues from any land." Forster. "We frequently had occasion to remark that these birds give not more certain signs of land than the sea-weed, except those species which never-rove very far from the coasts. With regard to the Penguins, Petrels, and Albatrosses, as we meet with them six or seven hundred leagues at sea, we cannot reckon at all upon their indication." Id.

126

number do not return each night to the beach, but repose among the shelves, or slumber on the water ‡

The shape and confirmation of these birds shew sufficiently that they are destined by nature to inhabit the watry element; their body is arched and bulged like the hulk of a ship, and this figure was perhaps copied in the first construction of vessels; their neck, which rifes on a projecting breast, represents the prow; their short tail, collected into a fingle bundle, ferves as a rudder §; their broad and palmated feet perform the office of oars; and their thick down, glistening with oil, which entirely invests them, is impenetrable by humidity, and, at the fame time, enables them to float more lightly on the furface of the water ||. The habits and œconomy of these birds correspond also to their organization; they never feem happy but in their appropriated element; they are averse

roug whi ing. pleas are p ous grace along plum they dulat fentin the Se qualit

is mo that o requir

tion,

of follow part of they can troubled wake, o what is the fmod by the V

N. B. true Alc bably a

^{† &}quot;There is reason to suppose that they even sleep upon the water. We passed near an Albatross that was resting asseep on the surface, having been fatigued by the preceding storm." Forster.

[§] Aristotle, Hift. Anim. Lib. ii. 5.

[&]quot;The birds of warm countries are moderately cloathed, while those of cold countries, particularly such as sly inceffantly on the sea, have a prodigious quantity of feathers, each of which is double."

averse to alight on the land; and the least roughness of the ground hurts their soles, which are foftened by the perpetual bathing. The water is to them the scene of pleasure and repose, where all their motions are performed with facility, and their various evolutions traced with elegance and grace. View the Swans moving fweetly along, or failing majestically with expanded plumage upon the wave; they gaily sport, they dive and again emerge with gentle undulations, and foft energy expressive of those fentiments which are the foundation of love: the Swan is the emblem of gracefulness, the quality which first ommands our attention, even prior to the fascination of beauty.

The life of the Aquatic Birds therefore is more peaceful and less laborious than that of most other tribes; smaller force is required in swimming than is expended in

of following vessels: since many sea-birds pass the greatest part of their life on this element, far from the shores, and they can scarce possibly find subsistence during a storm on the troubled face of the deep: they then keep in the vessels wake, often before the wind comes on, and feed upon what is thrown over-board. Besides they can repose on the smooth track which the vessel leaves." Remarks made by the Viscount de Querboent.

N. B. This Alcyon of the mariners is different from the true Alcyon of the ancients or the King-fisher; it is probably a fea-swallow.

flying; and the element which they inhabit perpetually yields them subfishence: they rather light on their prey than fearch for it. and often a friendly wave conveys it within their reach, and they feize it without trouble or fatigue. Their dispositions also are more innocent, and their habits more pacific. Each species congregates, from mutual attachment; they never attack their companions nor destroy other birds; and, in this great and peaceful nation, the strong never oppress the weak. Very different from those tyrants of the air and of the land, which fpread through their empire diforder, devaftation, and war; the winged inhabitants of the water, live in profound Karmony with each other, and are never polluted by the blood of their kindred: they respect even the whole class of birds, and employ their strength and their weapons only against the abject swarms of infects, and the dumb tribes of fishes. Yet most of the Aquatic Birds have a keen appetite, and are furnished with arms corresponding. Many species, such as the Goosander, the Brentgoose, the Shell-drake, &c. have the inner edges of their bill ferrated with sharp indentings, the better to fecure their prey; all of them almost are more voracious than the land birds, and there are some, as the Ducks

Duc

Aquifuch fuch fuch feet their dive the legs mear fubfi ample between the transfer of the trans

three rate : to refail of tribe have all it

ness tion

* A

Ducks and Gulls, &c. which devour indifcriminately carrion and entrails.

We must divide the numerous class of Aquatic Birds into two great families: such as swim and have palmated seet; and such as haunt the shores and have divided feet*. The latter are differently shaped, their body being slender and tall, and as their feet are not webbed, they cannot dive or rest on the water; they keep near the margin, and, wading with their tall legs among the shallows, they search by means of their long neck and bill for their subsistence in the mud: they are a fort of amphibious animals, that occupy the limits between the land and the water, and sill up the gradations in the scale of existence.

Thus the aërial inhabitants confist of three divisions, which have each their separate abode: some are appointed by nature to reside on the land; others are destined to sail on the water; and to an intermediate tribe, the confines of these two elements have been allotted: life has been varied in all its possible forms, and the immense richness of creation displayed to our admiration and astonishment.

·e

y

er

.b

ın

ne

ks

^{*} Aristotle, Hift. Anim. Lib. ix. 16.

We have often had occasion to remark that none of the quadrupeds and few of the birds which inhabit the Southern regions of the one continent, are found in the other; being unable to traverse the vast extent of intervening ocean. But this law entirely fails in the present instance; the Aquatic birds occur equally in the Old and in the New World, and even in the remotest islands of the habitable globe *. And this privilege is even extended to such as frequent only the shores: for, by tracing the line of coast, they may arrive at the extremities of both continents; nor, in their progress, will they experience much change of climate, fince the heat is tempered and the cold mitigated, by the fea-breezes. Accordingly many species of shore birds, which in our continent retire to the North in summer, seem to have passed by degrees into the boreal tracts of America +.

Most of these Aquatic birds appear to be half-nocturnal ‡; the Herons roam during the night; the Woodcock only begins to fly in the evening; the Bittern still screams after the decline of day; the Cranes are heard to

CIY

dar

wh wil

and

Th

cur and

tice

the

ral

ene rec

vic

tuo the

the

face

or

in

end col

alfo

the

and

pri alfo

and

of

^{*} See the articles of the Flamingos, of the Pelican, of the Frigat, of the Tropic Bird, &c.

⁺ See the articles of the Plovers, of the Herons, of the Spoon-bills, &c.

¹ Edwards.

cry aloft in the air, admidst the filence and darkness of night; this also is the period when the Gulls range abroad, when the wild Geese and Ducks alight in our rivers, and stay usually longer than during the day. These habits are derived from several circumstances connected with their support and security: the coolness of the evening entices the worms to come out of their holes: the fishes are then in motion, and the general obscurity conceals these birds from their enemies. Yet not always prudent in directing their attacks, they fometimes fall victims of their own rashness or impetuosity. We have found a King-sisher in the belly of an Eel; the Pike often carches the birds that dive or glance over the furface, and even those which come to drink or bathe at the margin of the pool; and in the frozen feas, the Whales open their enormous jaws, to swallow not only whole columns of Herrings and other fishes, but also the birds which hover in pursuit of these, such as the Albatrosses, the Penguins, and the Scoter Ducks, &c.

Thus nature, while the bestows great privileges on the birds of the water, annexes also to their condition some inconveniences; and she has even withheld from them one of her noblest gifts. None of them has the power of warbling, and what has been faid of the fong of the Swan is altogether The voice of the Aquatic Birds fabulous. is strong, harsh, and loud, calculated to be heard at a distance, and to resound on the wide-spread shores: it consists of raucous notes, of cries, and of screams, and has none of those flexible and soft accents, nor that fweet melody with which our rural chanters enliven the grove, when they proclaim the delights of spring and of love: as if the formidable element, the scene of storms, had for ever repelled these charming birds, whose peaceful fong required days of ferenity and nights of calm; as if the ocean permitted its winged inhabitants to utter nothing but coarse and savage founds, which pierce through the horrors of the tempest, and are heard amidst the roaring of the blast and the dashing of the furge.

The number of Aquatic birds, including those which haunt the shores, and reckoning the individuals, is perhaps equal to that of the Land-birds. If the latter are dispersed through the hills and the vales, through the forests and the open fields: the former, plying by the edge of the water, or riding on the waves, inhabit a second element as vast and as free as the air itself; their food, also,

alfo, on the prode than for in of an state In ge

of the tion at ter bid rineral Peng myridas do the F

the c

those an eccous attrib

fouth

also, is more abundant, and depends not on the caprice of the seasons, or on the produce of human industry. Hence, too, the water birds associate more habitually than the land birds, and form larger slocks; for instance, few species of these, at least of an equal bulk, are so numerous, in the state of nature, as the Geese and the Ducks. In general, there is greater union among animals, the further they are removed from the controul of man.

But both the species and the individuals of the land birds are more plenty in proportion as the climate is hotter; whereas the water birds seem to prefer the cold regions. Mariners inform us that the Herring-gulls, the Penguins, and the Scoter-ducks appear in myriads on the frozen shores of the North, as do the Albatrosses, the Manchots, and the Petrels, on the frigid islets in the high southern latitudes.

d

if

e

ed

th

r,

g

as

d, o, Yet the birds of the land seem to surpass those of the water in secundity; none of an equal size are so prolific as the gallinaceous tribe. Nor can this difference be attributed to the abundant and generous food which the domestic state affords, for the tame Goose and Duck never lay so many eggs as the common Hen. These Aquatic birds

birds are rather prisoners than domestics; they still retain the traces of their primæval liberty, and shew a degree of independence, which the land-sowl seem to have totally lost. They die if kept confined; they require to roam at large, and enjoy part of their natural freedom in the freshning pools. Nay, if their wings be not clipped, they will often join their wild brethren, and make their escape *. The Swan, that ornament of the artificial lakes in our superb gardens, sails along rather with the firm dignity of a master than the humble deportment of a slave.

As domestication imposes little constraint on the Aquatic birds, it introduces but slight alterations in their shape or plumage. The tame Duck admits of few varieties; while the Cock presents such a number of new breeds, that they seem almost to confound and obliterate the original stock. The birds of the water are also less known than those of the land; and, by placing

bran
ef
extra
been
who
n
flan
g
to t

Pelio Laba that

vers.

then

rem

attra

mul

flock

coaf

larly

Wei

quer

are

for t

the f

bal

Ame

birds

kill t

Т

and cove

^{*}Though there are instances of tame Ducks and Geese joining wild ones, they probably meet with harsh usage from their associates: for the antipathy between the domestic and the wild birds subsists in these species as in all others. The Sieur Irecourt, a person of veracity whom I have frequently cited, having put into a pond wild Ducks taken from the nest in a marsh, with other tame Ducks of nearly the same age, the latter assailed them, and in less than two or three days killed them outright.

them on the ocean, nature feems to have removed them from the empire of man.

The seas which abound most in fish, attract and establish on their shores infinite multitudes of Aquatic birds. Innumerable flocks inhabit the Sambal islands and the coast of the isthmus of Panama, particularly on the Northern side; nor is the Western side of the continent less frequented on the Southern coast, but there are few on the Northern. Wafer affigns for the reason, that in the bay of Panama the fishes are not so plenty as at the Sambal islands. The great rivers of North America are entirely covered with water birds. The fettlers at New Orleans, who kill them on the Mississippi, formed a small branch of commerce in the fat or oil extracted from them. Many islands have been called Bird Islands, being defert and wholly overspread with sea-fowl. island of Aves among others, fifty leagues to the leeward of Dominica is fettled by unequaled numbers. There we find Plovers, Red-shanks, Gallinules, Flamingos, Pelicans, Gulls, Frigats, Boobies, &c. Labat, who publishes these facts, remarks, that this coast is exceedingly rich in fish, and that the high-water mark is constantly covered by an immense quantity of shells. The

r

e

it

Iŧ

n

n -

he

he ly

he

ne

n

The fish spawn, also, which often floats on the furface of the fea near the great banks, attracts equally the birds *. There are certain parts on the coasts and in the islands. where the whole foil, to a confiderable depth, confids entirely of the excrements of water fowls; fuch is the case near the Peruvian coast, on the island of Iquique, whence the Spaniards carry the dung to manure their lands on the continent +. The rocks of Greenland are covered to their tops with a fort of turf composed of the fame substance, and the relics of old nests ±. These birds are numerous also on the rocks of the Norwegian shore §, and on the

"In the 41st degree of South latitude near Chili, we met on the surface of the sea with a bed of fish-spawn, which extended about a league, and as we had observed another bed the day before, we judged what it was that had attracted the birds which we had seen for two or three days." Observations du P. Feuillée (edit. 1725.) p. 79.

† For more than a century past several ships have been annually loaded with this dung reduced to mould, which the Spaniards call guana, and carry it to septilize the neighbouring vallies, particularly that of Arica, which by the affishance of this manure, bears the pimento. See Frezier and Feuillée. "From Cape Horn we steered without the rocks that lie off Mistaken Cape. These rocks are white with the dung of sowls, and vast numbers were seen about them." Cook's Second Voyage. Vol. ii. p. 190.

\$ See Hift. Gen. des Voyages tom. 19. p. 27.

§ The Aquatic birds of the coasts of Norway are common also to Iceland and Ferol; they are so numerous that the inhabitants the iff the e inhab cipice

inhabita
the cou
confider
Pentoppi

Iceland, leagues illand. most of Horrebon

make th

most cra

thefe, r myfelf, and I m dering, lives : fe dashed a to be fi firmly a this bea tied by he holds he guide being r the pred hundred can be t pension, ploymer

frightfu

great p

the islands of || Iceland, and Feroe, where the eggs are the principal support of the inhabitants, who gather them in the precipices and most frightful cliffs *. Such also

inhabitants live on their flesh and their eggs. They fatten the country with their dung, and their feathers afford a considerable branch of trade to the town of Berge: • Pontoppi dan's Natural History of Norway.

If The fea-fowl appear in vast flocks on the islets near Iceland, and spread to the distance of twelve or sisteen leagues: the sight of these betokens the approach to the island. Among these birds are different kinds of Gulls, most of them described in Marten's Voyage to Spitzbergen.

Horrebow's Description of Iceland.

d

n

e

er

te

ut

on

he

118

" "The birds which stock the coasts of Iceland, seek to make their nests in the most inaccessible places and on the most craggy rocks: however, the inhabitants can plunder : thefe, notwithstanding the danger of the pursuit. I have myfelf," fays Horrebow, " feen the manner of taking them, and I must confess that I never could behold, without shuddering, the intrepidity with which the men risked their lives: several of these people have fallen into the sea, or been dashed against the precipices over which they were obliged to be suspended. On the top of the rock is fastened as firmly as possible, a beam that projects a considerable way: this bears a pulley and a rope, by means of which a man tied by the middle of the body descends along the ricks; he holds a long pole armed with an iron hook, by which he guides himself among the crags. Upon a certain signal being made, the men who are flationed on the fumnit of the precipice draw him up with his plunder of one or two hundred eggs. The fearch is continued as long as any eggs can be found, or as long as it is possible to endure this fuspension, which becomes very fatiguing. During this employment, the birds are feen flying in thousands, uttering frightful screams. The inhabitants of those places reap great profit from this species of industry; for besides the eggs,

also are the desert and almost inaccessible islets in the Barra Firth, near the coast of Scotland, which are visited annually by the people from Hirta, who collect the eggs by thousands and kill the birds †. And lastly, they are so plentiful in the Greenland seas, that in the language of the country there is a word to express the method of fowling

eggs, they find many young birds, of which some serve as food, and others yield abundance of feathers, that are fold to the Danish merchants." Horrebow. -- Pontoppidan describes the fearch for eggs which is made in Norway, as no lefs frightful. "The cavities where these birds breed occur in the craggy perpendicular rocks all along the coast. To climb to them, a person puts a rope round his body, while his companions push against his back with a long pole, to help him up to some place where he can rest his foot and fasten his rope; then they withdraw the pole and a fecond clambers up in the same manner. After they have joined, they both tie themselves to the same rope, and assist each other in mounting higher by means of an iron hook, pushing and drawing up each other by turns. The birds suffer themselves to be caught by the hand on their nests in the caverns, and the spoils are thrown to those who wait below the rock in a boat. These fowlers are sometimes eight days absent from their companions, and often tumble together into the sea. When they want to enter the hollows of mountains, the boldest is let down by a rope from the top of the rock. He wears a large strong hat, to screen him from the blows of the stones that may fall: when he would enter any cavity, he presses his feet against the mountain. pushes back with all his force, and directs so well his body that he lands straight in." Hift. Nat. de Norwege, par Pontoppidan, part ii. Journal Etranger, mois de fevrier, 1757. + See Collection of different treatifes on Physics and Natu-

aal History, by M. Deslandes, tom. i. p. 163.

by o inlet taker

whice island whice never found and if for the are first

fion) trigging the spa from fit that the ashore.

p. 583,

to caverno marks

I w lan), were i large, try for

that I

cular,

both fi

by chasing the birds into the narrow inlets, where, being hemmed in, they are taken in vast numbers §.

The Water-fowl are also the inhabitants which nature has assigned to the distant islands that are lost in the midst of an immense ocean, whither the other species which live on the surface of the land could never have penetrated *. Navigators have found birds in possession of those solitary and inhospitable spots which seemed unsit for the abode of animated beings †. They are spread from North to South ‡, but no where

Sarpfipock. Diet. Groenland. Hafnia.

:5

ſs

r

n

d

1-

er

of

m

ld

D,

ar

u-

y

*" Scarce had the vessel anchored (at the island of Ascenfion) than thousands of birds perched on the masts and rigging; the fall of five hundred, which were killed in the space of a quarter of an hour, did not deter the rest from slying about the ship; they became so importunate that they bit the hats and caps of twenty men who went ashore." Relation de Rennefort. Hist. Gen. des Voyages, tom. viii. p. 583,

† "We observed these rocks (at Easter-island,) whose cavernous aspect and black ferruginous colour, bore the marks of a subterraneous sire. We remarked two in particular, the one like an enormous column or obelish, and both silled with innumerable Sea-sow, whose discordant cries stunned our ears. Forster.

I went on shore (at Port Desire in the Straits of Magellan), the river as far as I could see, was very broad; there were in it a number of islands, some of which were very large, and I make no doubt but that it penetrates the country for some hundred miles. It was upon one of these islands that I went on shore, and I sound there such a number of

birds

where more numerous than in the Frigid Zones &; because in those dreary regions. the naked earth bound in icy torgor, is blasted with perpetual sterility; while the fea yet teems with life ||. Accordingly, navigators and naturalists have remarked, that in the arctic countries there are few Landbirds in comparison of Water-birds *:

birds, that when they rose they literally darkened the air, and we could not walk a step without treading upon their eggs." Byron's Voyage in Hawkefworth's Collection. Vol. 1: p. 21.

§ Gmelin says, that he never saw such a large number of birds affembled in flocks as at Mangasea on the Jenisea: it was in the month of June; the most numerous were the Water fowl, Geese of all kinds, Ducks, Gallinules, Gulls, and the Shore-birds, Woodcocks, Divers, &c. Hift. Gen.

des Voyages. tom. xviii. p. 357.

Il The Albatrosses now left us during our passage amidst the islands of ice; and we saw only one from time to time. The Tropic birds, the Cut-waters, the little Grey birds, the Swallows, were no longer fo numerous. On the other hand, the Penguins began to appear, for to-day we saw two. Notwithstanding the coldness of the climate we observed the White Petrel constantly among the masses of ice, and we may regard it as a certain fore-runner of ice. From its colour we took it for the Snowy Petrel. Many Whales shewed themselves among the ice, and varied a little the frightful scene. We passed more than eighteen islands of ice, and faw New Penguins." Captain Cook's Second Voyage.

See the Fauna Suecice of Linnæus, the Ornithologia Borealis of Brunnich, the Zoologia Danica of Muller. The fame observation holds with regard to the Antarctic regions." "Very few Land-birds are found in Terra del Fuego: Mr. Banks faw none larger than our Black-birds; but there was great abundance of Water-fowl, particularly Ducks."

Cook's First Voyage.

the fo of wh ftunte land c in tem a fuppe in the many o the flo breed a colder

> This fowls a globe, Polar re where

the from

* See the † " We obliged to upon it an was all cov near forty Gen. des Vo

1 On the bla) we w there was p feemed not them suffere nest had bu or feathers Hollanders, and hatched

Vol.

the

the former require herbs, feeds and fruits, of which the ground yields only a few stunted species; while the latter seek the land only as a place of refuge, a retreat in tempests, a station in dark nights, and a support for their nests. Cook and Forster, in their voyages to the South Sea, saw many of these birds resting and sleeping on the floating ice *; and some of them even breed on the ice +. Indeed what can be colder or harder than their usual beds on the frozen summits ‡.

This last fact proves that the Waterfowls are the remotest inhabitants of our globe, and are well acquainted with the Polar regions. They penetrate into lands where the White Bear no more appears;

R

e.

its

les he

of

ge.

Ba-

me

c:

ere

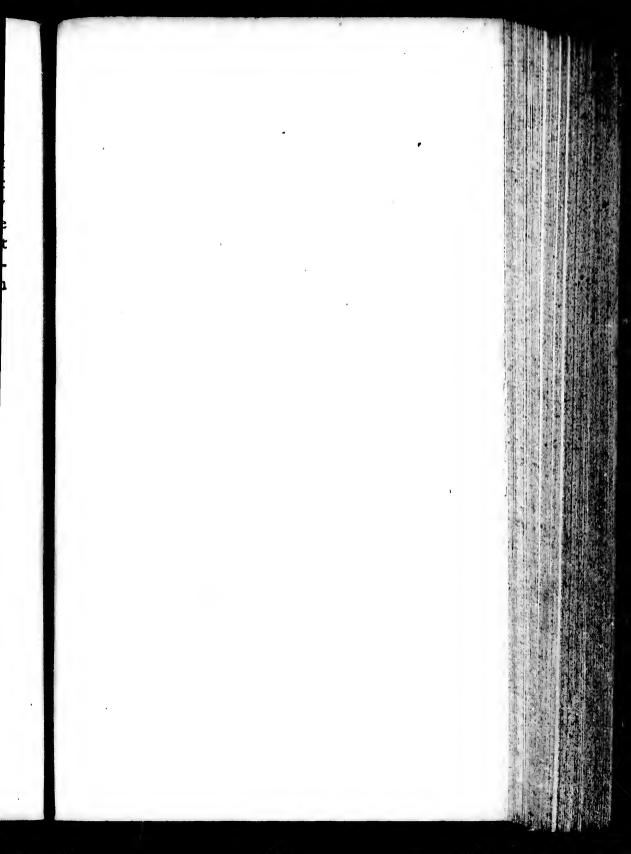
he

^{*} See the articles of the Petrels and Penguins.

^{† &}quot;We met with a great bank of ice, on which we were obliged to moor (at Nova Zembla); some sailors mounted upon it and gave a very strange account of its sigure, it was all covered with earth to the top, and they found on it near forty eggs." Relation de Hemskerke and Barentz. Hist. Gen. des Voy. tom. xvi. p. 112.

[†] On the 22d July, being near Cape Cant (at Nova Zembla) we went repeatedly ashore to seek for birds eggs: there was plenty of ness, but in steep precipices; the birds seemed not to be afraid of the sight of men, and most of them suffered themselves to be caught by the hand. Each ness had but a single egg, on the bare rock without straw or feathers to keep it warm: a sight which assonished the Hollanders, who could not conceive how eggs were covered and hatched in such intense cold." Id. Ibid.

into seas abandoned by the Seal, the Walrus, and the other amphibious animals. They live agreeably in those climates during the whole summer, and retire about the autumnal equinox, when the night encroaches fast on the day, at last totally extinguishes it, and wraps the awful scene in tedious darkness. They spend the short winter-days in lower latitudes, and return again in the spring to their frozen abodes.



N.17.3



THE STORK.

W

have there and, to trare to fit of the fit the retains which have

• In in Spa Chalde Zakid, Shaw: Bocian

color

The S T O R K.

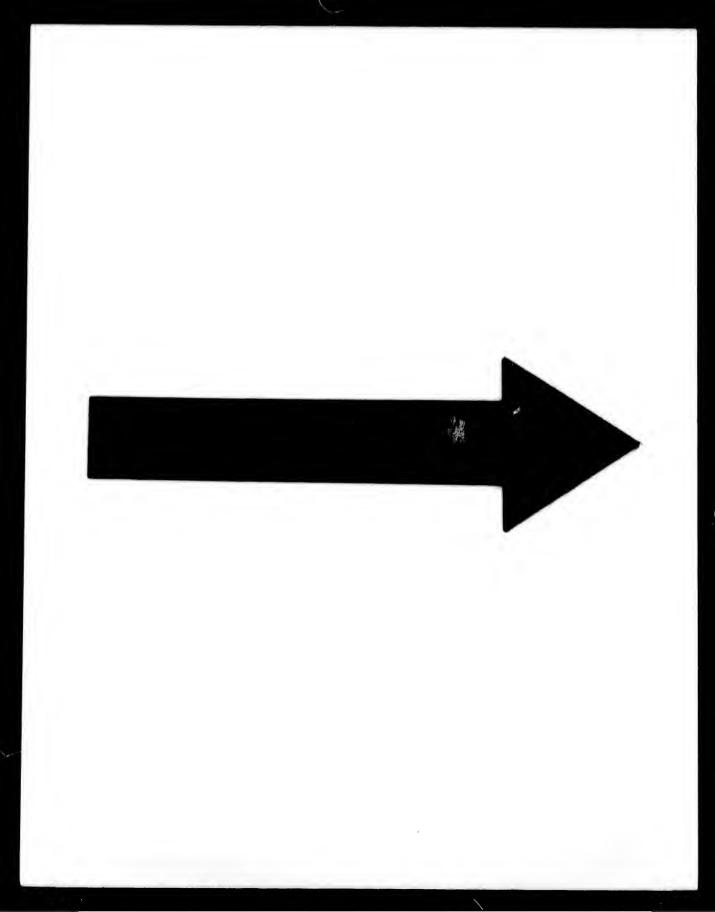
La Cigogne. Buff.

Ardea-Ciconia. Linn. and Gmel.

Ciconia. All the naturalists.

The White Stork. Penn. and Lath.

WE have observed that between the land-birds and the fea-bird, which have webbed feet and rest on the buface. there is a large class that haunt the thores, and, being furnished with toes, are destined to tread the ground, but at the same time are enabled, by their long neck and bill, to find their food under the liquid element. Of the numerous families which frequent the fides of rivers and the fea-beach, that of the Stork, which is the best known and the most celebrated, occurs first: it contains two species, the white and the black, which are exactly of the same form, and have no external difference but that of colour. This distinction might be totally



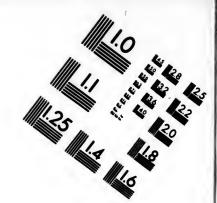
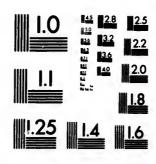


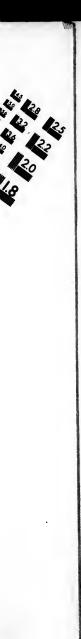
IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



Photographic Sciences Corporation

23 WEST MAIN STREET WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580 (716) 872-4503

STILL SELLEN ON THE SELLEN ON



Ę

difregarded, were not their instincts and habits widely different. The Black Stork prefers desert tracts, perches on trees, haunts unfrequented marshes, and breeds in the heart of forests. The White Stork, on the contrary, fettles befide our dwellings; inhabits towers, chimnies, and ruins: the friend of man, it shares his habitations, and even his domain; it fishes in our rivers, purfues its prey into our gardens, takes up its abode in the midst of cities, without being disturbed by the noise and bustle *, and ever respected and welcomed, it repays, by its fervices, the favours bestowed on it: as it is more civilized, it is also more prolific, more numerous, and more dispersed, than the Black Stork, which appears confined to particular countries, and resides always in the most sequestered spots.

The White Stork is smaller than the Crane, but larger than the Heron; its length, from the point of the bill to the end of the tail, is three feet at an half, and to the nails, four feet; the bill from the tip to the corners, measures seven inches; the leg eight inches; the naked part of the thighs sive, and the extent of the

wings

white its C bill : these close wing tints, wing, doubl almoi to th fituat when quills eight pear d is left in no neck a in whi Heron thicker with a feet ar tablets placed.

† Πελα

wing

form

^{*} Witness the Stork's nest built on the temple of Concord in the Capitol, and mentioned by Juvenal, Sat. 1. ver. 116, and which is also represented in the medals of Adrian.

ls

۲,

e

s,

s,

p

ıt

)**-**

d,

n-

es

re

ts

1e

lf,

m

en

ed

he

ord 16,

gs

wings is more than fix feet. It is easy to form an idea of it; its body is of a bright white, and its wings black, characters which its Greek name expresses +; its legs and bill are red, and its long neck is arched: these are the obvious features; but on closer examination, we perceive, on the wings, violet reflections and fome brown tints, we may count thirty quills in the wing, when it is spread; they form a double scalloping, those next the body being almost as long as the outer ones, and equal to them when the wing is closed: in that fituation, the wings cover the tail; and when they are expanded for flying, the great quills shew a singular disposition; the first eight or nine part from each other, and appear diverging and detached, so that a space is left between each, a property to be found in no other bird: the feathers below the neck are white, longish, and pendulous; in which respect, the Storks resemble the Herons, but their neck is shorter and thicker: the orbits are naked, and covered with a wrinkled skin of reddish black; the feet are covered with scales in hexagonal tablets, and broader the higher they are placed. There are rudiments of membranes

[†] Πελαεγος from Πελος black, and αεγος white.

far as the first joint, which, projecting on the outer toe, seem to form the gradation by which nature passes from the birds that have the feet parted by toes, to those that have them webbed: the nails are blunt, broad, slat, and much like the human nails.

The Stork flies steadily and with vigour, like all the birds furnished with broad wings and a short tail: it holds its head straight forward, and stretches back its legs, to directs its motion #: it foars to a vast height, and performs distant journies, even in tempestuous seasons. The Storks arrive in Germany about the eighth or tenth of May &, and are feen before that time in the provinces of France. Gefner fays, that they precede the Swallows, and enter Switzerland in the month of April, and sometimes earlier. They arrive in Alface in March, or even in the end of February. Their return is ever auspicious, as it announces the spring. They instantly indulge those tender emotions which that season inspires: Aldrovandus to its with warmth their mutual figns of felicity and love, the eager congratulations, and the fondling endearments of the male and female, when they famedeftraqua or or time poin cufto on the man boxed famedeft.

refts and water eye,

> what return tle m

Stork: mistal tectio larly the m

[‡] Aristotle, Lib. ii. 15.

[&]amp; Klein, De avibus errat. & migrat.

as

on

on

nat

nat nt,

ils.

ur, pad

ead

gs,

ven rive

of

the

hat

vit-

me-

in

ary.

an-

ulge

fon

mth

the

en-

they

rive

arrive at their nest after their distant journey ||: for the Storks always settle in the same spots, and, if their nest has been destroyed, they rebuild it with twigs and aquatic plants, and usually on losty ruins, or on the battlements of towers, and sometimes on large trees beside water, or on the point of bold cliss. In France, it was customary in Belon's time, to place wheels on the house-tops, to entice the stork to nestle. This practice still subsists in Germany and in Alsace: and in Holland, square boxes are planted on the ridge, with the same view *.

When the Stork is in a still posture it rests on one foot, folds back its neck, and reclines its head on its shoulder. It watches the motions of reptiles with a keen eye, and commonly preys on frogs, lizards, serpents, and small fish, which it finds in

what fweet falutation; what gratulation for their prosperous return! what embraces! what honied kisses! what gentle murmurs they breathe!" Tom. iii. p 298.

^{*} Lady Montague in her Letters, No. 32. fays that the Storks neitle on the ground in the streets. If she is not mistaken with regard to the species of these birds, the protection which the Stork enjoys in Turkey must have singularly emboldened it; for in our countries, it always chuses the most innaccessible places, which may command the vicinity, and conceal it in the nest.

marshes, by the sides of the streams, and in wet vales.

It walks like the Crane with long meafured strides. When it is irritated or difcomposed, or even actuated by the amorous passions, it makes with its bill, a repeated clattering, which the ancients express by the fignificant words crepitat, glotterat +, and which Petronius accurately marks, by the epithet crotalistria I, formed from crotalum, the castanet or rattle. In this state of agitation it bends its head-back in fuch a manner, that the lower mandible appears uppermost, and that the bill lies almost parallel on the back; and in this attitude, the two mandibles strike violently against each other; but in proportion as it raises up its neck, the clattering abates, and ceases when the bird has resumed its ordinary posture. Such is the only noise which the Stork ever makes, and, as it feems dumb, the ancients were probably induced to suppose that it had no tongue §: this, indeed, is short and concealed in the entrance of the throat, as in all the birds with long bills, which have also a particular

mode

mode of th throa regard bills, thinn

The eggs, of a fmalle of for both bring rife u whift never the or prey, one I the bring the brin

by Sche

and the

are co

[†] Quæque Salutato crepitat concordia nido. Juvenal, Sat. 1. Glotterat immenso de turre ciconia rostro. Aut. Philomel. † Publius Syrus had made the same application of this

[†] Publius Syrus had made the same application of this word.

[§] Pliny, Lib, x. 31,

mode of swallowing, they by a certain cast of the head, tossing their food into the throat. Aristotle makes another remark with regard to birds which have long necks and bills, that their excrements are always thinner than those of other birds ||.

The Stork does not lay more than four eggs, oftner not more than two; they are of a dirty and yellowish white, rather fmaller, but longer, than those of a Goose. The male fits when the female goes in quest of food; the incubation lasts a month; both parents are exceedingly attentive in bringing provisions to the young, which rise up to receive it, and make a fort of whistling noise *. The male and female never leave the nest at once; but, while the one is employed in fearching for its prey, the other stands near the spot on one leg, and keeps an eye constantly on the brood. When first hatched, the young are covered with a brown down, and their

s

'n

is

y

S

^{||} Hist. Anim. Lib. ii. 22.

^{*} Ælian fays that the Stork vomits food to its young, which must not be understood of aliments partly digested, but of recent prey which it disgorges from its æsophagus, or even from its stomach whose aperture is sufficiently large. See the observation of Peyerus de ciconiæ wentre & affinitate quadam cum ruminantibus. Ephem. Nat. curios. dec. 2. ann. 2. obs. 97. See also two anatomical descriptions of the Stork, the one by Schelhammer, Collect. Acad. part etrang. vol. iv. obs. 109, and the other by Olaus Jacobæus. Id. obs. 94.

long slender legs not having yet strength enough to support them, they creep upon their knees +. When their wings begin to grow, they essay their force in fluttering about the nest; though it often happens, that, in this exercise, some of them fall, and are unable to regain their lodgement. After they venture to commit themselves to the air, the mother leads them, and exercises them in small circumvolutions about the nest, whither she conducts them back. And about the latter end of August, the young Storks having now attained strength, join the adults, and prepare for migration. The Greeks have placed their rendezvous in a plain of Asia, called the Serpent's Diftrict, where they affembled t as they do now in some parts of the Levant §, and even in Europe, as in Brandenburg and elsewhere.

† Observation of Bishop Grunner. Mem. Soc. of Drontheim.

† Pythonos comen, quasi serpentium pagum, wocant in Asia, patentibus campis, ubi congregatæ inter se commurmurant, eamque quæ novissima advenit lacerant, atque ita abcunt. Notatum post idus augustas non temere visas ibi. Plin. Lib. x. 31.

From this passage it appears that the assembly of the Storks is not without tumult and even sighting; but that they tear the last comer, as Pliny asserts, is doubt a sable.

§ "It is remarked that the Storks before they pass from one country into another, assemble a fortnight beforehand, from all the neighbouring parts, in a plain, holding once a day a divan, as they say in that country, as if their object was to fix the precise time of their departure and the place of their retreat." Shaw's Travels.

When

W

depa

with

tum

form

proj

clim

vast

cond

that

fight

the

Inde

to o

and

ferte

yent

Stor

bour depa

cour

retre

|| B

withd

on th

nec ve

ibus.

When they are convened previous to their departure, they make a frequent clattering with their bill, and the whole flock is in tumultuary commotion; all feem eager to form acquaintance, and to confult on their projected rout, of which the fignal in our climate is the North wind. Then, the vast body rises at once, and, in a few seconds, is lost in the air. Klein relates, that, having been called to witness this fight, he was a moment too late, and that the whole flock had already disappeared. Indeed, this departure is the more difficult to observe, as it is conducted in silence ||, and often during the night *. It is afferted, that in their passage, before they venture to cross the Mediterranean, the Storks alight in great numbers in the neighbourhood of Aix + in Provence. departure appears to be later in warm countries; for Pliny says, that after the retreat of the Stork, it is improper to forw t.

S

IS

w

n

m.

mta-

the

hat

om

nd,

lay

to

eir

en

^{||} Belon says, that it is not remarked, because they sly without noise or cries, while the Cranes and Wild-geese, on the contrary, scream much on the wing.

Nemo vidit agmen discedentium, cum discessurum appareat; nec venire, sed venisse cernimus; utrumque nocturnis sit temporibus. Pliny, Lib. x. 31.

⁺ Aldrovandus.

¹ Post ciconiæ discessum male seri. Lib. viji. 41.

Though the ancients had observed the migrations of the Storks, they were ignorant of the countries to which they retired &. Some modern travellers have made good observations on that subject: in autumn the plains of Egypt are entirely covered with these birds. "It is perfectly afcertained, fays Belon, that the Storks winter in Egypt, and in Africa; for we have feen the plains of Egypt whitened by them in the months of September and October. At that season, when the waters of the Nile have subsided, they obtain abundance of food; but the excessive heats of summer drive them to more temperate climates; and they return again in winter, to avoid the severity of the cold; the contrary is the case with the Cranes, which visit us with the Geese in winter, when the Storks leave us." This remarkable difference is owing to that of the climates which these birds inhabit; the Geese and Ducks come from the North, to escape the rigors of the winter: the Storks leave the South, to avoid the scorching heats of summer ||.

Belon

§ Jeremiah viii. 7.

tering and p Abyd from Helle they them?

Bel

Carm
Afia;
"Our
chore
flocks
than to
a half

Dr.

out of the migrothen is in a lak which fi of other. Martin printed But the known, tioned, Article + He

channel being di thor is r tion whi banks a

^{||} Several authors pretend that the Storks do not retire in winter, but then lurk in caverns, or even at the bottom of lakes. This was the common opinion in the time of Albertus Magnus. Klein relates, that two Storks were dragged

Belon says also, that he saw them wintering round Mount Amanus near Antioch, and passing about the end of August towards Abydus, in flocks of three or four thousand, from Russia and Tartary. They cross the Hellespont; and on the summits of Tenedos, they divide into squadrons, and disperse themselves Northwards.

Dr. Shaw saw at the foot of Mount-Carmel, a slight of Storks from Egypt to Asia; about the middle of May 1722. "Our vessel, says that traveller, being anchored under Mount Carmel, I saw three slocks of Storks, each of which was more than three hours in passing, and extended a half mile in breadth †." Maillet says,

out of the water in the pools near Elbing (De avibus errat. & migrat. ad culcem.) Gervais of Tillebury (Epift. ad Othon iv.) speaks of other Storks that were found clustered in a lake near Arles; Merula in Aldrovandus speak of those which fishermen drew out of the lake of Como; and Fulgosus. of others that were fished near Metz (Memorab. lib. i. cap. 6.) Martin Schoockius, who wrote a small treatise on the Stork, printed at Groningen in 1648, supports these testimonies. But the history of the migrations of the Storks is too well known, not to attribute to accidents the facts just mentioned, if they indeed may be relied on. See further the Article of the Swallow.

† He adds; " These Storks came from Egypt, because the channel of the Nile and the marshes which it makes annually, being dried, they retire to the North East." But this author is mistaken; the Storks rather slee from the inundation which covers the whole country; the river having no banks after the end of April.

that he faw the Storks descend towards the end of April from Upper Egypt, and halt on the grounds of the Delta, which the inundation of the Nile soon obliges them to leave ±.

These birds which thus remove from climate to climate, never experience the rigors of winter; their year consists of two fummers, and twice they taste the pleasures of the season of love. This is a remarkable peculiarity of their history, and Belon positively assures us that the Stork has its fecond brood in Egypt.

It is faid, that Storks are never feen in England, unless they are driven upon the island by some storm. Albin remarks as a fingular circumstance, that there were two of these birds at Edgware in Middlesex, and Willughby declares, that the figure which he gives was defigned from one fent from the coast of Norfolk, where it had accidently dropped. Nor does the Stork occur in Scotland, if we judge from the filence of Sibbald. Yet it often penetrates into the Northern countries of Eu-

rope;

rope; Linna Denm Jenisc. Jakut scen a thuan in Per carved cordin through desert

the ar Ald never they a Italy, twent and v faw th Varro and w rout f return ifland fays, in Ja where

they

& Gn

| Ma

* Kl

I Some Crows intermingle at times with the Storks in their passage, which has given rise to the opinion of St. Basilius and Isidorus, that the Crows serve to direct and escort the Storks. The ancients have also spoken much of the combats between the Storks and the Ravens, the Jays, and other species of birds, when their flocks returning from Lybia and Egypt, met about Lycia and the river Xanthus.

rope; it is found in Sweden, according to Linnæus, and over the whole of Scania, in Denmark, Siberia, at Mangasea on the river Jenisca, and as far as the territories of the Jakutes §. Great numbers of Storks are seen also in Hungary ||, in Poland and Lithuania *; they are met with in Turkey, and in Persia, where Bruyn observed their nest carved on the ruins of Persepolis; and according to that author, they are dispersed through the whole of Asia, except the desert parts, which they seem to shun, and the arid tracts, where they cannot subsist.

Aldrovandus assures us, that Storks are never found in the territory of Bologna; they are rare even through the whole of Italy, where Willughby during a residence of twenty-eight years faw them only once, and where Aldrovandus owns he never faw them. Yet it appears, from Pliny and Varro, that anciently they were common; and we can hardly doubt, but that in their rout from Germany to Africa, or in their return, they must pass over Italy and the islands of the Mediterranean. Koempfer fays, that the Storks refide the whole year in Japan; that would be the only country where they are stationary; in all others, they retire a few months after their arrival.

[§] Gmelin. Hift. Gen. des Voy. tom. zwiii. p. 300.

[|] Marfigli.

^{*} Klein.

In France, Lorraine and Alface, are the provinces where these birds are the most numerous; there they breed, and sew towns or villages in Lower Alface are without Storks' nests on their belfries.

The Stork is of a mild disposition, neither shy nor savage; it is easily tamed; and may be trained to reside in our gardens, which it will clear of insects and reptiles. It seems to have an idea of cleanliness, for it seeks the by-corners to lay its excrements. It has almost always a grave air, and a mournful visage; yet, when roused by example, it shews a certain degree of gaiety, for it joins the frolics of children, hopping and playing with them *. In the domestic condition it lives to a great age, and endures the severities of our winters +.

To this bird are ascribed moral virtues, whose image is ever venerable; temperance,

hide and feek, a tame Stork join the party, run its turn when touched, and distinguish the child, whose turn it was to pursue the rest, so well as to be on its guard." Notes on the Stork by Dr. Hermann of Strasburg.

conjugal

conju piety much and d streng **fuppo** out of her w dange rather shews and d have t that i in pass a like But t compa

offices

* Ald

VOL

[†] Ger. Nic. Heerkens of Groningen, who has written a small Latin poem on the Stork, says that he kept one fisteen years, and speaks of another which lived twenty-one years in the Fish-market of Amsterdam, and was interred with solemnity by the people. See also the observation of Olaus Borrichius on a Stork aged more than twenty-two years, and which became gouty. Collect. acad. part. etran. tom. iv.

^{† &}quot; A neighbo felves wi the Chic figures. tude of c she male

^{||} See, the histo in the co tempted flames.

conjugal fidelity I, filial and paternal piety §. It is true, that the Stork bestows much time on the education of its young, and does not leave them till they have strength sufficient for their defence and support; that when they begin to flutter out of the nest, the mother bears them on her wings; that she protects them from danger, and fometimes perishes with them rather than for sake them ||. The Stork shews tokens of attachment to its old haunts. and even gratitude to the persons who have treated it with kindness. I am assured. that it has been heard to rap at the door in passing, as if to tell its arrival, and give a like fign of adieu on its departure *. But these moral qualities are nothing in comparison of the affection and tender offices which these birds lavish on their

^{1 &}quot;A great number of Storks nessle and breed in the neighbourhood of Smyrna. The inhabitants amuse them-selves with putting Hens' eggs into a Stork's nest: when the Chicks are hatched, the male Stork, seeing these strange figures. makes a frightful noise, and thus attracts a multitude of other Storks, which peck the semale to death, while the male vents lamentable screams." Annual Register for 1768.

[§] Hence Petronius styles it pietatis cultrix.

^{||} See, in Hadrianus Junius, (Annal. Battaw. ad ann. 1536,) the history, famous in Holland, of the Delft Stork which in the conflagration of that city, after having in vain attempted to rescue her young, perished with them in the flames.

^{*} Aldrovandus.

aged and infirm parents †. The young and vigorous Storks frequently carry food to the others, which resting on the brink of the nest seem languid and exhausted, whether hurt by some accident, or worn out by years, as the ancients assert, nature having implanted in brutes that venerable piety, as an example to man, in whose breast the delicious sentiment is too often obliterated. The law which compelled the maintenance of parents was enacted in honour of them, and inscribed by their name. Aristophanes draws from their conduct a bitter satyr on the human race.

Ælian tells us, that the moral qualities of the Stork were the chief cause of the respect and veneration which it enjoyed among the Egyptians *; and the notion which

+ Aristotle, Hift. Anim. Lib. ix. 20.

Ciconiæ senes, impotes volandi, nido se continent, ex his prognatæ terra marique volitant, & cibos parentibus afferunt, sicillæ, ut earum ætate dignum est, quiete fruentur & copia; juniores vero laborem solantur pietate, ac spe recipiendæ in senestute gratiæ. Philo.

Genitricum senectam invicem alunt. Plin. Lib. x. 31. See Plutarch, and all the ancients cited by Plutarch.

which fettlin perha

Am
to kill
of one
fo pre
which
of that
The S
mans,
of lux
table,
the pe

Paul the the fiege tions, up ing away glyphics name exp Hebrew, blem, as in Fulvi named the Plin

the time

† "T for the facred as and they kill or o

^{*} Alexander the Myndian, in Ælian, says that the Storks worn out with old age, repair to certain islands in the ocean, where, in reward of their piety, they are changed into men. In auguries the appearance of the Stork denoted union and concord. (Alexand. ab Alex. genial. dies); its departure in

which the vulgar still entertain, that its settling on a house tokens prosperity, is perhaps a vestige of the ancient opinion.

Among the ancients, it was held a crime to kill the Stork. In Thessaly the murder of one of these birds was punished by death; so precious were they held in that country, which they cleared of Serpents *. A portion of that regard is still retained in the Levant +. The Stork was not eaten among the Romans, and a person who from a strange sort of luxury ordered it to be brought to his table, drew upon himself the obloquy of the people ‡. Nor is the sless recommended

the time of public calamity was regarded as a dismal presage. Paul the Deacon says, that Attila, having purposed to raise the siege of Aquileia, was determined to renew his operations, upon seeing Storks retiring from the city and leading away their young (Aneas Sylvius Epist. ii.) In hieroglyphics it signified piety and beneficence, virtues which its name expressed in the most ancient languages (chassida, in Hebrew, according to Bochart); and we often see the emblem, as on the two beautiful medals of L. Antonius, given in Fulvius Ursinus, and in two others of Q. Metellus, surnamed the Pius, as reported by Paterculus.

• Pliny, Lib, x. 31.

† "The Mahometans have a great esteem and veneration for the Stork, which they call *Bel-arje*; it is almost as facred among them as the Ibis was among the Egyptians, and they would look upon a person as prosane, who should kill or even harm it." Shaw's Travels.

> † As this ancient epigram attells: Ciconiarum Rufus iste conditor Plancis duobus est bic elegantior.

Suffragiorum

mended by its quality §; and this bird formed by nature our friend and almost our domestic, was never destined to be our victim. [A]

Suffragiorum puncta septem non tulit. . . Ciconiarum populus mortem ultus est.

§ Cornelius Nepos, qui divi Augusti principatu obiit, cum scriberes turdos paulo ante captos saginari, addidit, ciconias magis placere quam grues; cum bae nunc ales inter primarias expetatur, illam nemo velit attigisse. Plin. Lib. x.

[A] Specific character of the White Stork, Ardea Ciconia: It is white: its orbits and wing-quills, black; its bill, its legs and its skin, blood coloured.

The

epith Whimage

fine o

the c whice the be cloate fame whice ing we tains browe first twent neck

• T.

and thro

The BLACK STORK.

Ciconia Nigra. Linn. Gmel. &c. &c. Cicouia Fusca. Ray. Will. and Klein.

Though, in all languages this bird is termed the Black Stork, it derives its epithet rather from the opposition to the White Stork, than from the dye of its plumage, which is generally brown mixed with fine changeable colours.

The back, the rump, the shoulders, and the coverts of the wings, are of a brown, which varies with violet and gold green; the breast, the belly, and the thighs, are cloathed with white feathers, and of the same colour are the coverts under the tail, which consists of twelve brown quills, changing with violet and green; the wing contains thirty quills, which are of a varying brown, the green predominating in the first ten, and the violet in the remaining twenty; the feathers at the origin of the neck are of a brown glossed with violet, and washed with grayish at the tips: the throat and neck are covered with small

In Italian Aghiron Nero . in German Schwartze Storck.

brown feathers, terminated by a whitish point; but this character is wanting in fome individuals; the top of the head is brown, mixed with a violet gloss and gold green: the eye is encircled by a very red skin, the bill, too, is red, and the naked part of the thighs, the legs, and the nails, are of the same colour; yet that property seems to admit some variety, for several naturalists, as Willughby, make the bill to be greenish like the legs: it is only a slight degree fmaller than the White Stork, its alar extent being five feet fix inches.

Savage and folitary, the Black Stork fluns our habitations, and haunts only the defert fens; it nestles in the heart of the woods. on old trees, especially on lofty pines. is common in the Swifs Alps; it is feen by the edge of the lakes, watching its prey, flying on the furface of the water, and fometimes diving hastily for fish: yet it does not depend on that mode of subfishing only; it gathers infects among the herbage and the mountain dales; vestiges of caterpillars and grasshoppers are found in its stomach. When Pliny says, that the Ibis occurs in the Alps, he mistook the Black Stork for that Egyptian bird.

Lith other as fa fenny it ma in fo that We a like th fons o is eve for ev provil

Ιt

T'h fo wi Stork places which he re freque ingly Stork Yet t

[·] Rz

⁺ K1

¹ Sch § Wi

II Th does no

It is found in Poland *, Prussia, and Lithuania †, in Silesia ‡, and in many other parts of Germany §: it penetrates as far as Sweden, always seeking the wild fenny tracts. How savage soever it appear, it may be kept in confinement, and even in some degree tamed. Klein assures us, that he fed one some years in his garden. We are not informed whether it migrates like the White Stork, nor whether the seasons of its passage are the same. Yet there is every reason to entertain that opinion, for even in our climates there could be no provision for it in winter.

This species is not so numerous, or so widely dispersed, as that of the White Stork; it seldom settles in the same places ||, but seems to occupy the countries which the other neglects. Wormius, while he remarks that the Black Stork is very frequent in Sweden, adds that it is exceedingly rare in Holland, where the White Storks are known to be very numerous. Yet the Black Stork is not so rare in Italy

^{*} Rzaczynski.

⁺ Klein.

¹ Schwenckfeld.

[§] Willughby. It is very rare in all these countries.

^{||} The Brown Stork only passes through Lorraine and does not halt. Note communicated by M. Lettinger.

as the white one *; and according to Willughby it is frequently feen with other Marsh-birds in the markets of Rome, though its flesh has an unpleasant fishy taste and a rank smell. [A]

• Jo. Lincæus.

[A] Specific character of the Black Stork, Arden Nigra:

"It is brown; its breaft and belly white." These hirds foar to a vast height. Great flocks of them pass in the spring over Sweden, and stretch Northwards. They make no halt in that country. They return to the South in autumn.

Fo

was bul with greather with are the are is c

mo nal

Foreign Birds which are related to the S T O R K.

The MAGUARI.

Ardea-Maguari Gmel.

Maguari Brafilienfibus. Marcg.

Ciconia Americana. Klein. and Briss.

The American Stork. Lath.

THE Maguari is a large bird which inhabits the hot parts of America, and was first described by Marcgrave. It is of the bulk of the Stork, and, like it, clatters with its bill, which is long and straight, greenish at the root, bluish at the point, and nine inches in length. All the body, the head, the neck, and the tail, are invested with white feathers, which below the neck are of a confiderable length and pendulous; the quills and the great coverts of the wing are black gloffed with green, and when it is closed, the quills next the body appear equal to the exterior ones, a property common to all the Marsh-birds; the orbits are naked and covered with a bright red skin;

the throat also is sheathed with a skin, which may be inflated and formed into a bag; the eye is small and sparkling, the iris of a filvery white; the naked part of the thighs and legs, red; the nails of the same colour, broad and flat. We know not whether this bird migrates like the Stork, which it represents in the New World. The nature of the climate would feem to render the change of residence unnecessary both to the Maguari, and all the other birds of those countries, where the featons are constantly uniform, and the earth, teeming with unceafing fertility, presents them a perpetual repast. We are ignorant, too, of all the other habitudes of this bird, and indeed of almost all the facts relating to the natural history of those vast regions of America.

lar

flei

rea len

in of

of

ftr

ev

ap

in

an

fta

th wi lo ar

But can we complain of this neglect, or even wonder at it, when we reflect on the character of the people, whom Europe has, for ages past, sent into the new climates; men, whose eyes are shut to the beauties of nature, and whose hearts are still more impenetrable to the sentiments which the contemplation of it inspires.

The COURICACA.

Tantulus Loculator. Linn. Gmel. and Klein. Curicaca Brasiliensibus. Macrg.

Numenius Americanus Major. Briss.

The Wood Pelican. Catesby.

The Wood Ibis. Penn. and Lath.

THIS bird is a native of Guiana. of Brasil, and of some countries of North America, which it visits. It is as large as the Stork, but its body is more slender and longer shaped; nor would it reach the height of the Stork, but for the length of its neck and legs, which are larger in proportion: it differs also by the shape of its bill, which is straight three fourths of its length, but curved at the point, very strong and thick, not furrowed, and of an even roundness, gradually enlarging as it approaches the head, where it is fix or feven inches in girth, and near eight inches long; and this large bill is of a very hard fubstance, and sharp at the edges: the back of the head and the arch of the neck are covered with small brown feathers, stiff, though loose: the quills of the wing and of the tail are black, with some bluish or reddish reflections; all the rest of the plumage is white:

white: the front is bald, and only covered, like the orbits, by a dull blue skin: the throat, which is equally naked of feathers, is invested with a skin capable of inflation and extension; which has induced Catesby to term it, very improperly, the Wood Pelican In fact, the small bag of the Couricaca differs little from that of the Stork, which 'also can dilate the skin of its throat; whereas the Pelican carries a large fac under its bill, and, besides has its feet pal-Brisson has committed an overfight in referring the Couricaca to the genus of Curlews, to which it bears no fort of resemblance. Piso appears to be the cause of this error, by the comparison which he draws between this bird and the Indian Curlew of Clufus, which is the Red Curlew, (Scarlet Ibis, Lath.) and this mistake is the less pardonable, as in the preceding line, Piso had represented it as equal in bulk to the Swan. He had better reason to compare its bill to that of the Ibis, which differs in fact from the bill of the Curlews.

This large bird is, according to Marcgrave, frequent on the river of Seregippa or of St. François. It was sent to us from Guiana, and it is the same with what Barrere denominates the Curved Bill Crane,

and

an lat wh Br Ja

rou lin the hau flo tall and refl bef add

the appoint to a

flei

and

face win and the Great American Curlew *; an appellation which might have deceived those who reckon this bird a Curlew, but which Brisson, by another mistake, refers to the Jabiru.

Catesby tells us, that every year, numerous slocks of Couricacas arrive in Carolina about the end of summer, which is the rainy season in that country. They haunt the Savannas, which are now overshowed; they sit in great numbers on the tall cypresses. Their altitude is very erect, and their ponderous bill is supported by resting it on their neck reclined. They retire before the month of November. Catesby adds, that they are stupid birds, cannot be scared, and are easily shot; and that their sless excellent, though they feed on sish, and aquatic animals. [A]

^{*} Of this number is Klein; and to express the sac under the throat of this bird, he frames the sicilitious and barbarous appellation of *Tantulus Loculator* (from *loculus*); and misled by the false name of *Pelican*, he refers to Chardin, and applies to it the Persian names of *Tacab* and *Mise*, which probably belong to the Pelican, but which surely belong not to a bird of Guiana.

[[]A] Specific character of the *Tantalus Loculator*. "Its face is bluish; its bill reddish; its legs, the quills of its wings and of its tail, are black; its body white."

The J A B I R U.

Mysteria Americana. Linn, and Gmel. Jabiru Brasiliensibus. Marcgr. Ciconia Brasiliensis. Briss. The American Jabiru. Lath.

As nature has multiplied the reptiles on the low grounds overflowed by the waters of the Amazon and of the Oronooco, she has also created birds to destroy these pernicious creatures: she seems even to have proportioned their strength to that of the enormous serpents which they are destined to combat, and their stature to the depth of the mud where they are appointed to wade. One of these birds is the Jabiru, which is much larger than the Stork, taller than the Crane and twice as thick; and, if force and magnitude confer precedence, it may be ranked the first of the inhabitants of the marsh.

The bill of the Jabiru is a powerful weapon; it is thirteen inches long, and three inches broad at the base; it is sharp, and flat, and edged at the sides, like a hatchet, fixed into a large head, and supported by a thick and nervous neck; this bill consists of hard

horn,

THE AMERICAN JABIRU.

horn racte ceive head Jabin shad hairs of fo and plun the l with feath the l ligan more

toe to W as la fideri longe Jabir that which ment neck

owin and and the horn, and is flightly bent upwards; a character of which the first trace may be perceived in the bill of the Black Stork: the head, and two-thirds of the neck of the Jabiru, are covered with a black naked skin, shaded on the occiput with several gray hairs; the skin under the neck, for a length of four or five inches, is of a vivid red, and forms a broad and beautiful collar, the plumage of the bird being entirely white; the bill is black; the thighs stout, covered with large scales, black like the bill, and featherless for the space of five inches, the leg is thirteen inches; a membranous ligament appears on the toes, and connects more than an inch and half of the outer toe to the inner one.

Willughby fays, that the Jabiru is at least as large as the Swan; which is true, confidering, however, that the Swan is of a longer and more slender shape, and that the Jabiru has exceeding tall legs. He adds, that its neck is as thick as a man's arm; which is likewise true. But that author mentions, that the skin on the back of the neck is white, and not red; which may be owing to the difference between the dead and the living subject. The tail is broad, and extends not beyond the closed wings; the bird, when standing, is at least four feet

feet and an half in perpendicular height, and if extended, it would, confidering the length of the bill, measure near fix feet. It is the largest bird in Guiana.

Johnston and Willughby have only copied Marcgrave on the subject of the Jabiru; they have even copied his figures with all their faults: and there is in Marcgrave a confusion, or rather a mistake of the editor, which our nomenclators, far from correcting, have really increased. We shall endeavour to clear up the matter.

"The Jabiru of the Brasilians, which the Dutch term negro, says Marcgrave, has a thicker and even a longer body than the Swan; the neck is as thick as a man's arm; the head proportionally large; the eye black; the bill black, straight, twelve inches long, two and an half broad, sharp at the edges; the upper mandible a little raised, and stronger than the lower; all the bill is slightly curved upwards."

These characters are alone sufficient to mark out the Jabiru of Guiana, which we have just described from nature. But we are surprized to find in Marcgrave, under the foregoing account, the sigure of a bird with a slender body, and a bill arched downwards; in short, except the thickness of its neck, differing in every respect from

fron how unde Nha of th down with upwa be th prece ness o in the mista in the of the Apoa, descrip of thi

fcripti
All
point
nefs of
us, ha
two f
with
two-th
the h
which

VOL

believe

precise

he

t.

3-

es

c-

of

ar

Ve

ch

as

he

n's he

lve

irp

tle

all

to

ich

3ut

ve,

of

red

ck-

ect om

from his description. On casting our eyes however on the other page, we perceive under his Jabiru Guacu Petiguarensibus, or Nhandu Apoa Tupinambis, which, he fays, is of the bulk of the Stork, and its bill arched downwards, a large bird in an erect posture, with a thick body, and with a bill arched upwards, and which we readily discover to be the Great Jabiru, the real subject of the preceding description, except only the thickness of the neck, which is not represented in the figure. Here therefore is a double mistake, one in the engraving, and another in the transposition; so that the thick neck of the Jabiru has been given to the Nhandu Apoa, which has been placed below the description of the Jabiru, while the figure of this bird has been placed below the description of the Nhandu Apoa.

All that Marcgrave subjoins serves to point out this mistake, and prove the just-ness of our remark. The Jabiru, he tells us, has strong legs, black and scaly, and two feet high; all the body is covered with white seathers; the neck is naked, two-thirds covered with black skin from the head, and forming below a circle, which he afferts to be white, but which we believe is red in the living bird:—This is precisely the character, in all its features, vol. VII.

of our Great Jabiru of Guiana *. Piso has fallen into no such mistake as Marcgrave; he gives the true sigure of the Great Jabiru under its true name of Jabiru Guacu, and he says that it occurs at the sides of lakes and rivers in remote places; that its sleth, though commonly very dry, is palatable. This bird grows fat in the rainy season, and then the Indians feast on it; they easily kill it with a sowling piece, or even with their arrows. Piso also remarks in the quills of the wings a red reflection, which we could not perceive in the bird sent us from Cayenne, but which may appear in the Jabiru of Brazil.

• Dr. Grew describes a head of the Jabiru, which is exactly like that of the Cayenne Jabiru. The great bill of this bird occurs in most cabinets, as that of an unknown species.

T the Count bably name

feathe

the no It is d being inches of the ed by the ey wide; are eig an aft of the

wing, red in pluma neck a flesh o

is eate

The NANDAPOA.

Mysteria Americana. Linn. and Gmel.

fo ceat

cu, kes

th,

ole.

on, fily

vith

the rich

t us

ich is

t bill

nown

THIS bird, which is much fmaller than the Jabiru, has however been termed the Great Jabiru (Jabiru Guacu) in some countries, where the true Jabiru was probably stil. nknown: but its real Brasilian name is Nandapoa. Like the Jabiru, it is featherless on the head, and on the top of the neck, and covered only by a scaly skin: It is distinguished from that bird by its bill being arched downwards, and only seven inches long. This bird is nearly of the bulk of the Stork; the crown of the head is covered by a bony protuberance of grayish white; the eyes are black; the ears are large and wide; the neck is ten inches long; the thighs are eight, and the legs fix, and they are of an ash colour; the quills of the wing and of the tail, which does project beyond the wing, are black, with a reflection of a fine red in those of the wing; the rest of the plumage is white; the feathers below the neck are fomewhat long and pendant. The flesh of this bird has a pleasant taste, and is eaten after it is skinned.

It

It is evident that this fecond description of Marcgrave suits his first figure, in the same manner as his second one corresponds to the description of the Brasilian Jabiru, or our Great Jabiru of Guiana, which is undoubtedly the same bird. Such in Natural History is the confusion occasioned by a slight mistake, which goes on increasing, when nomenclators implicitly copy each other, and multiply books, to the great detriment of science.

n ne ds u, is a- oy g, ch at



THE CRANE.

the b ginall the t gions in the in Vo whole

• It i the Cra Grus : Gruz: I In Dani uncertair least it o language

tumn,

in Isaiah † Fau || Sibi

to be the

I Rza

§ Klei ¶ Bel

The CRANE.

La Grue. Buff.

Ardea-Grus. Linn. and Gmel.

Grus. All the Naturaliss.

Orane which undertakes and performs the boldest and most distant journies. Originally a native of the North, it visits all the temperate climates, and even the regions of the South. It is seen in Sweden +, in the Orknies of Scotland ||, in Podolia ‡, in Volhinia §, in Lithuania, and in the whole of the North of Europe ¶. In autumn, it alights in our low fens and our

* It is remarkable, that in all languages the name of the Crane imitates its cry: In Greek $\Gamma_{\xi\varrho\alpha\nu\rho\varsigma}$. In Latin Grus: In Italian Gru, or Grua: In Spanish Grulla, or Gruz: In German Krane, or Kranich: In Swedish Trana: In Danish Trane: In Swifs Krye: In Polish Zoraw. It is uncertain whether the Crane had a name in Hebrew, at least it cannot be determined in that barren but obscure language. In Jeremiah, chap. viii. Agur is by Bochart thought to be the Crane; but the vulgate renders it Stork; and again in Isaiah xxxviii, the same word is interpreted Swallow.

⁺ Fauna Succica.

^{||} Sibbald, Scotia Illustrata.

[#] Rzaczynski,

[&]amp; Klein.

M Belon.

fown fields; then it hastens to the South, from whence it returns with the spring, and again penetrates into the Northern countries, thus completing its circuit with the round of the seasons.

Struck with these continual migrations, the ancients termed it the bird of Libya *. or the bird of Scythia +; fince, by turns, they faw it arrive from both of these opposite extremities of the then-known world. Herodotus and Aristotle make Scythia to be the fummer abode of the Cranes: and those which halt in Greece really descend from that extensive region. Thessaly is called by Plato the Pasture of the Cranes; there they alight in flocks, and covered also the Cyclades. Hefiod marks the time of their passage, when he sings, " that the husbandman should observe the scream of the Crane from aloft in the clouds, as the fignal to begin his ploughing ||." India and Æthiopia were the countries assigned as its fouthern residence §.

· Furipides.

+ Aristotle.

Hesiodi Opera et Dies. Lib. ii. 66.

§ Higher Egypt is full of Cranes during the winter; they arrive from the northern countries, to spend the cold months." Voyage de Granger, p. 238.

Strabo

St the i the **Ikins** ancie with Arift live of th tains Gang falub by th he co rams the w confu and space not r In a that feffed

> † L ‡ L § *H*

| L

that

gere,

Gera

Strabo says, that the people of India cat the eggs of Cranes +; Herodotus, that the Egyptians cover bucklers with their skins I: And to the source of the Nile the ancients referred the scene of their combats with the Pygmies, a race of little men, fays Aristotle, mounted on [mall borfes, and who live in caves §. Pliny places the country of the Pygmies among the remotest mountains of India, beyond the fountains of the Ganges; he relates, that their climate was falubrious, perpetually mild, and fanned by the northern breeze. "It is reported, he continues, that fitting on the backs of rams and of goats, and armed with bows, the whole nation descends in the spring, and confumes the eggs and young of these birds; and that this expedition lasts during the space of three months, otherwise it could not relift the invalions of future flocks ||." In another part of his work he tells us, that the northern part of Thrace was posfessed by a tribe of Scythians, and he adds, that the towns Aphrodisias, Libistos, Zigere, Borcome, Eumenia, Parthenopolis, Gerania, are said to have been inhabited by

'n

th

ns,

ns,

p-

rld.

to

and

end

is

res;

alfo

of

the

ı of

the

ndia

ned

66.

inter:

e cold

rabo

⁺ Lib. xv.

¹ Lib. vii.

[&]amp; Hift. Anim. Lib. viii. 15.

[|] Lib. vii. 2.

the race of Pygmies, whom the Barbarians call Catizi, and believe to have been destroyed by the Cranes ¶.

These ancient fables * are absurd, it will be faid; and I will allow it: but popular traditions generally contain important facts, though obscured by exaggeration, or concealed under the veil of allegory. I am. therefore strongly disposed to believe, that this story alludes to some singularities in the history of the Crane. It is well known that the apes, which rove in large bodies in most parts of Africa and India, wage continual war with the birds; they feek to furprize them in the nest, and lay perpetual fnares for them. The Cranes, on their arrival, find these enemies assembled, perhaps in numbers to attack, with more advantage, their new and rich prey. The Cranes, confident in their own strength, enured to fight by their disputes with each other, and naturally prone to combat +, as their attitudes, their movements, and the order with which they marshal, sufficiently evince,

make

make obstacle their actions these their to the stacket the stacket

them a tri cleav and colle adop attac form

taken in which on the up in wild wander, this er Pongo markin ing on by cur

than t

[¶] Lib. iv. 11.

^{*} They are anterior to the time of Homer, who compares (Iliad III.) the Trojans to the Cranes fighting clamouroufly with the Pygmies.

^{† &}quot;The Cranes fight so obstinately with each other, that they may be caught while engaged." Aristotle, Hist. Anim. Lib. ix. 12.

make a vigorous defence. But the apes, obstinately bent on plundering the eggs and the young, return repeatedly in troops to renew the battle; and as, by their subtlety, their gait and posture, they imitate human actions, they appeared a band of little men to the rude spectators, who viewed them from a distance, or who, captivated by the marvellous, chose to embellish their relations ‡—Such is the origin and history of these fables.

n

0

21

ir

ps

e,

s,

to nd

i-

th

ce,

:la-

hat

nim.

ke

The Cranes fly very lofty, and arrange themselves for their expedition; they form a triangle, almost isosceles, the better to cleave the air. When the wind freshens, and threatens to break their ranks, they collect their force into a circle; and they adopt the same disposition when the Eagle attacks them. Their voyage is oftenest performed in the night; but their loud screams

betray

[†] This is not the first time that troops of apes have been taken for hordes of Barbarians; not to mention the battle which the Carthaginians fought with the Orang-Qutangs on the coast of Africa, and the skins of three females hung up in the temple of Juno at Carthage as the skins of three wild women (Hanno's Periplus, Hague 1677, p. 77.) Alexander, in his march through India, would have fallen into this error, and have fent his phalanx against an army of Pongos, if king Taxilus had not undeceived him, by remarking to him, that this multitude which he saw following on the heights consisted of peaceful animals, attracted by curiosity; but, in sact, far less senseless and less bloody than the plunderers of Asia. See Strabo, Lib. xv.

betray their course. During this nocturnal passage, the leader frequently calls to rally his forces, and point out the track; and the cry is repeated by the flock, each anfwering, to give notice that it follows and

keeps its rank.

The flight of the Crane is always supported uniformly, though it is marked by different inflections; and these variations have been observed to indicate the change of weather: a fagacity that may well be allowed to a bird, which, by the vast height to which it foars, is able to perceive or to feel the distant alterations and motions in the atmosphere *. The cries of the Cranes during the day forebode rain; and noify tumultuary screams announce a storm: if in the morning or evening they rife upwards, and fly peacefully in a body, it is a fign of fine weather; but if they keep low, or alight on the ground, it menaces a tempest +. Like all other large birds, except the rapacious tribe, the Crane has much difficulty in commencing its flight. It runs a few steps, opens its wings, mounts a little way, and then, having clear space, it displays its vigorous and rapid pinions.

When

aı

ti

w

bι

an

tic

fa

Bu

rec

th

in

on

reg

tot

gre

the

an

 \mathbf{T} H

int

mol

wh

^{*} Aristotle, Lib. ix. 10.

⁺ Id. ibid.

When the Cranes are affembled on the ground, they fet guards during the night; and the circumspection of these birds has been confecrated in the hieroglyphics, as the symbol of vigilance. The flock sleep with their head concealed under their wing. but the leader watches with his head erect. and if any thing alarms him, he gives notice by a cry *. It is to direct their retreat, fays Pliny, that this leader is chosen +. But without supposing an authority conferred, as in human focieties, we must allow that these animals are prompted by social instinct to congregate, and to follow the one which calls, which precedes, or which regulates their courfe. Accordingly, Ariftotle ranks the Crane at the head of the gregarious birds 1.

The first cold days of autumn inform the Cranes of the revolution of the season; and then they retire to milder climates. Those of the Danube and of Germany pass into Italy §. They appear in France in the

it to

in

es

fy if

pis

ep

ces ds,

nas

ht. nts

ce,

nen

^{*} Id. ibid. Also Pliny, Lib. x. 30.

⁺ Lib. x. 30.

[‡] Aristotle, Hist. Anim. Lib. viii. 12. Festus gives the ety-mology of the word congruere, quast ut grues convenire.

[§] Willughby fays that they are pretty common in the markets at Rome; and Reaczynski affirms that a few remain during the winter in Poland, about certain marshes which never freeze.

months of September and October, and even in November, when the latter end of the autumn is foft and temperate; but most of them push rapidly on their journey and never halt: they return early in the fpring; in March or April. Some of them stray from the main body, or haften back; for Redi faw them on the 20th of February near Pisa. It would appear that formerly they spent the whole winter * in England; fince in Ray's time about the beginning of the present century, they frequented, in great flocks, the fens of Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire: but the authors of the British Zoology inform us that now they very feldom visit the island of Great Britain, where however they have been known to breed; that there was a penalty against breaking their eggs; and that according to Turner the young Cranes were common +.

thei and I in our

re

fo

to.

TI

cie

Sw

ind

the

bre affi

WO

two

mat and

whe

and

ftrei

N. transl: fubjoi much

‡ K § G

E

In the text it is put été or summer; but the passage quoted below shews that this is a misprint, or an inadvertancy.

^{+&}quot; This species we place among the British birds on the authority of Mr. Ray, who informs us, that in his time they were found during the winter in large flocks in Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire: but on the strictest enquiry we learn, that at present the inhabitants of those counties are entirely unacquainted with them. Though this species seems to have forsaken these islands at present, yet it was formerly a native, as we find, in Willughby, that there was a penalty of twenty-pence for destroying an egg of this bird.

But I know not what degree of credit is due to the affertion of these Zoologists: no reason appears why the Cranes should have forfaken England, nor have these authors told us whether the fens in the counties of Cambridge and Lincoln have been drained. There is certainly no diminution of the species, for we learn from Linnæus that in Sweden it is as numerous as ever: it is indeed in the Northern countries among the marshes that the Cranes generally breed ‡. On the other hand, Strabo § assures us that they nestle in India; which would prove that like the Storks, they have two hatches annually in two opposite climates. The Cranes lay only two eggs ||; and the young ones are scarcely reared when the feason of their departure arrives, and they must employ their newly acquired strength in accompanying their parents in their rout *.

and Turner relates that he has very often feen their young in our marshes." British Zoology.

N. B. The last word marshes is, by a ridiculous mistake, translated marchés or markets, and M. Buston immediately subjoins that "the slesh of the Crane is delicate, and was much esteemed by the Romans."

I Klein. Rzaczynski. Belon.

§ Geograph. Lib. xv.

|| Aristotle, Hift. Anim. Lib. ix. 18,

Belon.

n

d

ſŧ

ge

d-

he

ey

ire

rn,

ely

rly

DE-

and

The

The Crane is caught in its passage with the noose +; and the Eagle and Falcon are also flown at it ‡. In certain districts of Poland, the Cranes are so numerous that the peasants are obliged to build huts in the midst of their fields of buck-wheat, to drive them off §. In Persia, where they are likewise very common ||, it is the prerogative of the prince to hunt them *. The same is the case in Japan; and that privilege, joined to superstitious motives, has induced the people to treat the Cranes with

† Tum gruibus pedicas, & retia ponere cervis. Virgil

† Bernier saw in the Mogul's dominions the chase of 'he Crane. 'Fhis chase is somewhat amusing; it is pleasant to see them exerting all their force to defend themselves in the air against the birds of prey. They kill these sometimes, but as they want dexterity in turning themselves, several good birds will in the issue prove victorious." Hist. Gen. des Vorages, tom. x p. 102.

Rzaczynski.

Il Lettres Edifiantes, twenty- eighth Collection. P. 317.

At early dawn, the king (of Persia) sent to inform the ambassadars, that he would go with a very sew attendants to the chase of the Cranes, entreating them not to bring their interpreters, that the Cranes might not be scared by a multitude, nor the pleasure of the sport disturbed by noise. It began with the day. A covered way had been made under ground, at the end of which was the plain, where corn had been scattered; the Cranes came in great numbers, and more than sour-score were caught. The king took some feathers to put into his turban, and gave two to each of the ambassadors, who stuck them into their hats." Voyage d' Olearius, Paris, 1656, tom. I. p. 309.

great

ai

th

th

ca

te:

po

ex

ger

nic

he die

con

cate

gro

Japa

mesti

which

the e

mals

which

dotes

of th

with :

of the

Crane

Grand

1 K

• P

great respect +. They have been reared and trained in the domestic state; and as they naturally sport in various capers, and then walk with ostentatious gravity \ddagger , they can be instructed to perform dances §.

We have said, that birds, having a softer texture of bones than quadrupeds, live proportionally longer; the Crane affords an example. Many authors mention its longevity: the Crane of the philosopher Leonicus Tomæus, in Paulus Jovius, is samous; he fed it forty years, and it is said that they died together.

Though the Crane is granivorous, as the conformation of its stomach seems to indicate, and as it generally arrives after the grounds are sowed to gather the seeds which

h

gil

he

ant

ves.

Ii/t .

orm

at-

not

t be

dif-

way

the

ne in

ught.

and

into

309.

[†] The wild birds are become so familiar in the islands of Japan, that many species may even be ranked with the domestic animals; the principal is the Tsuri, or the Crane, which a special law has reserved for the diversion or use of the emperor. This bird and the tortoise are held to be animals of good omen; an opinion sounded on the long life which is ascribed to them, and on a thousand sabulous anecdotes with which their history is filled. The apartments of the emperor, and the walls of the temples are decorated with their figures, as for the same reason we there see those of the fir and of the bamboo. Never do the people call a Crane by any other name than O tsurisama, that is, My Lord Crane." Keempser, Hist. Nat. du Japon, tom. 1. p. 112.

¹ Klein.

[§] Pliny, Lib. x. 30.

the harrow has not covered ||; yet it prefers infects, worms and small reptiles: and, for this reason, it haunts the fens, where it obtains its chief subsistence.

The membrane, which in the Stork connects the three toes, joins only two in the Crane, the middle and outer ones. trachea arteria is of a very remarkable structure; for, perforating the sternum, it defcends to a confiderable depth, and, after making feveral twistings, it returns by the fame aperture, and passes to the lungs. To the circumvolutions of that organ and to the echo which they produce, we must attribute the strong voice of this bird *. The stomach is muscular, and there is a double cæcum +; and in this respect the Crane differs in its internal structure from the Herons, which have only one cacum. It is diftinguished externally by its magnitude, by its short bill, by its fuller habit, and by the colour of its plumage. Its wings are very large, and furnished with strong muscles ‡, and contain twenty four quills.

The

which

point colou at the hard a and o black parts in the Belon which propert **viii. 8

which, i

VOL.

cation.

de

is (

the

the

blac

the

of a

and

poin

body

fwel

and

their Ostri

from

^{||} Aldrovandus conjectures that the Greek name of the Crane, yegas is compounded of yn, the earth and equiv, to fearch; because it gathers seeds on the ground.

^{*} Belon, Nat. des Oiseaux, p. 187. — Duverney, Hist. de l' Acad des Scien. Ann. 1666.—1686. tome. ii. p. 6.

[†] Willughby.

† The prodigious force of muscles requisite to urge such a distant slight, had probably given rise to the prejudice

The Crane has an erect gait, and a slender figure; the whole field of its plumage is of a fine waved light ath-colour, except the tips of the wings and the covering of the head; the great quills of the wing are black; those next the body extend beyond the tail; the middle and great coverts are of a pretty light ash-colour on the outside. and black on the infide, as well as at the point; from under the last and nearest the body, rife broad unwebbed feathers, which fwell into a tuft, and fall back gracefully, and by their flexibility, their position, and their texture, resemble the plumes of the Ostrich; the bill measures four inches from the tip to the corners; it is straight, pointed, compressed at the sides &; its colour is of a greenish black which whitens at the tip: the tongue is broad and fhort, hard and horny at the end: before the eyes, and on the front and the skull, there are black hairs fo thinly scattered that those parts appear almost bare: that skin is red in the living animal; a difference which Belon marks between the male and female.

which prevailed in the time of Pliny, that a person could support any fatigue, who wore a Crane's sinew. Lib. xxviii. 87.

§ It has given name to the plant Geranium or Crane's bill, which, in all its species, bears this character of frustissication.

r

e

ıd

ft

ne

e-

if-

by

he

ery

he

to.

Hift.

fuch

idice hich in which it is not red: some feathers of a very deep ash colour cover the back of the head, and extend a little on the neck: the temples are white, and this colour descends three or four inches from the top of the neck: the cheeks, from the bill and below the eyes, and also the throat and a part of the foreside of the neck, are of a blackish ash-colour.

White Cranes sometimes occur; Longolius and others say that they have seen them. These are only varieties of the species, which admits also of very considerable disferences in regard to bulk. Brisson states the length of his Crane, from the point of the bill to the end of the tail, to be three feet and an inch, and measured to the toes, three feet nine inches: he describes therefore a very small bird ||. Willughby makes his to be five English feet, and says that it weighs ten pounds; in which, Ornithologists agree with him. In the King's cabinet, there is a Crane, reckoned indeed among the largest, which is four feet two

|| Rzaczynski appears to admit two families of Cranes; to the smaller one he attributes some particular properties, which do not seem however to constitute a different species; the lesser Cranes bear crests hoary behind the ears, but blackish under the throat. The small breed occurs in Volhinia and in the Ukraine; the large one in Cujavia, and both together in Podolia.

inches

be the the a

tha Ye the trie refi fitu Ind limi of a Nor pera Tori neve burn ing g the equa becor bered join in pa

ben

inches in perpendicular height, and if spread out, would measure more than five feet between the tip of the bill and the toes; the naked part of the thighs is four inches, the legs are black, and only ten inches and a half.

Confidering its force of wing and its migratory instinct, we cannot be surprized that the Crane should visit every climate. Yet we suspect that it never advances further South than the tropic: all the countries where the ancients placed the winter residence of the Crane, Lybia, the regions situate at the origin of the Nile, of the Indus, and of the Ganges, are within this limit, which also bounded the Geography of antiquity. The Cranes, natives of the North, feek only a moderate degree of temperature, and not the scorching heats of the Torrid Zone. The fens which invite them never occur in the midst of arid plains and burning fands; and if a few tribes following gradually the chain of mountains, where the heats are mitigated, at last pass the equator and advance into the South, they become lost in those countries, dismembered from the rest of the species, and never join in the migrations to the North. Such in particular are the Cranes which, Kolben fays, are numerous at the Cape of Good

pecies; rs, but in Volia, and

0-

m.

es,

lif-

tes

of

ree

oes,

erc-

akes

that

tho-

cabi-

deed

two

ranes;

inches

Good Hope; and exactly the same with those of Europe; a sact which we should scarce have admitted on the single testimony of that traveller, had not others sound Cranes in almost as high Southern latitudes, as in New Holland * and in the Philippines where there are two species +.

The East India Crane such as the moderns have observed it, seems not to differ in species from the European; it is smaller, its bill rather longer, the skin on the top of its head, red and hard, and extending to the bill; in other respects, it is exactly like the ordinary one, and its plumage is of the same ash-gray. This is the description which Willughby gives of one which he faw alive in St. James's Park. Edwards describes another Crane brought from India #. It was, he tells us, a large fine bird, stronger than ordinary, and its extended height near fix feet. It was fed with barley and other grain; it laid hold of its food with the point of its bill, and giving its head a quick tofs backwards. it threw it into the throat; a red naked

skin

E

as

lu

to

fei

hi

Wi

pro

bit

and

and bire

the f

wing

fpang

like o

colou

black || T

Innud

Jenis

accom

even l

Hift.

^{*} Captain Cook's first Voyage:
† Camel, No. 285, Philosophical Transactions.
‡ Ardea-Antigone. Linn. and Gmel.
Grus Orientalis Indica. Briff.
The Greater Indian Crane. Edw.
The Indian Crane. Lath.

Ikin with a few black hairs covered the head and the top of the neck; all the plumage was of a blackish ash-colour, only rather lighter on the neck; the thighs and legs were reddish. In all these features, no very precise specific difference can be traced; yet Edwards reckons his Greater Indian Crane as quite a diffinct bird from that of Willughby, and what most of all induces him to entertain the opinion is the great difference of fize: and we might agree with him, did not the European Cranes vary widely in that respect &. This Crane is probably the same with that which inhabits the East of Asia opposite to Japan ||, and which migrates in winter into Judea, and even descends into China, where these birds are numerous *.

13

)-

h

ds

nne

X-

ed

bld

111,

ds.

ked

kin

It feems impossible to draw any certain conclusion from the following passage of Marco Polo. * Near the coasts of the Cianiganians are five forts of Cranes: some have black wings slike Ravens; others are very white with golden spangles on their plumage, as in Peacocks tails; others are like ours, and others still are smaller, but have their feathers very long and beautiful intermingled with red and black colour; those of the fifth kind are gray, having red and black eyes, and these are very large."

If The Cranes are seen in Siberia among the Jakutes. Innumerable flocks appear in the plain of Mangasea, on the Jenisca. Gmel.

"The Cranes are very numerous in China; this bird accommodates itself to all climates. It is easily tamed, and even learns to dance. Its flesh is reckoned very good food." Hist. Gen. des Voyages, tom. vi. p. 487.

To the same species we must refer the Japan Crane seen at Rome, which Aldrovandus has sigured and described. "It was equal in bulk to our Crane, the top of its head was of a bright red, strewed with white spots, and the colour of its plumage bordered on white †." Kæmpser speaks likewise of a White Crane at Japan; but as he makes no other distinction between it and the gray one, which he mentions in the same place ‡, there is every probability that it was only the variety observed in Europe. [A]

not

gies

it i

its

larg

a b

head

with

whi

Cra

famo

Grus Japonenfis. Briff.

† "There are two forts of Cranes in Japan, the one is white as alabaster, the other gray or ash-coloured." Nat. Hist. du Japan, tom 1. p. 112.

[A] Specific character of the Common Crane, Ardea-Grus: "Its head is naked and papillous: the tuft and the quills of the wing, black; its body cinereous; its inmost tail-quills, unwebbed." It breeds in fens, and lays two bluish eggs. It rests on one foot. Linnaus afferts, that, in its passage, it slies at the height of three miles.

[†] Grus Japonensis Alia. Aldrov. Johnst. Charleton, and Klein.

The COLLARED CRANE.

Ardea-Antigone. Var. Gmel.

ıt

n

15

bs

and

Vat.

dea-

most two hat, from the common species that it could not be classed with it by the same analogies as the preceding varieties. Besides that it is much smaller than the ordinary Crane, its head proportionably thicker, and its bill larger and stronger; it has the top of its neck decorated by a fine red collar, with a broad white belt under it, and all the head naked, and of an uniform reddish gray, without those streaks of white and black, which encircle the head of the common Crane: the tust of the tail also is of the same bluish gray with the rest of the body,

CRANES of the New Continent.

The WHITE CRANE.

Ardea Americana.

The Hooping Crane. Catesby. Edw. Penn. and Lath.

T is extremely probable that the Cranes have migrated from the one continent into the other, fince they haunt the Northern parts of Europe and of Afia. Accordingly, we find in America a White Crane, and one or two kinds of Gray or Brown Cranes. But the White Crane, which in our Continent is only an accidental variety, appears to have formed in the other a permanent race, discriminated by strong and decided characters; so that we may conceive it as anciently separated from the common species, and long modified by the influence of climate. It is as tall as our largest Cranes, but of a stronger and thicker make, its bill longer, its head bigger; its neck and legs not fo slender: all the plumage is white, except the great quills of the wings, which are black, and the head, which

which cover delica pears cheek tail is rowed near t long. an ent told h numb near and re " This confirm that th feen in Altama tine in

> Yet the hig Cranes

that th

* De La of Cranes Savannas twice as la + " W

are entire make exc tom. iii. p.

which is brown; the crown is callous and covered with black hairs, straggling and delicate, under which the reddish skin appears naked; a fimilar skin covers the cheeks: the tuft of loofe feathers in the tail is flat and pendant: the bill is furrowed above, and indented at the edges near the tip; it is brown, and fix inches long. Catefby has described this bird from an entire skin given him by an Indian, who told him that these birds frequent, in great numbers, the lower parts of the rivers near the sea in the beginning of spring, and return to the mountains in fummer. " This fact, fays Catefby, has been fince confirmed by a white, who informed me that these Cranes are very noisy, and are feen in the Savannas at the mouth of the Altamaha, and other rivers near St. Augustine in Florida, and also in Carolina; but that they are never found further North."

Yet it is certain that they advance into the higher latitudes: for the same White Cranes are found in Virginia*, in Canada +,

^{*} De Lact. p. 83. The first voyagers to America speak of Cranes which they saw: Peter Martyr says, that, in the Savanuas of Cuba, the Spaniards met with slocks of Cranes twice as large as ours.

^{† &}quot;We have (in Canada) Cranes of two colours; some are entirely white, others of a gray gridelin: they all make excellent soup." Charlevoix. Hist. de la Now. France som. iii. p. 135,

and even in Hudson's Bay, as Edwards remarks. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Hooping Crane, Ardea Americana: "Its top, its nape, and its temples, are naked and papillous; its front, its nape, and its primary wing quills are black; its body is white." The extreme length is five feet seven inches. We shall extract the following passage relating to these birds, from Mr. Pennant's Arctic Zoology. "They make a remarkable hooping noise: this makes me imagine these to have been the birds, whose clamor Captain Philip Amidas (the first Englishman who ever set foot on North America) fo graphically describes, on his landing on the isle of Wokokou, off the coast of North Carolina "When, fays he, such a flock of Cranes (the most part white) arose under us with such a cry, redoubled by many echoes, as if an army of men had shouted together." This was in the month of July; which proves, that in those early days this species bred in the then desert parts of the southern provinces, till driven away by population, as was the case with the common Crane in England; which abounded in our undrained fens, till cultivation forced them entirely to quit our kingdom. Vol. ii. p. 442.

blac reac fo a near ciner vers differ in th not p cies, at as for t as fa breed again their

Edifian.

the

The BROWN CRANE,

Ardea Canadensis. Linn. and Gmel.

Grus Freti Hudsonis. Brist.

The Brown and Ash-coloured Crane. Edw.

a

n

n, le

if

he

his ro-

ith

our wit

T is about a third smaller than the preceding: the great quills of its wings are black; their coverts, and the scapular feathers reaching to the neck, are rusty brown, and fo are the large flowing feathers disposed near the body: the rest of the plumage is cinereous: the red skin of the head covers only the front and the crown. These differences and that of the fize, which in this family of birds varies much, are not perhaps sufficient to separate this species, from that of our Crane, they are at least two kindred species, especially, as their habits and climates are similar; for they usually advance into the North, as far even as Hudson's Bay, where they breed, but, on the approach of winter, again return towards the South, holding their course, it would appear, through the country of the Illinois*, and of

^{* &}quot;Among the Illinois there are many Cranes. Lettres Edifiantes, eleventh collection, p. 310.

Mexico ‡, or even further. These American Cranes have the same instinct therefore as those of Europe; they travel also from North to South, and this is probably what the Indian meant, who told Catesby, that they retired from the sea to the mountains. [A]

+ "In the feason the fields (of the Hurons) are all covered with Cranes, or tochings, which repair to feed on their corn when planted, or when near ripe. They kill these Cranes with their arrows, but not often, because if this large bird has not its wings broken, or is not shot dead, it easily bears away the arrow in its wound, which in time heals up; as our Canadian missionaries have experienced, a Crane being taken at Quebec which had been struck with a Huron's arrow, three hundred leagues distant; the wound on the rump was healed, and the end of the arrow, with its shint, was inclosed. They are caught sometimes with gins." Voyage au pays des Hurons, par le P. Sagard Theodat, Paris, 1652, p. 302, 303.

It is easy to recognise this Crane in the Toquilcoyotl of Fernandez. "To the Crane a species may be referred, which is of the same size, and has similar habits and instincts; it is called Toquilcoyotl, in imitation of its cry: its whole body is brown mixed with black and cinereous; its shead is decorated above with a scarlet spot, &c. Avi. Nov. Hisp. cap. cxlviii. p. 44. This North American Crane, which migrates from the regions of the South, Brisson has made his eighth species under the name of Mexican Crane, and which Willughby, Klein, and Ray, have termed the Grus Indica.

[A] Specific character of the Brown Crane, Andea Canadensis: "Its forehead is naked and papillous, its body cinexeous, its wings externally brick coloured." This species advances from Mexico, to the morthern parts of the consiment, early in the spring. It appears in Hudson's Bay about the month of May, frequents the lakes and pools, and retires again in autumn, of d, s; le is p. ch de nd ies ies si-Bay 

THE NUMIDIAN CRANE OR DANCING BIRD.

For

The

only o are the colour purer, of un

on ead head-d the fir head; fore pa

below wings, long ar

receive

Foreign Birds which are related to the CRANE.

The NUMIDIAN CRANE.

La Demoiselle de Numidie. Buff. Ardea-Virgo. Linn. and Gmel. Grus Numidica. Briff. and Klein. The Dancing Bird. Pocock.

THE Demoiselle of Numidia has all the proportions and the shape of the Crane, only on a fmaller fcale; its port, its garb, are the same; and the same distribution of colours on the plumage, only the gray is purer, and more pearled. Two white tufts of unwebbed and hairy feathers, falling on each fide of the head, form a fort of head-drefs; long, foft and filky hairs of the finest black lie on the crown of the head; similar feathers descend from the fore-part of the neck, and hang gracefully below it; between the black quills of the wings, appear bending tufts, which are long and pendant. This beautiful bird has received the name of Demoiselle, or Miss,

on account of its elegant form, its rich garb, and its affected airs: it makes repeated reverences; it walks with a sprightly oftentation, and it often leaps and springs from gaiety, as if it meant to dance.

This bent, which, in a certain degree. was remarked in the Crane, is fo striking in this Numidian bird, that for more than two thousand years, during which it has been known, authors have constantly denominated it from its mimic gestures. Aristotle calls it the actor or comedian *; Pliny. the dancer or vaulter +; and Plutarch mentions its frolics and its address I. It appears even to imitate the actions which it beholds: Xenophon, in Athenæus, seems persuaded of this; "for, says he, the fowlers rub their eyes before it with water which they pour into basons, and then filling these up with bird lime they retire, and the bird copying their example rubs its eyes and feet." Accordingly Athenæus terms it The Imitator of Man §. The Dancing Bird of Numidia feems also to have copied our vanity; it loves to be seen, and to exhibit itself, it seems even to prefer

show

show fon to

Th

they I failles postur dances their

dance o

ancien

The

feen in its own lous ce one pla passage the Pe derms founde Greeks of the ears we long de fide of Bird.

| Lib.

time

The

[.] Hift. Anim. Lib. viii. 12.

⁺ Lib. x. 23.

t De Solert. Animal.

[&]amp; Arteumenions.

show to its food, and follows after a perfon to follicit as it were another look.

These are the remarks of the academicians on the Numidian Cranes, of which they had several in the Menagerie at Versailles. They compared their steps, their postures and their gestures to Gipsey dances; and Aristotle seems to allude to their manner of jumping and vaulting, when he says that they are caught when they dance opposite one another,

Though this bird was famous among the ancients, it was little known, and feldom feen in Greece or Italy; and confined to its own climate, it enjoyed a fort of fabulous celebrity. Pliny after terming it in one place the pantomime, joins it in another passage with || the Syrens, the Griffins, and the Pegasuses. It was late before the moderns were acquainted with it; they confounded it with the Scops and Otus of the Greeks and Asio of the Latins, on account of the odd gestures of that Owl, whose ears were supposed to be represented by the long delicate filaments that hang from each fide of the head of the Numidian Dancing Bird.

The fix Demoiselles which were kept some time in the menagerie, came from Nu-

ve id

er

midia. We can find nothing more precise in naturalists with regard to the countries which it inhabits *. Travellers have met with it in Guinea †, and it appears to be a native of the tropical parts of Africa. Yet it would not be impossible to reconcile it to our climate, to naturalize it in our court-yards, and even to perpetuate the breed. The Numidian Cranes of the Royal menagerie have propagated, and the one which died last, at the age of twenty-four, was hatched in it ±.

The academicians give very minute details of the internal structure of the six birds which they dissected; the trachea arteria, which was of a hard and almost bony substance, was inserted, by a double circumvolution, into a deep groove formed in the top of the sternum; below the trachea, they perceived a bony knot, that had the shape of a larynx, parted internally into two by a little tongue, as in the goose and in some other birds; the cerebrum and cerebellum together weighed only a dram and a half; the tongue was sleshy above and

cartilaginous

car

lar

gra

vel.

Virgo

ing fa

VOL

[.] The Demoiselle of Numidia. Edw.

[†] Hist. Gen. des Voyages, tom. iii p. 307.

[†] This fact was communicated to us by order of the Marshal duke de Mouchy, governor of Versailles and of the king's menagerie.

cartilaginous below; the gizzard was similar to that of a hen, and like all the granivorous birds, it contained bits of gravel. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Numidian Crane, Ardea Virgo: "Its eye-brows are white, with tufts behind stretching far back."

VOL. VII.

The ROYAL BIRD.

Ardea Pavonina. Linn. and Gmel.
Grus Balearica. Aldrov. Will. Johnst. &c.
Grus Japonica Fusca. Petiv.
Pavo Marinus. Clusius.
The Balearic Crane. Sloane and Will.
The Crowned African Crane. Edw.
The Crowned Heron. Lath.

This bird owes its appellation of royal* to a fort of crown, which a bunch of feathers, or rather of spreading bristles, forms upon its head. It has a noble port, and, when it stands erect, it is four feet high. Fine feathers of a leaden-black, with bluish reslections, hang along its neck, and are displayed on its shoulders and its back: the first quills of the wing are black, the rest of a brown rusous, and their coverts, which are broken into threads, divide the dark ground of the mantle by two large white spots; a broad membranous skin, which is of a fine white on the temple, and of a bright carnation on the cheek, covers

^{*} The Dutch, who trade on the coasts of Africa, call it Kroon-Vogel, or Crown Bird.

THE CROWNED CRANE.

of les,

feet with and ck: the rts, the

arge kin, and

vers

all it

the

the face cap of velvet, ful cres posed o flat, an is beset pointed fmall pe pure w thighs a those o **fembles** fers fro portant hot clin from th plumag with the ing zon liant, b but less

† Of the male and eye, and This charaction of Cl depends radid not fin

though bot

climates

the face, and descends under the bill +; a cap of black down, delicate and close as velvet, decorates the front, and its beautiful crest is thick, wide spread, and composed of bushy sprigs of a pink colour, flat, and wreathed into a spiral; each sprig is beset lengthwise with minute filaments, pointed with black, and terminated by a fmall pencil of the same colour; the iris is pure white; the bill black, as well as the thighs and the legs, which are still taller than those of the Cranes, which this bird refembles much in its conformation. It differs from them, however, in feveral important characters; it is a native of the hot climates, the Cranes draw their origin from the cold countries; they have a dusky plumage, while the Royal Bird is decorated with the garb of the South, of that burning zone, where every thing is more brilliant, but more fantastic; more animated, but less graceful than in the temperate climates.

⁺ Of the two figures which Edwards has given for the male and female, the one has only an earlet behind the eye, and the other the two pendants under the throat. This character feems to vary; it occurs not in the description of Clusius, in other respects exact; and probably it depends rather on age than on sex, since the academicians did not find it in one of the subjects which they described, though both were semales.

They inhabit Africa, especially Gambra, the Gold Coast, Juida, || Fida, and Cape Verd. Travellers relate, that they are frequently seen by the large rivers; they seed on small sish, and also search in the fields for herbs and seeds; they run very swiftly, spreading their wings, and catching the wind: at other times their pace is slow, with measured steps.

This Royal Bird is gentle and pacific; its defence is its stature, and the rapidity with which it runs or slies. It is less afraid of man than of its other enemies; and seems to approach with chearfulness and confidence. We are assured, that at Cape Verd this bird is half domestic, and that it comes into the court-yards to eat grain with the pintadoes and other fowls. It perches in open air to sleep, like the peacock, whose cry it is said to imitate; and, as it also bears a resemblance by the tuft on its

Hist. Gen. des Voyages, tom. iv. p. 355. It appears that the Europeans on these coasts have given the sante name of Royal Bird to a quite different species. "Smith distinguishes two kinds of Crown-Birds; the first has its head and neck green, its body of a fine purple, its wings and tail red, and its tust black; it is nearly as large as the great parrots. The other kind (and this is the true Royal Bird) is of the shape of a Heron, and is not less than three feet high; it feeds on fish: its colour is a mixture of blue and black, and the tust, with which it is crowned, refembles more hogs' brittles than seathers." Id. p. 247.

head,

ſe

tì

aı

th

cr of

re

ha

m

iffi

W

ma

the

ke

the

and

beí

head, it has been termed by some naturalists the Sea Peacock ‡; others have called it the Short-tailed Peacock &, and others have afferted that it is the same with the Balearian Crane (Grus Balearica) of the ancients, but which is not at all proved ¶: for Pliny, the only one who has mentioned the Balearian Crane, does not sufficiently characterize it; both the Woodpecker (says he) and the Balearian Crane wear a tuft *; but no two things are less similar than the small crest of the Woodpecker, and the crown of the Royal Bird, which besides has several remarkable properties that Pliny might have pitched on. If, however, it was formerly brought to Rome from the Balearian islands, where it is no longer found, it would corroborate my position, that animals are making a gradual progress from the North to the South.

We received this bird from Guinea, and kept it some time in a garden. It pecked the herbs, particularly the core of lettuce and succory. But the food which agrees best with it, is rice, either dry, or slightly

ra.

ipe

re-

eed

ds

ily,

the

ow,

fic;

dity

raid

and

and

Cape

that

rain

It

pea-

d, as

n its

s that

me of

distin-

head s and as the

Royal

three

f blue

¹ Clusius. Exotic. Lib. v. 2.

⁵ Johnston, Barrere, Linnaus.

[¶] See Memoires pour servir a l'Histoire des Animaux,

[·] Cirros pico martio et Grui Balearica, Lib. xi. 37.

boiled, previously soaked in water, or at least washed and well picked; for it rejects what is of a bad quality, or foiled with dust. It seems also to eat insects, and particularly earth-worms; and we have feen it among new-turned mould, gathering worms, and catching small infects on the It is fond of bathing, and ought leaves. to have a shallow tray, in which the water should be renewed from time to time. a regale, we may throw into the tray a few small living fish, which it eats with avidity, but rejects those that are dead \ Its cry resembles much that of the Crane, and is clangorous, like the found of a trumpet or horn: it is repeated at short intervals when the bird wants food, or when it feeks a place of lodgment for the evening +. This cry is also the expression of inquietude and weariness; for it tires if left too long by itself. It is glad of a vifit, and if the company (after fatisfying their curiofity,) retire without taking farther notice, it follows or walks by their fide, and thus makes feveral turns: and if it is then amused and detained by any novelty, it haftens to rejoin them. When it is in a quiescent posture, it rests on one leg, its large neck is folded back like the lock of and its body, fhrunk a musket,

bea or c head the Arik erec fure reco justi Its l prov there the f fhort to p often of the appea clima chofe it dur evenir

as

The into fifteen Gold

⁺ This bird has still another voice, or rather an inward clucking, like that of a sitting hen, but harsher.

^{‡ &}quot;It fince for Voyage d'Lettre X

as it were tottering on its tall fimbs, bears horizontally. But if it is alarmed or disturbed, it extends its neck, raises its head, and assumes a stately air, striving by the boldness of its attitude, as it were, to Arike awe: its whole body is then almost erect; it advances gravely, and with meafured steps; and the dignity of its demeanor, recommended too by the crown which it wears, justly entitles it to the appellation of royal. Its long legs, which aid it much in rifing, prove troublesome when it alights; and it therefore spreads its long wings to break the fall; but we were obliged to keep them short, by repeatedly clipping the feathers, to prevent it from flying away, which it often attempted to do. It passed the whole of the winter (1778) at Paris, without appearing to suffer from the rigours of a climate to different from its own. It had chosen for itself a room with a fire to shelter it during the night, and it repaired every evening to the door, founding for admission,

ľ

n

ce lo

d

g

ir it

y,

ts

of

hd

ard

as

The fift birds of this kind were brought into Europe by the Portuguese, in the fifteenth century, when they discovered the Gold Coast in Africa ‡ Aldrovandus cele-

^{† &}quot;It seems that these birds are much prized in Europe, fince some gentlemen continually ask us to send some." Voyage de Guinée, par Guill. Bosman. Utrecht, 1705, Lettre XV.

brates their beauty ||; but Belon seems not to have known them, and he is mistaken in afferting that the Balearian Crane of the ancients was the Night Heron ‡. Some authors have named them Japan Cranes §, which seems to imply that they are found in that island, and that the species extends over the whole zone in Africa and Asia—The famous Royal Bird, or Fum-boam of the Chinese, of which so many marvellous stories are told, collected by the credulous Kircher ¶, is only a creature of the imagination, like the dragon, which they paint along with it on their muslins and porcelain.

| Avis visu jucundissima.

pro has vals and pear veri

ther which stanreall

toge

numriam The the I

galli ble r marí

frequ

the We also saw at Aleppo a bird resembing a Crane, but smaller, having its eyes edged with red, the tail of the Heron, and a weaker voice than the Crane's. We believe it to be what the ancients called the Balearian Crane." Observations de Belon, p. 159. What leads us to think that this account refers not to the Royal Bird, is, that Belon makes no mention of the crown, a character so distinct and striking, that it could not have escaped this excellent observer.

[§] Charleton and Petiver.

See la Chine illustrée. Amsterdam, 1670, p. 263.

The CARIAMA.

Palamedea Cristata. Linn. and Gmel.

Cariama. Marcg. Piso. Ray. Will. and Briss.

The Crested Screamer. Lath.

S

XI E have seen that nature, moving with an uniform pace, connects all her productions by fuccessive gradations. has by her transitions, filled up the intervals where we would place our divisions. and pause in the wide survey. No void appears in the vast concatenation of the universe, and the most distant parts are linked together. Our systems prove inconsistent, therefore, when they attempt to assign limits which no where exist: nay, productions that stand most detached in our methods, are really connected with others by the greatest number of relations. Such are the Cariama, the Secretary, and the Kamichv. The two first are akin to the birds of prey; the last is, on the contrary, related to the gallinaceous tribe; but all the three resemble most, in their instincts and habits, the marsh birds.

The Cariama is a beautiful bird, which frequents fens, where it feeds like the Heron.

ron, but is larger *; it has long legs and the lower part of its thigh is naked, as in the Marsh-birds; and its bill is short and hooked, as in the birds of prey.

Its neck is high, and its head lofty; under the root of the bill, which is yellowish, there is a tuft-shaped feather; its whole plumage is like that of the Falcon, gray waved with brown; its eyes are brilliant and gold-coloured, and its eye-lids furnished with long black hairs; its legs are yellowish, and of the toes, which are all connected at their origin by a portion of a membrane, the mid-one is longer than the two fide ones, of which the inner is the shortest; the nails are short and rounded +: the hind toe is placed so high, that it will not reach the ground; and the heel is thick and round, like that of the Offrich. The cry of this bird resembles that of a Turkey-cock; this is loud, and betrays it to the fowlers, who prize it on account of its tender and delicate flesh. If we may credit Pifo, most of the birds which haunt

the

are

to

He

do

for

in .

tur

tive

whi

1 /

. [A unarr

^{*} Egregia avis sylvestris cariama ex aquaticorum revere, udosisque locis ol prædam delectatur more ardeavum, quas mole corporis longe superat. Pison. Hist. Nat. & Medic. Ind. p. 81.

[†] Ungues breviusculi, lunati. Ibid.

the marshes in these hot parts of America are not inferior in the quality of their slesh, to those which inhabit the mountains ‡. He says also that the settlers have begun to domesticate the Cariama. It appears, therefore, that the Cariama, which occurs only in America, is both with regard to its structure and its dispositions, the representative of the Secretary of the Old Continent, which we now proceed to describe. [A]

1 Mansuefacta, æque ac sylvestris, assatur & coquitur. Idem.

[A] Specific character of the Palamedea Cristata; "It is unarmed, its front crested."

The SECRETARY, Or the MESSENGER.

Falco Serpentarius. Gmel. and Miller. Sagittarius Vosmaer. Vultur Serpentarius. Lath. Ind. The Secretary Vulture. Lath. Syst.

This bird, alike conspicuous by its magnitude and by its figure, is not only of a new species, but of a distinct and detatched family; so that it eludes and confounds all our artificial classifications. While its long, legs seem to shew that it is destined to haunt the fens, its hooked bill declares its affinity to the birds of prey. It has, so to speak, the head of an Eagle joined to the body of a Stork or Crane. To what class then can we refer it? So free and unrestrained is nature, and so rich and so vast the range of her productions!

The Secretary is as tall as a large Turkey Cock; its colours on the head, the neck, the back, and the coverts of the wings, are of a browner gray than that of the Crane, and become lighter on the fore part of the body; the quills of the wings and of the tail, are stained with black, and the thighs



THE SECRETARY.

thi of qu the are bed top defe tari kne thic the late mer hind the bold it is in a colo corn the i

• T are ra chann

brow from thighs with black waved with gray; a bundle. of long feathers, or rather of stiff black quills, hangs behind the neck; most of these feathers are fix inches in length, some are shorter, and a few are gray; all of them are narrow near the base, more fully webbed towards the tip. and inferted on the top of the neck. The subject which we describe was three feet fix inches high, the tarfus alone near a foot; a little above the knee, there were no feathers; the toes were thick and short armed with hooked nails: the mid-one is almost twice as long as the lateral ones, which are connected by a membrane near half their length, and the hind toe is very strong: the neck is thick. the bill is strong and cleft beyond the eyes: the upper part of the bill is equally and boldly hooked, nearly as in the Eagle, and it is pointed and sharp; the eyes are placed in a fort of naked skin, of an orange colour, which extends beyond the outer corner of the eye, and takes its origin at the root of the bill: there is belides a fingular character, which still more shows the double nature of this bird; it is an eyebrow formed of one row of black hairs. from fix to ten lines in length *: this fea-

This eye-brow is fifteen or fixteen lines long, the lashes are ranged very close, widening at the base, scooped into channels, concave below, and convex above.

ture, with the tuft of feathers on the top of its neck, its head like that of a bird of prey, its legs like those of a Shore-bird, form altogether an extraordinary ambiguous as-

femblage.

The habits of this bird are as mixed as its structure. Though it has the weapons of the rapacious birds, it is exempt from their ferocity; and it never employs its bill, either for defence or for attack. It feeks fafety by flight, and often in the hurry of its escape, it takes leaps of eight or ten feet high. It is gentle and sprightly, and foon grows familiar. At the Cape of Good Hope it has even been domesticated, and is pretty frequent in the houses of the colonists: they find it up the country, a few leagues from the shore; they take it young from the nest, and rear it as much for utility as pleasure, for it destroys Rats, Lizards, Toads and Serpents.

The Viscount de Querhoent has communicated the following observations on this bird. "When the Secretary," says that excellent observer, "lights on a serpent, it first tires him out, by striking with its wings; it then lays hold of him by the tail, lists him up on high, and drops him, which it repeats till the serpent is killed. It spreads its wings, and is thus often seen running and

egg V/ling vot feer in a fed and whi don toge

> to t T

feem
pean
men.
Vofn
of C
man
greed
does
to re
and h
rarel
its m
fleps

confid

and flying at once. It neftles in bushes a few feet from the ground, and lays two eggs, which are white with rusty spots. When disturbed, it makes a hollow croaking. It is neither dangerous, nor mischievous. Its disposition is gentle; and I have seen two birds of this kind live peaceably in a court-yard amidst poultry. They were fed with flesh, and were greedy after guts and entrails, which they held under their feet while devouring them, as they would have done a ferpent. They slept every night together, and the head of each was turned to the tail of its companion."

This bird, though a native of Africa, feems to accommodate itself to an European climate; it is kept in some of the menageries of England and of Holland. Volmaer who fed one in that of the Prince of Orange, has made fome remarks on its manner of living. "It tears and swallows greedily the flesh that is offered to it, and does not refuse fish. When it prepares itself to repose and sleep, it rests with its belly and breast upon the ground: a cry which it rarely utters refembles that of the Eagle: its most usual exercise is to walk with long steps from one side to another, and for a confiderable time without halting or flackening

ening its pace +: it is of a cheerful, quiet, and timid disposition. If a person approaches while it runs hither and thither with a fupercilious air, it makes a continual cracking; but after it has recovered from its fright, it appears familiar, and even prying. When the painter was employed in defigning it, the bird drew near him, looked attentively upon his paper, stretched out its neck, and erected the feathers of its head, as if it admired its figure. It often came, with its wings raifed and its head projected, to observe curiously what was doing. It thus approached me two or three times, when I was fitting at a table in its hut, in order to describe it. On such occasions, or when it eagerly gathers some fcraps, and in general when it is moved by curiofity or defire, it briftles high the long feathers on the back of its head, which commonly fall irregularly on the top of the It was observed to moult in the months of June and February; and Vofmaer fays that, in spite of the closest attention, they could never detect it drinking;

to

be

th

me Ph

W

acd

to

rep

on .

lon

this

ject coll

that

bod

Voi

the

[†] This quality has probably conferred on it the name of Messeger, as the bundle of feathers on the top of the neck has procured that of Secretary; though Vosmaer supposes it derived from the appellation of sagitary applied to it, because it often amuses itself by taking a straw in its bill or improve and darting it repeatedly into the air.

yet its excrements are liquid and white, like those of the Heron. To eat with ease, it squats on its heels, and thus half-reposed, it swallows its food. Its strength seems to lie chiefly in the leg; if a live hen be presented, it hits her a violent blow with its sole, and knocks her down by a second stroke. It treats rats in the same manner. It watches assiduously before their holes. In general it prefers living to dead animals, and slesh to fish."

It is not long that this fingular bird has been known even at the Cape, fince, neither Kolben, nor the others who have described the productions of that country, make any mention of it. Sonnerat found it in the Philippines, after having feen it at the Cape. We perceive some differences between his account and the preceding ones, that feem to deserve notice: Sonnerat, for instance, represents the feathers of the crest as rising on the neck at unequal intervals, and the longest as placed the lowest; but neither this order nor proportion occur in the fubject which I inspected, these feathers being collected into an irregular bunch: he adds, that they are bent in the middle next the body, and that their webs are crifped: Volmaer gives the same statement, yet in the one which we have described they were fmooth. VOL. VII.

yet

et

p-

her

ıti-

red

and

em-

near

per,

fea-

ure.

d its

vhat

two

table

fuch

fome

oved

the

hich

f the

the

Vof-

t at-

king;

name of he neck

upposes

to it,

fmooth. Are these differences to be atterbuted to the objects themselves, or only to the descriptions? But a still greater disagreement occurs in the colour of the plumage, which Vosmaer says is of a bluish lead gray, though we found it to be verging on brown: he says that the bill is bluish, and we found it to be black above and white below. The fubiect which we describe is lodged in the cabinet of Dr. Mauduit: the two feathers do not as usual exceed the tail, they only project five inches beyond the wings when closed. But another subject, from which our figure was taken, has three long feathers, such as they are described by Vosmaer and Sonnerat We conceive this to be the character of the male. Sonnerat is mistaken when he reckons the bill of the Secretary as gallinareous; which is the more strange, as that naturalist remarks that the bird itself is carnivorous.

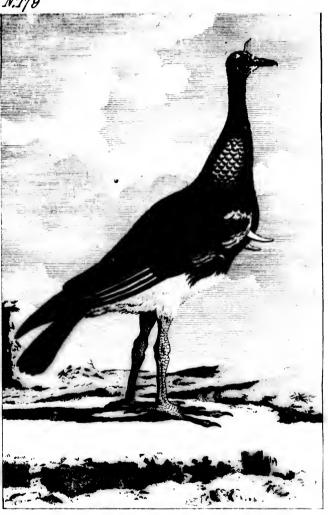
Reflecting on the social and familiar dispositions of this bird, and its facility in domestication, we are disposed to think that it would be advisable to multiply the species, particularly in our colonies, where it might be serviceable in destroying the pernicious reptiles and rats.

[A] Specific character of the Falco Serpentarius: "It is black, its head crested, the tip of its tail-quills white, the two middle ones very long."

is ve ve or. ial ies no-vas ney rat. of he hat is

dif-in that fpe-e it per-

It is white,



THE HORNED SCREAMER.

for the adding the all the strict the strict

The KAMICHI.

Palamedea Cornuta. Linn. and Gmel.
Anbima Brafilienfibus. Marcg. and Piso.
Anbima. Briss.
Cabuitabu. Condamine.
The Horned Screamer. Lath.

TATURE is not to be studied in the cultivated fields, that fmile under the forming hand of industry. We must visit the burning fands of the tropical regions, and the eternal ice of the pole; we must descend from the summits of mountains into the bed of the ocean; and we must compare remote wilds and deferts: and fuch magnificent contrasts confer add tional sublimity on the scenes of the universe. We have formerly painted the arid plains of Arabia Petræa; those naked solitudes, where man has never tasted the coolness of the shade, where the scorched earth, never refreshed by rain or dew, rests torpid and denies all subfistence to every species of being. To this picture of extreme dryness in the Ancient Continent, let us oppose the vast deluged Savannas of the New World. Immense rivers, such as the Amazons, the Plata, the Oronoco, roll their majestic billowy **freams** streams, and swelling over their banks with unchecked licence, they threaten to usurp the whole of the land. Sheets of stagnant water, widely spread, cover their slimy sediment, and these vast marshes exhale dense sickly vapours, which would poison the air, were they not dispersed by the winds, or precipitated in descending torrents. And these meadows, which are alternately dry and wet, where the earth and the water feem to dispute their undecided limits, are inhabited only by loathsome animals which multiply in these sewers of nature, where every thing exhibits the image of the monstrous depositions of the primæval sediment. Enormous serpents trace their waving farrows on the miry foil; crocodiles, toads, lizards, and a thousand reptiles of hideous forms crawl and welter in the mud; and millions of infects, engendered by warmth and moisture, heave up the slime. And this fordid affemblage of creatures which quickens the ground or darkens the sky, invites numerous flocks of voracious birds, whose confused notes, mingled with the croakings of the reptiles, while they disturb the vast filence of those frightful wilds, inspire horror, and feem to prohibit the approach of man and of every fentient being.

Amidst

0

b

in

mo

with pthe ater, nent, lickly were orecithefe and feem inhawhich where monfediwavodiles. iles of mud; varmth nd this quickinvites whose akings he vast re hor-

Amidst

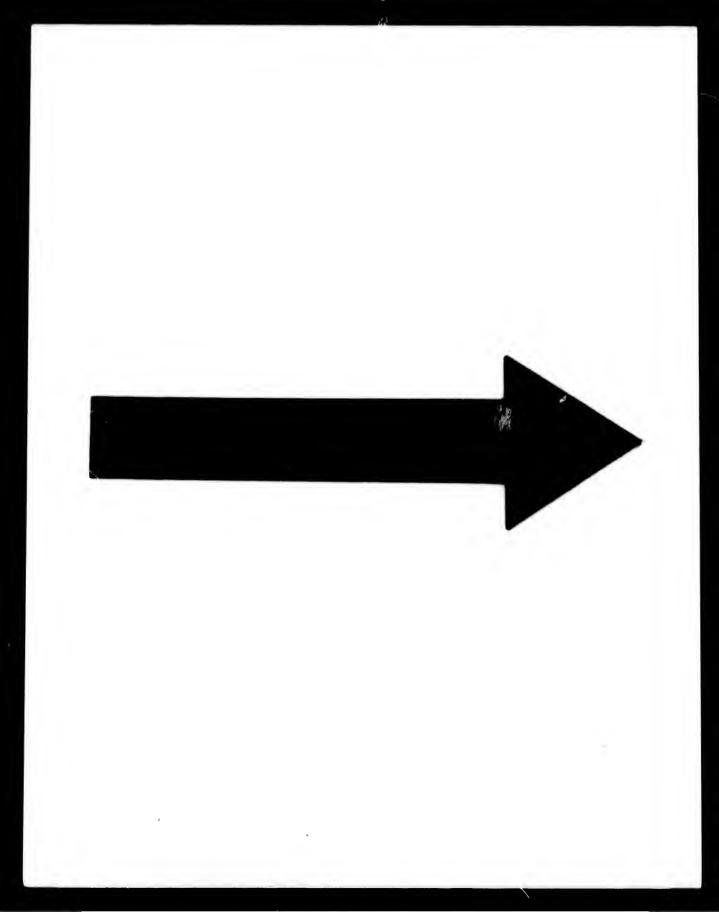
ach of

Amidst the discordant sounds of the screaming birds and croaking reptiles, there is heard at intervals a powerful note, which drowns the rest, and rebellows from the distant shores: it is the cry of the Kamichi, a large black bird, distinguished by its voice and its armour. On each wing, it has two strong spurs, and on its head a. pointed horn * three or four inches long, and two or three lines in diame at the base: this horn, which is inferred in the top of the forehead, rifes straight, and terminates in a sharp point bent somewhat forward; near the base it is sheathed like the quill of a feather. We shall afterwards speak of the spurs on the shoulders of certain birds, fuch as the Jacanas, many species of Plovers, Lapwings, &c. but the Kamin chi is by far the best armed: for besides the horn which grows out of the head, it has in each pinion two spurs, which project forward when the wing is closed. These fpurs are the apophyses of the metacarpal bone, and rife from the anterior part of

Y 3

these

The favages of Guiana have named it Kamichi; those of Brazil call it Anhima, and on the river Amazons cahuirahu, in imitation of its powerful cry, which Marcgrave denotes more precisely by Vyhu-'e, and which he represents as fomething terrible.



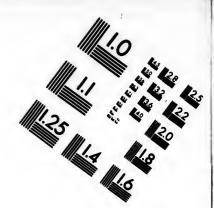
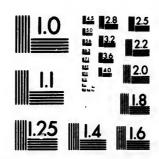


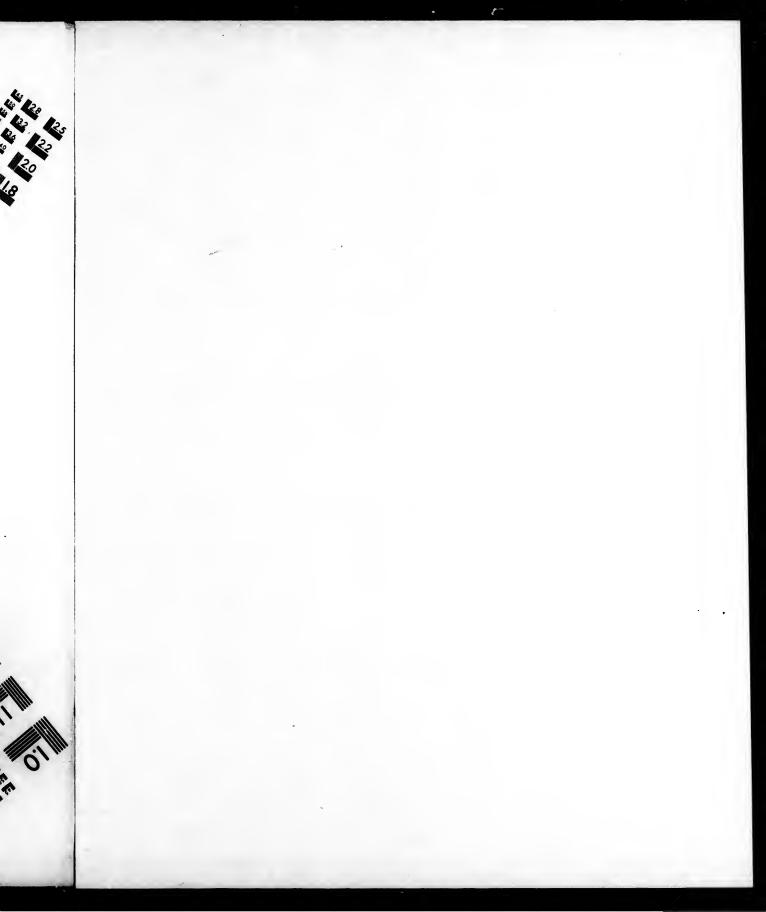
IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



Photographic Sciences Corporation

23 WEST MAIN STREET WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580 (716) 872-4503

TOTAL SECTION OF THE SECTION OF THE



of a triangular form, two inches long, and nine lines broad at the base, somewhat curved, and terminating in a point; it is also invested with a sheath of the same substance as the base of the horn. The sower apophysis of the metacarpal bone is only four lines long, of the same breadth at its origin, and similarly sheathed.

With this furniture of offensive arms, which would render it formidable in combat, the Kamichi never attacks other birds, but wages war only against reptiles. It seems even to have a gentle and a feeling disposition; for the male and female keep constantly together. Love binds their affections by an indissoluble chain: if one happens to die, the survivor can hardly support the loss of its companion; it wanders perpetually moaning, and consumes the wretched remainder of its life near the scenes of tender recollection and of past joys +.

If the affectionate character of this bird forms a contrast to its mode of life, a like opposition obtains in its physical structure.

2 8

its

tha

Cho

the

and

hea

the

bla

cov is

blac

mai

refl

fpo!

fou

of

reac

nine

eigh

the

thig

it is

who

toes

incl

nail

the

Und mortud, altera a sepultura nunquam discedit. Marcgrave... Ravo sela incedit; verum junctim, mas & samina. Tostantur emmes pariter incelæ, und mortud alteram instar turturum lugere, & vix a sepulchro discedere. Piso. Hist. Nat. Ind. p. 91.

ł.

ıd:

at'

13

b-

er

ily

at'

HS,

at,

but

ms

po-

On-

ons

s to-

the

rpe-

hed

of

bird-

like

ure.

Marc-

ar tur-

. Nat.

It

It sublists on prey, and yet it has the bill of a granivorous bird; and, notwithstanding its spurs and its horn, the head resembles that of a gallinaceous bird; its legs are short, but its wings and tail are very long; the upper mandible projects over the lower. and bends fomewhat at the point; the head is clothed with small downy feathers, briftled and crifped, intermixed with black and white; the fame curled plumage covers the top of the neck; the lower part is covered with broader, thicker feathers, black at the edge, and gray within; all the mantle is brownish-black, with greenish reflections, and fometimes mixed with white foots: the shoulders are marked with rufous, and that colour extends on the edge of the wings, which are spacious t; they reach almost to the end of the tail, which is nine inches long; the bill is two inches long, eight lines broad, and ten thick at its base; the leg joins to a small naked part of the thigh, and is feven inches and a half high, it is covered with a rough and black skin, whose scales are strongly marked on the toes, which are very long; the middle one, including the nail, is five inches, and the nails are half-hooked, scooped out below, the hind one being of a peculiar form,

3 Alas ampliffmas. Marcgrave.

flender, almost straight, and very long, like that of the Lark. The total length of the bird is three feet: we could not perceive the great difference in point of fize noticed by Marcgrave between the male and female. Several of the birds which we examined appeared to be nearly of the magnitude of the Turkey-cock. Land drw had a si base

Willughby justly remarks, that the Kamichi is the fole species of its genus. Its form is composed of discordant parts, and nature has bestowed extraordinary qualities on it: the horn which projects from its head would alone discriminate it from the whole class of birds *. Barrere was mistaken therefore in ranging it with the Eagles +; fince it has neither their bill, their head, nor their feet. Pifo fays justly, that the Kamichi is half an Aquatic Bird 1: he subjoins, that it builds its nest like an oven at the foot of some tree, and that it walks with its neck erect and its head lofty, and haunts the forests. Yet several travellers have affured us that is oftener found in the Savannas. [A]

11. 1.12

Frequens pecora cornula; raxo in aere avem cornua geren.

⁺ Aquila Aquatica Cornuta.

¹ Rapina eff & amphibia.

[A] Specific character of th alamedea Cornuta: "Each pinion has two spurs, its fror shorned."

ko he ive ed le.

ip-

Ca-cm ure it:

ead nole ere-ince nor

Ka-

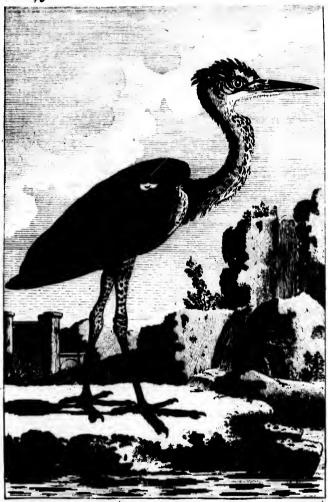
ſuboven alks

and llers d in

ci'y

Each 4n 4

Nº 180



THE COMMON HERON.

ari the on liti

por the ma

from
Arda
lenun
Bala
Zora
guez
Flem
Norv

The COMMONHERON.

First Species.

Ardea Major. Linn. and Gmel.

{ Ardea. Ardea Cristata.

Briff.

Ardea Cinerea. Lath. Gefn. Aldr. Johnst. & Sibb.

Ardea Subcarulea. Schwenckf.

The Common Heron, or Heronshaw. Will.

The Crested Heron.
The Common Heron.

Pennant ..

HAPPINESS is not equally bestowed on all sentient beings. That of man arises from his complacency of mind, and the proper employment of his moral faculties: that of the lower animals results, on the contrary, from their physical qualities, and from the exercise of their corporeal strength. But if nature revolts at the unequal allotment that prevails in human society, she has herself advanced with

In Greek Εςωδιος or Εςωδως, derived, according to Suidas, from Ελωδης, belonging to a marsh: and hence the Latin Ardea or Ardeola: In Hebrew Schalach: In Chaldean Schalenuna: In Arabic Babgach: In Persian Aukoh: In Turkish Balakzel: In Hungarian Cziepie: In Polish Czapla and Zoraw: In Italian Airone, Sgarza: In Spanish and Portugueze, Garza: In German Reiger: In Swiss Reigel: In Flemish Reigher: In Swedish Haeger: In Danish Heyne; In Norwegian Heger or Kegger.

rapid strides in the same path of injustice; and by the imperfection of the organs bestowed on some of her creatures, she has condemned them to struggle perpetually with misery and want. Neglected children, sent naked into the world, to live in continual penury; their toilsome days are spent in perpetual folicitude, fickened by the restless cravings of a famished appetite: to suffer and to endure, are often their only resources. and this inward pain traces its ghaftly impression on their external figure, and obliterates all the graces which attend on felicity. The Heron presents to us the picture of wretchedness, anxiety, and indigence; and as it can procure its prey only by lying in ambush, it remains whole hours, whole days in the same spot, and so perfectly still, as to discover no figns of life. When obferved by a telescope (for it can feldom be approached) it appears benumbed; seated: on a stone, its body almost erect, and resting on a fingle foot; its neck folded back along its breast and belly, its head and bill funk between its shoulders, which rife, and much over-top the breaft. If it changes its posture to put itself in motion, it asfumes another, which is still more constrained; it advances into the water to the height of its knee, and, holding its head between its legs, it watches the passing frog

h

di

th

to

at

ma

dif

fee

gre

fol

an

mo

W

a f

of

me

rifl

Arc

bei

or fish. But as it must wait the spontaneous occurrence of its prey, and has only a moment to make the seizure, it is often constrained to suffer long fastings, and fometimes to perish of absolute hunger: for when the waters are bound with ice, it has not the instinct to retire into milder climates. Some naturalists are mistaken in ranking it among the birds of passage *: for here we see Herons at all seasons, and even during the severest and most continued frosts. Then they are compelled to quit the frozen marshes and rivers, and to repair to the rivulets and perennial springs; and at this time they are most in motion, and make confiderable flittings, though only to different parts of the same country. They feem therefore to multiply, as the feafon grows chiller; and, by dint of patience and fobriety, they endure equally both hunger and cold. But these frigid virtues are commonly, attended with a difgust for life. When a Heron is caught, it may be kept a fortnight, without shewing the least desire: of food, which it even rejects when crammed in its throat; its native gloom, cherished doubtless by captivity, smothers the krongest instinct implanted in animated beings; that of felf-preservation: it wears

re

e ;

ng

de

115.

b-

be

Ed

R

ck

bill

nd

29g

af-

bn-

the

ead

rog

OF

[·] Agricola.

out its existence in complete apathy, without venting a complaint, or betraying the

least symptom of tender regret +.

Insensibility, neglect of self-preservation, and some other negative qualities, characterize it better than its positive properties. Penfive and lonely, except in the breeding feason, it seems to talk no pleasure, nor even to possess the means of avoiding pain. In the worst weather it remains solitary and exposed, leated on a stake, or on a stone, beside the brink of a rivulet, or on a little eminence in a deluged meadow; while the other birds feek a cover among the foliage: and in the same spots where the Rail shelters itself in the thick herbage, and the Bittern amidst the reeds, the miserable Heron stands unprotected from the violence of the tempest, or the piercing severity of the cold. M. Hebert tells us, that he caught one which was half frozen, and entirely incrusted with ice: he avers also, that he has often found the snow or the mud marked with the prints of their feet, but could never follow the traces more than twelve or fifteen paces; a proof of the narrow compais of their quest, and of

their

t

C

m

W

it

lo

to ad

its

OW

thi

a r

att

VO the

the

at th

it pa

to it

trans

+ time · 1

⁺ Experiment made by M. Hebert, to whose excellent observations we awe the principal facts of the natural history, of the Heron.

their inaction in the most urgent occasions. Their long legs are only stilts, unsit for running; they hold themselves in an erect posture, and perfectly still the greatest part of the day, and this rest serves instead of sleep; for they sly a little in the night *; then they are heard screaming in the air at all hours, and in all seasons: their cry consists of a single dry sharp note, which might be compared to that of a Goose, if it were not shorter, and somewhat plaintiss +: it is repeated almost incessantly, and prolonged by a shriller and more disagreeable tone when the bird struggles with pain and adversity.

To the hardships necessarily attendant on its toilsome life, the Heron adds ills of its own creation, fear and distrust. Every thing disconcerts and alarms it: it flies from a man at a vast distance; and as it is often attacked by an Eagle or Falcon, it endeavours to escape their assault by rising into the air, and vanishes with its pursuers in the region of the clouds ‡. It was enough

10

e-

ce

of

he

hd

o,

he

et,

he

of

[•] The ancients had observed this: Eustathius remarks, at the tenth book of the Iliad, that the Heron sishes at night.

[†] The Greeks expressed the cry of the Heron, from the time of Homer, by the verb xxxx. Iliad x.

[†] It is afferted, that when driven to the last extremity, it passes its head under its bill, and presents its pointed bill to its affailant, which darting with impetuosity, is itself transfixed. Belon. Nat. des Oiseaux, p. 190.

that nature constituted these too formidable enemies, and man might have forborne to whet, against the unhappy Heron , their instincts, and instance their antipathies: yet the chase of that bird was once the most illustrious in falconry; it was the sport of Princes, who reserved for themselves its lean carcase as honourable game, qualified by the name of Royal Meat, and served up for shew at their banquets §.

Hence undoubtedly the pains that have been taken to settle Herons in forests, or even in towers, commodious eyries being provided for their nestling. Some prosit was drawn from the sale of the young Herons, which were fatted. Belon speaks with reptures of the Heronries which Francis I. caused to be constructed at Fontainebleau, and of the astonishing effect of art which had reduced such savage birds under the dominion of man ¶. But the success resulted from their natural dispositions; they love to breed together, and

If The ancients added many other crosses to its lot; the Lark broke its eggs, the Woodpecker killed its young; all were its enemies, but the Crow. See Aristotle, Lib. in. 18 or 2.—Pliny, Lib. n. 96.

in

fp.

dr

are

pa

bu

at

COL

ma

app

in

the

certa

ral b

but a

fores

1

[§] See Jo. Bruyerinus, de re cibaria, Lib. xv. 56.—Aldrovandus, tam iii. 367. " It is commonly said, that the Heron is royal meat, on which the French nobility set great value." Belon. Nat. des Oiseaux, p. 190.

[¶] Nat. des Oifeaux, p. 189.

t:

of

te

ed

1P

VC

or

ng

ing

aks ich

on-

of

irds

the

po-

and

; the

x. 18

Aldro-

t the

great

for

for that purpose multitudes affemble in the same district of the forest * and often on the same tree: and we may suppose that they adopt this measure, to repel the Kite and Vulture by their combined force, or at least, to intimidate them by their numbers. It is on the tallest trees that the Herons build their nests, and often beside those of the Crows + which might have led the ancients to imagine that an amity subsisted between these two species, whose habits and instincts are so incongruous. Their nests are spacious, built of sticks, with abundance of dry grafs, of rushest, and feathers; their eggs are of a greenish blue, which is uniformly pale, nearly as large as those of the Storks. but rather longer, and almost equally thick at both ends. The hatch, we are affured, consists of four or five eggs, which ought to make the species more numerous than it appears to be; many must perish therefore in the rigors of winter, and perhaps, as they are of a gloomy disposition and ill fed. they foon lose the power of procreating.

There is no country where the Herons do not affect certain woods, where they collect together, and make natural becomies. They affemble not only on the great oaks, but also on the pines, as Schwenckfeld remarks of some forests in Silesia.

[†] Aldrovandus, and Belon.

¹ Aristotle, Lib. iz. 2.

The ancients, impressed probably with an idea of the miserable life of the Heron, imagined that it suffered pain even in the act of copulation; and that the male at the critical moment discharged blood at the eyes, and screamed with agony &. Pliny drew from Aristotle this false notion which Theophrastus countenances: it was refuted however as early as the time of Albertus, who affures us that he frequently witneffed the coition of Herons, and that he perceived nothing but the dalliance of love. and the crisis of pleasure. The male first fets one foot on the back of the female, to prepare her for the embrace; then carrying both feet forward he finks upon her, and holds himself in that posture by slightly flapping his wings ||. When she hatches, her mate fishes, and shares with her his captures; fish are often seen which have dropt from their nests *. It does not appear that they

to

if.

lag

rer He

thei

feve

they

the † John

rated

game

eggs

neve

it wa

with

more

^{§ &}quot;Ardeolarum... pellos in coitu anguntur; mares quidem cum vociferatu sanguinem etiam ex oculis profundunt; neceminus egre pariunt gravide." Plin. Lib. x. 79. This fable of the torture which the Heron endures in coition has occa-fioned another, that of its great chastity. Glycas reports that the bird grieves forty days on the prospect of the season of copulation.

^{||} Johnston.

In Low Britany, the Herons are very frequent, where they nestle in the forests in the tall trees; and as they feed their

they feed on serpents or other reptiles. We know not why in England it is prohibited to kill this bird +.

We have seen that the adult Heron rejects food and dies of hunger: but, if caught young, it may be tamed, reared and fattened. We have seen some carried from the nest to the court-yard, where they lived on fish guts, and raw slesh, and associated with the fowls. They are susceptible, not indeed of education, but of certain communicated movements; they have been taught to wreath their neck in different fashions, and to entwine it about their master's arm. But if they were not stimulated, they soon relapsed into their natural melancholy, and remained still and fixed ‡. The young Herons are at first covered, for a consider-

their young with fishes, many of these fall to the ground: several persons have therefore taken occasion to say, that they had been in a country where the fish which dropt from the trees, fatten the swine." Belon, Nat. des Ois. p. 189.

† Ardeam in Anglia occidere capitale effe ferunt. Must. Worm. Johnson says the same. [This matter seems to be exaggerated. It was formerly reckoned in this country a bird of game, and to preserve the species, the breaking of the eggs was subject to a penalty of twenty shillings. T.]

I "I kept one in my court; it did not feek to escape, it never fled when approached, but remained motionless where it was set: the first days, it presented its bill and even struck with the point, but without hurting. I never saw an animal more patient, more motionless, and more filent." M. Hebert.

VOL. VII.

7.

able

where y feed their

n,

he

at

he

ny

ch

ted

us,

Ted

er-

ve.

first

to

ing

and

htly

hes,

ropt

that

they

uidem

cminus

ole of

occa-

eports

lealon

able time, with a thick hairy down, chieffy on the head and the neck.

The Heron catches numbers of frogs, and fwallows them entire: this fact is afcertained from its excrements, which contain their bones crushed and enveloped in a viscous mucilage of a green colour, formed most probably of the frogs skins reduced to glue. Its excrements, like those of the Aquatic Pirds in general, shew an acrid quality on herbs. In times of scarcity, it fwallows fome fmall plants, fuch as the water lentil *; but its ordinary food is fish. It catches very small ones, and must necesfarily have a nice and prompt aim to strike prey that glances with fuch rapidity. With regard to large fishes, however, Willughby fays, with great probability, that it pecks and wounds much more than it draws out of the water. In winter when the frost generally prevails, and it is obliged to refort to the tepid springs, it wades feeling with its foot in the mud, and thus discovers its prey, whether it be a frog or a fish.

By means of its tall legs, the Heron can enter into water more than a foot deep without wetting itself: its toes are extremely long, the middle one being equal to the ſ

l

VE

10

at

a

ne

die

ve

pa

fti

pla

ap

ne

thr

fud

prot

ing

^{*} Salerne.

rin

a ed

ed

he

rid

it

the

fh.

ef-

ike

ith

hby

cks

out

roft

re-

ling

sco-

fish.

can

leep

nely

the

rfus.

Tarfus, at the nail which terminates it is indented within, like a comb +, and ferves to support it, and to cling to the slender roots entangled in the mud. Its bill is jagged with points turned backwards, which secure the fish from slipping out of its hold. Its neck often bends double. and this motion would feem to be performed by a hinge; for it can be bent fo, feveral days after the bird is dead. Willughby has falfely afferted, that the fifth vertebra is reversed; since on examining the skeleton of a Heron, we counted eighteen vertebræ, and of these we remarked, that only the five first were somewhat compressed at the fides, and jointed one to another by a projection of each preceding upon the next following, without apophyses, which did not begin to appear till on the fixth vertebra. By this fingular structure, the part of the neck adjacent to the breast is stiffened, and that contiguous to the head plays in a semicircle on the other, and applies to it in such a manner, that the neck, the head, and the bill, are folded in three pieces, one upon another. The bird fuddenly, as if by the action of a spring,

[†] This comb-like indenting is carved on the dilated and protuberant edge of the infide of the nail, without extending so far as the point which is sharp and smooth.

extends this doubled portion, and darts its bill like a javelin. By stretching out its neck to the full length, it can reach at least three feet all round: and, when at rest, the neck almost disappears, and is hid between the shoulders, to which the head seems attached ‡. Its closed wings project not beyond the tail, which is very short.

To fly, it extends its legs stiff backwards, bends its neck upon its back, and folds it into three parts, including the head and bill; fo that from below the head is not visible, and the bill appears to protrude from the breaft. It displays larger wings than any bird of prey, and they are concave, and strike the air with an equal and regular motion: and by this uniform flight, the Heron is enabled to foar so high as to be lost in the clouds §. It flies oftenest before rain ||; and from its actions and postures, the ancients drew conjectures with regard to the state of the air and the changes of the weather. If it remained still and forlorn on the beach, it foreboded wintery cold *; if more than ordinarily restless and clamorous, it promifed rain; and if its head

Virg. Georg i. 363.

cl

fo

th

m

fle

alf

ve

lug

wh

and

the

cold

fhot

and this

frigh

fk iel

up,

hurt

parat

[‡] Willughby.

^{§ —} notasque paludes

Descrit, atque altam supra volat ardea nubem.

^{||} Aldrovandus.

^{*} Ardea in mediis arenis triftis, biemem. Plin. Lib. lxiii. 87.

rested on its breast, the direction of the bill signified the quarter from which the wind was to blow †. Aratus and Virgil, Theophrastus and Pliny, establish these indications, which have been neglected as useless, since means of art more certain have been dicovered.

Few birds foar so high as the Herons, or traverse such extensive tracts in the same climate: and often, says M. Lottinger, some are caught which bear the marks of the places where they haunted. Indeed it must require small force to transport so slender and meager a body, which is shrunk, also flat at the sides, and much more covered with feathers than with sless. Willighby imputes the leanness of the Heron, which is excessive, to the perpetual fear and anxiety which torture it, as well as to the want and inactivity of its condition ‡.

z 3 The

its

ast

ft,

oeead

ect

rds.

olds lead

read

oro-

rger

are qual

iorm high

enest

pof-

with inges

and

ntery

and

head

⁺ Aldrovandus.

t" I fired at a Heron, when the weather was excessive cold; the bird was only slightly wounded, and hore the shot to a good distance. A large dog which I had with me, and which was vigorous and bold, hesitated to run in upon this Heron, till he perceived me near him, the bird screamed frightfully, turned on its back, and presented its feet to skield it when one approached nigh; yet when I took it up, though it was full of life and of strength, it did not hurt me, nor even attempt any injury. I skinned it for a preparation; it was excessively lean. I had surprized it early

ciii. 87. rested

The whole genus ef the Herons have, like the quadrupeds, only one cacum; whereas, in all other birds in which that gut is found, it is double §: the afophagus is very broad and capable of a great dilatation: the trachea arteria is fixteen inches long, contains about fourteen rings, and is nearly cylindrical as far as its bifurcation, where it swells considerably and sends off two branches, which internally confift of only one membrane: the eye is placed in a naked greenish skin, which extends as far as the corners of the bill; the tongue is pretty long, foft, and pointed: the bill is cleft up to the eyes, and discovers a long wide aperture; it is strong, thick near the head, fix inches long, and terminating in a sharp point: the lower mandible is sharp at the edges, near three inches long, and hollowed by a double groove, in which the nostrils are placed; it is of a yellowish colour, and brown at the point: the lower mandible is yellower, and the two branches that compose it, do not join till within two

in the morning on the brink of a very deep river, where it certainly could not make frequent captures; and several days ago I netwith Herons at the same place, as I was seeking for Wild Ducks" Note extracted from the excellent Memoir of M. Hebert on Herons.

§ Aristotle was little acquainted with the Heron, when he said that it was active and crasty in procuring its food.

inches

th

ar

fe

ne

a

is

pa

ba

tu

ŧw

fle

fea

Tin

of

in

hii

the

he

all

an of

acı

the

the

the

the

inches of the tip; the interstice between them is furnished with a membrane covered with white feathers: the throat too is white; and beautiful black streaks mark the long feathers which hang on the forelide of the neck. All the upper fide of the body is of a fine pearl gray; but, in the female, which is fmaller than the male, the colours are paler, not so deep or glosfy; the black cross bar on the breast is also wanting, and the tuft on the head: in the male, there are two or three long sprigs of thin, slender, flexible feathers of the finest black; these feathers are highly prized in the East *. The tail of the Heron contains twelve quills, in the slightest degree tapered: the naked part of the thigh is three inches; the tarfus fix; the great toe above five, and is joined to the inner toe by a portion of a membrane; the hind toe is also very long, articulated with the outer, and inferted into the fide of the heel, a fingular property which obtains in all birds of this family: the toes, the legs, and the thighs, of the Common Heron, are of a greenith yellow: it measures five feet across the wings, and near four from the

of.

n

as

1e

ill

ıg

he

a

rp

hd

he

ſh

er

es

NΟ

e it ral

eklent

hen d.

es

^{*} Klein.—There are three famous plumes composed of these rare Herons' feathers; that of the Emperor, that of the Grand Turk, and that of the Mogul; but if these feathers be really white, as it is alledged, they must belong to the Night Heron.

tip of the bill to the nails, and a little more than three to the end of the tail; its neck is fixteen or feventeen inches, and when it walks, it carries more than three feet of height: it is therefore almost as large as the Stork, but of a much thinner body, fince, notwithstanding its bulk, it weighs scarce more than four pounds +.

Aristotle and Pliny seem to have known only three kinds of Herons: the Common or Large Gray Heron, which we have just described, and which they termed Pellos or the cinereous; the White Heron, or Leucos; and the Stellated Heron, or Asterias 1. Yet Oppian remarks, that the species of the Heron are more numerous and varied. fact, each climate has some appropriated to itself, as we shall perceive from the enumeration; and the Common Gray Heron feems to have penetrated into almost all countries, and fettled with the indigenous kinds. No species indeed is so solitary or fo scanty in each country; but, at the same time, none is more widely dispersed, or scatered more remotely in opposite climates. Its phlegmatic temper and its laborious life, b

la

li

n

K

01

Ιt

Si

ku

ifl

Ba

of

de

He

Bof

one

the

[†] A male Heron, taken the 10th of January, weighed three pounds 1en ounces; a female, three pounds five ounces. Observation made by M. Gueneau de Montbeillard.

¹ Arift. Lib. ix. 2. Plin. Lib. x. 79.

have reconciled to every viciflitude. Dutertre assures us, that among the multitude of Herons peculiar to the Antilles, the European Gray Heron often occurs. been found even in Otaheite, has an appellation in the language of that illand *, and like the King-fisher, it is venerated by the natives. In Japan, we distinguish, says. Koempfer, amidst many species of Saggis or Herons, the Goi-saggi or Gray Heron. It is met with in Egypt +, in Persia ‡, in Siberia, and in the territories of the Jakutes §. The same species appears in the island of St. Jago; at Cape Verd ||; in the Bay of Saldana **; in Guinea ++; in the isle of May ‡‡; in Congo §§; in Guzarat ||||;

n

n

ſŧ

10

S;

et

he

In ed

u-

bn

all

us

or

me

at-

Its

lfe,

aree

ces.

hve

^{*} Otag

[†] Voyage de Granger; Paris, 1745, p. 237. — Voyage de P. Vansleb; Paris, 1677, p. 103.

T Voyage de Chardin; Amsterdam, 1711, tom. ii. p. 30.

[§] Gmelin ; Hift. Gen. des Voyages, tom. xviii. p. 300.

[|] Hift. Gen. des Voyages tom. ii. p. 376.

^{**} Idem, tom. 1. p. 449.

^{†† &}quot;Here are found (on the Gold Coast) two kinds of Herons, blue and white." Voyage en Guines par Guillaume Bosman, Utrecht, 1705.

¹¹ See Roberts' account in Hist. Gen. des Voyages, tom. ii. p. 37.

of Congo and of Angola, Europe has few that occur not in one or other of these two countries: Loppez observes that the pools are filled with Herons and Gray Bitterns, which are styled Royal Birds. Hist. Gen. des Voyages, tom. v. p. 75.

III Mandello in Olearius tom. ii. p. 145.

in Malabar *; in Tonquin +; in Java ‡, and in Timor §. The Heron called Dangcangbac in the island of Luçon, and to which the settlers in the Philippines apply the Spanish name for a Heron, Garza, appears to be the same ||. Dampier expressy says, that the Heron of the Bay of Campeachy is exactly like that of England; which, joined to the testimony of Dutertre, and Dupratz who saw the European Heron in Louisiana, leaves no room to doubt that it is common to both continents; though Catesby asserts, that all those which he found in the New World were of a different species.

Dispersed and solitary in the inhabited countries, the Herons are collected and numerous in some desert islands, as in those in the Gulph of Arguim at Cape Blanc, which, for that reason, the Portuguese have termed Isola das Garzas: the eggs were found in such quantities as to load two boats ¶. Aldrovandus speaks of two islands on the African coast which received the

ſa

of

ri

G

D

Po

th

an

an

H

th

H

th

th

rad

ne

up

ne

Nig

titu

Lap

fille one: with

at difh-

^{*} Recueil des Voyages qui on servi à l'établissement de la Compagnie des Indes; Amsterdam, 1702, tom. vi. p. 479. + Dampier.

t Nouveau Voyage autour du monde, par le Gentil, tom. iii. p. 74.

⁵ Dampier.

[|] See Camel. Philof. Tranfact. No. 288.

A Cadamosto, Hist. Gen. des Voyages. tom. ii. p. 291.

fame name from the Spaniards. The islet of the Niger, where Adanson landed, merited a like appellation *. In Europe, the Gray Heron has penetrated to Sweden +, Denmark, and Norway ‡. It is seen in Poland §, in England ||, and in most of the provinces in France. It is most abundant in countries interspersed with streams and marshes, such as Switzerland ** and Holland ++.

We shall divide the numerous genus of the Herons into four families: that of the Heron properly so called; that of the Bittern; that of the Biboreau or Night Heron; and that of the Crab Heron. Their common characters are the length of neck; the straightness of the bill, which is pointed in the upper mandible and indented at the edges near the tip: the length of the wings, which,

16

Niger;) the trees were covered with such a prodigious multitude of Cormorants and of Herons of all kinds, that the Laptots who entered into a stream which we then crossed, filled in less than half an hour a canoe, with the young ones, which were caught by the hand, or knocked down with sticks, and with old ones, of which several dozens fell at each shot of the sowling piece. These birds tasted of sish-oil, which does not suit every body's palate."

⁺ Fauna Sueuca, No. 133.

¹ Brunnich, Ornitbol. Boreal. No. 156.

[§] Rzaczynski.

^{||} Natural History of Cornwall.

[.] Gefner.

^{††} Voyage historique de l' Europe: Paris, 1693, 10m. v.

when closed, cover the tail; the height of the tarsus, and of the naked part of the thigh; the great length of the toes, of which the middle one has its nail indented, and the singular position of the hind one, which is articulated at the side of the heel near the inner toe; lastly, the naked greenish skin which spreads from the bill to the eyes in them all. Their habits also are nearly the same; for they all haunt the marshes and margins of water; they are patient, slow in their motions, and have a melancholy deportment.

The peculiar features of the family of Herons, in which we include the Egrets, are, the neck excessively long, very stender, clothed below with pendant loose feathers; the body strait, shrunk, and, in

most species, set on tall stilts.

The Bitterns have a thicker body, and not so tall legs as the Heron; their neck is shorter, and so well clothed with feathers, as to appear very thick in comparison with that of the Heron.

The Biboreaus, or Night Herons, are not so large as the Bitterns; their neck is shorter, and two or three long feathers inserted in the nape of the neck distinguish them from the three other families; their upper mandible is slightly arched.

The

cie

the

tio

The Crab Herons, which may be termed the small Herons, form a subordinate family, and are nothing but a repetition of the Herons on a smaller scale. None of them equal the Egret, which has only one quarter of the bulk of the Common Heron. The Blongios, which exceeds not a Rail, terminates the extensive range of species, of a genus more than any other varied both in size and form. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Crested Heron of Pennant, Ardea Major. "On the back of the head is a black pendulous crest, its body is cinereous; a line on the underside of its neck, and a bar on its breast, black." To this species Linnæus refers as a variety the Common Heron of Pennant, Ardea Cinerea, thus characterized; "the back of its head is black and smooth, its back bluish, below whitish, with oblong black spots on its breast." Mr. Latham, with the illustrious Busson, very properly states the former as the male, and the latter as the semale.

The Heron is faid to live to a great age: Keysler mentions one above fixty years old.

n

d

h

re
is
rs
ns;

he

The GREAT WHITE HERON.

Le Heron Blanc. Buff.

Second Species.

Ardea Alba. Linn. Gmel. Gesner. Aldrov. and Johnst. Ardea Candida. Briss. and Schwencs.

Ardea Alba Major. Ray. Will. Brown.

The Great White Gaulding. Brown and Sloane *.

A s the species of Herons are numerous, we shall separate those of the Ancient Continent, which amount to seven, from those of the New World, of which we already know ten. The first of the species that inhabits our continent, is the Common Heron just described; the second is the White Heron, which received that appellation from Aristotle. It is as large as the Gray Heron, and its legs are even taller; but it wants the tufts, and fome naturalists have inaccurately confounded it with the Egret +. All its plumage is white, its bill is yellow, and its legs are black. Turner seems to allege, that the White Heron has been feen to copulate with the gray:

ar

bι

bla

bei

^{*} In Greek Ερωδιος λευχος, or Λευχερωδιος: in Latin Ardea Alba, or Albardeola: in Italian Garza Bianca: and in German Weisser Reiger.

⁺ Salerne.

but Belon, with more probability, says only that the two species consort, and live in such friendship as often to rear their young in the same eyry. It appears therefore that Aristotle was misinformed, when he afferted that the White Heron constructs its nest with more art than the Gray Heron *.

Brisson gives a description of the White Heron +, to which we must add that the naked skin about the eyes is not entirely green, but mixed with yellow on the edges; that the iris ‡ is lemon-colour; and that the naked part of the thighs is greenish.

The White Herons are frequent on the coasts of Britany §; and yet the Species is very rare in England ||, though common in the North, as far as Scania **. They are not so numerous as the Gray Herons++. but equally dispersed: for they are found

15,

ci-

om we

pe-

the

ond

hat

rge

ven ome

d it

nite.

Tur-

eron

ray:

Ardea

nd in

but

^{*} Hist. Animal. Lib. ix. 24.

^{+ &}quot;Its whole body white; a naked green space between its bill and its eyes; its bill saffron yellowish; its legs black." Briff.

[‡] Extract of a letter from Dr. Hermann to M. de Montbeillard, dated Strasburg, 22d September 1774.

[&]amp; Belon.

^{||} British Zoology.

^{**} Fauna Suecica.

⁺⁺ Schwenckfeld.

352 GREAT WHITE HERON.

in New Zealand *, in Japan +, in the Philippines ‡, at Madagascar §, in Brazil ||, where it is called Guiratinga, and at Mexico **, under the name of Aztatl.

"One of the party shot a White Heron, which agreed exactly with Mr. Pennant's description, in his British Zoology, of the White Herons that either now are, or were formerly in England." In the language of the Society-isles, the White Heron is called tra-pappa. Cook's Second Voyage, vol. 1. p. 87.

† It is there called Suro-faggi, according to Kompfer.

1 Camel, Philosophical Transactions, No. 285.

§ In the language of that island it is termed Vahon-vahon-

fouchi, according to Flaccourt.

|| Hist. Nat. Brasil, p. 210. De Laet describes the Guiratinga in terms that exactly define the White Heron. "The Guiratinga is one of the birds which live in the sea; it is as large as a Crane, its seathers bright white; its bill long and sharp, of a saffron colour; its legs long, and of a yellowish red; its neck cloathed with feathers so sine and elegant, that they may be compared to the plumes of the Ostrich." Nov. O.b. p 575.

** The Aztatl, or White Heron, has either the same size and shape with our Heron, or very nearly so; the feathers on the whole of the body are snowy, very soft, and wonderfully crisped and clustered; the bill long and palish, near

its origin greenish; its legs long and black."

[A] Specific character of the Ardea Alba: its head is fmooth, its body white, its bill fulvous, its legs black,"

S had

fay

in :

bird the ifh, It w Sile freq the gafe we

of the

to t

[A black

The BLACK HERON.

Third Species.

Ardea Atra. Gmel.

Ardea Nigra. Briff. Klein and Schwenck.

CCHWENCKFELD would have been the only naturalist that ever noticed this Heron. had not the authors of the Italian Ornithology mentioned a Sea Heron, which they fay is black: and as Schwenckfeld faw his in Silesia, which is far inland, these two birds may be different. It was as large as the Common Heron; all its plumage blackish, with blue reflections on the wings. It would feem, that the species is rare in Silesia; yet we may presume that it is more frequent in other parts, and that it visits the seas; for it probably occurs in Madagascar, where it has a proper name *. But we ought not, as Klein has done, to refer to the same species the Ardea caruleo-nigra of Sloane, which is much fmaller, being the Crab Heron of Labat. [A.]

VOL. VII,

at

ich

his

re,

k's

bon-

Gui-

on .

fea ; bill

d of

and

fthe

fize

thers

nder-

near

ad is

^{*} Vahon-wahon-maintchi, according to Flaccourt.

[[]A] Specific character of the Ardea Atra: "It is all black, its face naked, its head smooth."

The PURPLE HERON.

Fourth Species.

Ardea Purpurata.

Ardea Purpura. Linn. and Gmel.

Ardea Purpurafeens.

Ardea Cristata Purpurafeens. Briss.

The Purple Heron.

The Crested Purple Heron. Lath.

HE Purple Heron of the Danube, delscribed by Marfigli, and the Crested Purple Heron of our Planches Enluminées seem to be the same. The crest is the attribute of the male, and the small differences in their colours may refult from age or fex: the bulk too is the same, though Brisson represents his Purplish Crested Heron, as much smaller than the Purple Heron of Marfigli. Their dimensions are nearly equal to each other, and to those of the Common Heron: the neck, the stomach, and part of the back, are of a fine purple rufous; long. slender feathers of the same colour rise from the fides of the back, and extend to the end of the wings, falling back on the tail.

T the

fam the fma mor

The

A the tings Egre teriz

he

The VIOLET HERON.

Fifth Species.

Ardea Leucocephala. Gmel.

ici-

ur-

em

oute in lex:

as n of

qual

mon

rt of

long, rife

d to

n the

This Heron was sent to us from the Coast of Coromandel: the whole of the body is a very deep bluish, tinged with violet; the upper side of the head is of the same colour, and also the lower part of the neck, the rest of which is white: it is smaller than the White Heron, and not more than thirty inches long.

The WHITE GARZETTE.

Sixth Species.

Ardea Æquino&alis. Var. 1. Gmel. Ardea Candida Minor. Briss.

ALDROVANDUS bestows on this White Heron, which is smaller than the first, the names Garzetta and Garza-bianca; distinguishing it at the same time from the Egret, which he had previously characterized. Yet Brisson has confounded them; he refers Aldrovandus's Garza-bianca to A a 2

the Egret, and substitutes in its place, under the appellation of Little White Heron, a small species whose plumage is white, tinged with yellowish on the head and breast *, and which appears to be only a variety of the Garzette, or rather the Garzette itself, but younger and with a trace of its early garb, as Aldrovandus shews by the epithets which he applies +. The adult bird is entirely white, except the bill and the legs which are black; it is much smaller than the Great White Heron, not being two feet long. Oppian feems to have known this species ±. Klein and Linnæus make no mention of it, and probably it is not found in the North. Yet the White Heron which Rzaczynski says is seen in Prussia, and whose bill and legs are yellowish, appears to be only a variety of this species; for in the Great White Heron, the bill and legs are constantly black: and this is the more probable, as in France even this small species of Garzette is subject to other varieties. M. Hebert affures us, that in Brie, in the month of April, he killed one of these Small White Herons, which was not larger

[·] Ardea Minor alia, vertice croceo. Aldrov.

[†] Its body smaller, not so compact, its bill entirely yellow. &c.

^{‡ &}quot;There are some Small and White Herons." Exeutic:

ron,
nite,
and
y a
Garrace
s by
dult

and aller eing own

e no ound hich

to be the s are

vhofe

propecies ieties.

ieties. in the thefe

iarger

entirely

Exeutic:

than

N.º181



THE EGRET.

th fin ha

the they froz

of V
the I
being
dress,
turba
merly
pions
for a
our b

than a Field-pigeon; its legs green with a fmooth skin, while in other Herons the legs have commonly a rough mealy surface §.

§ "I again faw, in 1757, three of the same Herons on the margin of the lake of Nantua during an excessive cold; they appeared there about eight days, till the lake was frozen over." Note communicated by M. Hebert.

The LITTLE EGRET.

L' Aigrette. Buff,

Seventh Species.

Ardea-Garzette. Linn. and Gmel.

Egretta. Briff.

Garzetta Italorum. Johnst. and Charleton.

The Criel Heron. Harris. Coll. Voyag.

Belon is the first who gave the name of Aigrette (tust) to this small species of White Heron, and probably because of the long silky feathers on its back; these being employed to decorate the ladies head dress, the warrior's helmet, and the sultan's turban. They were in great request formerly in France, when our doughty champions wore plumes. At present, they serve for a gentler use; they deck the heads of our beauties, and raise their stature: the A a 3 slexibility,

flexibility, the foftness, and the lightness of these feathers, bestow grace on their motions.

These feathers consist of a single delicate shaft, from which at small intervals, rise pairs of very fine threads, as soft as silk: on each shoulder, there is a tust of these sine feathers, which extend on the back and beyond the tail; they are of a snowy white, as well as the other feathers, which are coarser and harder. Yet the bird, before it first moult, and perhaps even later, has a mixture of gray or brown in its plumage. One of those killed by M. Hebert in Burgundy*, had every appearance of being young, and particularly its plumage was stained with dark colours.

The Egret is one of the smallest of the Herons, being commonly not two feet long. When full grown, its bill and legs are black. It prefers the haunts of the sea-shore; yet it perches and nestles on trees, like the other Herons.

It appears that the European Egret occurs in America +, with another larger species fpi los mo tha It Ar Sea

bune they Hift Fath St. I our course

Falk not to fift time, foxes M. d

11

6 .

pian thefe form Difco

num Siam the n leave

bird is de

At Magny, on the banks of the Tille, 9th May 1778. † Dutertre, Histoire des Antilles, tom. ii. p. 777, "Among the birds that haunt rivers and pools... there are Egrets of an admirable whiteness, of the bulk of a Pigeon... They are particularly sought for on account of the precious bunch

ese

eir

ate

ise

k:

ese

and ite,

are

fore

has

age.

Bur-

eing

was

the

ong.

are

fea-

trees,

t oc-

arger

pecies

y 1778.

Among

e Egrets

eon · · ·

precious bunch fpecies, which we shall describe in the following article. It is dispersed also to the most remote and lonely islands, such as that of Bourbon ‡, and the Malouines §. It is found in Asia in the plains of the Araxes ||, on the shores of the Caspian Sea ¶, at Siam **, at Senegal and Madagas-

bunch of feathers, fine and delicate like filk, with which they are decorated, and which gives them a peculiar grace. Hist Nat & Moral des Antilles; Rotterdam, 1658, p. 149. Father Charlevoix says that there are Fishers or Egrets in St. Domingo, which are real Herons, little different from our own. Hist. de St. Domingue, Paris 1730, 1991, i.

† Voyage de François Leguat; Amsterdam, 1708, tom. 1.

5" The Egrets are pretty common (at the Malouine or Falkland Islands); we took them for Herons, and we knew not at first the value of their plumes. These birds begin to fish about the close of the day: they bark from time to time, insomuch that one might believe they were the Wolffoxes already mentioned." Veyage autur du Monde, par M. de Bougainville, tom. 1. p. 125.

|| Voyage de Tournefort, tom. ii. p. 353,

¶ The Heron and the Egret are common round the Cafpian Sea and that of Azoff: the Russians and Tartars know these birds, and esteem them for their precious plumes; the former call them Tschapla-belaya, the latter, Ak-koutan. Discourse on the Commerce of Russia, by M. Guldenstaed.

number of Egrets, with which the trees are covered (at Siam): at a distance, they would seem to be the slowers; the mixture of the white of the Egrets with the green of the leaves, has the sincest effect in the world. The Egret is a bird of the sigure of a Heron, but much smaller; its shape is delicate; its plumage beautiful, and whiter than snow;

car *, where it is called Langbouron +? But the Black, Gray, and Purple Egrets, which the navigators Flaccourt and Cauche place in that same island, may, with the greatest probability, be referred to the foregoing species of Herons.

it has tufts on its head, on its back, and under its belly. which constitute its principal charms, and render it extraordinary." Dernier Voyage de Siam, par le P. Tachard,

Paris, 1686, p. 201.

· Along the river (Gambia) the Dwarf Heron is found, which the French term Aigrette: It resembles the Common Herons, except that its bill and legs are entirely black, and its plumage pure white; on the wings and the back is a fort of delicate feathers, twelve or fifteen inches long, which in French are called Aigrettes. They are much esteemed by the Turks and Persians, who employ them to decorate their turbans." Hift. Gen. des Voyages, tom. iii. p. 305. + Flaccourt.

.

HER

Th

na which are exc the wa tracts, deluged the mo never o Egret in without is twice nificent

and ful has its breeds i the over

HERONS of the New Continent.

The GREAT EGRET.

Le Grande Aigrette. Buff.

First Species.

Ardea-Egretta. Gmel.

A LL the preceding species of Herons are natives of the Old Continent; all those which follow belong to the new. They are exceedingly numerous in regions where the water spreads unrestrained over vast tracts, and where all the low grounds are deluged. The Great Egret is undoubtedly the most beautiful of these species, and never occurs in Europe. It resembles our Egret in the beautiful white of its plumage, without mixture of any other colour: it is twice as large, and consequently its magnificent attire of filky feathers is the richer and fuller. Like the European Egret, it has its bill and legs black. At Cayenne it breeds in the small islands that rise out of the overflowed Savannas: it does not frequent

quent the margin of falt marshes or of the sea; but constantly haunts the stagnant waters and the rivers, and lodges among the rushes. It is pretty common in Guiana, though it does not form slocks like the Little Egrets. It is also shyer, more dissicult of approach, and seldom perches. It is seen in St. Domingo, where, in the dry season, it lives beside the marshes and pools. Nor is it confined to the hottest parts of America, since we have received some specimens from Louisiana.

[A] Specific character of the Ardea Egretta: "It is fomewhat crefted white, its legs black, the feathers on its back and breaft loofe and narrow, its pendants very long."

The RUFOUS EGRET.

Second Species.

Ardea Rufescens. Gmel.
The Reddish Egret. Penn. and Lath.

THIS Egret has a blackish gray body; tusts on the back and rusty unwebbed feathers on the neck. It is found in Louisiana, and is not quite two feet long. lie mo for of

fee nec

un

eve

dark back yello

The DEMI-EGRET.

Third Species.

Ardea Leucogaster. Gmel.

We have in the Planches Enluminées termed this bird the Bluish White bellied Heron of Cayenne: it seems to be intermediate between the Egrets and the Herons: for, instead of the large bunch of feathers of the Egrets, it has only a tust of rusous unwebbed shoots, which is wanting however in the other Herons. It is not two feet long; the upperside of the body, the neck and the head are deep bluish, and the under side of the body is white. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Ardea Leucogaster: "It is dark blue, below white, a double-feathered crest on the back of its head; its bill, its naked face, and its legs yellow."

ly:

isi-

The SOCO.

Fourth Species.

Ardea-Cocoi. Linn. and Gmel.

Cocoi Bragliensibus. Marcg. Johnst. Will. Ray.

Ardea Cayanensis Cristata. Briss.

The Cocoi Heron. Lath.

ri

cl

th

th

th

S o c o, according to Pifo, is the generic name of the Brazil Herons; but we shall appropriate it to the large beautiful species, which Marcgrave makes his second species, and which occurs in Guiana and in the Antilles, as well as in Brazil. It is equal in bulk to our Gray Heron; it has a crest, which consists of fine pendant feathers, fome of them fix inches long, and of an handsome ash-colour; according to Dutertre, the old males alone wear this bunch of feathers; those which hang under the neck, are white and equally delicate, foft, and flexible; those of the shoulders and of the mantle are of a flaty gray. Pifo fays that this bird is commonly very lean, but remarks however that it grows plump in the rainy feafon. Dutertre calls it the Crabeater, (Crabier) as usual in the island, and fays that it is not fo frequent as the other Herons, but that its flesh is as good, or rather is not worfe.

The BLACK CAPPED WHITE HERON.

Fifth Species.

Ardea Pileata. Lath. Ind. The Black-Crested White Heron. Lath. Syn.

This Heron is found in Cayenne. Its whole plumage is white, except a black cap on the crown of its head, which bears a tuft of five or fix white feathers; it is scarce two feet long; it inhabits up the rivers in Guiana, but is rare. We shall class with it the White Heron of Brazil; the difference of fize being accidental, and the black spot and tuft may, as usual in the Herons, be the attribute of the male,

The BROWN HERON.

Sixth Species.

Ardea Fusca. Lath.

ric

we

ful

nd

ind

It

it

ant

lof

ounch the oft,

and Pilo

an,

mp

nd.

the

od,

I r is larger than the preceding, and is also a native of Guiana. All the upper side of the body is blackish brown, the tint being

being deeper on the head, and shaded with bluish on the wings; the forepart of the neck is white, charged with brownish dashes; the under side of the body is pure white.

The AGAMI HERON.

Seventh Species.

Ardea Agami. Ginel.

We received from Cayenne, had the name of Agami; unless because of the long feathers in the tail of both birds. These feathers are of a deep blue: the underside of the body is rusous; the neck is of the same colour before, but bluish below, and dark blue above; the head is black, the occiput bluish, from which hang long black filaments.

by latifen mo feat bur tail ther gree

the T it br hoar

it is

plut with

The King

The HOCTI.

Eighth Species.

Ardea-Hoastli. Gmel. Hoastii, sive Tolastli. Fernand. and Ray. Ardea Mexicana Cristata. Briss. The Dry Heron. Lath.

ich

the

ong

fea-

of

ame lark

iput fila-

NIEREMBERG interprets the Mexican name of this bird, Hoastli or Toloastli. by Avis Sicca, dry or lean bird; an appellation which well fuits a Heron. The prefent is only one half the bulk of the Common Heron. Its head is covered with black feathers which extend to the nape in a bunch; the upper fide of the wings and the tail are of a gray colour; on the back, there are some black feathers, glossed with green; all the rest of the plumage is white. The female has a different name, Hoacton; it is distinguished by some colours of its plumage; it is brown on the body, mixed with feveral white feathers, and white on the neck, interspersed with brown feathers.

This bird is found in the lake of Mexico; it breeds among the rushes, and has a strong hoarse voice resembling that of the Bittern. The Spaniards term it very improperly a Kingsisher, Martinete Pescador.

The HOUHOU.

Ninth Species.

Ardea-Houbou. Gmel.

Ardea Mexicana Cinerea. Briff.

We have formed this name by contraction from the Mexican word Xoxouqui-boactli, which is pronounced Hobouquiboactli, Houbou represents its cry: Fernandez, who mentions it, subjoins that it is a small species; yet its length is two cubits. The belly and neck are cinereous; the front is white and black; the crown of the head and the tust on the occiput are of a purple colour, and the wings are variegated with gray and bluish. This bird is rare; it is seen from time to time on the lake of Mexico, where it probably arrives from the more northern countries.

blace feat but [A of its br

in

is

ere

the

eigl

exc

The GREAT AMERICAN HERON.

Tenth Species.

Ardea-Herodias. Linn. and Gmel.
Ardea Virginiana Cristata. Briss. and Klein.
The Largest Crested Heron. Catesby.
The Great Heron. Penn. and Lath.

of the Marsh birds, the largest and the most numerous species occur in the New World. The Heron sound by Catesby in Virginia is the largest in the genus: it is near sour feet and a half high when erect, and measures almost five feet from the bill to the nails; its bill is seven or eight inches long; all its plumage is brown, except the quills of the wing, which are black; it has a crest of brown unwebbed feathers. It feeds not only on fish and frogs, but also on large and small lizards. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Ardea Herodias: "The back of its head is crefted, its body brown, its thighs rufous, its breaft marked with oblong black spots."

Vol. vii.

ac-

ui-

Etli.

vho

spe-

elly

hite

the

lour,

and

from

here

hern

Вb

The HUDSON'S BAY HERON.

Eleventh Species.

Ardea Hudjonias. Linn. and Gmel.

Ardea Freti Hudjonis. Briss.

The Ash-coloured Heron. Edw.

The Red-shouldered Heron. Penn. and Lath.

This Heron too is very large; it is near four feet from the bill to the nails, a fine crest of black brown, disposed behind, shades its head; its plumage is light brown on the neck, deeper on the back, and still browner on the wings; the shoulders and thighs are of a reddish brown; the stomach is white, and also the great feathers which hang from the foreside of the neck, which are dashed with brown streaks.

th

la

bo

th

wa

fpe

thi

These are all the species of Herons known to us; for we do not admit into their number the eighth species described by Brisson from Aldrovandus; because the bird was young, and had still its first garb, as Aldrovandus himself informs us. We exclude also the fourth and twenty-eighth species of Brisson; since the first has its bill hooked, and its thighs clothed with feathers to the knee, and the second has a short bill, which rather belongs to the Crane, Lastly, the ninth species of the same author is only the semale of the Night Heron.

The CRAB-CATCHERS.

Les Crabiers. Buff.

ear ails.

be-

ight

and

ders

the

fea-

the

eaks.

their
their
the
the
garb,
We
ighth
as its
h feafhort
Crane,
uthor

bn.

THESE are species of Herons still smaller than the European Egrets: they feed on lobsters and crabs; whence their name. Dampier and Waser sound them at Brasil, and at Timor in New Holland. They are therefore spread through both hemispheres. Barrere says, that though those of America catch crabs, they also eat sish, and haunt the margins of fresh water, like the Herons. We know of nine species in the Old Continent, and of thirteen in the New.

B b 2

C R A B - C A T C H E R S of the Old Continent.

The SQUAIOTTA HERO'N.

Le Crabier Caiot. Buff.

First Species.

Ardea Squaiotta. Gmek
Cancrofagus. Brist.
Squaiotta. Aldrov. Will. Johnst. Charleton and Ray.

18

its tir

is

the

lar

ALDROVANDUS fays, that this bird is called Squaiotta by the people of Bologna; probably from the refemblance of that word to its cry. Its bill is yellow and its legs green: it has a fine crest on the head, composed of unwebbed feathers, white in the middle, and black on both edges: the upper part of the body is clothed with a frieze, rising from the long thin pendant feathers, which form a kind of second mantle in most of the Crabcatchers; in this species they are of a fine rusous colour.

The RUFOUS HERON.

Le Crabier Roux. Buff.

Second Species.

Ardea Badia. Gmel.

Cancrofagus Castaneus. Brist.

The Chesnut Heron. Lath.

A CCORDING to Schwenckfeld this bird is red (ardea rubra), that is a bright rufous, not chesnut, as Brisson translates it. It is of the bulk of a Crow; its back is rusous, its belly whitish; its wings have a bluish tint, and their great quills are black. It is well known in Silesia, where it is called the Red Heron (Rodter-reger): it nestles in large trees.

bird of ance llow on ners, both y is long kind

Crab-

The CHESNUT HERON.

Le Crabier Marron. Buff.

Third Species.

Ardea Erythropus. Gmel.

Cancrofagus Rufus. Briss.

Ardea Hæmatopus, feu Cirris. Aldrov. Will. and Ray.

The Red-legged Heron. Lath.

Trs colours are deeper beneath, and lighter on the back and the wings; the long narrow feathers which cover the head and float on the neck, are variegated with yellow and black; a red circle furrounds the eye, which is yellow; the bill is black at the point, and bluish green near the head: the legs are deep red. This bird is reckoned by Aldrovandus almost the least of all the The same naturalist gives, as a Herons. variety, the one which Briffon makes his thirty fixth species; its legs are yellow, and there are a few more spots on the neck, than in the other: in all other respects, they are exactly fimilar. We will not hefitate therefore to range them together. But Aldrovandus feems to have little reason in appropriating the name Cirris to this species. Scaliger proves indeed that Virgil did not mean by that term the Crested-lark

of

th

th

he

lo

bii

ot

ye!

as usually translated, but a Shore-bird which is the prey of the Sea-eagle. We cannot however infer that the Cirris is a species of Heron; far less assign the Chesnut Crab-catcher in particular. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Ardca Erythropus: " Its head is crefted, its body is faffron inclining to bay."

The SGUACCO HERON.

Le Guacco. Buff.

Fourth Species.

Ardea Comata. Gmel.
Cancrofagus Luteus. Briff.
Sguacco. Aldrov. Will. and Ray.

This is also a small Crab-catcher, known in Italy in the vallies of Bologna by the name of Squacco. Its back is of a ferruginous yellow; the feathers of the thighs are yellow; those of the belly whitish; the feathers thin and pendant from the head and neck, are variegated with yellow, with white, and with black. This bird is bolder and more intrepid than the other Herons; its legs are greenish, the iris yellow, encircled with a black ring.

B b 4

ong and

ter

the at

rel-

ad; ned the

as a his and

han hey

tate But

in this

irgil lark

The MAHON CRAB-CATCHER.

Le Crabier de Mabon. Buff.

Fifth Species.

Ardea Comata. Gmel.

It is small, being not eighteen inches long, its wings are white; its back rusty; the upper side of the neck yellowish rusous, and the fore part white gray; on the head is a fine long crest of white gray and rusty feathers.

The COROMANDEL CRAB-CATCHER.

th w

ni

Le Crabier de Coromandel. Buff.

Sixth Species.

This bird resembles the preceding: its back is stained with the same rusous, its head and the lower part of the foreside of the neck with gold and yellow rusous; the rest of the plumage is white: but it has no crest, which defect may be attributed

WHITE AND BROWN CRAB-CATCHER. 377 buted to its fex; and we should therefore range it with the foregoing, were it not near three inches longer.

The WHITE AND BROWN CRAB-CATCHER.

Seventh Species.

Ardea Malaccenfis. Gmel. The Malacca Heron. Lath.

THE back is brown or umber, all the neck and the head marked with long streaks of that colour on a yellowish ground; the wing and the upper side of the body, white: such was the plumage of this bird, which we received from Malacca; it was nineteen inches long.

The BLACK CRAB-CATCHER.

Eighth Species.

Ardea Novæ Guinea. Gmel. The New Guinea Heron. Lath.

SONNERAT found this bird in New Guinea: it is entirely black, and ten inches long. Dampier mentions his having

hes fty; ous, ead

usty

L

: its fous, refide fous; but it attributed

378 LITTLE CRABCATCHER.

ing feen in that country Small Crab-catchers with a milk white plumage. We are unacquainted with them.

The LITTLE CRAB-CATCHER.

Ninth Species.

ar

10

or

wa

of

gre

the

bel

of

yel

quin in nec

Ardea Philippensis. Gmel.
Cancrofagus Philippensis. Brist.

* The Philippine Heron. Lath.

It is the least of all the Crab-catchers, and even more so than the Blongios; being only eleven inches long. It is a native of the Philippines; the upper side of the head, of the neck, and of the back, is of a brown rusous; and that colour is traced on the back in small cross lines, that wave on a brown ground; the upper surface of the wing is blackish, fringed with small unequal sestions of a rusty white; the quills of the wing and of the tail are black.

The BLONGIOS.

Tenth Species.

Ardeola. Briff.

The Little Bittern. Penn. and Lath.

ers,

ing

e of

ead,

nwo

the

on a

the

qual

the

The Blongios stands at the bottom of the extensive scale of Herons: it differs from the Crab-catchers, only because its legs are rather lower, and its neck proportionally longer: insomuch, that the Barbs, according to Dr. Shaw, call it Boo onk, long neck, or sterally Father-neck. It extends the neck, or darts it forward as if by a spring, when it walks, or seeks its food. The upperside of the head and of the back is black, with greenish reslections, and also the quills of the wings and of the tail; the neck, the belly, the upper surface of the wings, are of a tawny chesnut, mixed with white and yellowish; the bill and legs are greenish.

It appears that the Blongios occurs frequently in Switzerland. It is scarcely known in the provinces of France, where it is never found, unless strayed from its companions, driven by a gust of wind, or pursued

pursued by some bird of prey *. It is met with on the coasts of the Levant, as well as on those of Barbary. Edwards figures one which was sent from Aleppo †: it differed from that just described, in having its colours more dilute, and the feathers on its back fringed with rusty, and those on the foreside of the neck and body, marked with small brown streaks; differences which seem to result from age or sex. Thus the Blongios of the Levant ‡, that of Barbary, and that of Switzerland, are all the same.

All the preceding species of Crab-catchers belong to the Old Continent: we now proceed to enumerate those of the New, observing the same distribution as in the Herons.

an en

he

lo

an

an

CO

yo

a

ſee

an

in

wH

[&]quot;I saw one of these little Herons, of the size of a Blackbird, it suffered itself to be caught with the hand in the garden of the Dames du Bon pasteur at Dijon: I saw it shut in a cage for breeding Canaries; its plumage resembled that of a meadow Rail; it was very lively, and continually bustled about in its cage, rather from a fort of inquietude, than from a desire to escape; for when a person approached, it stopt, threatened with its bill, and darted like a spring. I never met with this very small Heron in any of the provinces where I have sowled; it must be a bird of passage," Note communicated by M. Hebert.

[†] The Little Brown Bittern. Edwards, Gleanings.

[‡] Ardeola Nævia of Brisson. (Mr. Latham supposes it to be the female. T.)

[[]A] Specific character of the Ardea Minuta: "Its head is smooth, its body brown, below tawny, its tail-quills black greenish, its stripes yellowish."

CRAB CATCHERS of the New World.

The BLUE CRAB-CATCHERS.

First Species.

Ardea Carulea. Linn. and Gmel.

Ardea Cyanea. Klein.

Ardea Plumbea. Brown.

The Blue Heron. Catesby. Penn. and Lath.

W нат is very fingular in this bird, its bill is blue like the rest of the plumage; and were not the legs green, it would be entirely blue The feathers of the neck and head have a fine violet gloss; those of the lower part of the neck, behind the head, and on the lower part of the back, are thin and pendant; the last are a foot long, cover the tail, and project four fingers beyond it. The bird is rather smaller than a Crow, and weighs fifteen ounces. It is feen in Carolina, but only in the fpring; and Catesby believes that it does not breed in that province, though he is ignorant whence it comes. The fame beautiful species

es it to

et ell

es if-

ng on on

ked ich

the

ary,

ne.

hers

pro-

ob-

the

Black-

in the

it shut mbled

nually

etude,

ached, (pring.

e pro-

ffage,"

ts head 1-quills 382 BROWN NECKED BLUE CRABCATCHER? cies is found in Jamaica, and appears to be divided into two varieties in that island.

[A] Specific character of the Ardea Carulea: "Itè head is crested, its body blue."

The BROWN-NECKED BLUE CRAB CATCHER.

Second Species.

Ardea Cærulescens. Gmel.

A LL the body of this bird is of a dull blue; and though that tint is deep, we should have reckoned it the same species with the preceding, if the head and neck had not been tawny-brown, and the bill intense yellow. It occurs in Cayenne, and may be about nineteen inches long.

he yel wh

the the gro

Car fon Isla our

por

to at

Itè

dull

leep,

fpe-

and

the

nne.

ng.

The IRON-GRAY CRAB-CATCHER.

Third Species.

Ardea Violacea. Linn. and Gmel.

Ardea S' ir. istata Americana. Krein.

Cancrofagus Bahamensis. Brist.

Ardea Cæruleo-Nigra. Ray and Sloane.

The Gray-crested Gaulding. Brown.

The Crested Bittern. Catesby.

The Yellow Crowned Heron. Penn. and Lath.

ALL the plumage is of a dull, blackish blue, except the upper fide of the head, which is ornamented with a pale, vellow crest, from which three or four white feathers rise on the back of the head. There is also a broad white stripe on the cheek, reaching to the corners of the bill: the eye is protuberant, the iris red, and the eye lid green; long slender feathers grow on the fides of the back, and fall over the tail; the thighs are yellow, the bill is black and firong, and the bird weighs a pound and an half. It is feen, fays Catefby, in Carolina, during the rainy feafon; but is more numerous in the Bahama Islands, and breeds in the bushes that grow out of the clifts of the rocks; and so great 384 RED BILLED WHITE CRAB-CATCHER.

is the multitude in some of the islands, that, in a sew hours, two men may load a canoe with the young; for though able to fly, their motions are laborious, and they suffer themselves to be caught through mere supineness. They live more on crabs than on sish, and the settlers call them crabcatchers. Their slesh, says Catesby, is very well tasted.

The RED-BILLED WHITE CRAB-CATCHER.

Fourth Species.

Ardea Æquinostialis. Linn. and Gmel. Ardea Carolinensis Candida. Briss. and Klein. The Red billed Heron. Penn. The Little White Heron. Catesby and Penn.

A RED bill, green legs, the iris yellow, and the skin that encircles it red, are the only colours which interrupt the fine white plumage of this bird. It is smaller than a Crow: it is found in Carolina in the spring, but never in winter: its bill is a little curved, and Klein remarks that many of the foreign species of Herons have not such straight bills as those of Europe.

[A] Specific character of the Ardea Æquinoctialis: "Its head is smooth, its body white, its two first wing-quills brown on their outer margin."

T

furiqui whithef

Bitt

The

S E the r

dez | vo

The CINEREOUS CRAB-CATCHER.

Fifth Species.

Ardea Cyanopus. Gmel.
Ardea Americana Cinerea, Brist.

to ey

ere an

ab-

ery

ow,

fine aller

a in

ill is

that

have

" Its

-quills

pe.

This bird inhabits New Spain, and is not larger than a Pigeon. The upper furface of the body is light ash-colour; the quills of the wing are partly black, partly white; the bill and legs are bluish. From these colours we may perceive that Father Feuillée is mistaken in classing it with the Bitterns.

The PURPLE CRAB-CATCHER.

Sixth Species,

Ardea Spadicea. Gmel. Ardea Mexicana Purpurascens. Brist. The Mexican Heron. Lath.

SEBA fays that this bird was fent to him from Mexico; but he applies to it the name Xoxouquiboatli, which Fernandez bestowed on a species twice as large.

VOL. VII. CC It

lo

th

th

fp

leg

lon

wit

fide

yell

bell

and

fize

this

It is only a foot long; the upper fide of the neck, of the back and of the shoulders, is purple chesnut; the same tint diluted, covers all the underside of the body; the quills of the wing are deep bay; the head is light bay, and its top black.

The CRACRA.

Seventh Species.

Ardea-Cracra. Gmel.
Cancrofagus Americanus. Briss.

CRACRA is the cry of this bird on the wing, and the name which the French settlers at Martinico have given to it. The American natives call it faboutra; and Father Feuilsee, who found it in Chili, describes in the following terms: it is as large as a well grown Hen, and its plumage is much variegated; the crown of the head is ash-blue; the top of its back, tawny, mixed with the colour of dry-leaves; the rest of the upper surface is an agreeable mixture of ash-blue, of brown-green, and of yellow; the coverts of the wing are partly of a dull green, edged with yellowish,

CHALYBEATE CRAB-CATCHER. 387 lowish, and partly black; the quills are of this last colour, and fringed with white; the throat and breast are variegated with spots of filemot, on a white ground; the legs are of a fine yellow.

The CHALYBEATE CRAB-CATCHER.

Eighth Species.

Ardeola. Marcg. Johnst. and Will. Cancrofagus Brasiliensis, Briss.
The Blue Heron. Lath.

THE back and the head of this bird are chalybeate or steel-coloured; it has long greenish quills in the wing, marked with a white spot at the tip; the upper side of the wing is variegated with brown, yellowish, and steel-colour; the breast and belly are white, variegated with cinereous and with yellowish. The bird is of the size of a Pigeon; it occurs in Brazil, and this is all that we learn from Marcgrave.

back, leaves; agreegreen, wing th yelowifh,

of

rs.

ed.

the

ead

d on

n the

en to

outra;

Chili,

is as

image

f the

The GREEN CRAB-CATCHER.

Ninth Species.

Ardea Virescens. Linn. and Gmel.
Ardea Stellaris Minima. Klein.
Cancrosagus Viridis. Briss.
The Small Bittern. Catesby.
The Green Heron. Lath.

THIS bird is very rich in its colours, and one of the most beautiful of the Long feathers of gold-green cover the upper fide of the head, and form into a crest; feathers of the same colour, narrow, and flowing, cover the back; those of the neck and breast are rusous or deep reddish: the great quills of the wing are very dull green; the coverts of the wing, bright gold green, and most of them edged with fulyous or chesnut. This handsome bird is seventeen or eighteen inches long; it feeds on frogs and small fish, as well as on crabs. It appears in Carolina and Virginia only in fummer; and it probably retires in autumn to warmer climates, to pass the winter.

T

onl nap bro the

ligh

bro

gold a w of on gree

on v belo fpeci

The SPOTTED GREEN CRAB-CATCHER.

Tenth Species.

Ardea Virescens. Var. 1. Gmel. Cancrosagus Viridis Navius. Briff.

urs.

the

over

into

nar-

e of

deep

are

ing,

dged

ome

; it

ll as

Vir-

ably to

His is rather smaller than the preceding, but differs little in its colours: only the feathers on its head and on the nape are of a dull gold green, glossed with bronze, and the long slender feathers on the mantle are also gold green, though lighter; the quills of the wing are deep brown, and their outer edge shaded with gold green, and those next the body have a white spot at the tip; the upper surface of the wing is sprinkled with white spots; on a brown ground, shaded with gold green; the throat is spotted with brown on white, the neck is chefnut, and clothed below with gray pendant feathers. This species is found in Martinico.

The ZILATAT.

Eleventh Species.

Ardea Mexicana Candida. Briff.

WE have formed this name from the Mexican Hoitzilaztatl. It is entirely white, with its bill reddish near the point, the legs of the same colour; it is one of the smallest of all the Crab-catchers, being scarce equal in size to a Pigeon.

to

equ the

The RUFOUS CRAB-CATCHER, with Green Head and Tail.

Twelfth Species.

Ardea Ludoviciana. Gmel. The Louisiane Heron. Lath.

It is scarce sixteen inches long; the upper side of the head and tail is of a dull green; the same colour appears on a part of the coverts of the wing, which are fringed with sulvous; the long thin seathers on the back are tinged with faint purple; the neck is rusous as well as the belly, whose tint borders upon brown. This species was sent to us from Louisiana.

The GRAY CRAB-CATCHER, with Green Head and Tail.

Thirteenth Species:

Ardea Virescens. Var. 2. Gmel.

This was fent to us from Cayenne: and it resembles the preceding in many respects, and both of them are much related to the tenth species. The head and tail are equally of a dull green, and also a part of the coverts of the wing; a light slate gray predominates in the rest of the plumage.

the of a on a ch are n fearfaint ell as orown.

isiana.

the

irely oint,

e of

eing

ER,

The OPENBILL.

n

sp it

of

pl

ift

10

of

th

in

] is d

dle

Le Bec-Ouwert. Buff. Ardea Pondiceriana. Gmel. The Pondicherry Heron. Lath.

FTER the enumeration of all the Herons and Crab-catchers, we shall range a bird, which, though it does not belong to their family, is more nearly related to them than to any other. It is not the business of the naturalist to follow the restraints of scholastic forms; he should endeavour to trace the productions of the universe through their various shades and gradations; and the delicate transitions of nature are the most interesting subjects to the eyes of a philosopher. Such is the bird which we denominate Open-bill: in some respects, it resembles the Herons; and in others, it differs from them. It has, befides, one of those defects or natural imperfections, which we have remarked in a few species: its bill is wide open two-thirds of its length, both the upper and under mandible parting at that space and meeting again at the point. This bird is found in India, and we received it from Pondicherry;

cherry; it has the legs and thighs of the Heron, but has only half the character noticed in the nail of the middle-toe, which spreads indeed into a thin plate, though it is not indented at the edges; the quills of the wing are black; all the rest of the plumage is a light ash-gray; the bill black-ish at the root, the rest of it white or yellowish, and thicker and broader than that of the Heron. Total length of the bird thirteen or source inches. We are not informed of its natural habits. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Ardea Pondiceriana: "It is dirty ash-colour, its wing-quills long and black, its middle nail not serrated."

Heinge
long
d to

vour verse radas of cts to

fome
nd in
, be1 im-

l in a thirds under eeting

found Pondinerry;

The BITTERN.

Le Butor. Buff.

Ardea Stellaris. Linn. and Gmel.

Botaurus. Briff.

The Myredromble. Turner †.

The Bittour, Bittern, or Mire-drum. Will.

Though the Bitterns resemble much the Herons, their differences are so marked as easily to discriminate them. Their legs are longer than those of the Herons, their body rather more sleshy, and their neck thicker clothed with feathers, which make it look larger. Notwithstanding the disgraceful implication of its name ‡, the Bittern is not so stupid as the Heron, though it is more savage: it is hardly ever seen; it inhabits only marshes of a certain limited extent, and abounding with rushes;

^{*} In Greek Asseras, Equidos Asseras, Onvos: in Latin Ardea Stellaris, Butio, in Italian, Tarabuso, Trombotto, Trombone or trumpeter: in Portuguese, Gazola: in German Meer-Rind (Sea-ox), Moss-Ochs (Moss-ox), Robr-Trummel (Reeddrum), Ross-Reigel (Horse-heron), Wasser-Ochs (Water-ox), Erd Bull (Earth-bull); names that allude to the bellowing noise which this bird makes in the marshes: in Dutch Pitoor: in Swedish and Danish Roer-Drum (Reed-drum): in Polish Bak or Bunk: in Turkish Gelve.

⁺ That is, the Mire-drum, from the German Trummel.

Nº.182



THE BITTERN.

A CONTRACTOR IN

mel.

uch e fo heir

ons,
heir
hich
ding
ne ‡,

ron, ever rtain shes;

Ardea
ombone
Meer(Reeder-ox),
lowing
Pitoor:
Polifi

it

it the wir rai wh it the in ror ever exp wh tra dep the ciar of four diff wh for fix wh

it prefers the large pools skirted with wood: there, it leads a lonely peaceful life, covered with reeds, sheltered from the wind and rain, and concealed equally from the hunter whom it dreads, and from its prey, which it watches. It continues whole days in the same spot, and seems to place its safety in concealment and inaction. The Heron is more restless, and ventures abroad every evening; at which time the fowlers expect it at the edge of the reedy-fens, where it alights: the Bittern, on the contrary, rifes in the dusk, and takes a final departure; and thus these two birds, though they inhabit the same tracts, never associate together,

It is in autumn only and at sun-set, according to Willughby, that the Bittern commences its journey, or changes its abode. In its slight it might be taken for a Heron, did it not utter from time to time a quite different cry, deeper and more resounding, cob, cob. But this is still less disagreeable, than the frightful voice, to which the bird owes its name *: it is a sort of lowing HI-RHOND, repeated five or six times in succession in the spring, and which may be heard at the distance of

Botaurus, from boatus and taurus, denotes the bellowing of a bull. Willugbby.

half a league. This bumping, as it is called, exceeds the grunt of the largest bass string. Could we imagine this alarming found to be the expression of tender love? It is indeed only the call of a rude and wild bird, stimulated by lust, not mollified by attachment: and as foon as his appetite is satisfied, he deserts or rejects the female, though she plies him with her assiduous caresses +; nor are her solicitations sufficient to incite him to repeat the almost momentary embrace. Accordingly the cock and hen live separate, "I have often, says M. Hebert, put up two of these birds at the same time, and I constantly perceived that they sprang more than two hundred paces from one another, and alighted at an equal distance." But the moments of fruition must return perhaps after long intervals, if it be true that the Bittern is in feafon during the whole time that he bumps ±; for the lowing begins in Febru-

† According to Salerne, such is the indolence of the male, that the semale alone takes all the trouble of courtship, and of the rearing of the young, "It is she that solicits and invites him to love by the frequent visits which she pays him, and by the abundance of food which she brings." But all these particulars, taken out of an old moral discourse, (Discours de M. de la Chambre, sur l'amitié), are probably romance.

‡ Willughby.

pec noi mu ftro rati woo this fo c can with

> A and

onfid a belle from t fical end be and be

The To

double the risis covis from with vi

ed.

ng.

is

ild

by

tite

ale.

ous

ıffi-

nost

ock:

fays

irds ived

dred

d at

s of

long

n is

bru-

of the

court-

e that

which

ch she

an old

mitié),

ary

ary §, and is yet heard in the harvest. The people of the country say, that to make this noise the Bittern plunges its bill in the mud ||: the first note resembles indeed a strong inspiration, and the second an expiration rebellowed in a cavity *. But it would be difficult to ascertain the truth of this affertion; since the bird lurks always so close as to escape sight, and the sowlers cannot reach the spots where it springs, without wading through the reeds in water often as high as the knee.

All these precautions for concealment and protection are fortified by caution and

§ It is certainly the cry of the Bittern which Aristotle considers in his problems (Sect. ii. 35), where he speaks of a bellowing like that of a bull, which is heard in the spring from the heart of the marshes, and of which he seeks a physical explanation in the winds imprisoned under the water and bursting from their caverns.

|| This notion is well expressed by a charming poet :-

The Bittern knows his time, with bill ingulpht, To shake the sounding marsh."

THOMSON.

artifice.

Aldrovandus has inquired into the structure of the trachea-arteria with a reference to the production of this sound; many strong voiced Aquatic birds, such as the Swan, have a double larynx; the Bittern, on the contrary, has none, but the trachea, where it forks, forms two instated sacs, of which the rings of the trachea cover only one side; the other is covered with a thin skin, expansible, and elastic; it is from these instated sacs that the imprisoned air escapes with violence in bellowing.

artifice. The Bittern sits with its head erect, which being more than two feet high, it easily sees over the reeds, without being perceived by the sportsman. It does not change its seat until the approach of night in the autumnal season, and passes the rest of its life in such inactivity, that Aristotle gives it the epithet lazy *. Its whole motion consists in seizing a frog, or small sish which throws itself in the way of the indolent catcher.

The appellation of stary, acresias or stellaris, given by the ancients to the Bittern, is derived, according to Scaliger, from its evening flight, when it foars aloft, and feems to lose itself in the starry-vault: others affert that the name refers to the spots scattered on its plumage. But these are disposed more like dashes than stars: the whole body is covered with blackish speckles: they are strewed transversely on the back upon a fulvous brown ground, and run longitudinally on a whitish ground upon the forefide of the neck, upon the breast and the belly: the bill has the same shape as in the Heron; both it and the legs are greenish, its opening is very wide, and the cleft extends beyond the eyes, fo that they m

m

to

ha

fo

na

th

fro

in

dex

tha

cau

chi

a b

wh

mai

ligh

ami

Bel

whe

one,

^{*} Oxros, Hist. An. l. ix. c. 18.

may be faid to be fituated upon the upper mandible: the hole of the ear is large; the tongue short and sharp, and does not reach half the bill; but the throat may be opened fo wide as to admit the fift *: its long nails clasp the reeds, and support it upon their floating wrecks +: it catches many frogs; and in autumn, it goes to the woods in pursuit of mice, which it seizes with great dexterity and swallows entire 1: and in that season, it grows very fat §. When caught it shews much rancour ||, and strikes chiefly at the eyes **. Its flesh must be of a bad quality, though it was formerly eaten, when that of the Heron was held in estimation ++.

The Bittern lays four or five greenish light-brown eggs ‡‡; and makes her nest amidst the reeds, or a bunch of rushes. Belon surely confounded it with the Heron, when he asserted, that it breeds on the tops

સ.

it

ing

not

ght

rest

otle

tion

hich

olent

fel-

tern,

m its

, and

ault:

o the

thefe

stars:

ackish

round.

ground

e breast

e shape

egs are

and the

at they

[·] Willughby.

[†] The great length of the nails, particularly of the hind one, is remarkable; Aldrovandus fays, that in his time it was used as a tooth-pick.

t Willughby.

Schwenckfeld.

[|] Idem.

^{**} Belon.

⁺⁺ Idem.

¹¹ Mr. Pennant fays five or fix. T.

of trees*. That naturalist seems also to mistake it for the Onocrotalus of Pliny, though the Roman delineates it by discriminating characters. There is another passage of Pliny, which, according to Belon, refers to the Bittern: "In the district of Arles, there is a bird which imitates the lowing of oxen, and is called the Bull (Taurus) though it is little +." In that case the epithet little is applied to the Bittern only by way of contrast to the appellation, Bull.

The Bittern occurs wherever there are marshes of sufficient extent: it is known in most of the French provinces; it is not uncommon in England ‡; it is frequent in Switzerland §, and in Austria ||; it is seen also in Silesia **, Denmark ††, and in Sweden ‡‡. The most northern parts of America have also their species of Bittern; and other species occur in the southern regions. It appears however, that our Bittern is not so hardy as the Heron, and cannot support our winters, but removes

when

li

fo

ſp

lu

fu

Wa

tio

M. of

to

feat

and

are

nur

fom

of

nev

wit

upo it fi

poir

its

Old

the

by

[•] Gefner was not better acquainted with its nest, when he faid that it layed twelve eggs.

⁺ Lib. x. 57.

¹ British Zoology.

[&]amp; Gefner.

[|] Elench. Auftr. 348.

^{**} Schwenckfeld.

⁺⁺ Brunnich, Ornitbol. Boreal.

¹¹ Fauna Suecica.

when the cold becomes excessive. Intelligent sportsmen assure us, that they never found it by the sides of rivulets or near springs in the inclement seasons: and Willughby seems to regard its losty slight after sun-set in autumn, as its departure to warmer climates.

No observer has given us fuller information on the subject of this bird than M. Baillon; and I shall here give an extract of the account which he obligingly sent to me.

"The Bitterns are found almost every season of the year at Montreuil-sur-Mer, and on the coasts of Picardy, though they are migratory. They are seen in great numbers in the month of December, and sometimes dozens lurk in a single tust of reeds.

"Few birds make so cool a defence; it never attacks, but if once assailed, it sights with intrepidity and temper. If darted upon by a bird of prey, it does not sly; it stands erect and receives the shock on the point of its bill, which is very sharp; and its wounded antagonist retreats screaming. Old Buzzards never attack the Bittern, and the Common Falcons never seize it, but by rushing upon it behind, while it is on vol. vii.

when

10

ny,

cri-

pal-

lon.

t of

the

Bull

case

only

Bull.

are

n in

not

uent

it is

and

parts

Bit-

utht our

and

noves

when

the wing. It even makes resistance when wounded by the sportsman; and instead of retiring, it waits his onset, and gives such vigorous pushes with its bill as to pierce the leg through the boots; and many have in this way been forely wounded. It must be killed by blows, for it would contend till death.

"Sometimes, though feldom, the Bittern turns on its back like the rapacious birds, and fights both with its bill and its claws, which are very long. It throws itself into that posture, when surprized by a dog.

The patience of this bird is equal to its courage; it remains whole hours, without stirring, in the water concealed by the rushes: it watches the eels and frogs; and except in the love feafon, when it takes fome excercife, it is as indolent and meiancholy as the Stork. At other times, it cannot be discovered but by dogs. During the months of February and March, the males utter, in the morning and evening, a cry, which may be compared to the explosion of a large musket. The females run to the found, fometimes a dozen round one male; for the Bitterns are, like the Ducks, polygamous: the males strut among their mates, and drive off their rivals. They make

m an in da an to vei the wii and the the The mo tho tain drer riſk

their beau their the are l

of the prover capilloil,

of

ich

rce

ave

ust

ern rds,

ws.

nto

its

out

the

ome

ioly

t be

hths

tter, hich

arge

and,

for

oly-

heir

hey

nake

make their nests almost close on the water amidst rushes in the month of April: the incubation lasts twenty-four or twenty-five days: the young ones are hatched naked, and of an unfightly figure, for they feem to be all neck and legs. They do not venture abroad until twenty days after their birth. The parents feed them first with leeches, lizards, and frogs' spawn, and afterwards with small eels. Their feathers are rufous at first, as in the adults; their bill and legs rather white than green. The Buzzards, which plunder the nests of most of the Marsh-birds, seldom touch those of the Bittern. The parents maintain a constant guard and defence. Children dare not approach, for they should risk the loss of their eyes."

"It is eafy to diftinguish the males by their colour and their fize, they being more beautiful and larger than the females, and their plumage having more the rufous tint; the feathers too on the breast and neck are longer.

"The flesh of this bird, particularly that of the wings and breast, is tolerable food, provided that the skin be removed, whose capillary vessels are filled with an acrid oil, that spreads through the substance in

D d 2 cooking,

cooking, and communicates a rank unpleafant taste." [A]

[A] Specific charcter of the Bittern, Ardea Stellaris: "Its head is smoothish; above, brick-coloured with cross spots; below, paler, with oblong brown spots." This bird is found also over the whole extent of North America: in Hudson's Bay it appears in May, and takes up its abode among the swamps and willows; it there lays two eggs: it is exceeding lazy, and when disturbed it slies only to a short distance.—The sless of the Bittern tastes somewhat like hare, and is not unpleasant.

BI

TI

fhactern of according back

of three morand

bell

BIRDS of the Old Continent which are related to the BITTERN.

The GREATER BITTERN.

Le Grand Butar. Buff.

is :

rofs oird

in oode gg:

like .

First Species.

Ardea-Botaurus. Gmel.

Botaurus Major. Briff.

The Greater Speckled or Red Heron. Will.

GESNER is the first who has mentioned this bird, which appears to form the shade between the Herons and the Bitterns. The inhabitants of the shores of Lago Maggiore in Italy, call it Ruffey, according to Aldrovandus. The neck is rusous, with spots of white and black; the back and the wings are brown, and the belly is rusous; its length from the point of the bill to the end of the tail, is at least three feet and an half, and to the nails, more than four feet; the bill is eight inches, and is yellow, as well as the legs. Aldrovandus's figure represents a crest, which is

Dd 3

no

not mentioned by Gesner. But he says that its neck is slender, which seems to shew that it is not a genuine Bittern: Aldrowandus accordingly observes, that this species appears to have the characters both of the Common Heron and of the Bittern; resembling the former in the head, the spots on the breast, the colour of the back and of the wings, and in its bulk; at the same time that it is similar to the latter in the form of its legs, and in the rest of its plumage, except that it is not spotted.

The LITTLE BITTERN.

ſm

stri cor

col

brow

fmod

whit

Second Species.

Ardea-Marsigli. Gmel.
Botaurus Minor. Briss.
Ardea Viride flavescens. Klein
The Swabian Bittern. Lath.

This small species of Bittern was seen on the Danube by Count Marsigli. Its plumage is rusty, striped with little brown lines; the foreside of its neck is white, and its tail whitish; its bill is not three inches long. If we judge from this and its other dimensions, and admit that the

RAYED BROWN BITTERN. 407 the fame proportions obtain, we shall be convinced that this Bittern is the smallest of all those of our Continent.

The RAYED BROWN BITTERN.

Third Species.

Ardea Danubialis. Gmel. Botaurus Striatus.

Marigli terms it the Brown Bittern, and reckons it a distinct species. It is as small as the preceding; all its plumage is striped with brown black, and rusty lines, confusedly intermixed, so that a brown colour on the whole is produced. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Ardea Danubialis: "It is brown, marked with lines of black and tawny; its head, fmooth; its straps, naked and yellow; its throat and breast, whitish."

rfigli.
little
ck is
is not
this
that

the

hat

iew

lrolpeh of ern;

the oack

the

r in

ft of

NS

The RUFOUS BITTERN.

Fourth Species.

b

bel

Arc

Ardea Soloniensis. Gmel. Botaurus Rufus. Briss.

ALL the plumage is of an uniform colour, light rufty under the body, and of a deeper cast on the back; the legs are brown, and the bill yellowish. Aldrovandus fays that this species was sent to him from Epidaurus; and he clailes it with that of a young bird, caught in the fens near Bologna, which had not yet acquired its full colours; he adds that it feemed to be more related to the Bitterns than to the Herons. And perhaps, as Salerne conjectures, it may be the same with the small Bittern, which appears sometimes in Sologne, and is known under the name of Quoimeau. Marsigli assigns the Danube also as the haunt of this species, which is the third of Aldrovandus; and the authors of the Italian Ornithology fay, that it is a native of the country of Bologna *.

It is also found in Alsace; for Dr. Hermann writes us, that he had one of the

[•] Sgarza stellare rossiccia. Gerini, rom. iv. p. 50. birds,

N.

orm ody, the

es it the acat it terns

fent

with imes name

vhich authat

Her-

birds,

birds, which refused all sustenance, and died of hunger. He adds, that notwith-standing its long legs, this Bittern climbed up a small tree, of which it could embrace the trunk, while its bill and neck were varical and in the same line +. [A]

+ Extract of a letter from Dr. Hermann, dated Strasburg, 22d September 1779.

[A] Specific character of the Ardea Soloniensis: " Its top is black; its smooth head and its neck are ferruginous; its body is blackish above, and tawny below."

The LITTLE SENEGAL BITTERN.

Fifth Species.

Ardea Senegalensis. Gmel. The Senegal Bittern. Lath.

THE short, thick-clothed neck of this bird belongs more to the Bitterns than to the Herons; and we therefore range it among the former. It is very small, not exceeding a foot in length. [B]

[B] Thus described by Mr. Latham: "It is brown; its belly, its wings, and its tail, are white; its head and neck, streaked with black; on the middle of the wings there is a longitudinal bar of pale rusous." He adds, that it is twelve inches long; that its bill is brown, its legs yellow, and the feathers of its neck loose and all rusous.

The SPOTTED BITTERN.

Six b Species.

Ardea: Gardeni Gmel.

Botaurus Navius. Briss.

The Specied Heron.
The Gardenian Heron.

Lath. and Penn.

It is as large as a Crow, and measures more than twenty inches from the bill to the nails. All the ground of its plumage is brown, which is deep on the quills of the wing, and light on the foreside of the neck and under the body; sprinkled on the head, on the upperside of the neck, on the back, and on the shoulders, with small white spots, placed at the tips of the seathers: each of the wing quills is terminated by a white spot.

To the same species we shall refer the Cayenne Pouacre, No. 939. Pl. Enl. the only difference being, that the plumage on the back has a blacker ground, and that the foreside of the body is spotted with brown dashes on a whitish ground +.

an

protha

an

hi

fpe

the

· Ponacre, a loufy lubberly fellow.

This feems to be the fame with the Gardenian Heron, Ardea Gardeni: "It is brown, its head smooth, its back blackish; its throat and breast whitish spotted with brown." Mr. Pennant has named it after Dr. Garden, an ingenious physician, who formerly resided in South Carolina.

BIRD S of the New Continent which are related to the BITTERN.

The STARRED-BITTERN.

L' Etoilé. Buff.

res

to

age of

the

the

on

nall

feami-

the

only

the

the

own

eron,

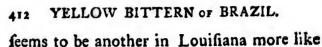
back

wn."

First Species:

Ardea Virescens. Var. 2d. Lath.
Ardea Fusca. Klein.
Botaurus Americanus Nævius. Briss.
Ardea Stellaris Minor. Ray and Sloane.
The Crab-catcher. Brown.
The Brown Bittern. Catesby a d Lath.

We have given this bird the epithet of flarrea, because its plumage, which is entirely brown, is sprinkled on the wing with a few white spots thrown irregularly, and that give it some resemblance to the preceding species. It is somewhat smaller than the European Bittern; it haunts pools and rivers remote from the sea and in the highest parts of the country. Besides this species, which is spread through most of the provinces of North America, there seems



the European *.

have a very large bill: they are known in France, and I shall therefore omit saying any thing more of them," Le Page Duprata, Histoire de la Louisiane, tom. ii. p. 218.

The YELLOW BITTERN OF BRAZIL.

Second Species.

Ardea Flava. Gmel.

Botaurus Brafilienfis. Briss.

Ardea Brafilienfis rostro serrato. Ray. and Will.

assigned by Marcgrave, that it is a Bittern. It is as large as a Heron; its neck is a foot in length; and its body five inches and a half; its tail four; and its thigh and leg more than nine; all the back and the wing are clothed with brown feathers, washed with yellow; the quills of the wing are partly black, partly cinereous, and interfected transversely with white lines; the long feathers, which hang from the head and neck, are of a pale yellow, waved with black; those on the underside of the neck,

ore like

a fish; they nce, and I hem," Le

RN of

d Will.

oportions
t it is a
; its neck
five inches
thigh and
k and the
feathers,
f the wing
and interines; the
the head
vaved with
the neck,
on

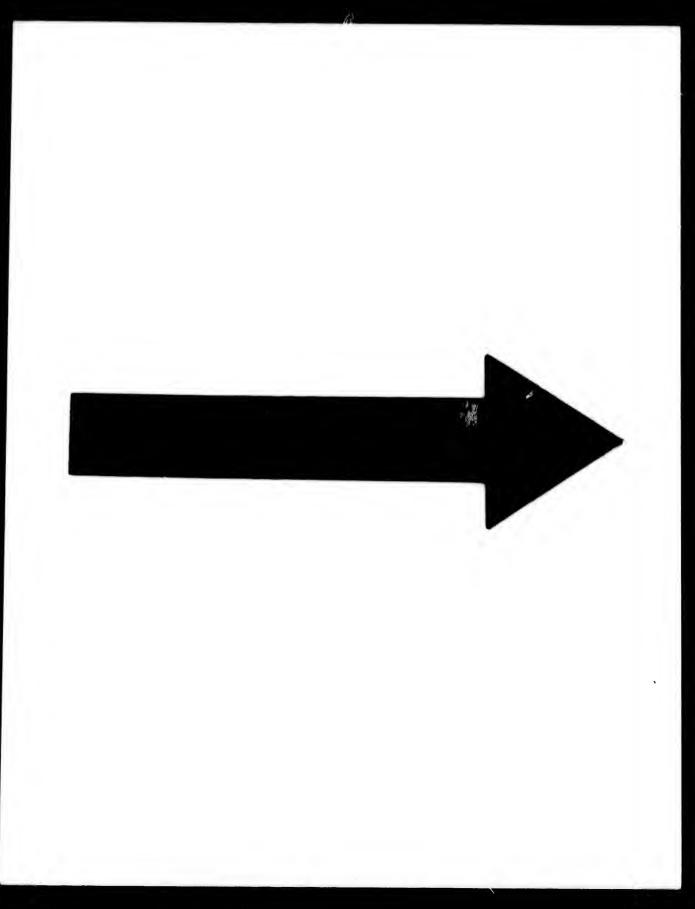
on the breast, and on the belly, are white, waved with brown and fringed round with yellow. We shall remark, as a singular circumstance, that the bill is indented near the point both above and below.

The LITTLE BITTERN OF. CAYENNE.

Third Species.

Ardea Undulata. Gmel. The Zigzag Bittern. Lath.

This Little Bittern is a foot or thirteen inches long; all its plumage has a rusty gray ground, and is spotted with dark brown in small cross lines very close together, waved and twisted in zigzags, and dotted below the neck, on the stomach, and on the slanks; the upperside of the head is black, the neck very thick of feathers, and appears to have as much girth as the body.



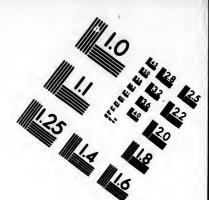
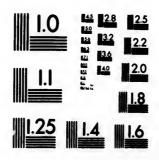
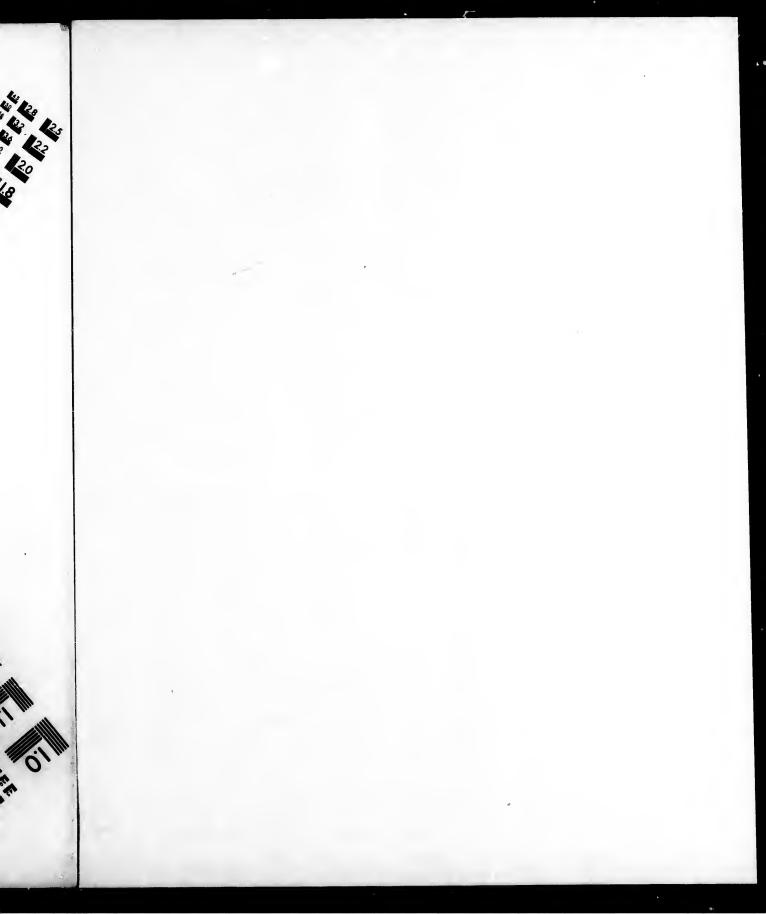


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



Photographic Sciences Corporation

23 WEST MASS STREET WESSTER, N.Y. 14580 (716) 872-4503



The HUDSON'S BAY BITTERN.

Fourth Species.

Ardea Stellaris. Var. Gmel. Botaurus Freti Hudsonis. Briff.

The garb common to all the Bitterns is a plumage of rufous or rufty ground, broken more or less and intersected with lines, and brown or blackish streaks; and this is the garb of the Hudson's Bay Bittern. It is smaller than the European, its length from the bill to the nails being scarcely two seet and an half. [B]

[B] Thus described by Brisson: "Above, it is rusty, streaked across with blackish; below, whitish, variegated with tawny longitudinal spots, sprinkled with black; its top, blackish; the lower part of its neck white, variegated with tawny longitudinal spots, margined with black; the feathers at the origin of the neck very long; the tail-quills tawny, streaked transversely with blackish; the bill blackish above, and at the tip; below yellow; the legs, bright yellow."

th

all

wi

thi

principle .

The ONORE.

Fifth Species.

Ardea Tigrina. Gmel. The Tiger Bittern. Lath

0.00

AFTER the Bitterns of the New World we place the birds termed Onorés in the Planches Enluminees. That name is applied in Cayenne to all the species of Herons; but the birds to which we restrict it, are more related to the Bitterns: they have the same form and colours, and differ only because their neck is not so well clothed with feathers, though it has a clofer fur, and is not so slender, as the neck of the Herons. The present is almost as large. but not so thick as the European Bittern; all its plumage is agreeably marked, and widely interfected, by black cross bars in zigzags, on a rufous ground on the upper fide of the body, and of a light gray on the under.

erns und, with and

ngth

rcely

s rufty, riegated ick; its riegated

k; the he tailthe bill he legs,

The RAYED ONORE.

Sixth Species.

n

th

th

re

W

th

fp

Soc

be

feq

Ardea Lineata. Gmel.
The Lineated Bittern. Lath.

This species is rather larger than the preceding, being two seet and a half long; the great quills of the wings and the tail are black; all the upper surface is handsomely inlaid with very fine small lines of rusous, yellowish and brown, which wave transversely, and form demi-sestoons; the upper side of the neck and the head are of a bright rusous, intersected also with small brown lines; the forepart of the neck and of the body is white, marked lightly with some brown streaks.

These two species were sent to us by M. De la Borde, King's physician at Cayenne. They lurk in the gullies excavated by the rills with flow into the Savannas; they haunt and the sides of rivers. In droughts, they lie close in the thick herbage; they are slushed at a great distance, and never two appear together. If we wound one, we must be cautious in approaching it; for it acts on the defensive, and

and, drawing back its neck, it strikes a violent blow with its bill, aiming at the eyes. Its habits are the same with those of our Heron.

M. De la Borde saw a tame, or rather, a captive Onoré in a house. It was continually on the watch for rats, and it caught them more dextrously than a cat. But though kept above two years, it always remained in hiding places, and if a person went near its retreat, it sought with a threatning aspect to dart at his eyes. Both species seem to be stationary in their native tracts, and are rare.

The ONORE OF THE WOODS.

Seventh Species.

Ardea Brafilienfis. Linn. Gmel. and Briff.
Soco Brafilienfibus. Marcg.
Cocoi Tertius. Pifon.
The Clucking Hen. Brown and Dampier.
The Brafilian Bittern. Lath.

It is found in Guiana and Brazil. Marcgrave ranges it under the general name Soco, with the Herons. But it appears to be much related to the Onorés, and confequently to the Bitterns. The back, the VOL. VII. E e rump,

the half d the ce is

which
cons;
ad are
with
f the
harked

lines

us by
t Cayavated
innas;
rs. In
k herbiftance,

If we in ap-fensive, and

rump, and the shoulders, are entirely blacked is is the same on the breast, the belly, and the sides; the upper surface of the neck is white, mixed with longitudinal black and white spots. Marcgrave says that the nock measures a foot, and that the total length, from the bill to the nail, is about three sect.

ရည်း သည်။ မိသိုင်း ခြောင်းရှိခွင်းပေးကို ကြောင်းမြို့ပေါင်း မိသင်းလေးသည်။ လေနိုင်ငံ မိသင်းသည် သည် မေးသည်။

and the second s

HOUNT I BOUND SH

e the second second

the state of the s

TEN SOLVER

in order in Caiona a la fill of a la constant de la

it is con the iixed pots.

ni:

11 : . acy

N.º183



THE NIGHT HERON.

fti fu du rei foi th its its alf in

gra the gra on

rave (Shi

The BIHOREAU.

Ardea-Nyclicorax. Linn. and Gmel.

Nyclicorax. Gefner. Aldrov, Johnst. Sibb. Briss. &c.

Ardea Varia. Klein. and Schwenck.

The Night Raven. Will. and Alb.

The Night Heron. Penn. and Lath.

Most of the naturalists have given this bird the appellation of Nyclicorax, or Night-raven, on account of a strange fort of croaking, or rather a frightful and dismal rattling, which it makes during the night +. And this is the only resemblance which it bears to the Raven: for in other respects, it is analogous to the Heron: the only difference is, that its neck is shorter and better feathered : its head larger, and its bill thicker; it is also smaller, not exceeding twenty inches in length. Its plumage is black, with a green gloss on the head and the nape of the neck; dull green on the back; pearlgray on the wings and the tail, and white on the rest of the body. The male has

In Italian Nétricerace: in German Nicht-Rab (Night raven); Bunter Reger (Mottled Heron) or Schild-Reger; (Shield Heron): in Flemish Quack.

[†] Vesperé & nocku absonâ voce molestat. Schwenckseld.

on the nape of the neck some seathers, commonly three in number, exceedingly delicate, of a snowy white , and about five inches long; and of all crest-flumes, these are the most beautiful and the most precious ; they drop in the spring, and return only once a-year. The semale wants this ornament, and differs considerably from the male; so that some naturalists have mistaken it. Brisson has made it his ninth species of Heron. It has all the upper surface of a rusty-ash colour; dashes of the same tint on the neck; and the underside of the body is light gray.

The Biboreau breeds in rocks, according to Belon, who thence derives its ancient French name, Roupeau: but Schwenckfeld and Willughby agree, that it builds its nest on alders near marshes. These opposite accounts cannot be reconciled without supposing, that these birds vary their habits according to circumstances; that in the plains of Silesia and Holland they settle on the aquatic trees, and that on the coasts of Britany, where Belon saw them, they

ſù

as

ce

cr

to

Bélon

^{† &}quot;They are fold at a high price, fays Schwenckfeld, and our young nobility are fond of wearing the plumes in their hat."

nestle in the cliffs. It is affirmed that they lay three or four white eggs *.

The Biboreau seems to be a bird of pasfage. Belon faw one exposed in the market, in the month of March; Schwenckfeld afferts, that it retires from Silesia in the beginning of autumn, and returns with the Storks in the spring. It frequents equally the sea-shores, or the rivers and inland marshes. It is found in France at Sologne; in Tuscany on the lakes Fucecchio and Bientine +; but the species is every where more rare than that of the Heron: it is also less dispersed, and is not spread to Sweden 1.

As its legs are not fo tall and its neck shorter than the Heron, it lives partly on the water and partly on the land; and fublists as much upon crickets and slugs as upon frogs and fish. It remains concealed during the day, and does not stir until the approach of night, when it utters its cry ka, ka, ka, which Willughby compares to the groans of a person reaching §.

nestle

iers,

ngly

bout

mes,

most

and

vants

from

have

ninth

upper

ies of

e un-

ording

ncient

ckfeld

lds its

oppo-

vithout

habits

in the

y settle

e coasts h, they

^{*}Willughby and Schwenckfeld.

⁺ Italian Ornithology, tom. iv p. 49.

I We judge so, because it is not mentioned in the Fauna Suecica.

[§] Nycticorax, quod interdiu clamet vocé absonâ, & tanquam Comiturientis.

422 BIHOREAU OF CAYENNE.

The Night Heron has very long toes; its thighs and legs are greenish yellow; its bill is black, and the upper mandible slightly arched; its eyes are brilliant, and the iris forms a red or orange circle round the pupil. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Night-heron, Ardia Nillicorax: "It has a horizontal three-feathered creft on the back of its head, its back black, its belly yellowish."

The BIHOREAU of CAYENNE.

01

th

cla

be

eve

an

at

up

len

gro

def

COL

rid

ter

Ardea Cayanenfis. Gmel. The Cayenne Night Heron. Lath.

Heron; but is in general not so thick. Its body is more slender; its legs taller; its neck, its head, and its bill, are smaller; the plumage is of a bluish-ash colour on the neck, and on the underside of the body; the upper surface is black, fringed with cinereous on each feather; the head is enveloped with black, and the crown is white; there is also a white streak under the eye. The tust in this bird consists of five or six feathers, of which some are white, others black. [B]

[B] Specific character of the Ardea Cayanenfis: "It is cinereous, its head black, and its top white; the crest unequal, consisting of six seathers, partly black, partly white."

The TUFTED UMBRE.

L' Ombrette. Buff. Scopus-Umbretta. Gmel. Scopus. Briff.

To R the knowledge of this bird we are indebted to Adanson, who found it at Senegal. It is rather larger than the Night Heron. It owes its name to the dun or umbre cast of its plumage. It ought to be regarded as an anomalous species in the tribe of Marsh-birds; for it belongs not exactly to any of them. It might be classed with the Herons, if its bill had not been of an entirely different form, and even peculiar to itself; being very broad and thick near the head, growing flatter at the fides as it extends; the ridge of the upper mandible is prominent the whole length, and feems to be detatched by two grooves that run on each fide, which Briffon describes, by saying that the bill appears composed of several jointed pieces: the ridge is reflected at the tip of the bill, and terminates in a curved point; the whole

length

INE.

its

iris

Niai-

on the

Night
thick.
taller;
maller;
our on
body;
d with
head is
rown is
under

fs: "It is he crest untly white."

me are

^{*} From Exia, a shadow.

424 TUFTEDUMBRE.

length of the bill is three inches and three lines. The leg is four inches and a half, and the naked part of the thigh two inches. These measures were taken from one of these birds deposited in the king's cabinet. Brisson seems to make them larger. The toes are invested near the root by the beginning of a membrane, which spreads more between the outer and middle toe: the hind toe is not joined as in the Herons to the side of the heel, but to the heel itself.

fre

ing is len

it the

con bea and

wir nec

enn

brow and gloss

The COURLINI, or COURLAN.

Ardea Scolopacea. Gmel. The Scolopaceous Heron. Lath.

hree half, ches.

e of

The

e be-

reads

toe:

erons heel

THIS bird is nearly of the same height and bulk with the Herons. Its length from the bill to the nails is two feet eight inches; the naked part of the thigh, reckoning from the leg, is seven inches; the bill is four, and is straight almost its whole length, and slightly curved near the point; and this is the only circumstance in which it resembles the Curlews. On the nail of the great toe, there is a protuberant edge on the infide, which represents the indented comb of the Heron. The plumage is a beautiful brown, which becomes reddish and coppery on the great quills of the wing and of the tail. Each feather of the neck has a white dash on its middle. This species is new, and was sent to us from Cayenne under the name of Courliri. [A]

[[]A] Specific character of the Ardea Scolopacea: " It is brown, its throat and breast streaked with white, its chin and legs white; its tail and its wing-quills have a copper gloss."

The SAVACOU.

Cancroma. Linn. and Gmel.

Cancroma Cochlearia. Lath.

Cochlearius.

Cochlearius Fuscus. Briss.

The Boat bill. Brown and Lath.

THE Savacou is a native of Guiana and Brazil. It has nearly the bulk and proportions of the Bihoreau; and, by its general structure and its mode of living, it would approach the Heron-tribe, did not its broad and remarkable flat bill separate it widely, and discriminate it even from all the other Marsh-birds. It has been called Spoon-bill, from the refemblance to two spoons applied to each other at the concave fides. On the convexity of the upper mandible, there are two deep grooves, which are fent off from the nostrils and produced, so that the middle space makes a high ridge terminated by a fmall hooked point. The lower mandible, upon which the upper is fitted, may be faid to be the

frame,

[•] Called Savaçou or Saouacou at Cayenne, Rapapa by the Garipane favages, Tamatiu in Brazil.

N.184



THE CRESTED BOATBILL.

a and and by its ving, did fepa-from been ce to the f the

oves, and nakes

ooked which

e the

by the

fram the are f and v from great N the S tion, may nome given crabs the fe nas, never aqua país the " prey arche

* Ob noncoù † Me phyfici ‡ Do § M.

as mo

eyes

frame, whereon the skin prolonged from the throat is extended. Both mandibles are sharp at the edges, and consist of a solid and very hard horn. The bill is four inches from the corners to its point, and its greatest breadth twenty lines.

Notwithstanding its formidable weapon. the Savacou feems to have a mild difposition, and to lead a calm peaceful life, if we may judge from the names applied by nomenclators: the appellation Cancrofagus given by Barrere implies that it subsists on crabs. But on the contrary, it removes from the fea shore, and haunts the deluged Savannas, or the fides of rivers where the tide never ascends *. There, perched on the aquatic trees, it watches the fish as they pass by it, and plunges after them under the water, and again emerges with its prey +. It walks with its neck bent, its back arched, its carriage constrained, and its air as mournful as that of the Heron I. It is savage, and shuns the settlements §. Its eyes are placed very near the root of its

^{*} Observations made at Cayenne by M. Sonini de Mannoncour.

[†] Memoirs communicated by M. de la Borde, King's physician at Cayenne.

[†] Dorso incurvato incedens, & collo incurvato. Marcgrave.

⁶ M. de la Borde.

bill, and give it a wild aspect. If it is caught, it cracks its bill; and when it is irritated, or thrown into agitation, it erects the long feathers on the top of its head.

Barrere reckons three species of the Savacou, which Brisson reduces to two, and which may probably be comprehended under one. In fact, the gray and the brown have no remarkable difference, except that the latter is furnished with a long tuft, which may be the character of the male. The other, which we conceive to be the female, has a trace of the same character in the feathers which hang from the back of the head. The difference between the colours of their plumage may be attributed to age or fex; especially as the Variegated Savacou * forms the uniting shade. Their forms and proportions, too, are precifely the fame; and we are the more convinced that they constitute but a fingle species, because nature, though she sports with variety in the general plan of her works, leaves some solitary and insulated productions of peculiar structure on the confines of the grand divisions. The Avoset, the

Spoonbill,

Spo of

rufo man and falli

ing,

be to fide rufo fron

into

Jn

which derain what exturgrav toes may cular

the is sh wing

Brought from Cayenne by M. Sonini.

t is

it is

rects

ava-

and

nded

rown

that

tuft.

male.

e the

racter

back

n the

buted

egated

Their

ecisely

vinced

pecies.

with

works,

roduc-

nfines

t, the

onbill,

Spoonbill, the Flamingo, &c. are examples of this remark.

The Brown and Crested Savacou, which we take to be the male, has more of the rusous-gray than of the bluish-gray, on its mantle. The feathers of the nape are black, and form a bunch of eight inches long, falling on the back: these feathers are floating, and some of them eight lines broad.

The Gray Savacou, which appears to be the female, has the whole of its mantle of a bluish light gray, with a small black zone on the top of the back; the underside of the body is black, mixed with rusous; the forepart of the neck and the front, are white; the head-dress falls back into a point, and is of a bluish black.

In both, the throat is naked; the skin which covers it, seems capable of a considerable dilatation: and this is probably what Barre means by the expression ingluvie extuberante. This skin, according to Marcgrave, is yellowish, as well as the legs; the toes are slender, and the phalanges long. We may also remark, that the hind-toe is articulated with the side of the heel, near the outer toe, as in the Herons. The tail is short, and does not project beyond the wing. The total length of the bird is about

about twenty inches. Our measures were taken from larger specimens than that described by Brislon, which was probably a young one. [A].

[A] Linnaus erects the Boat-bill into a distinct genus, under the name of Cancroma, which is divided into two species, the Cochlearia and the Cancrophaga, the former having a tawny, belly, and the latter a whitish. But Mr. Latham, with more propriety, follows our author in making only one species, including two varieties.

deably

enus, two ormer But hor in Nº185

THEWHITE SPOONBILL,

T

clated apped differ Hero fenter bill, to furnear and to account denote the second de

fitted In Hebrew

Anomas an like

can, or in Ruffia

The WHITE SPOONBILL.

La Spatule. Buff.

Platelea Lencorodia. Linn. and Gmel.

Platelea, five Pélicanus. Gesner. Aldrov. Will. and Sib.

Ardea Alba. Johnst.

The Spoon-bill or Pelican. Alb. and Ray.

присн the Spoon-bill is distinguished by a fingular figure, nomenclators have, under improper and foreign appellations, confounded it with quite different birds. It is neither a White-Heron, nor a Pelican, as some have reprefented it: and the name Spatula or Spoonbill, adopted in most languages, seems to fuit it the best. The bill is flat: and near its extremity, it spreads like a shovel, and terminates in two rounded plates, thrice as broad as the body of the bill itself. On account of this conformation, Klein has denominated the bird Anomaloroster, or Anomalous-bill; the substance of this bill is as anomalous as its shape, being flexible like leather, and therefore by no means fitted for the office which Pliny and Cicero

^{*} In Greek Auvrogudos: in Latin Platea or Platelea: in Hebrew Kaath: in Italian Beccaroveglia: in German Pelecan, or Loeffer: in Flemish Lepelaer: in Swedish Pelecan: in Russian Calpetre: in Polish Pelican or Plaskonos.

affign to it, applying inaccurately to the Spoon-bill what Aristotle had justly afferted of the Pelican; viz. that it darts at the Diving birds, and bites them on the head until they refign their prey +; Scaliger, instead of correcting these mistakes, accumulates others: he confounds the Platelea and Pelican, and then adds from Suidas that the latter was the disdenadourlns, which is the Woodpecker; thus transporting the Spoon-bill from the margin of lakes to the heart of forests, and making it bore trees with a bill which is destined solely to fearch in the mud. Such confusion and fuch false erudition merit not an examination; and instead of wasting our time in obscure investigation, we shall proceed directly to furvey the simple beauties of nature.

The Spoon-bill is entirely white; as large as a Heron; its legs not fo tall, its neck not fo long, but clothed with small narrow feathers; those below the head

+ Aristotle, Hist. Animal. Lib. ix. 14. — "Legi etiam scriptum bic esse avem quamdam quæ platelea nominetur; cam sibi cibum quærere advolantem ad eas aves quæ se in mari mergerent, quæ cum emersissent, piscemque cepissent, usque adeo premere carum capita mordicus, dum illæ captum amitterent, quod ipsa invaderet. Cicero, lib. ii. de Nat. Deox.—Platea nomenatur advolans ad eas quæ se in mari mergunt, & capita illarum morsu corripiens, donec capturam extorqueat. Plin. lib. x. 56.

fmall
whic
pery
equal
on ac

are

wh

and

the

are

lou

the

pro

thei

the

extr

red;

to a

rour

groc

poin

trem

is to

rowe

make

than

uppe

to d

equa

VO

are

are long and narrow, and form a tuft which falls behind; the throat is covered, and the eyes encircled, with a naked skin; the legs and the bare part of the thighs, are covered with a black, hard, and callous skin; a portion of membrane connects the toes near their junction, and, by its production, fringes and borders them to their extremity; black cross waves mark the yellowish ground of the bill, whose extremity is yellow, mixed fometimes with red; a black border, which runs contiguous to a channel, forms a fort of ledge quite round the bill, and within, there is a long groove under the upper mandible; a small point bent downwards, terminates the extremity of the spoon, whose greatest breadth is twenty-three lines, and which is furrowed internally with small striæ, that make the furface rougher on the infide than on the outside: near the head, the upper mandible is fo broad and thick, as to occupy apparently the whole front: the two mandibles near their origin are equally befet within near the edges, with fmall tubercles, or furrowed prominences, which serve to bruise shells, or hold a slippery prey; for it appears that this bird feeds equally on fish, on crustaceous animals, on aquatic infects, and on worms. The F f VOL. VII.

the

rted

the

nead

iger,

ccu-

telea

uidas

ich is

the

es to

bore

folely

n and

xami-

time

roceed

ies of

e; as

all, its

fmall

head

egi etiam etur; eam

mari mer-

adeo pre-

rent, quod tea nomen-

ta illarum

ib. x. 56.

are

The Spoon-bill inhabits the fea-shore, and seldom occurs in the inland country *, except on some lakes +, and transiently by the sides of rivers. It prefers the fenny coasts; and is found in those of Poitou, of Britany ‡, of Picardy, and of Holland: some places are even famous for multitudes of Spoon-bills; such are the marshes of Sevenhuys, near Leyden §.

These birds nestle on the tops of large trees near the sea-coast, and build with sticks; they have three or four young. During the breeding season, they are very noisy in their retreats, and return regularly every night to repose ||.

Of the four Spoon-bills described by the Academicians \P , and which were entirely white, two had a little black on the end of the wing; which does not denote a difference of sex, as Aldrovandus presumes, for it occurs in both the male and the semale. The tongue is very small, of a triangular shape, and not exceeding three

0

b

te

ri

do

is

Al

cei

as

to

nui

raii

czy ly, i

coctas

Plin.

+ I

^{*} Salerne.

[†] As on those of Bientina and Fucecchio in Tuscany, according to Gerini: that author is mistaken in calling this bird a *Pelican*.

I Belon.

[&]amp; Albin, and Johnst.

Belon.

[¶] Mem. de l' Acad. depuis 1666 jusq' en 1669: tom. iii. par. 3. p. 27 & 29.

lines

lines in all: the afophagus dilates as it descends; and it is probably in this cavity, that the bird detains and digests the small muscles and other shell-fish, which are swallowed, and the shells rejected after the pulp is decocted and extracted *: the gizzard is lined with a callous membrane, as in the granivorous birds; but instead of the cæcum, which is found in these, it has only little and exceeding short protuberances at the extremity of the ileon; the intestines are seven feet long: the trachea arteria is like that of the Crane, and makes a double inflection in the thorax: the heart is furnished with a pericardium, though Aldrovandus fays that he could not perceive it +.

These birds penetrate in summer as far as West Bothnia and Lapland, according to Linnæus: they appear also in small numbers in Prussia, during the autumnal rains, having arrived from Poland ±. Rzaczynski says, that they are seen, though rarely, in Volhinia: some pass into Silesia, in the

F f 2

months

tom. iii.

ore, ry *,

ently the

e of

d of

is for

e the

large

with

oung.

e very

ularly

by the

ntirely

he end

a dif-

sumes,

nd the

, of a

three

Tuicany,

n calling

lines

^{*} Platea cum devoratis se implevit conchis, calore ventris costas evomit, atque ex iis esculenta legit, testas excernens. Plin. Lib. x. 56.

⁺ Mem. de l' Acad. uti supra.

¹ Klein.

months of September and October *. They inhabited, as we have already noticed, the western coasts of France. They are found also on those of Africa, at Bissao near Sierra Leona +; in Egypt, according to Granger ‡; at the Cape of Good Hope, where Kolben relates, that they live both on ferpents and fish, and are called Slangen vreeter, or Serpent-eaters §: Commerson saw them in Madagafcar, where the inhabitants denominate them Fangali-am bava, or Spade-bills ||. The Negroes in some parts name them Vang-van, and in others Vourou-doulon, or the Devil's-birds ¶. The species therefore though not numerous is widely diffused, and feems even to have made the circuit of the Ancient Continent. Sonnerat found Spoon-bills in the Philippine islands **;

^{*} Aviar. Siles. p. 314. Schwenckfeld feems here to confound the Pelican with the Spoon-bill; for he relates at this place, from Isiodorus and St. Jerome, the fable of the resurrection of the young of the Pelican, by the blood which it discharges from its breast, when the serpent has killed them.

⁺ Brue, Hift. Cen. des Voy. tem. ii. p. 590.

¹ Voyage de Granger. Paris, 1745. p. 237.

[§] His account is not altogether accurate, and he improperly terms the bird *Pelecan*; but his figure is that of the Spoon-bill.

[|] Vourou gondron, according to Flaccourt.

If The Negroes give them this name, because their cry is believed to forebode the death of some person in the vil
1. Note left by M. Commerson.

and though he distinguishes two species, the want of the crest, which constitutes the chief difference, does not to us appear to make a specific character; and hitherto only one species is known, which is nearly the fame from the INorth to the South of our hemisphere. It occurs also in the New World, and though the species has been here divided into two, we may join them together; and their refemblance is fo strong to the European Spoon-bill, that we may impute the small differences to the influence of climate. [A]

The American Spoon-bill * is only a little smaller in all its dimensions than the European; it differs also by the rose or carnation which paints the white ground of its plumage on the neck, the back, and the fides; the wings are more strongly coloured, and the red tint runs into a crimfon on the shoulders and the coverts of the tail, of which the quills are rufous; the shaft of those of the wing is marked with fine

se their cry

he impro-

that of the

They

, the

found

Sierra

ger ‡;

olben

ts and

r Ser-

n Ma-

minate

bills \.

them:

don, or

erefore

liffused,

circuit

t found

nds **;

ns here to

he relates

the fable

n, by the en the fer-

in the vil-

and

[[]A] Specific character of the White Spoon-bill, Platalea Leucorodia: "Its body is white, its throat black, the back of its head somewhat crested.

^{*} S Platalea-Ajai.

l Platalea- Ajai. Var. Linn, and Gmel.

Platea Rojea.

Platea Coccinea. Briff.

The Brafilian Roscate Spoon-bill. The Scarlet Spoon bill. Lath.

F f 3

carmine; the head and the throat are naked. These beautiful colours are found only in the adult; for there are some which have much less red, and are even almost entirely white, the head not bare, and the quills of the wing partly brown; which are the veftiges of its first garb. Barrere affirms, that there is the same progress of colour in the American Spoon-bills as in many other birds, the Red Curlews, for instance, and the Flamingos, which during the two first years are almost entirely gray or white, and do not become red till the third year. It hence follows that the Rose-coloured Bird of Brazil, or the Ajaia of Marcgrave, defcribed in its early stage, with wings of pale carnation; and the Crimfon Spoonbill of New Spain, or the Tlaubquechul of Fernandez, described in its adult state, are really the same. Marcgrave says, that numbers of them are feen on the river St. Francis or Seregippa, and that the flesh is pretty good. Fernandez ascribes to it the fame habits with our Spoon-bill; that it lives by the Sea-fide on small fishes, that these must be given to it alive if it is to be reared in the domestic state *, bav-

ing

al

is

no

in

Cı

flo

CO

the

the

are

tru

the

the

hig

term

have

calle age

milia *from*

quech

Vol.

^{*} The European Spoon-biil will live in confinement: it may be fed, fays Belon, with fowls' guts. Klein kept one a long time in his garden, though its wing had been broken by a shot.

ing found by experience, he adds, that they will not touch dead fish +,

This Rose-coloured Spoon-bill is diffused in the New Continent, as the white one in the old, over a great extent from North to South; from the coasts of Mexico and Florida I, to Guiana and Brazil. It is found too in Jamaica §, and probably in the adjacent islands. But the species is no where numerous: at Cayenne, for instance, there are perhaps fix times more Curlews than Spoon-bills, and their greatest flocks never exceed eight or nine at most, commonly only two or three, and often these are accompanied by Flamingoes. In the morning and evening, the Spoon-bills are feen on the Sea-shore, or fitting on trunks that float near the beach; but about the middle of the day in the fultriest weather they enter the creeks, and perch very high on the aquatic trees. Yet they are

† This peculiarity perhaps has induced Nieremberg to term it avis vivivora.

† Page du Pratz, Hist. de la Louisiane, tom. ii. p. 116. "We have received from Balize (in New Orleans) a large bird called the Spatula, because its bill is of that form: its plumage is white, which turns into a light red: it grows familiar, and remains in the court-yard." Extract of a letter from M. de Fontette, 20th October 1750.

§ The American Scarlet Pelecan, or Spoon-bill. Tlaubquechul Fernand. Ajaia Brasil, &c. Sloane, Jamaica, Vol. xi. p. 317.

ted.

in

iave

rely

s of

vef-

the

ther and

first

and

. It

Bird

, de-

gs of

0001-

ul of

, are num-

r St.

it the

hat it

that

it is

bav-

hent: it

ept one a

broken

not very wild; for at fea they pass very near the canoes, and on land they suffer a person to get within gun shot of them, whether they be alighted or on the wing. Their beautiful plumage is often soiled by the mud, in which they wade deep in quest of prey. M. De la Borde, who made these observations on their economy, confirms M. Barrere's account of their colour, and assures us that the Spoon-bills of Guiana do not assume, until about their third year, that beautiful red tint, and that the young ones are almost entirely white.

M. Baillon, to whom we are indebted for many good observations, admits two species of Spoon-bills, and informs me, by letter, that both these appear on the coasts of Picardy, in the months of November and April, but that neither of them remains: they stop a day or two near the sea, and the adjacent marshes; they are few in number, and seem extremely shy.

The first is the Common Spoon bill, which is of a very bright white and has no crest: the second species is crested, and smaller than the other. M. Baillon thinks that these differences, with some varieties in the colours of the bill and plumage, are sufficient to constitute two distinct and independent species.

He

bi

441

He is also persuaded, that all the Spoonbills are hatched gray like the Egrets, which they resemble in the shape of their body, in their manner of slying, and in their other habits: he regards those of St. Domingo as forming a third species. But it appears to us from the reasons already advanced, that these are only three varieties of the same species, since they have all the same instincts and habits.

M. Baillon observed in five Spoon bills, which he was at the pains to dissect, that all of them had their stomach filled with shrimps, small fish, and water infects; and, as their tongue is almost nothing, and their bill neither sharp nor indented, it would seem that they cannot catch eels, or any fish that make resistance, and that they live on very small animals, which obliges them to search continually for their food.

It is probable that these birds in certain circumstances make the same clattering with their bill as the Storks; for M. Baillon, having wounded one, observed that it made that noise, which was produced by the quick and successive motion of the mandibles, though the bill was so weak that it could hardly squeeze the singer.

very

fer a

hem,

wing.

ed by

quest these

firms

, and uiana

third at the

ed for

o spe-

ie, by

coasts

ember

them

ar the

ey are

n bill,

nd has d, and

thinks

arieties

ge, are t and

fhy.

[[]A] Specific character of the Roseate or Scarlet Spoonbill Platalea-Ajai: "Its body is blood coloured."

The WOODCOCK.*

La Becasse. Buff: Scolopax Rusticola. Linn. and Gmel. Scolopax. Briff Ray. Aldrov. Johnst. &c.

or all the birds of passage, the Woodcock is that on which sportsmen set the most value; both on account of the excellence of its sless, and the facility with which it is caught. It arrives in our woods about the middle of October, at the same time with the Thrushes +; it then descends from the losty mountains, which it inhabited during the summer, and seeks a milder air in the plains ‡: for it does not migrate into

* In Greek Σρολοπαξ, which also signifies a stake, and was applied to the Woodcock because of the length of its bill: in Latin Perdix Russica, Rusticula, Gallinago: in Italian Becassa, Beccacia, Gailinella, Gallina with the epithets arciera, russicella and fairatica; in Rome Pizzarda; in Tuscany Accepta; and in Lombardy Gallinacia; in German both the Woodcock and Snipe have the general appellation Schnesses modified with various epithets; those of the Woodcock gress, avald, holtz berg &c. (great, wood, forest, mountain, &c): in Flemish Sneppe: in Polish, Slomka and Pardwa: in Swedish, Merkulla: in Norwegian Blom-Rokke, Rutte: in Danish, Holt-Sneppe: in Turkish, Teheluk.

+ Aloysius Mondella, apud Gesnerum.

t The time of fowling for Woodcocks is well depicted by the poet Nemedianus.

Cam nemus omne suo viridi spoliatur bonore
prada est sacilis & amana scolopax.

distant

N.º 186



THE WOODCOCK.

picted

ock the elich out ime om lurr in into l was bill: talian ithets e; in Gerppelof the forest. and Rokke,

fant

an we to are cli ab

am lan fea cop tail hav fro onl and fpri are its and abr

distant countries, but only shifts from the higher to the lower regions of the atmosphere ‡. It quits the summits of the Andes and Pyrenees on the first fall of snow, which happens on these elevations about the beginning of October; it settles below on the gentle acclivities, or advances into the sunny vales.

The Woodcocks arrive in the night, and sometimes during the day, in cloudy weather §, always one by one, or two together, but never in flocks. They alight among large hedge-rows, copses, and tall clumps, and prefer those woods which abound with loose mould and fallen leaves. They lie concealed the whole day, and lurk so close that it requires a dog to put them

the Woodcock is a bird which resides in summer among high mountains, the Alps, the Pyrenees, Switzerland, and Auvergne, where we have often seen it in that season. But in autumn it descends into the plains and coppices; and since Greece abounds with such losty mountains, we need not wonder that Aristotle should not have said that it is migratory. In sast the Woodcock differs from the other birds which entirely leave a country, for it only shifts its abode, spending the summer in the uplands, and the winter in the valleys, where it haunts the perennial springs and wet places, while the summits of the mountains are frozen, and extracts the worms out of the ground with its long bill; and for this purpose it slies in the morning and evening, passes the day among the brakes, and comes abroad at night." Belon.

[&]amp; Willughby.

up, and they often spring at the sportsman's feet. They leave their dark leasy retreats on the approach of evening, and spread among the glades, keeping always the little paths. They seek the soft and wet pasturage by the skirts of the wood, and the small meres, where they wash their bill and feet, which are daubed with earth in searching for their food. They have all the same economy; and we might say in general, that the Woodcocks are birds void of character, and that the habits of the individual result entirely from those of the species.

The Woodcock makes a noify flapping with its wings when it rifes. In tall groves it shoots pretty straight along, but in copies it is often obliged to deflect its course, and dives behind the bushes to conceal itself from the fowler *. Its flight, though rapid, is neither high, nor long supported. It stops with such promptness, as to fall apparently like a dead weight. A few moments after it drops, it runs swiftly; but soon stops, raises its head, and casts a glance all round, before it ventures to lurk in the herbage. Pliny justly compares the Woodcock to the Partridge in

rega runs way, fpot that diffa

lt large and e feem and agile the d fity t fun. been morn day c floor, bably dark abroa men (Woode they bers.

> † *Ruj* † In

the ni

^{*} Willughby.

regard to the celerity with which it runs +; for it conceals itself in the same way, and before the sportsman reaches the spot where he perceives it to alight, he sinds that it has already tripped to a great distance.

1

11

11

ls

ρf

o f

g

11

ut

ts

to

ıt,

ng

ſs,

ıt.

ns

nd

es

nin

rd

It appears that this bird, though it has large eyes, does not see well but in twilight, and cannot support a strong light. This feems to be evinced by its manner of life, and by its motions, which are never fo agile as in the dawn, or at the close of the day. And fo strong is this propenfity to action at the rife or descent of the fun, that Woodcocks kept in a room have been observed to flutter regularly every morning and evening; while during the day or the night, they only tripped on the floor, without attempting to fly. And probably the wild Woodcocks remain still in dark nights; but in moon-light they come abroad in quest of food. Hence the sports. men call the full moon of November, the Woodcock's moon (lune des becasses) ‡, because they are then caught in the greatest numbers. The snares are laid in the evening or the night; and these are the pantenne, the

⁺ Rusticula & perdices currunt. Plin.

In England, it is usually termed the hunter's moon. T.

fpring or the noofe: the pantenne or pentiere is a net spread between two large trees, in the opening or skirt of a wood, where the birds are observed to pass in their evening-flight. They may also be shot in the meres, or on the brooks and fords at funfet: the fowler fits in a close arbour near the spot which the Woodcocks frequent; and a little after the close of day, especially when the mild fouth or fouth-west winds blow, they generally arrive, one or two together, and alight on the water, where they may be fired at, with almost certain Yet this sport is less profitable and more precarious than that practifed by springs set in their paths. These are fwitches of hazel, or other flexible and elastic wood, driven into the ground, and tied down to a trap that encircles a noofe of hair or pack-thread: the rest of the path is inclosed with boughs; or if the spring be planted on pasture-ground, brooms or junipers are stuck in rows, so as to leave only a small passage. The bird advances in the track, and being averse to leap or fly, it brushes on the trap, which starting, it is seized in the noose and lifted into the air by the recoil of the switch. The Woodcock thus suspended struggles much, and the sportsman must make more than

even the ham who or the who that

a b
coc
a v
Bel
bc c
wh

the

its ft

leav

app

by D Ass o e

1-

10

1-

ar

t;

lly

ds

NO

ere

ain

ble

fed

are

and

and

ose

the .

the

nd,

ſo

bird

e to nich

fted

tch.

gles

hore

ham

than one progress among his snares in the evening, and still more towards the end of the night, else the fox, a more diligent hunter, informed by the slapping of their wings, will pay a visit, and carry them off one after another, and, without taking time to eat them, will conceal them in different places, to be devoured at leisure. The haunts of this bird may be discovered by its excrements, which are large, white, and inodorous. To invite it into pastures where there are no paths, surrows are traced, which it follows in search of the worms that are turned up, and it is entangled in the gins or hair-nooses placed in the line,

But are these not too many snares for a bird which can shun none? The Woodcock is naturally dull and stupid; it is a very sottish creature (moult sotte bite) says Belon *. It must indeed be such, if it can be caught in the way which he relates, and which he calls a waggery (folatrerie). A man covered with a hood of the colour of dry leaves, walks bent on two short crutches, and approaching gently, hestops when the Woodz

cock

With us, fays Willughby, this bird is notorious for its stupidity, insomuch as to have become proverbial." And probably for the same reason, the Woodcock, as we are told by Dr. Shaw, is called in Barbary, Harmar el Hadjel, or the Ass of the Partridges.

tı

to

fe

W

an

une

lati

wo:

enti

treu

feed vole

tual

pine brou

in v

cock

dren

exter this

jaws

and

cepti

once

plun

clude

Natu &c.

cock stops, and resumes his motion when it does, until he fees it fixed with its head low; he now strikes his two sticks against each other, and the bird so amuses and befools itself, says our old naturalist, that the perfon can get so near it as to slip a noofe over its neck. Might not this stupidity and this facility of disposition induce the ancients to affert that the Woodcock had a wonderful attachment to man *? On that supposition, its affections are very misplaced. and bestowed on its greatest enemy. In fact, it ranges through the woods as far as our farm-hedges and country-houses: so much Aristotle remarked +. But Albertus was mistaken when he said, that it seeks the cultivated spots and the gardens, to gather feeds; fince neither the Woodcock, nor any bird of that kind, will touch fruit or grain ±. The straight shape of its bill, which is very long and weak at the point, would alone preclude that fort of food: and in fact, it lives wholly on worms §. It

^{*} Aristotle, Hift. Anim. Lib. ix. 26.

^{+ &}quot;It is caught by the garden-hedges." Id. Ibid. "It is also seen near inhabited places, particularly along hedges." Olina.

[‡] In Lib. ix. Aristot.

[§] Schwenckfeld. "As foon as they enter the woods, they run on the heaps of dry leaves, which they turn over

It digs in the foft foil near bogs and fprings, in loose pasture-mould, and in the wet meadows that skirt the woods: it does not scrape the earth with its feet; it only turns over the leaves with its bill, and tosses them briskly from right to left. It seems to discover its food by the smell

and scatter to find the worms that lurk underneath. The Woodcocks have this habit in common with the Lapwings and the Plovers, which take the worms by the same means under the green herbage. But I have remarked that these latter birds, of which I have raised several in my garden, struck the ground with their foot about the holes where the worms were lodged, probably to make them come out by this commotion, and seized them often before they were entirely emerged." Note communicated by M. Baillon, of Montreuil-sur-mer.

|| Here is the way in which M. Bowles faw Woodcocks feed at St. Ildephonfo, where the Infant Don Louis had a volery filled with all forts of birds.

"There was, fays he, a fountain which flowed perpetually to keep the ground moist ... and in the middle a pine tree and shrubs, for the same purpose. Fresh sod was brought to them, the richest in worms that could be found: in vain did the worms feek concealment, when the Woodcock was hungry; it discovered them by the smell, stuck its bill into the ground, but never higher than the nostrils, drew them out fingly, and raising its bill into the air, it extended upon it the entire length of the worm, and in this way fwallowed it finoothly, without any action of the jaws. This whole operation was performed in an instant, and the motion of the Woodcock was so equal and imperceptible, that it feemed doing nothing. I did not fee it once miss its aim; for this reason, and because it never plunged its bill up to the orifice of the nostrils, I concluded that smell is what directs it in search of its food." Natural History of Spain, by G. Bowles, in 8vo. p. 454, Wc.

YOL. VII.

G g

rather

d. Ibid. ly along

en

ad

nst ools

er-

ofe

lity the

had

that

ced,

fact,

our

nuch

was

the

ather

rany

it or

bill.

oint,

food;

ms §.

It

woods, urn over and

4-5 -4

But nature has given, at the extremity of its bill, an additional organ, appropriated to its mode of life; the tip is rather flesh than horn, and appears susceptible of a fort of touch, calculated for detecting its prey in the mire: and this advantageous structure has been bestowed also on the Snipes, and probably on the Red-shanks, the Jadnekas, and other birds which search for food in wet earth +.

The bill of the Woodcock is rough, and almost barbed at the sides near the tip, and hollowed lengthwise with deep furrows; the upper mandible alone forms the round point of the bill, projecting over the lower mandible, which is somewhat truncated, and fitted below by an oblique joint: it is from the length of its bill, that the name of the Woodcock is derived in most languages ‡. The head is equally remarkable; it is rather square than round, and the cranium makes almost a right

angle

p

W

de

CO

ha

by

the

pla

and

wit

fer v

cæc

giz

inac

fma

alor the

of t

to t

com

^{*} Non illa oculis, quibus est obtusior, & si Sint nimium grandes, sed acutis naribus instat, Impresso in terram rostri mucrone... Numesianus.

[†] This excellent remark was communicated by M. Hebert.

[†] The Greek name Σκολοπαξ fignifies stake, and so does the Hebrew Kore: the German Lang-nasen, or Lang-schnabel, (long-nose, or long-neb) has a similar meaning.

angle at the orbits of the eyes: its plumage, which Aristotle compares to that of the Attagas, or Red Grous, is too well known to require description; and the fine effect of the contrast of light and shade, produced by intermingled and broken tints, washed with gray, with bistre, and with umbre, would be tedious and difficult to describe in detail.

We found a gall bladder in the Wood-cock, though Belon was persuaded that it had none; this bladder discharged a liquor by two dusts into the duodenum: besides the two ordinary cæca, we perceived a third placed about seven inches from the first, and which had a distinct communication with the intestinal canal; but as we observed only one individual, this additional cæcum may have been accidental. The gizzard is muscular, lined with a wrinkled inadhesive membrane; it often contains small bits of gravel, swallowed no doubt along with the earth-worms: the length of the intestines is two feet nine inches.

Gesner gives a juster notion of the bulk of the Woodcock, when he makes it equal to that of a Partridge, than Arittotle, who compares it to that of a Hen *. That com-

parison

fo does

of

ted

esh

f a

its

ous

the

nks,

arch

and

tip,

fur-

orms

over

what

lique

bill,

erived

ually

ound,

right

nus. by M.

[·] Aristot, Lib. ix. 26.

parison however would seem to shew, that the breed of poultry in ancient Greece was rauch smaller than ours. The Woodcock is always plump; and about the end of autumn, it is exceeding fat *. At that feason, and during the greatest part of the winter, it is reckoned one of the most exquisite dishes +; though its shesh is black and not very tender: that firmness makes it keep long untainted. It is cooked without being emboweled; and its entrails pounded with their contents, make the best fauce for it. It is observed that dogs will not touch this game, and its odour must be offensive to them, for none but spaniels will fetch a Woodcock. The young birds have less fumet, but their flesh is whiter and tenderer. They all grow lean as the spring advances, and fuch as remain during the lummer are dry, hard and rank.

n

CO

m

21

in

Ol

in

W

re

tai

wh

of

Bu

in

fuc

inf W

vin

ball

feat

fro

fup

after

Will

#

^{*} Olina and Longolius say that it is sattened with a passe made of the meal of buck-wheat (farina d' orzo), and with signs: in a bird so shy and so fat in its proper season, we cannot imagine how this plan would be either practicable or useful.

[†] It appears from Olina's account, that, in Italy, the Woodcocks are caught during the whole of the winter: the intense cold which prevails in France at the depth of that season, obliges the Woodcocks to shift their residence a little; yet some of them still remain in the woods, near the warm springs.

hat was ock of that t of noft lack akes vithtrails e best ll not ft be s will have r and **fpring** ig the

h a paste and with fon, we acticable

aly, the ter: the of that idence a ods, near

It

It is in the end of winter, or in the month of March, that almost all the Woodcocks leave our plains, and return to their mountains invited by the pleasures of love and folitude *. They are observed to retire in pairs +, and they fly then rapidly, without halting in the night; but in the morning, they conceal themselves in the woods, where they pass the day, and in the evening resume their journey ‡. During the whole of the fummer, they live in the most folitary and lofty parts of the mountains, where they breed; as in those of Savoy, of Switzerland, of Dauphiné, of Jura, of Bugey, and of the Vosges. A few remain in the hilly parts of England and of France; fuch as Burgundy, Champagne, &c. And instances may occur of some pairs of Woodcocks halting even in our low provinces and nestling there; detained probably by accidents, and furprized by the season of love, when at a great distance from their proper retreats §. Edwards supposed, that, like so many other birds.

^{*} Belon.

^{+ &}quot; They leave England in the beginning of the fpring, after having paired, and the Cock and Hen fly together," Willugbby.

t Observation made by M. Baillon of Montreuil-fur-mer.

[&]amp; A Woodcock's nest was found on the 14th May 1773, on the estate of Pont-de-Remy, near Abbeville.

they all advanced into the remotest parts of the north. Probably, he was not informed that they removed to the mountains, and that their migrations were of a nature different from the common.

The Woodcock makes its nest on the ground, like the other birds which do not perch *: in the construction, it employs leaves, or dry herbs, intermixed with small sticks; the whole artlessly fashioned and heaped against the trunk of a tree, or under a thick root. It lays four or five eggs. which are oblong, fomewhat larger than those of a common Pigeon, of a rusty gray, marbled with deeper and blackish waves. One of these nests with the eggs, was brought to us, so early as the 15th of April. When the young are hatched, they leave the nest and run, though still covered with down: they begin even to fly before they have other feathers than those of the wings. They thus make their escape, flickering and tripping when discovered. The parents fometimes take a weak one under their throat, and convey it more than a thousand paces; and the male

never

ne no ne th as ye Ita fee up wh dif eve fon one The rou of I

ally vand the the who in F

low to cri: t veral croaki frou,

† R

The Partridges, and other birds which feldom fly, neftle on the ground; of these also the Sky Lark, the Woodcock. and the Quail, never alight on a tree but on the ground." Aristotle, Lib. ix. 8.

never deserts the female, until the brood no longer need their affistance. never heard but in his amours, and during the education of me young; for, as well as his mate, he is filent the rest of the year *. During incubation, he fits constantly beside her; and they seem still to feek mutual enjoyment by resting their bill upon one anothers back. These birds, whose temper is folitary and wild, are disposed to tenderness and love: they are even liable to be jealous; for the males fometimes fight about the female, and peck one another until they fall to the ground. They become not therefore stupid and timorous, till after they have loft the feeling of love, which almost ever inspires courage.

The species of the Woodcock is universally diffused: which is remarked by Aldrovandus and Gesner. It is found both in the north and the south, in the Old and the New World: it is known over the whole of Europe, in Italy, in Germany, in France, in Poland, in Russia +, in Sile-

of

10

ot

ys

all

nd

or

ive

ger

fty

ish

gs,

5th

ied, Itill

to

han

heir ſco-

veak nore

nale

n fly,

, the

ut on

ever

[•] These weak cries are of different tones, passing from low to high, go, go, go, go; pidi, pidi, pidi; cri, cri, cri, cri; these last seem to be the expressions of anger between several males assembled together. They have also a firt of croaking couan, couan, and a certain growling, frou, frou, frou, when they pursue each other.

⁺ Rzaczyncski.

fia *, in Sweden +, in Norway 1; and even in Greenland, where it is called fauarluck, and the Greenlanders have, according to the genius of their language, a compound name, to express the Woodcock-fowler §. In Iceland, the Woodcock constitutes a part of the game which there abounds #. It occurs, too, in the northern and eastern extremities of Asia, where it is common, fince it has appellations in the languages of the Kamtchadales, the Koriaks, and the Kuriles ** Gmelin faw many of them at Mangasea, on the Jenisca in Siberia: but these were only a small portion of that multitude of Aquatic Birds, which, in the proper season, collect on the banks of that river.

The Woodcocks are found also in Perfia ++, in Egypt in the neighbourhood of Cairo ‡‡, and these are probably what pass the island of Malta in November, con-

veyed

Ve

ar

tr

as

O

fin

be

lik

for

gal

bir

Kα

Ch

hav

the

mai

OCC

Illie

nad

it is

ascr

iii. ı

[·] Schwenckfeld.

⁺ Fauna Succica.

t Brunnich, Ornithol. Boreal.

[&]amp; Saursukstorpok, the Greenlandic Dictionary.

^{||} Anderson, Hift. Gen. des Voyages, tom. xviii. p. 20.

^{*} Among the Kamtschadales suckoulouteb; among the Koriaks teheieia; and in the Kurile islands petoroi. See the vocabularies of these languages in l'Histoire Generale des Voyages, tom xix, p. 359.

^{††} Voyage de Chardin, Amsterdam, 1711, tom. ii. p. 30. ‡† Voyage d' Egypte, par Granger, p. 237.

veyed by the north and north-east winds, and which halt not, unless detained by contrary winds *. In Barbary, they appear as in the temperate parts of Europe, from October to March +, and it is somewhat fingular, that this species, which seems to be a native of the Frigid Zone, should likewise inhabit the Torrid: for Adanson found a Woodcock on the islets of Senegal 1; and other travellers have feen thefe birds in Guinea &, and on the Gold-coast II; Kæmpfer observed one at sea, between China and Japan ¶; and Knox feems to have discovered them at Ceylon **. Since the Woodcock therefore occupies every climate, we need not wonder that it should occur in America: it is common in the Illinois, and in all the fouthern part of Canada ++, 43 well as in Louisiana; where it is larger than in Europe, which may be ascribed to the abundance of food ±±.

d

n

rt

It

rn

11,

es

he

at

ut

ul-

lie.

nat

erof

nat

n-

the

See

30.

yed

^{*} Observation communicated by the Chevalier Deshayes.

⁺ Shaw's Travels.

¹ Voyage au Senegal, p. 169.

[§] Bofman, Voyage en Guinee ; Utrecht, 1705.

^{||} Histoire Generale des Voyages, tom. iv. p. 245.

Hift. Nat. du Japon, tom. i. p. 44.

^{**} Hift. Gen. des Voyages, tom. viii. p. 547.

^{††} Hist. de la Nouv. France, par le P. Charlevoix, tom. iii. 155.

II Le Page du Pratz, Hift. de la Leuifiane, tom. ii. p. 126.

458 VARIETIES OF THE WOODCOCK.

is more rare in the northern provinces of America; but the Woodcock of Guiana, known at Cayenne under the name of the Savanna Woodcock, feems to differ so much from ours as to constitute a new species. We shall describe it, after enumerating the few varieties of the European species.

Varieties of the WOODCOCK.

I. THE WHITE WOODCOCK. This variety is rare, at least in our climates *. Sometimes its plumage is entirely white; oftener intermingled with some waves of gray or chesnut; its bill is yellowish-white; its legs pale yellow, with white nails: that circumstance would seem to shew that the whiteness is a different sort of degeneracy from the change of black into white, and much similar to that of the Blanchards in Negroes.

II. THE RUFOUS WOODCOCK. The whole plumage confifts of different shades of rufous, disposed in waves of a darker cast on a lighter ground. This bird is still more

ra

by

of

th

ď'

na

tw

ars

the

or

Wo

legs

are !

Woo

treu

Note

cola

cine

One was killed near Grenoble in the month of December 1774: Letter of M. de Morges, dated Grenoble 29th February 1775.

rare than the preceding. Both were killed by the king's fowling party in the month of December, 1775, and his majesty did us the honour of sending them by the Count d'Angiviller, to be placed in his cabinet of natural history,

C

h

S.

10

/a-' 1e-

ner

or

its

hat

the

acy and

s in

nole rucast nore

ecem-Febru-

rare

III. Sportsmen pretend to distinguish two breeds of Woodcocks * a greater and a lesser: but as their instincts and habits are the same, and in every other respect they are perfectly similar, I shall regard the small variation of size as only accidental or individual. [A]

I have frequently remarked that there are two kinds of Woodcocks. The first that arrive are the largest; their legs are gray, slightly inclined to rose-colour: the others are smaller, their plumage similar to that of the Great Woodcock, but their legs are blue. It is remarked that when this little kind is taken in the neighbourhood of Montreuil in Picardy, the Great Woodcock becomes then rare. Note communicated by M. Baillon of Montreuil-sur-mer.

[A] Specific character of the Woodcock, Scolopax Rusticola: "Its bill is straight and tawny at the base, it legs cinereous, its thighs seathered, a black stripe on its head."

Foreign Bird which is related to the WOODCOCK.

in do

va W

is th

cu

W

or wh

Eu

like

ma rifi

cha

ing

not

uni

two

and

on oth

low

The SAVANNA WOODCOCK.

Scolopax Paludofe. Gmel.

THIS Woodcock of Guiana, though one fourth smaller than that of France. has a still longer bill; it is also rather taller: its legs and bill are brown; light gray interfected and variegated with bars of black, predominates in its plumage, which is less mixed with rufous than in our Woodcock. With these exterior differences, which the climate has perhaps occafioned, those of its occonomy and habits, which it also produces, may be traced, in the Savanna Woodcock: it dwells constantly in those immense natural meadows where it is never molested by men or dogs; it lodges in the bottoms where the mud is collected, and where the herbs are thick and tall; avoiding however those shallows where the tide rifes, and makes the water brackish. In the rainy season, these Little Woodcocks

cocks remove to the uplands, and lodge among the grass: at this time they pair and nestle on the gentle elevations in holes lined with dry herbs. They lay only two eggs; but they have a second hatch, and in July, after the rains are over, they again descend into the bottom grounds, shifting their residence from the heights to the vallies the same way as those of Europe. When the Savannas are set on fire, which is often done in September and October. they escape in great numbers into the circumiacent tracts, but feem to avoid the woods, and when purfued they never halt, or endeavour to regain their ancient fite; which is contrary to the habits of the European Woodcock. Yet they fpring, like the latter, always under the sportsman's feet; they make the same effort in rifing, have the same noisy flight, and discharge their excrement, too, in commencing their motion. If one is shot, it does not escape to a distance, but wheels round until it drops. They are generally flushed two and two, fometimes three together; and when we see one we may be sure that the other is not far off. They are heard on the approach of night calling on each other with a raucous voice, much like the low cluck often made by the domestic hen

gh

ce,

her

ght

ars

ige,

in

fer-

cca-

oits,

in

ntly

here

; it

d is

and

here

ack-

ood-

ocks

ka,

462 SAVANNA WOODCOCK.

ka, ka, ka, ka. They come abroad at night, and in moon-light they fit even at the planter's doors. M. de la Borde, who made these observations at Cayenne, assures us, that the Savanna Woodcock is at least as delicate food as the Woodcock of France. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Scolopax Paludofa: "Its bill and legs are brown, its straps and eye-brows black; its body black variegated above with rusous, below partly white."

he no es at of

bill ody N.º187



THE COMMON SNIPE.

the and natibir

lon
is
ruf
ligh
its
fine

epith Swee Snep land Turl

The S N I P E.

Le Becaffine. Buff.

First Species.

Scolopax-Gallinago: Linn. and Gmel. &c. Scolopax Media. Klein.
Gallinago. Briff.
Gallinago Minor. Aldrov. and Belon .

In the French and German languages the name of the Snipe is the diminutive of the appellation given to the Woodcock; and upon viewing its figure, we should naturally take it for a small species of that bird: It would be a little Woodcock, says Belon, were its babits not different. It has a very long bill, and a square head; its plumage is also speckled the same, except that the rusous is less intermingled, and that the light gray and the black predominate. But its resemblance to the Woodcock is confined to externals only, and its natural

habits

^{*} In Italian Pizzardella: in German Schnepsse with the epithets wasser, heers, grasse (water, lord's, grass): in Swedish, Mail Snaeppa, Wald-Snaeppa: in Danish, Dobbelt Sneppe, Steen Sneppe: in Norwegian Trold Ruke: in Icelandic Myr Snippe: in Polish Bekas, Kosielek, Baranek: in Turkish Jelve.

habits are opposite. It never frequents the woods; it lives in wet meadows, or among the herbs and oziers which edge the brinks of streams. It soars to such height as to escape from view, though its cry is still heard; this is a feeble note like the bleat of a goat, mee, mee mee, which has induced some nomenclators to term it the Flyinggeat*: it also vents a short weak whistle in taking wing. It differs from the Woodcock as much, therefore, in its dispositions and habits, as it resembles that bird in its plumage and figure.

In France, the Snipes appear in autumn; they are seen sometimes three or sour together, but ofteness singly. They are slushed at a considerable distance, and sly very nimbly; and after three turnings, they shoot onwards two or three hundred paces, or tower alost out of sight. The sportsman can bend their course and lead them near him by imitating their voice. They continue the whole winter in our provinces, near the unfrozen sountains and the small contiguous bogs; they retire in great numbers in spring, which also appears to be the season of their arrival in many countries where they breed; as in Ger-

many,

ma Bu wh Wi reg the ald tle of fou wit thei the the ther bill cure

grou it, ea but whice of the vance nate poin it d

T

* A

‡ G

^{*} Klein, Schwenckfeld, Rzaczynski.

many *, in Silesia + and in Switzerland 1. But in France, a few Snipes remain the whole fummer, and nestle in our marshes: Willughby makes the fame remark with regard to England, they build in June, on the ground, beneath some large root of alder or willow, in morasses where the cattle cannot reach: their nest is composed of dry he is and feathers, and contains four or five oblong eggs, of a whitish colour, with rufty spots. The young ones leave their mansion, as soon as they burst from the shell; they appear ugly and shapeless: the mother nevertheless is affectionate to them, and never deferts them till their long bill is firm enough to enable them to procure easily their food.

The Snipe continually nibbles in the ground, though we can hardly fay what it eats: nothing is found in its stomach but an earthy sediment and a watery liquor, which is probably the dissolved substance of the worms on which it feeds; for Aldrovandus remarks that its tongue is terminated as in the Woodpeckers by a sharp point, proper for piercing the worms which it digs out of the mud.

10

ıg

ks

to

ill

eat

:ed

ng-

in

od-

ons

in

nn;

oge-

Med

very

they

aces,

orts-

hem

They

pro-

and

re in

pears

many Ger-

many,

yot. vit.

^{*} Aldrovandus.

⁺ Schwenckfeld.

[#] Gefner.

The head of the Snipe has a horizontal balancing, and the tail a motion upwards and downwards; it walks leifurely, its head erect, without hopping or flickering: but seldom is it surprized in that state; for it carefully conceals itself among the rushes and herbage of flimy bogs, where the fowlers cannot approach, without the affistance of a fort of rackets made of light deal, fo broad as not to fink in the mud. And as the Snipe fprings at a distance, with great rapidity, and makes feveral inflexions before it spins along its course; it is one of the most difficult birds to shoot. It may be caught easier with a springe, similar to what is fet in paths for the Woodcock.

The Snipe has commonly abundance of fat, which is of a delicate flavour; and not apt to cloy like ordinary fat *; it is cooked like the Woodcock without extracting the entrails, and is every where esteemed delicious game.

Though we feldom fail in autumn to find Snipes in our marshes +, the species is not so numerous now as formerly ‡; it is howof the have fent the S the p and i and a nent, Siberi and w

tries of in almost Cook's V

never gr country, than two the hatc diminish 1 Le

‡ Le § Nou ∦ M.

month a unwield! Februar

¶ Faus

p. 56.†† Kı‡‡ Ko

^{*} Belon.

[†] Prodigious numbers of these birds are seen in the marshes between Laon, Notre-Dame de Liesse, la Fere, Peronne, Amiens, Calais." Note communicated by M. Hebert.

t "It is a game fo frequent in the winter feafon, that we see nothing more common in the plains of the inland countries." Belin.

ever diffused more universally than that of the Woodcock. It occurs in all parts of the world; and some intelligent voyagers have made this observation *. It has been sent to us from Cayenne, where it is called the Savanna Snipe +: Frezier found it in the plains of Chili: it is common in Louisiana ‡, where it resorts near the habitations: and it is equally frequent in Canada §, and at St. Domingo ||. In the Old Continent, it is found from Sweden ¶ and Siberia ** to Ceylon ++ and Japan ‡‡: and we have received it from the Cape of

*" We may remark, that Snipes occur in far more countries of the world than any other bird; they are common in almost the whole of Europe, of Asia, and of America." Cook's Voyage.

† Though its flesh is very well tasted, this Guiana Snipe never grows sat, no more than the Woodcock of the same country, and according to M. de la Borde, it lays no more than two eggs. It would seem, that, in all countries where the hatches are repeated, the number of eggs in each is diminished.

t Le Page du Pratz, Hist. de la Louisiane, tom. xi. p. 127.

§ Nouvelle France, tom. iii. p. 155. MM. le Chevalier Lefebre Deshayes remarks, that, a nonth after their arrival they grow so fat as to appear as

month after their arrival they grow so fat as to appear as unwieldly as the quails: they remain in that island until February.

¶ Fauna Suecica.

** Gmelin, Voyage en Siberie, tom. i. p. 218, & tom. ii. p. 56.

†† Knox, in l' Hist. Gen. des Voyages, tom viii. p. 547. †† Koempser, Hist. Nat. du Japon, tom. i. pp. 112. & 113.

н h 2 Good

ever

al

ds

ad

ut

it

nes

vl-

hce

fo

as

eat

beof

may

r to

ock.

e of

and

it is

:act-

emed

find

s not

how•

in the

Fere,

Hebert.

n, that

inland

Good Hope *. It has spread into the remote islands in the Southern Ocean †; in the Malouines it was seen by Bouganville, who discovered that its habits were correspondent to its undisturbed solitude; its nest was in the open country, it was easily shot, it betrayed no suspicion, and made no turnings as it rose ‡: another proof, that the timid habits of animals which sy before man are impressed by fear. The Snipe seems even to have aversion to man; for Longolius avers that the Woodcock may be reared and even fatted; but that the experiment never succeeded with the Snipe §.

It would feem that there is a small kind of Snipes, as of Woodcocks; for besides the Jack-Snipe, of which we shall immediately speak, there are, between these and the cleffer, accoming in this a divortion or in no como and in follows

• Wil

[A] S

brown li
the fens
downs,
Great B,
reside in
ferved to
js uncent
when th
by the m

This Snipe of the Cape of Good Hope is somewhat larger, with its bill longer, and its legs rather thicker, than ours; yet it is evidently of the same species: it is different from another Snipe, which seems indigenous to the Cape, and which we shall presently consider.

The we found on the morthern fide of Ulietea (an island mear Otaheite) very deep creeks, which took their rife from fens filled with vast numbers of Ducks and Snipes, shyer than we expected: we soon learned that the people of the filland, who are fond of cating them, usually than them.

[†] Voyage autour du Monde, par M. de Bougainville, tom. i.

[§] In Aldrovandus, tom. iii. p. 478.

the common fort, some greater and some lesser. But this difference of bulk, being accompanied with no other, either in the instincts or the plumage, shews at most a diversity of breed, or only an accidental or individual variety; which however has no connection with sex, for there is no apparent difference between the male and semale in this species, or in the following *. [A]

· Willughby,

[A] Specific character of the Snipe, Scalopax-Gallinage e "Its bill is straight and tuberculated, its legs brown; four brown lines on its front." The Snipes breed constantly in the sens of Lincolnshire, in Wolmar forest, and in Bodmyndowns, and as their nests are frequently in other parts of Great Britain, it is not improbable that they constantly reside in our island. In the breeding season, they are observed to play over the moors, piping and humming. It is uncertain whether this humming, which is always heard when the bird descends, be ventriloquous, or be produced by the motion of the wings.

tom. i.

in

ie,

ef-

its

ily

ade

of.

fly

The to

od-

but

vith

mall

fides

me-

and

r, than ifferent Cape,

n island
se from
s, shyer
of the
st them.

6:3

The JACK-SNIPE,

La Petite Becassine, surnommée La Sourde. Buff *,

Second Species.

Scolopax-Gallinula. Linn. and Gmel.

Gallinago Minima Ray. Will. Klein, Barr.

Gallinago Minor. Briss.

Cinclus. Charleton and Johnston.

The Jack Snipe, Gid, or Judcock. Will +.

other, and hence, says Belon, the purveyors call it two for one ‡. It lurks in pools among the reeds, and under the dry bullrushes and flags that have dropped on the brink of the water; and so obstinately does it cling to its concealment, that it will not stir till almost trampled on, and rises from under our feet, as if it heard not the rustling of the approach. For this reason, sportsmen have given it the epithet deaf. It slies swifter and more direct than the Common Snipe; its flesh is not inferior, and th

di le: it

bu

Br

tio

Sn

CO

ruí

on

lon

pro

nan

our colo

but

whi

have

the

that

time tain

falle

[A]

ula:

its ftr

^{*} That is, the Little Deaf Snipe.

⁺ In Flemish Hals-Schnepff: in Danish Ror-Sneppe: in Polish Kisik.

[†] Our English sportsmen, for the same reason, call it the Half-snipe. T.

the fat as delicate. But the species is not so numerous, or at least, not so widely disfused: Willughby remarks, that it is less frequent in England: Linnæus omits it in his enumeration of the Swedish birds: but it is found in Denmark, according to Brunnich. The Jack-Snipe has a proportionally shorter bill than the Common Snipe; its plumage is the same, with some copper-reflexions on the back and long rusty dashes on the feathers which are laid on the fides of the back, and which being long, filky, and fomewhat filamentous, have probably given occasion to the German name baar schnepffe or Hair-snipe.

These birds are stationary, and breed in our marshes; their eggs are of the same colour with those of the Common Snipes, but smaller, corresponding to their bulk, which exceeds not that of a Lark. have often been taken for the males of the ordinary kind, and Willughby corrects that popular error, owning at the same time, that before comparing them he entertained the same notion. Yet Albin has

fallen again into that mistake.

of the

e pur-

pools

bull-

on the

y does

ill not

from

e rust-

reason,

t deaf.

an the

or, and

Sneppe: in

call it the

[[]A] Specific character of the Jack-Inipe, Scolopax-Gallinula: " Its bill is straight and tuberculated, its legs greenish, its straps brown, its rump variegated with violet."

The BRUNETTE.

Tringa Alpina. Linn. and Gmel. Cinclus Torquatus.

Gallinago Anglicana. Briss.

WILLUGHBY gives this bird the name of Dunlin, probably a diminutive of dun. He fays that it is peculiar to the North of England. It feems to differ little from the preceding; its belly is blackish waved with white, and the upper surface of the body is spotted with black, and a little white, on a rusous brown ground. In other respects it resembles the Jack-snipe, and must be a contiguous species or perhaps only a variety of it *.

• This bird is really a Sandpiper, and the same with the Cincle, which is treated of in the sequel. Brisson led into this mistake, by making two different species of the same bird. T. For

color dark black upper white to the the the two

[A] bill strain on its l

tend

Foreign BIRDS which are related to the S N I P E S.

The CAPE SNIPE.

First Species.

Scolopax Capensis. Gmel.

Gallinago Capitis Bonæ Spei. Brist.

The Kewvit. Sparrm.

'n

le

-

It is rather larger than the Common Snipe, but its bill is much shorter: the colours of its plumage are not quite so dark; a bluish gray, broken with little black waves, forms the ground of the upper surface, which is intersected by a white line that runs from the shoulder to the rump; a small black zone marks the top of the breast; the belly is white; the head bound with sive bars, one rusty on the crown, two gray on each side, then two white, which enclose the eye and extend behind. [A]

[[]A] Specific character of the Scolopax Capensis: "Its bill straight, and a line on its top, tawney; a black bar on its breast; a white line on each side of its back."

The MADAGASCAR SNIPE.

Scolopax Capenfis. Var. 3. Gmel.

Second Species.

THE disposition and mixture of the colours on its plumage, make this bird very handsome; the head and neck are rufous, crossed by a white streak, which passes under the eye, with a black streak over it; the lower part of the neck is encircled by a broad black collar; the feathers of the back are blackish with festoons of gray; rufty, gray, and blackish, are intersected on the coverts of the wings by small undated and close fostoons; the middle quills of the wing, and those of the tail, are cut transversely by bars varied with that agreeable mixture, and parted by three or four rows of oval spots, from a fine light rufous framed in black; the great quills are traversed with bars alternatively black and rufous; the underfide of the body is white. This Snipe is near ten inches long.

I lon ma and and wit

of with crof

reference colorule rule

The varieg lower fpots longit by two black

black,

The CHINA SNIPE.

Scolopax Capensis. Var. 2. Gmel. Scolopax Sinensis. Lath.

It is rather smaller than the Common Snipe, but taller; its bill is almost as long; its plumage not so dark; it is marbled on the back with pretty large spots and sessions, of dun-gray, bluish, black and light rusous; the breast is decorated with a broad black session; the underside of the body is white; the neck is dotted with light gray and rusty; the head is prossed with black and white streaks.

The Madrass Snipe * described by Brisson resembles the above pretty much in its colours, but its hind toe is as long as those before, from which, methinks, the rules of nomenclature should have excluded it from the genus of Snipes.

* Scolopax Maderaspatana. Gmel. Gallinago Maderaspatana. Briss. The Partridge Snipe. Ray. The Madras Snipe. Lath.

Thus discribed by Brisson: "Above it is blackish, and variegated with sulvous, below white; its throat and the lower part of its neck sulvous, variegated with blackish spots; the upper part of its head marked with a triple longitudinal bar of blackish brown; its back distinguished by two longitudinal bars of blackish brown: a transverse black bar on the breast; its tail-quills variegated with black, with sulvous, and with gray."

The BARGES.

OF all the volatile beings on which nature has bestowed so much vivacity and grace, and which the feems to have diffused through the grand scene of her productions, to animate and fill up the void space; the Marsh-birds are those to which she has been the most sparing of her favours. Their perceptions are obtufe, and their mode of subsistence constrains them to fpend their lives amidst the fens searching in the mud and wet foil: and the inhabitants of the primæval slime seem not to participate in the happy progress which all the other productions of the universe have made towards perfection, aided and embellished by the industry of man.

None of them has the gaiety or the elegance of the rural fongsters; they cannot toy and frolick, or wanton in harmless combats: they only fly from one cold marsh to another; chained to the damp ground, they cannot like the tenants of the grove, sport amidst the boughs, or even alight on them: during the day, they keep in the shade; and their weak sight and natural timidity, the tie print the voice compa go a grithey mote marf coaft

* Ar Godwithink the fame co

of the

thai

and

the

belo

thei

Aill

a bli

bent

take

and

only

timidity, makes them prefer the obscurity of the night. In fearthing for their food, they are also indebted to their eyes rather than to their touch and their smell. Such is the life of the Woodcocks, of the Snipes, and other birds of the marsh; among which the Barges form a small family immediately below that of the Snipes. The shape of their body is the same; but their bill is still longer, though fashioned similarly with a blunt smooth tip, and straight, or a little bent and flightly raised. Gesner is mistaken when he describes their bill as sharp and proper for darting fishes; for they live only on worms, which they extract from the mud. Their gizzard also contains little pebbles, mostly transparent like those in the gizzard of the Avoset. *. Their voice is somewhat extraordinary, for Belon compares it to the fmothered bleating of a goat. They are very restless, spring at a great distance, and make a scream as they rife. They are rare in countries remote from the sea, and they delight in falt marshes. They appear regularly on our coasts, particularly those of Picardy in the

^{*} An observation made by M. Baillon on the migratory Godwits of the coasts of Picardy, and which led him to think that these birds and the Avoset then come from the same countries.

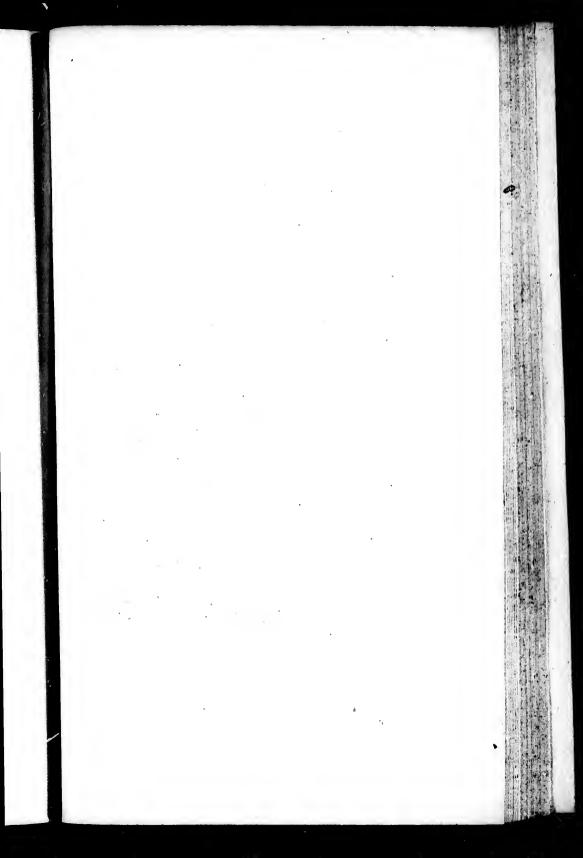
month of September *: they are seen in slocks and heard passing at a vast height, in the moon-light evenings. Most of them halt in the marshes; and fatigue renders them not so fugitive. They spring with dissiculty, but run like Partridges; and the sportsman by making a circuit can collect so many as to kill several at one shot. They stop only a day or two at the same place, and it often happens that in the morning not one is to be found in those marshes where they were so numerous the night before. They breed on our coasts +, and their sless is delicate and excellent food ‡.

We divide this genus into eight species.

[·] There called the Taterlas.

[†] Observation made on the coasts of Picardy, by M. Baillon of Montreuil-sur-mer.

t Belon.



Nº 188



THE JADREKA SNIPE.

T

who rum wing with cover feath at t while nak and tip of fixte

toes

of the

The COMMON BARGE.

First Species.

Scolopax-Limofa. Linn. and Gmel.
Totanus. Aldrov.
Limofa. Briff.
Fedoa nostra secunda. Ray and Will.
Totanus Cinereus. Barrere.
The Stone Plower. Ray.
The Lesser Godwit. Penn.
The Jadreka Snipe. Lath.

The plumage is of an uniform gray, except that of the front and throat, where it is rusty-coloured; the belly and rump are white: the great quills of the wings are blackish without, and whitish within; the middle quills and the great coverts, have much white; the two outer feathers are white, and the bill is black at the point, and reddish its whole length, which is four inches; the legs with the naked part of the thighs are four inches and a half; the whole length, from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, in sixteen inches, and to the extremities of the toes eighteen.

Hebert tells us, that he killed some birds of this kind in Brie. It appears therefore that they sometimes alight in the interior parts

480 BARKING BARGE.

parts of a country, when driven by the violence of the wind. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Jadreka Snipe, Scolopax-Li-mosa: "Its bill somewhat bent back, red at the base; its legs brown, a white spot on its wing-quills, but none on the four first." It inhabits Iceland, Greenland, and Sweden.

The BARKING BARGE.

Second Species.

Scolopax-Totanus. Linn. and Gmel.
Limofa Grisea. Briss.
Totanus. Gesner. Aldrov. and Ray.
Glareola. Klein.
The Barker. Albin.
The Spotted Red-sbank. Penn.
The Spotted Snipe. Lath.

It s upper surface is of a brown-gray, fringed with whitish round each feather; those of the tail are striped across with white and blackish. It differs from the preceding also in size, being only fourteen inches long from the point of the bill to the end of the toes.

It inhabits the fens on the maritime coasts of Europe, both those on the Atlantic ocean and on the Mediterranean *. It is found in the salt marshes, and like the

other

the

Total
eye-

Th

I F Cr shou color and and the

VO.

ties half

[·] Albin.

· Adanfoh.

y,

aofs

bm

ır-

bill

me

ntic

t is

the.

ther

[A] Specific character of the Spotted Snipe, Scolopax-Tetanus: "Its bill fomewhat straight, its legs brown, its eye-brows, its breast, its belly, and its rump white."

The VARIEGATED BARGE.

Third Species.

Scolopax-Glottis. Linn. and Gmel.

Limofa.

Glottis. Geiner.

Limofa Grisea. Major Briss.

Pluvialis Major. Ray and Will.

The Green-legged Horseman. Alb.

The Green-spank. Penn. and Lath.

Ir most of the naturalists had not discriminated this from the preceding, we should have regarded it as the same. The colours are alike, the shape entirely similar, and the only difference is that of size, and we have found by experience that in the same species there are sometimes varieties wherein the bill and the legs are often half an inch shorter or longer than usual.

vol. vii. I i This

This Barge has its plumage variegated with white, and that colour fringes and encloses the brown gray of the feathers on the back; the tail is striped with the same, and the underside of the body is white. The Germans give to both the appellation Meer-baun (Sea-ben); the Swedes call them glout. Might not the latter name have led Gesner by a salse analogy to take these birds for the glottis of Aristotle, which in another place he shows to be a Rail? Albin sals into a palpable error, in supposing this bird to be the semale of the Red-shank. [A]

fo

in

CO

CO

Lap

its |

Th

neck

thers

breaf

black

lengt

[A] Specific character of the Green-Shank, Scolopax-Glottis: "Its bill is straight, red at its lower base; its body snowy below; and its legs greenish.

The RUFOUS BARGE.

Fourth Species.

Scolopax Lapponica. Linn. and Gmel. Limofa Rufa. Briss. Totanus Fulvus. Barrere. The Red Godwit. Edw. Penn. and Lath.

T is nearly as large as the Barker; all the fore-part of the body and the neck is of a fine rufous; the feathers of the upper furface of the body are brown and blackish.

blackish, slightly fringed with white and rusty; the tail is striped transversely with the last colour and with brown. This bird is feen on our coasts: it is found also in the north, as far as Lapland. It occurs in America, and was fent from Hudfon's Bay to England. It is another instance of those water-fowls which are common to the northern extremity of both continents. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Red God-wit, Scolopax Lapponica: "Its bill yellowish and somewhat bent back. its legs black; the underfide entirely of a rufty rufous."

The GREAT RUFOUS BARGE.

Fifth Species.

Scolopax Ægocephala. Linn. and Gmel. Limofa Rufa Major. Briff. The Godwit, Yarwhelp, or Yarwip. Ray and Will. The Common Godwit. Penn.

Tr is much larger than the preceding; but it has no rufous, except on the neck and the edges of the blackish feathers on the back, which are rusty; the breast and the belly are striped across with blackith, on a dirty white ground; the length of the bird, from the bill to the

1 i 2

nails.

ck he nd ſh,

484 GREAT RUFOUS BARGE.

nails, is seventeen inches. Besides these differences which sufficiently discriminate the two species, we are informed by an observer that they arrive always separately on our coasts. The Great Rusous Barge differs even from the rest in its economy, if what Willughby says be true, that it walks with its head erect on the sandy bare shores without seeking to conceal itself.—It is obviously the same with the Barbary Godwit, described in Shaw's Travels. [A]

E

n

fu

a

O

do

ar

Wil

blad

wir whi

fcal

win

[A] Specific character of the Scolopax-Ægocephala: "Its bill is straight, its legs greenish, its head and neck tawny; three of its wing-quills black, and white at the base."

The RUFOUS BARGE of Hudson's Bay.

Sixth Species.

Scolopax Fedoa. Linn. and Gmel.

Limosa Americana Rusa. Briss.

The Greater American Godwit or Curlew from Hudson's Bay.

Edw.

Though this bird is more rufous in its plumage than the preceding, and is rather bigger, we cannot help regarding it as a contiguous species. It is, as Edwards

Edwards remarks, the largest of the genus, being fixteen inches long from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, and nineteen to that of the toes. All its upper furface is of a rufous brown ground striped across with black; the first great quills of the wing are blackish, the next bay dotted with black; those of the tail are striped transversely with the same colour and with rufous. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Scolop ax-Fedog: " Its bill is straight and yellowish, its legs brown, its secondary wing-quills rufous, dotted with black."

The BROWN BARGE.

Seventh Species.

Scolopax Fusca. Linn. and Gmel. Limofa Fusca. Briff. The Dufky Snipe. Penn. and Lath.

d

as

ls

Tr is about the fize of the Barker; the ground of its colour is deep brown and blackish, and the feathers of its neck and wings are fringed with fmall white lines, which give them an agreeable cloudy or scaly appearance; the middle quills of the wing and the coverts are also bordered and

1 i 3

dotted

dotted with whitish on the edges, the first great quill shows externally only an uniform brown; those of the tail are striped with brown and white. [A]

h

h

fo

Ja

tv

C/ lil in

is c

SIE

[A] Specific character of the Scolopax Fusca: "Its bill is bent at the tip; its body black, clouded with white; its rump and wings white below: it is tweeve inches long, its bill two inches and a quarter. It breeds in the Arctic regions.

The WHITE BARGE.

Eighth Species.

Recurvirostra Alba. Gmel. Scolopax Alba. Linn. Limosa Candida. Briss. The White Godwit. Edw. The White Avoset. Lath.

bird is bent upwards as in the Avotet; a character which in some degree obtains in all the Barges. It is nearly as large as the Rusous Barge; its bill black at the tip, and orange the rest of its length; all the plumage is white, except a tint of yellowish on the great quills of the wing and of the tail. Edwards supposes that the whiteness is produced by the cold climate of Hudson's Bay from which he received it, and that they

they resume their brown feathers during the summer.

It appears that several species of Barges have spread further into America, and have even reached the southern provinces: for Sloane sound our third species in Jamaica; and Fernandez seems to indicate two Barges in New Spain by the names Chiquatototl, and Elotototl, the former being like our Woodcock, and the latter lodging under the stalks of maize.

[A] Specific character of the Recurvirostra Alba: "It is entirely white, the inserior coverts of its wings duskish, its bill orange, its legs brown."

s, e

is 's

Ä

The HORSEMEN.

Les Chevaliers. Buff.

HE French, fays Belon, feeing a tall little bird, squatting upon its legs as if feated on horseback, denominated it the Horseman." It would be difficult to discover another etymology of their name. They are smaller than the Barges, but their legs are as long; their bill is shorter, yet fashioned the same. They live in wet marshy places, and also frequent fides of pools and rivers, and even wade to the knees in the water. run swiftly on the banks, and their little body, fays Belon, mounted on such tall stilts trips along gayly and nimbly." Their usual food is worms; and in droughts they are contented with the earth infects, and catch beetles, flies, &c.

be

ne

a

alı

lig

fr

in

fii

w

gi

th

fa

ai

W

ſp

of

th

di

Their flesh is esteemed *, but it is a very rare dish; for they are no where numerous, and are besides very difficult to approach.

We are acquainted with fix species of these birds.

[#] Belon,

The COMMON HORSEMAN.

First Species.

Tringa Equestris. Lath. Totanus. Briff.

11

ţS,

d

lt

iı.

5,

is

y

3-

n

y

le

11

S

a

Q

£

Trappears to be as large as the Golden Plover, because it is very thickly clothed with feathers; a property which belongs to all the Horsemen. It measures near a foot from the bill to the tail, and a little more from the bill to the nails: almost all its plumage is clouded with light gray and rufous; all the feathers are fringed with these two colours, and blackish in the middle; the same white and rusty are finely dotted on the head, spread on the wing, and border its small feathers; the great ones are blackish; the underside of the body and the rump are white. Brisson fays that the legs of this bird are pale-red, and he accordingly applies epithets to it, which would better fuit the following species, which is perhaps only a variety of the present.

It is from a flight analogy in the colours, that Belon infers this bird to be the Calidris of Aristotle. It frequents the sides of

rivers

rivers and fometimes our pools, but more commonly the sea-shore. It is seen in some of the provinces of France, and particularly in Lorraine: it occurs also on all the downs on the English coasts; it extends to Sweden *, to Denmark, and even to Norway +.

* Fauna Suecica.

+ In Danish Rodbeene : in Norwegian Lare-Tite, Lare-Titring. Brunnich.

The RED-SHANK.

Le Chevalier aux Pieds Rouges. Buff.

Second Species.

Scolopax-Calidris. Linn. and Gmel.

Totanus Ruber. Briff.

Gambetta. Aldrov.

The Red Shank, or Pool-Snipe. Will. Alb. Penn. & Lath.

The red legs of this beautiful bird the more distinguish it as more than half of the thigh is naked; its bill is blackish at the point, and of the same bright red at the root. This Horseman is of the same size and figure with the preceding: its plumage is white under the belly, lightly waved with gray and rusty on the breast, and the foreside of the neck; variegated on the back

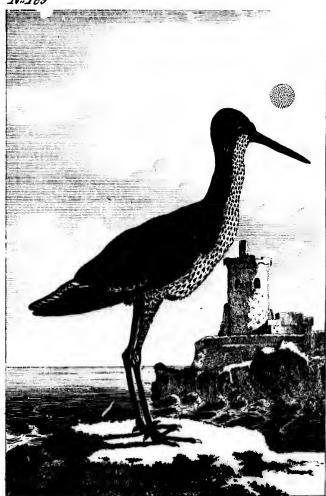
ore ome cuthe to

are-

the nalf

me imved Lite

the ack N.º189



THE REDSHANK.

back crof quil blac has thou Ray with is th

Saô.
in O
M.
in A
it I
whi
in t nam

den New as o

+ S † I § 2 Wood its leg with Mexi Snipe

back with rufous and blackish, by little cross bars distinctly marked on the small quills of the wing; the great quills are blackish.

This is certainly the species which Belon has mentioned by the name Red-borseman, though Brisson has taken it differently. Ray seems to have been no better acquainted with the bird, since he conjectures that it is the same with the Great Gray Barge.

The Red-shank is called Courier on the Saône. It is known in Lorraine *, and in Orleanois, where however it is rare +, M. Hebert tells us that he saw it in Brie in April. It sits in the shallows of pools; it has a disagreeable voice, and a feeble whistle like that of the Snipe. It is known in the territory of Bologna, under the name Gambetta, which is diminutive of gamba, a leg. It occurs also in Sweden ‡, and has probably migrated into the New World. The Yacatopil of Mexico, as described by Fernandez §, appears to

^{*} M. Lottinger.

⁺ Salerne,

[†] Fauna Suecica, No. 149.

[§] Yacatopil, or Stake-bill, is a bird of the bulk of a Wood-pigeon, its bill being four inches long and slender, its legs yellow. The colour of its whole body is mixed with white, cinereous, black and brown, it arrives in Mexico, it feeds on worms, must be classed with the Snipes." Fernandez, Hist. Nov. Hisp. pp. 29 and 69.

refemble

resmble it much both in its dimensions and colours. Some species of this kind must even advance further into America, since Dutertre reckons the Horseman among the birds of Guadeloupe, and Labat discovered it among the multitudes that frequent the isle of Aves: on the other hand, one of our correspondents * assures us that he saw great numbers of them at Cayenne and Martinico. So that we cannot doubt that these birds are diffused through almost all the temperate and warm countries of the two continents. [A]

The STRIPED HORSEMAN.

Le Chevalier Rayé. Buff.

Third Species.

Tringa Striata. Linn. and Gmel. Totanus Striatus. Briff. The Striated Sandpiper. Lath.

I r is nearly as large as the Common Snipe: all the upper furface is striped on a gray ground intermixed with rusty, with

wi the wl exc the at pa cie Bri

dle, with white and

of i

^{*} M. de la Borde.

[[]A] Specific character of the Red-shank, Scolopax-Calidris: "Its bill is straight and red, its legs crimson, its secondary wing-quills white."

with blackish streaks disposed transversely; the tail is intersected with the same on a white ground; the neck has the same colours, except that the brown dashes are laid along the shaft of the feathers: the bill is black at the tip; but, at the root, it is of a pale red, as well as the legs. To this species we shall refer the Spotted Horseman of Brisson; which appears to be only a minute variety. [A]

n

it

it

ı.

25

m

oc ed

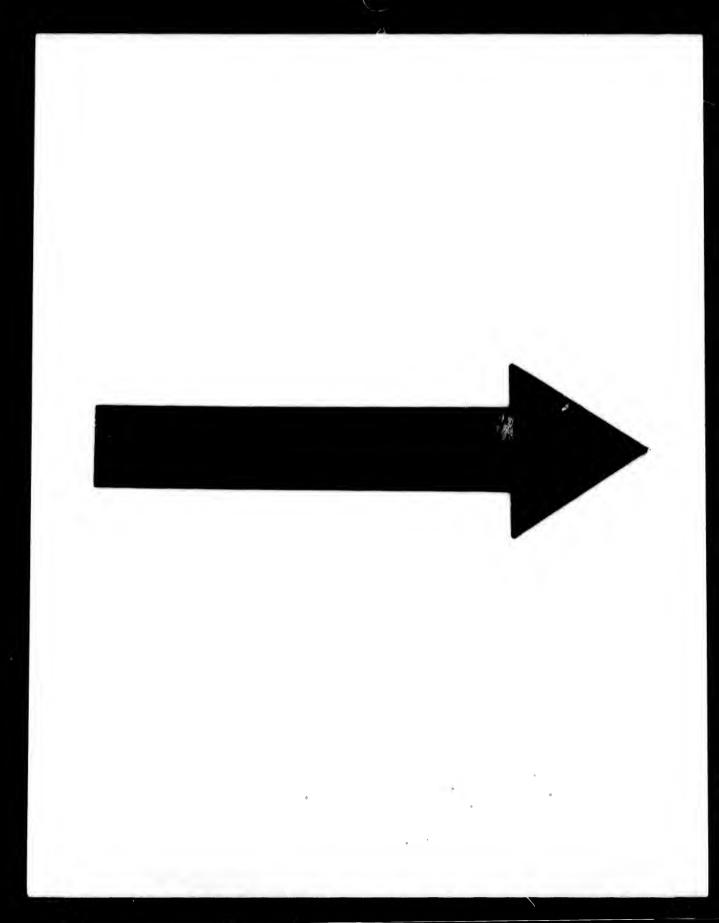
ıd

its

1.

on ed ty, ith † Above, it is clothed with feathers blackish in the middle, and rusty-gray at the edges; below, white, variegated with blackish spots; its rump and its lower belly, bright white; its lateral tail-quills striped transversely with white and blackish; its legs red." Totanus Nævius. Brisson.

[A] Specific character of the Tringa Striata: "The base of its bill and its legs are bright yellow; its tail-quills white, striped with brown; many of its wing-quills white."



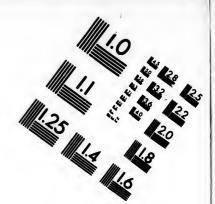
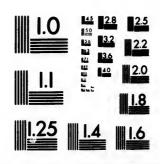


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



Photographic Sciences Corporation

23 WEST MAIN STREET WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580 (716) 872-4503

STATE OF THE PRINT OF THE PRINT



The VARIEGATED HORSEMAN.

Fourth Species.

Tringa Ochropus. Var. Gmel.
Tringa Littorea. Linn.
Totanus Cinereus. Briff.
Calidris Nigra. Belon. Aldrov. Johnst. and Charl.
Charadrius Nigricans. Barrere.
The Shore Sandpiper. Pen. and Lath.

It s colours confist of blackish, rusous, and gray; the blackish covers the upper side of the head and the back, and the edges of these feathers are marked with the rusous; the wings, too, are blackish, and fringed with white or rusty; these tints are intermingled with gray on all the forepart of the body; the legs and the bill are black, it is as large as the Red-shank, but its legs are not so tall.

It appears that this bird builds its nest very early in the season, and that it returns into our provinces before the spring: for Belon says, that in the end of April the young ones were brought to him, and that their plumage then resembled much that of the Rail, and that "he had not been accustomed to see these Horsemen, but in winter." They do not breed equally

the approximation that the second dispersion of the second dispersion o

water day.

feath

growi

when leaf

diflod

in g

er its

mon

on we

fie

eat bu

mo

hal

VARIEGATED HORSEMAN. 495 on all the coasts of France; for example, we are assured, that they only pay a tranfient visit in Picardy: they are driven thither in the month of March by the north east wind along with the Barges: they make but a short stay, and do not repass till the month of September. They have some habits fimilar to those of the Snipes, though they come less abroad during the night, and appear oftener in the day-time. They are caught also by the springe *. Linnæus says that this species is found in Sweden. Albin, from an inconceiveable mistake, calls it, a White Heron, though the greatest part of its plumage is black, and though it has not the smallest resemblance to the Heron.

'n

10

th

h, fe

all

 \mathbf{d}

he

est

ns

g: ril

hd

ch

ot

n, lly on

M. Baillon, who communicated to us these facts, adds the following observation on one of these birds which he kept. "I preserved one of these birds last year in my garden more than four months. I remarked that in time of drought, it caught flies, beetles, and other insects, no doubt for want of worms. It also ate bread soaked in water, but the maceration needed to be continued a whole day. Moulting gave it, in the month of August, new feathers to the wings, and it eloped in September. It was grown very familiar, insomuch that it followed the gardener, when he brought it food. If it saw him break off the leaf of a plant, it ran to pick up the worms that were dislodged: as soon as it had eaten, it repaired to wash itself in a bowl filled with water. I never faw it with dry earth en its bill or its legs. This attention to cleanliness is common to all the vermivorous birds."

The WHITE HORSEMAN.

Fifth Species.

Scolopax Candida. Gmel.
Totanus Candidus. Briss.
The White Red-shank, or Pool-snipe. Edw. and Lath.

This bird occurs at Hudson's Bay. It is nearly the bulk of the first species; all its plumage is white, and its bill and legs are orange.

Edwards thinks that it is one of those birds whose plumage turns white from the influence of an arctic winter, and that the brown colour returns in summer; and in the figure, which that author gives, a tint of that colour appears on the great quills of the wings and of the tail and marks the upper surface with small waves.

TI

we of the first by the white

brea

V

The GREEN HORSEMAN.

Sixth Species.

Rallus Bengalenfis. Gmel. Totanus Bengalenfis. Brist. The Bengal Water-Rail. Alb.

which he gives is a very bad one: we may trace, however, the bill and legs of the Horseman. It has a green tinge on the back and the wing, except the three first quills, which are purple and intersected by orange spots: there is some brown on the neck and the sides of the head, and white on the crown, as well as on the breast.

1

ıt

S

The RUFF AND REEVE*.

Les Combattans, vulgairement Paon de Mer. Buff. Tringa Pugnax. Linn. and Gmel. Pugnax. Briff. and Brun. Glareola Pugnax. Klein. Philomachus. Mochr.

THESE birds are well entitled to the appellation of combattants, for they not only contend with each other in fingle rencounters, but they advance to battle in marshalled ranks +: and these hostile armies are composed entirely of the males, which, in this species, are more numerous, it is said, than the semales: the latter wait the issue of the conslict, and become the prize of the victors. Love is then the source of these contentions, which nature seems to countenance by the disproportion between the number of the males and that of the semales ‡.

Every spring these birds arrive in great flocks on the coasts of Holland; Flanders

[•] In German Kampfhoehnlein: in Flemish Kemperkens: in Swedish and Danish Brunshaue: and in Polish Ptak-Bitny. + Klein.

Aldrovandus.

N.º190

e

y le

le le s,

er ne ne re nat

at rs

15 3

pt



THE RUFF, IN THE SEASON OF LOVE.

and they The Ger den, like and from **fpen** regu stay that if o com draw arriv prefu as w come or th the n to th the : only.

* Fa

ing t

† Zoo ‡ Ch of Lin-whither

and England; and in all these countries they are believed to come from the north. They are known also on the snores of the German-ocean, and are numerous in Sweden, particularly in Scania *: they occur likewise in Denmark and in Norway +; and Muller fays that he thrice received them from Finmark. It is uncertain where they spend the winter ±. Since they appear regularly on our coasts in the spring, and stay two or three months, it would feem. that they feek the temperate climates; and if observers had not assured us, that they come from the north, we might justly draw the opposite inference, that they arrive from the fouth. I should therefore presume that it is the case with these birds as with the Woodcocks, which are faid to come from the east, and return to the west or the fouth, but which only descend from the mountains to the plains and again retire to their heights. It is even probable that the Ruffs remain in the same country, only shifting to different parts of it according to the change of seasons; and if their battles be feen only in the fpring, it is

^{*} Fauna Suecica.

⁺ Zoolog. Danic. p. 24.

[†] Charleton fays, that they annually arrive in the fens of Lincoln, and, after three months, retire he knows not whither.

probable, that at other times, they pass unobserved, intermingled perhaps with the Dusky Sandpipers, or the Horsemen, to

which they bear great analogy.

The Ruffs and Reeves are nearly the stature of the Red-shanks, though their legs are not quite fo tall; the bill has the same form, but shorter. The females are commonly smaller than the males *, and resemble them in their plumage, which is white with a mixture of brown on the upper furface. But the males in the spring are so different from one another, that each might be taken for a bird of a distinct species: of more than a hundred, compared by Klein at the house of the governor of Scania, there were only two precisely fimilar; they varied either in shape or in the bulk of their swelled ruff round the neck. The feathers which compose that bunch appear in the beginning of the spring, and remain only during the season of love. But besides the exuberance of growth at that time, the superabundance of organic molecules displays itself also in the eruption of fleshy turgid pimples on the foreside of the head and round the eyes +. This double pro-

duction

du

the

lon

lov

are

nea

mo

rat

its

tuc

the oft

(in

mo fm:

pai

wh

the

obi

qui of

his

aga

ner

eve

tur in

and

ma

[·] Rzaczynski.

⁺ Linnaus, Fanna Suecica.

C

-

te

25

re

:h

æ

bs

of

i-

he

k.

ch

nd

ut

at

E-

of

he

0-

01

duction implies great prolific powers in the Ruffs. "I know of no bird, M. Bail-Ion writes us, in which the appetite of love is more ardent; none whose testicles are so large in proportion, each being near fix lines in diameter, and an inch or more in length; the other organs of generation are equally dilated in the feason of its amours. We may judge of the impetuosity of their hostile assaults, from the strength of that passion which blows up the fires of jealousy and rivalship. I have often followed these birds in our marshes (in Lower Picardy) where they arrive in the month of April with the Horsemen, but in smaller numbers. Their first object is to pair, or rather to contend for the females, whose feeble screams rouse and exasperate the antagonists; and the battle is long, obstinate, and sometimes bloody. The vanquished betakes himself to flight, but the cry of the first female which he hears, dispels his fears and awakens his courage; and he again renews the conflict, if another opponent appears. These skirmishes are repeated every morning or evening until the departure of the birds, which happens sometime in May; for only a few stragglers remain, and their nests are never found in our marshes."

This accurate and very intelligent obferver remarks, that they leave Picardy with a fouth, or fouth or fouth-east wind, which carries them to the English coasts. where they breed in very great numbers, particularly in the fens of Lincolnshire. In that county, they afford confiderable sport: the fowler watches the instant when they are fighting, and throws his net over them*. They are fattened for the table with milk and crumbs of bread; but, to keep them quiet and peaceful, they must be shut up in a dark room, for whenever the light is admitted they fall a quarrelling +. Nor can confinement ever eradicate the feeds of discord; and in their voleries, they bid defiance to all other birds I, and if there were only a bit of green turf, they will fight for the possession of it \(\); as if they gloried in their combats, they feem most animated in the presence of spectators II. The tuft in the males is not a warlike

^{*} Willughby,

⁺ Id.

[†] The Chinese have many birds which they call fighters, which they rear not for the sake of song, but to exhibit their rancorous battles. See Hist. Gen. des Voy. tom. vi. p. 487. However these are manifestly not our Ruffs, since they are not larger than Linnets.

[§] Klein.

[[] Willughby.

N. 191



THE RUFFIN MOULTING.

ters, heir 487• they

th d,

s,

is, In t: ey i*.

em tut tht for eds bid ere vill ney oft tike

nt,

orn
arm
feat
brif
bird
forr
vide
and
in
wit
is n
is a

more end decolove grobeco

1

are fen

draw ders, of n whice mon is n this ornament only, it is a fort of defensive armour which wards off the blows: its feathers are long, stiff and close. They bristle in a threatning manner when the bird makes an attack, and their colours form the chief difference between the individuals. In some, these feathers are rusous, and in others, gray; in some, white, and in others, of a fine violet black, broken with rusous spots: the white complexion is most rare. In its form, too, this turt is as variable as in its colours, during the whole time of its growth *.

This beautiful ornament drops in a moult which these bird undergo about the end of June; as if nature reserved her decorations and armour for the season of love and of war: the vermilion tubercles grow pale, and obliterate, and their place becomes occupied by feathers: the males are no longer to be distinguished from the females, and they all abandon the places

drawings fent him by the Count d'Aremberg from Flanders, the one appears to be the female, five others males of moulting or of the growth of their ruff; and the eighth, which Aldrovandus himself thought to have fomething monstrous, or at least foreign to the species of the Ruff, is nothing but a bad figure of the Horned Grebe, which this naturalist was ignorant of; we shall treat of it in the sequel.

where they bred and hatched. They build in companies like the Herons; and that property alone induced Aldrovandus to class these birds together; but the stature and conformation of the Combatants remove them far from all the species of Herons. [A]

bı

m

al

tl

b

œ

[A] Specific character of the Ruff and Reeve, Tringa Pugnax: "Its bill and legs are rufous, its three lateral tailquills spotless, its face marked with fleshy granulated pavilla." These birds appear about the end of April in Lincolnshire, in the isle of Ely, and in the East Riding of Yorkshire. They are caught with a net about forty yards long, and about feven or eight feet high, propped in an inclined position near the reeds, where the fowler lurks until the birds, enticed by a stale, alight under the net; he'then pulls a cord, which lets it fall and secures them. They are fattened with milk, hempfeed, and fometimes with boiled wheat; and to hasten the process, sugar is frequently added. They are then fold for half-a-crown a-piece; and it requires judgment to discern when they have attained the utmost pitch of fatness: for if the regimen be longer continued, they will sicken and pine away. At this critical period they fell at half-a-crown a-piece. The method of killing them is to fever the head with sciffars; they ftream a profusion of blood." They are dressed like Woodcocks, and esteemed most delicious.

The MAUBECHES,

Hese birds may be ranged after the Horsemen and before the Green Sandpiper: they are rather larger than the latter, but smaller than the former: their bill is shorter, their legs not so tall, and their shape is rounder than that of the Horsemen: their habits must be the same, those at least which depend on their structure and their haunts; for they equally frequent the beach. We know nothing more of their economy, though we can enumerate four different species.

The COMMON MAUBECHE.

First Species.

Tringa-Calidris. Linn. and Gmel. Calidris. Briff.
The Dufky Sand-piper. Lath.

It is ten inches from the point of the bill to the nails, and a little more than nine inches to the end of the tail; the feathers on the back, on the upper fide of the

506 COMMON MAUBECHE.

the head, and on the neck, are blackish brown, edged with light chesnut: all the forepart of the head, of the neck, and of the back, is light chefnut; the nine first quills of the tail are deep brown above on the outlide; the four next the body are brown, and the intermediate ones brown gray, and edged with a narrow hem of white. The Maubeches in general have the under part of the thigh naked, and the mid-toe connected as far as the first articulation to the outer toe, by a portion of membrane. We cannot, with Brisson, refer to this bird the Rusticula Sylvatica of Geiner, which "is larger than the Woodcock, and equal to a common Hen." It would be difficult to class that with any known species: and we may fave ourselves the trouble, fince Gesner acquaints us that he lays little stress on those of his descriptions which were made from rude and apparently inaccurate drawings. [A]

[[]A] Specific character of the Dusky Sandpiper, Tringa-Calidris: "Its bill and legs are blackish, its body olive below, its rump variegated."

The SPOTTED MAUBECHE.

Second Species.

Tringa Nævia. Gmel.

Calidris Nævia. Briff.

Glareola Caftanea. Klein.

The Freckled Sandpiper. Penn. and Lath.

This is distinguished from the preceding, because the brown ash colour of its back and shoulders is variegated with considerable spots, some rusous, others blackish bordering on violet; it is also somewhat smaller.

The GRAY MAUBECHE.

Third Species.

Tringa Grisea. Gmel. Calidris Grisea. Briss. The Grisled Sandpiper. Lath.

This bird is rather larger than the preceding, but smaller than the first species. The ground of its colour is gray; the back is entirely of that colour; the back is gray waved with whitish; the feathers

thers of the upper side of the wings, and those of the rump, are gray and bordered with white; the sirst of the great quilts of the wing are blackish brown, and the foreside of the body is white, with small black zig-zag streaks on the slanks, the breast, and on the forepart of the neck.

The SANDERLING.

Fourth Species.

Charadrius Calidris. Linn. and Gmel.
Tringa Arenaria. Ray and Will.
Calidris Grisea Minor. Briff.
The Sanderling, or Curwillet. Alb. Will. Penn. and Lath.

This is the smallest of the genus, not exceeding seven inches in length. Its plumage is nearly the same with that of the preceding, except that all the foreside of its neck, and the underside of its body, are very white. These birds sly in slocks, and light on the beach. Willughby gives them sour toes to each foot; but Ray, who seems however to copy that naturalist's description, assigns only three, which would rather characterize the Plover. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Sanderling, Character Calidris: "Its bill land legs are black, its straps and its sump are grayish, its body spotless, white below." It is common on the Cornish coasts, where it is called Carwilles.

The GREEN SANDPIPER.

Le Becaffeau. Buff.

Tringa-Ochropus. Linn. and Gmel,

Tringa. Aldrov. Gefner. &c.

Cinclus. Belon.

Glaresla. Klein •

t I is as large as a common Snipe, but not so long shaped; its back is rusty ash colour with small whitish drops on the edges of the feathers; the head and neck are of a softer cinereous, mixing in streaks with the white of the breast, which extends from the throat to the stomach and the belly; the rump is of the same white; the quills of the wing are blackish, and agreeably spotted with white below ‡; those of the tail are striped across with blackish and with white; the head is square, like that of the Snipe, and the bill is of the same form on a diminished scale.

The Green Sandpiper frequents the fides of water, and particularly running brooks: it runs among the gravel, or skims along

^{*} In Italian Gambettola, Giarola, and Pivinello. Also Cul-bianco; and hence the French Cul-blanc or white arse.

⁺ Some strictures on the nomenclators are here omitted T. 1 Belon.

the surface. It utters a screams as it rises and flies, beating its wings with distinct and separate strokes. When pursued it fometimes dives into the water. The Ringtails often chase it, and take it by surprize while it is reposing by the edge of the stream, or is occupied in the search of its food: for the Green Sandpiper has not the security of birds that go in flocks, which commonly appoint one of their number to watch, as a centinel, the common fafety. It lives folitary in a small district, which it felects by the banks of a river, or on the sea-shore *; and there it remains constantly, without roving, to any confiderable distance. But this lonely savage mode of life does not extinguish its sensibility; at least its voice has a manifest expression of sentiment: it is a gentle sweet whistle, modulated, with accents of languor, which being diffused over the placid furface of the water, or mingled with its murmur, inspires reflection and tender melancholy. It would appear, that this is the fame bird with what is called the Sifflosson (the Whistler) on the Lake of Geneva, where it is caught by the call, with limed bull-rushes. It is known also on the

ir S o o tl

tŀ

aı

in

it

th

bi

ti

ir

fa

 \boldsymbol{F}

n

it

0

a

A

li

^{*} Willughby.

Lake of Nantua, where it is terminated the *Pivette*, or Green foot. It is feen likewife in the month of June on the Rhone and the Saone; and in autumn among the gravel on the Ouche in Burgundy. These birds occur, too, on the Seine; and it is remarked that though solitary the whole summer, they form small bodies of five or fix in the time of their passage, and are heard in the air in still nights. In Lorraine, they arrive in the month of April, and retire in July *.

Thus the Green Sandpiper, though attached to the same place during the time of its stay, passes from one country into another, even in those seasons when most other birds are detained by the duties of incubation. Though seen two thirds of the year in the coasts of Lower Picardy, it cannot be said to breed there: it is called the Little Horseman in those parts +; it haunts the mouths of rivers, and follows the tides; it picks up the little fry of fish, and worms, on the sand which is left bare and covered alternately by a thin sheet of water. The sless of the Green Sandpiper is very delilicate, and even superior in slavour to that

[·] Observations of M. Lottinger.

⁺ Observations on the birds of our West coasts, communicated by M. Baillon.

of the Snipe, according to Belon, though it has a slight odour of musk. As it perpetually wags its tail in walking, naturalists have applied to it the name Cinclus, whose primitive fignifies to shake or agitate *: but that character belongs as much to the common Sandpiper, or to the Purre: and a passage of Aristotle proves clearly, that the term does not correspond to the Green Sandpiper. That philosopher denominates the three smallest Marsh Birds τειγγαι σχοινικλος, πιγκλος: " Of these, says he, the Cinclus and Schaniclus are the smallest, and the Trinjas the largest, being equal to a Thrush." + The Tringas is therefore indicated by its bulk to be the same with the Green Sandpiper; but we have not data to decide whether the two others correspond to the common Sandpiper, or to the Purre, or to our little Cincle. But nothing can equal the confusion in which nomenclators have involved this subject: some term the Green Sandpiper the Water-ben, others the Sea-partridge; fome, as we have feen, call it by the name Cincle, but the greater number apply the term Tringa; perverting its fignification however by making it generic.

th

01

ar

of

W

w

00

ifh

qu

^{*} Kiyahos, from xiyahiğa, and this from xinea, to move.

⁺ Hift. Animal. Lib. viii. 4.

GREEN SANDPIPER. 513

Hence the profusion of epithets and phrases that have been employed, and the multitude of inaccurate figures and of vague references: and Klein justly laments the impossibility of reconciling the chaos of descriptions which abound in the works of authors, who have blindly copied and compiled, without consulting nature, [A]

[A] Specific character of the Green Sandpiper, Tringa Ochropus: "The tip of its bill is pointed, its legs greenish, its back brown-green; its belly and its utmost tail-quills, white:"

leht

e. n is

ie Vi-c.

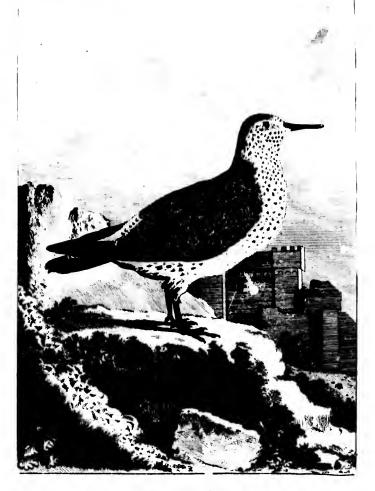
The COMMON SANDPIPER.

La Gnignette. Buff.
Tringa Hypoleucos. Linn. and Gmel.
Gninetta. Briff.
Tringa Minor. Ray.
Gallinula Hypoleucos. Johnst.

form and plumage, only smaller. Its throat and belly are white; its breast spotted with gray dashes on white; its back and rump gray, not spotted with white, but slightly waved with black, with a small streak of that colour on the shaft of each feather; and upon the whole, there is a reddish reslection; the tail is a little longer and more spread, than that of the Green Sandpiper: it skewise wags its tail as it walks; and hence some naturalists have termed it Motacilla, which has already been bestowed on a multititude of small birds.

The Sandpiper lives solitary by the verge of water, and haunts the sandy strands and shores. Many of these birds are seen near the sources of the Moselle in the Vosges, where they are called Lambiche. It leaves that country in the month of July, after having reared its young.

In German Fysterlin: in Swedish, Snaeppa.



THE SANDPIPER.

It.

ge 1d

ar s, cs er

ts ts ft ts h k, ne ne d, it d it

fc ni vo be

tin water

by dent

COMMON SANDPIPER. 515

It springs at a distance, and utters some screams *; and it is heard during the night to cry on the beach with a wailing voice: and the same property seems to belong to the Green Sandpiper +.

Both these species advance far into the north ‡, and have thence migrated into the cold and temperate parts of the New Continent: in fact, a Green Sandpiper which was sent to us from Louisiana, seemed to differ little or nothing from that of Europe [A]

^{*} Willaghby.

⁺ The Pilvenckegen, according to Willughby, represented by Gesner as a mouning bird.

I Frauna Suecica, Nos, 147, and 152.

[[]A] Specific character of the Sandpiper, Tringa Hypoteucos: "Its bill is smooth, its legs livid; its body cinereous, with black dashes, below white."

The SEA PARTRIDGE.

THE name Partridge has very improperly been applied to this bird; fince the only relation confifts in a small resemblance of the bill, which is pretty short, convex above, compressed at the sides, and curved near the point, as in the gallinaceous tribes. In the form of its body and the fashion of its feathers, it bears more analogy to the Swallows; for its tail is forked, its wings have great extent and ftretch to a point. Some authors have called it Glareola, alluding to its frequenting the strands by the sea-shore. It feeds chiefly on worms and Aquatic infects. It also haunts the brinks of brooks and rivers. as on the Rhine near Strasburg, where according to Gefner it has the German appellation Kappriegerle. Kramer denominates it Pratincola (Prati-incola) because he faw many of them in the extensive meadows which border on a certain lake in Lower Austria. But whether it inhabits the verge of rivers and lakes, or the seashore, it universally prefers the strands and fandy channels, to the muddy bottoms.

We know four species or varieties of these Sea-partridges which seem to form a small distinct family amidst the numerous tribe of little Shore-birds.

The GRAY SEA-PARTRIDGE.

First Species.

Hirundo-Pratincola. Linn.

Glareola-Austria. Gmel,

Pratincola. Klein.

Glareola. Briff.

Hirundo Marina. Ray. Will, and Johnst. &c.

The Austrian Pratincole. Lath.

pears sometimes, though seldom, on the rivers in some of the provinces of France, particularly in Lorraine, where Lottinger assures us he has seen it. All the plumage is gray, tinged with rusous on the slanks and on the small quills of the wings; the throat only is white inclosed by a black rim; the rump is white, and the legs red: it is nearly as large as a Blackbird. The Sea-swallow of Aldrovandus, which, in other respects, is much analogous to this species, appears to form a variety, it having, according to that naturalist, very black legs.

L 1 3

₹.

oce n-

rt, nd ia-

nd ore

is nd

ive nt-

eds

It ers,

ere

nan

nolufe

ea-

in

bits Cea-

and

and

We

The BROWN SEA-PARTRIDGE.

Second Species.

Glareola Senegalensis. Gmel. and Briff. Tringa Fusca. Linn. The Senegal Pratincole. Lath.

This species, which is found in Senegal and is of the same size with the preceding, differs however in being entirely brown. We are inclined to think that this variation results from the influence of climate.

The GIAROLE,

Third Species.

Glareola Nævia. Gmel. and Briff.

Gallinula Melampus. Aldrov. Gesn. Ray and Klein.

The Spotted Pratincole. Lath.

GIAROLA is the name which this bird receives in Italy. Aldrovandus properly refers to it the Melampus (Black foot) of Gesner, all those of this genus being distinguished by their black legs. The German appellation Rotknillis (red-clouded) alludes

COLLARED SEA-PARTRIDGE 519

alludes to the reddish ground of its plumage, spotted with whitish or brown; the wing is cinereous, and its quills black.

The COLLARED SEA-PARTRIDGE.

Fourth Species.

Glareola Austriaca. Var. 1. Gmel. Glareola Torquata. Briss.

al

e-

ly .

at

Cę

in.

rd

0-

ot)

ng

he

d)

es

THE German name of this bird Riegerle, implies that it is perpetually in motion. In fact, when it hears any noise, it is alarmed, and runs or flies away with a feeble shrill cry. It frequents the shores, and its habits are perhaps the same with those of the Common Sandpiper. But if we admit the accuracy of Gefner's figure, both the form of its bill and the colours of its plumage, import its relation to the Sea-partridges: the back is cinereous, and also the upper surface of the wing, of which the great quills are blackish; the head is black, with two white lines on the eyes; the neck is white, and a brown circle furrounds it below like a collar; the bill is black, and the legs yellowish; LIA

520 COMMON SEA-PARTRIDGE.

lowish. It is one of the smallest species; Schwenckfeld says that it breeds on the sandy brinks of rivers, and lays seven oblong eggs; he adds that it runs very fast, and, in the summer nights, utters a little scream tul, tul, with a ringing voice.

The SEA-LARK.

Tringa Cinclus. Linn. and Gmel.

The Least Snipe. Sloane and Brown.

The Purre, or Stint . Penn. and Lath.

Lark, it bears scarce any resemblance to it, except in its bulk and in the plumage of its back +: in its form and its habits, it is entirely different. It lives by the verge of water; and never leaves the shores; the under part of its thigh is naked, and its bill slender, cylindrical, and obtuse, as in the other Scolopacious birds, and this is only shorter in proportion than that of the Jack-snipe, which it resembles in its air and figure.

It prefers the sea coast, though it also frequents the rivers; it slies in flocks often so thick that a number may be killed by a single shot; and Belon expresses his wonder to find the markets on our coasts so well supplied with these birds. According to him, the slesh is better than that of a common Lark; but if kept for any length

In Suffex, it is called the Ox-eye, according to Ray: T. † Belon.

of time, it contracts an oily taste. When one is killed, the rest crowd round the sportsman, as if to protect their companion. Faithful to each other, they give a mutual scream in rising, and in a body skim along the surface of the water. At night, they are heard to call and cry on the strands and little islets.

They affemble in autumn; those which had separated to breed re-unite with their new families which usually consist of sour or five young. The eggs are very large in proportion to the size of the bird: they are dropped on the naked sand. The Common and Green Sandpipers have the same habits, and build no nest. The Sea Lark procures its prey along the shore, walking, and perpetually wagging its tail.

These birds pass into other countries; and it appears that on some of our coasts, they are migratory only. Of this we are assured, at least with regard to Lower Picardy, by an excellent observer *: there they arrive in the month of September with the westerly winds, and make only a transient halt; they will not suffer a person to approach to them nearer than twenty paces, which would make us conjecture that they are not

^{*} M. Baillon,

hunted in the country from whence they come.

They must also have penetrated far into the north, and have passed into the other continent; for the species is found to be settled in Louisiana * in the Antilles +. Jamaica ‡, St. Domingo and in Cayenne §. The two Sea-larks from St. Domingo which Brisson has given separately, appear to be only varieties of the European species. In the Old Continent they are spread from north to south; for according to Kolben it occurs in the Cape of Good Hope, and Willughby and Sibald represent the Stint as a native of Scotland. [A]

Le Page du Pratz; Hist. de la Louisiane, tom. ii. p. 118. † The Sea-larks and other small Sea-birds are astonishingly numerous in all the salt marshes, Dutertre, tom. xi. p. 277.

I Sloane and Browne.

^{§ &}quot;Every year these birds are seen in Cayenne, and on the whole coast; they assemble at spring tides, and sometimes in such numbers, that the banks of the rivers where the influx reaches are covered with them, either on the ground or in the air; their slocks are so thick, that a person will sometimes kill forty or sifty of them at one shot. The inhabitants of Cayenne also hunt them at night on the sands, where these birds eat the little worms lest by the sea. They sometimes perch on the mangroves by the water's edge; their sless is very good eating. In the rainy season, they are very numerous in St. Domingo and Martinico; but it is uncertain how they breed, or where they lay their eggs." Remarks made by M. de la Borde, King's physician at Cayenne.

[[]A] Specific character of the Purre or Stint, Tringa-Cinclus: " Its bill and legs are black, its straps white, its tail and rump gray and brown."

The CINCLE.

Tringa Alpina. Linn. and Gmel.

Cinclus Torquatus.

Gallinago Anglicana. Briss.

The Dunlin. Penn. and Lath.

ARISTOTLE has applied the name Cinclos to the least of all the Shorebirds; and we have adopted it. It appears to be subordinate to the preceding species; rather smaller, not so tall; it has the same colours, with this fingle difference, that they are more distinct; the dashes on the upper furface are more finely traced, and there is a zone of spots of the same colour on the breast: which has induced Brisson to call it the Collared Sea Lark. In other respects, it has the habits of that bird, and it often affociates with it. Its tail has a fort of tremulous motion, which Aristotle seems to ascribe to his Cinclos. But we have not been able to discover in it the other properties which he mentions; viz. that being once caught it grows very tame, though it shews much cunning in avoiding snares, With regard to the long and obscure disfertation tation of Aldrovandus on this subject, we can derive nothing more than that the Italians apply the names Giarolo and Giaron-cello to the Dunlin and the Stint. [A]

[A] Specific character of the Tringa Alpina: "It is brown brick-coloured, its breast blackiss, its tail-quilts whitish cinereous, its legs duskish."

To the history of the Land-birds we shall subjoin the following particulars, tending to throw light on the subject.

The husbandmen of antiquity were directed in their agricultural labours by the rifing of some noted constellations, by the appearance of certain birds, and by the flowering of particular plants. An attention to these phenomena is now superfeded by our fimple and accurate chronology; yet as a subject of curiosity, it ought not to be wholly difregarded. With this view one of the disciples of Linnæus constructed, at Upfal in Sweden, what he terms a Calendar of Flora. We have felected from it the circumstances relating to birds, and have joined the observations made at Stratton in Norfolk, by Mr. Stillingsleet. Upsal is in latitude 598 51', Stratton in 52° 45'.

•	At Stratte	on.	At Upfal.
The Wood Lark fings	February		•
Rooks begin to pair -	1 00/42/	12	1
Geese begin to lay -		12	1
The White Wagtail ?			
appears		12	April 13.
The Thrush sings		16	
The Chaffinch fings -		16	
Partridges begin to pair		22	
Rooks begin to build	March	2	
The Thrush sings		4	
The Ring Dove cooes		- 7	Lapwing returns.
The Swallow returns	April	6	Wild Duck returns.
The Nightingale fings		0	Swan & Land Rail re.
TheBittern makes a noise		14	Keftrel returns.
The Red-ftart returns			Turkey fits.
The Cuckoo fings -			May 12.
The Black cap fings		28	
The White-throat fings			May 5, the Stare retu.
The Goat-fucker heard	lune	•	May 9, Swallow and
The Nightingale fings		15	Stork teturn.
The Rooks cease to ?		٠,	May 15. Nightingale
resort in the even-	about	21	
ing to their neft-trees		1	
Young Partridges feen	July	18	July 15, the Cuckoo
Hens moult		20	filent.
The Ring Dove cooes		31	
The Nuthatch chatters	August	7	Birds of passage pre-
Rooks visit their nest. 7		-	pare for their de-
trees in the evening,		12	
without roofting			•
The Stone Curlew ?			0.00
whistles at night		14	
TheGoatfut ker makes			
a noise in the even-		15	
ing 3			
Books rooft on their			•
nest trees		17	
The Goatsucker no		- 4	
longer heard	,	17	
The Robin fings -		26	
The Chaffinch chirps	September	16	
Swallows gone			September 17, Wag-
The Wood-lark fings			tail departs.
·		-	

Th Th Th Th Th Th Th

Th I

the Sell 1 2

17 18

	At Stratton.
The Fieldfare appears	September 251
The Blackbird fings	27
The Thrush sings	20
	October 2
The Blackbird fings	7
The Wood-lask fings	10
The Ring Dove cooes -	10
The Wild Geele retire from the fens	16
The Woodcock returns -	22
The Sky-lark	24

The following TABLES which we have extracted from Mr. WHITE's Natural History of Selborne, exhibit a synoptic view of our singing birds, and illustrate the climate of the South of England.

LIST of the SUMMER BIRDS OF PASSAGE, ranged in the order of their appearance in the neighbourhood of Selborne in Hampshire.

I	The Wryneck	The middle of March : harsh note.
2	The Smallest Wil- ?	
	low-wren	March 23: chirps till September.
3	The Swallows and ?	A *1
	Martins	April 13.
4	The Black cap	April 13: sweet wild note.
5		Beginning of April.
6	The Cuckoo	Middle of April.
7	The Middle Willow-)	Middle of April a fweet plaintive
•	wren	note.
R	The White-throat	Middle of April: mean note:
٠	2 1.0 17 1.210 (1.11 0.21	fings till September.
_	The Red-start	Middle of April: more agreeable
9	the Ren-Rate	form
	The Stone Custom	fong.
	The Stone Curlew	End of March: loud nocurnal
	The Turtle Dove -	whiftle.
I 2	The Grashopper-lark	Middle of April: a small sibilous
		note till the end of July.
13	The Swift	About April 27.
	The Less Reed-sparrow	·
15	The Land-rail -	
	The Large William)	E-1-6 4 4
	wren	End of April.
17		Beginning of May.
		May 12.

A LIST of the WINTER BIRDS of PASSAGE.

A I

1 T 2 T 3 T 4 T 5 T 7 T

z T

3 T

4 T 5 T 6 T 7 T

2 Th 2 Th 3 Le

ı	The Ring-ouzel -	Michaelmas week and again about the 14th March.
2	The Redwing -	- About Old Michaelmas:
	The Fieldfare -	
	The Royston-crow	
	The Woodcock	Appears about Old Michaelmas
	The Snipe	Tabbears about Old intelligentari
	The Jack-snipe	
ģ	The Wood-pigeon	I .
0	The Wild Swan	í
	The Wild Goofe	
	The Wild Duck	
	The Pochard	
	The Wigeon	· ·
	The Teal	
15	The Crosbill	Annes only seed for all
16	The Grosbeak	Appear only occasionally,
117	The Silktail	*
•		

A LIST of BIRDS that continue their Song till after MIDSUMMER.

1	The Wood-lark -	From January to the end of			
/		autumn.			
2	The Song-thrush	From February to August, and again in Autumn.			
.2	The Wren and Red- 1	The whole year except in hard			
	breaft.	froft.			
4	The Hedge-sparrow	Early in February till 10th July.			
ċ	The Yellow-bunting	Early in February till 21st Aug.			
		From February to October.			
		From April to September.			
		Beginning of April till 13th July.			
		Middle of April till 16th July.			
10	The Black-bird -	February till 23 July, and again			
		in autumn.			
Ir	The White-throat -	April till 23d July.			
		April till 16th September.			
•		Tin July and 2d August.			
14	The Common Linnet	Whiftles till August, and resumes			
		its note in October.			

[529]

- A LIST of SOFT-BILLED INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS which remain with us the whole WINTER.
 - 1 The Red-breaft.
 - 2 The Wren.
 - 3 The Wagtails.
- 4 The Wheat-ear,
- 5 The Win-chat.
- 6 The Stone-chat.
- 7 The Gold-creited Wren.

A LIST of BIRDS that Sing while on Wing.

- 1 The Sky-lark Rifing fuspended, and falling.
- z The l'it-lark Descending; fitting on trees; and
 - walking on the ground.
- Suspended. Sometimes whole sum-3 The Wood lark . mer nights.
- 4 The White-throat With jerks and gesticulations.
- 5 The Black-bird -6 The Swallow -Sometimes from buth to buth.
- In foft funny weather.
- 7 The Wren -Sometimes from bash to bush.

BIRDS that Sing in the NIGHT.

- The Nightingale In Shady coverts.

 The Wood-lark Sufpended in Mid air.
- 3 Lefs Reed-Sparrow | Among reeds and willows.

The following Table is borrowed from the Philosofophical Transactions for 1773. Every person will not perhaps form the same opinion with Mr. Barrington on a subject so disputable as the comparative merits of Singing Birds. We insert it however for its curiosity.

A TABLE of the Comparitive Merit of the British Singing Birds.

N. B. 20 is the point of absolute persection.

	Mel- lowness of tone	ly notes	Plain- tive notes.	Com- pass.	Execu- tion.
The Nightingale -	19	-14	19	19	19
The Sky lark		19	4	18	18
The Wood-lark -	4 18		17	12	8
The Tit-lark	12	12	12	12	12
The Linnet -	12	16	12	16	18
The Gold finch -	4	19	4	12	12
The Chaf-finch -	4	12	4	8	8
The Green-finch -	4 4 6			4	. 6
The Hedge-sparrow	6	4	6	1	4
The Siskin	2	4	0	1	4
The Red poll	0	4	0	1 4	4
The Thrush	1.	4	1	4	1 4
The Black-bird -	4	4	4	2	2
The Robin	4 4 6	4 16	12	12	12
The Wren -	0	12	0	4	4
The Reed-sparrow	0	4	0	2	2
The Black-cap -	14	12	12	14	14

END OF THE SEVENTH VOLUME.

ofo-will gton erits its

the

ecu-n.

