

ON THE SYSTEMATIC NAME OF THE KAMTSCHATKAN AND JAPANESE CARRION CROW.

By LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

When writing my "Results of Ornithological Explorations in Kamtschatka and the Commander Islands," three years ago, the series of Old World Crows possessed by our Museum was very scanty. Since then we have received many additions, and, although our series of these birds is still very deficient, enough material has accumulated to convince me that I was entirely wrong in identifying the Kamtschatkan and Japanese Carrion Crow with the "Black Hill Crow" of India (*Corvus levaillantii* LESS.). I hasten to correct the mistake, which was chiefly due to the fact that at the time I did not realize the essential differences between the two groups of crows represented by *C. macrorhynchus* and *C. corone*. Ornithologists familiar with these must have wondered at my absurdity in making *C. levaillantii* a subspecies of *C. corone*.

The difference between the two groups is one of structure rather than of color, and one who has once observed it will not likely confound them afterwards.

C. corone and its allies differ materially from *C. macrorhynchus* and its allies in the form and aspect of the feathers of the crown and the jugulum. In the former the feathers of the top of the head are individually distinguishable, the outline of each feather being well marked, giving the plumage of the crown a somewhat scaly appearance. In *C. macrorhynchus*, *levaillantii*, *culminatus*, and *japonensis* it is quite otherwise, for in these the top of the head presents a very smooth appearance, the individual feathers blending into a uniform glossy surface. On the jugulum the difference is perhaps still greater, the feathers of this part in *C. corone* being lanceolate, pointed, and individualized like those of the throat, while in the other forms mentioned above the jugular feathers are rounded and blended in contradistinction to the throat-feathers, which are pointed.

If these differences be kept in mind there can be no difficulty in separating the two groups, and tested by them the Kamtschatkan and Japanese bird proves to belong to the *C. corone* group.

I agree with Mr. Taczanowski that the Eastern Carrion Crow differs sufficiently from the typical European bird to justify their separation as a subspecies, and not being able to consult the original description of Eversmann's *C. orientalis*, or specimens from the locality whence came Eversmann's type, I accept Taczanowski's identification.

The following synonymy may be acceptable in place of the one given in my "Orn. Expl. Kamtsch.," p. 239. It should be remarked, however, that Taczanowski's *Corvus orientalis* in Journ. f. Orn., 1876, p. 198,

is not the present species, as Sharpe has identified two of Dr. Dybowski's specimens collected at the Ussuri River, January 20, 1874, as *C. levaillantii* (Cat. B. Brit. Mus., III, pp. 40, 41).

***Corvus corone orientalis* (EVERSM.).**

- 1829.—*Corvus corone* KITTLITZ, Isis, 1829, p. 529.—*Id.*, Denkw., I, p. 313, and II, p. 412 (1858).—TEMMINCK, Man. d'Orn., 2 ed., III, pp. li, 58 (1835).—TEMM. & SCHL., Fauna Jap. Aves (p. 79) (1847).—BLAKISTON, Ibis, 1862, p. 326.—*Id.*, Chrysanth., 1882, p. 428.—*Id.*, *ibid.*, 1883, Jan., p. 29.—*Id.*, *ibid.*, 1883, Feb., p. —.—*Id.*, Amend. List B. Jap., p. 14 (1884).—SCHLEGEL, Mus. P.-Bas, Coraces, p. 17 (1867).—SWINHOE, Ibis, 1874, p. 159.—MARTENS, Preuss. Exp. Ost-As., Zool., I, p. 369 (1876).—BLAKIST. & PRYER, Ibis, 1878, p. 232.—*Id.*, Trans. As. Soc. Jap., VIII, 1880, p. 212.—*Id.*, *ibid.*, X, 1882, p. 141.—JOUY, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., VI, 1883, p. 302.
- 1841.—*Corvus orientalis* EVERSMANN, Add. Pall. Zoogr., II (p. 7).—TACZANOWSKI, Journ. f. Orn., 1874, p. 329.—DYBOWSKI, Bull. Soc. Zool. France, 1883, p. 362.—DYB. & TACZ., *ibid.*, 1884, Extr., p. 2.
- 1885.—*Corvus corone levaillantii* STEJNEGER, Orn. Expl. Kamtsch., pp. 239, 322 (nec *C. levaillantii* LESS.).—*Id.*, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., X, 1887, p. 142
- Proc. N. M. 87—21



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