

Golden Wolf; but whether it was a light-coloured specimen of the common Chanko or a different variety I am unable to say"*.

I propose, therefore, for the future to designate the Black Wolf of Thibet *Canis niger*, and to restrict the term *Canis laniger* to the grey form, to which Hodgson originally applied it.

In the Appendix to the Mammals of Thibet (p. iii.) Dr. Jerdon has referred to the existence of this animal.

The Black Wolf of Thibet is readily distinguishable from every other species of *Canis* known to me by its nearly uniform black shaggy fur. The muzzle, feet, and a patch on the breast are white. The height of our specimen is about 2 feet 5 inches; the length of the body from the nose to the tail 3 feet 4 inches, that of the tail 1 foot 4 inches. The two examples received were alike in every respect; and the young male which attained full age was also similar. I think, therefore, that this singular form can hardly be only a variety of the Common Wolf, which, however, may be the case with Hodgson's *Lupus laniger*†.

7. On the Nest and Eggs of *Hypolais rama* (Sykes).

By H. E. DRESSER.

[Received November 3, 1874.]

(Plate LXXIX.)

Though far from believing that eggs alone are of any great use in discriminating birds generally, I think that no one who has at all studied them will deny that they are of great secondary importance, and that, where other characters are but slightly defined, the eggs and nests of tolerably closely allied species or genera frequently differ so widely and constantly as to form a very clear distinctive character. I may, for instance, name *Acrocephalus streperus* and *Acrocephalus palustris*, which are so exceedingly difficult to separate from dried skins alone, though in life the colour of the tarsus is said to be invariably different; but their eggs differ so constantly and greatly that they cannot possibly be mistaken. The various species belonging to the *Hypolais* group also are clearly distinguishable from the different allied species by their nest and eggs; and though some of the species belonging to that group approach so nearly in form and coloration others of the *Acrocephalus* group, still their eggs alone show that they belong to the former. Mr. Blanford has lately brought from Persia the nest and eggs of *Hypolais rama*, which clearly show that this bird is a true *Hypolais*, nearest to *Hypolais pallida*, Ehr. (*H. elaica*, auctt.).

Curiously enough, however, the eggs of this species, which I am

* It is probably on a skin of this variety that *Canis chanco*, Gray, P. Z. S. 1863, p. 94, was established.

† This species was described by Mr. Hodgson in 1847, in the 7th volume of the 'Calcutta Journ. of Nat. Hist.' (p. 474). Under the same name, in the same year, Mr. Blyth notices (J. A. S. B. xvi. pt. 2, p. 1176) an imperfect skin of a "blackish or melanoid variety of the Thibetan Wolf" received from Lieut. Strachey by the Calcutta Museum.

now enabled by the kindness of Mr. Blanford to exhibit, have in general characters a slight tendency towards those of *Acrocephalus palustris*, and are thus the more interesting as demonstrating a gradation from *Hypolais* to *Acrocephalus*. They are also interesting because, *Hypolais rama* being so very closely allied to the rare *Hypolais caligata* of eastern Europe, differing merely in the size of the bill, it may be inferred that the eggs of those two species will probably closely resemble each other.

I have for long tried to obtain authentic eggs of a species which appears to form a connecting link between *Acrocephalus* and *Hypolais* in structure and habits, but has hitherto been classed with the former, *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, Blyth (*magnirostris*, Lilj.) the eggs of which I believe will be found to resemble either those of *Acrocephalus palustris* or to approach nearer to those of some of the *Hypolais* group. Dr. Jerdon (B. of India, ii. p. 156) describes them as "pearl-white, with minute scattered specks of rufous, chiefly at the large end;" but as he himself never obtained the nest, there is some doubt as to whether these really were the eggs of this species, especially as he describes the eggs of *Hypolais rama* as being pure white.

There can be no doubt about the authenticity of the eggs of this last species obtained by Mr. Blanford, as he shot the female as she left her nest.

I am enabled to exhibit from my own collection eggs of all the European species of *Hypolais* except *H. caligata*, viz. those of *H. icterina*, *H. polyglotta*, *H. olivetorum*, *H. pallida*, *H. languida*, and *H. opaca*, from which it will be seen that there is a distinct gradation in the eggs as in the birds themselves towards *Acrocephalus*, the two nearest in each group being *Hypolais rama* and *Acrocephalus palustris*.

Unfortunately, the nest of eggs of *H. rama* which I now exhibit will leave this country in a few days; but I trust that the figure given of them (Plate LXXIX.) will serve to show their peculiar interest as demonstrating the gradation between the two groups.

8. Description of two Uromastice Lizards from Mesopotamia and Southern Persia. By W. T. BLANFORD, F.R.S., F.Z.S.

[Received November 11, 1874.]

(Plate LXXX.)

I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Sclater for an opportunity of examining the two very interesting Lizards described below. Both are, I think, new to science, although one of them appears to have been noticed as long ago as the latter end of the last century by Olivier, who in 1807 published an account of his travels in several eastern countries, under the title of 'Voyage dans l'Empire Othman, l'Egypte et la Perse.' In this work, vol. ii. p. 428, a



Dresser, H. E. 1874. "On the Nest and Eggs of *Hypolaia rama* (Sykes)."
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