A
SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
HISTORY
OF
BRITISH BIRDS.

THE FIGURES ENGRAVED ON WOOD BY T. BEWICK.

PART I.
CONTAINING THE
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF LAND BIRDS.

NEWCASTLE:

PRINTED BY EDWARD WALKER, PILGRIM-STREET,
FOR T. BEWICK: SOLD BY HIM, AND E. CHARNLEY, NEWCASTLE;
AND LONGMAN AND CO., LONDON.

1821.

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BRITISH LAND BIRDS.

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A
SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
HISTORY
OF
British Land Birds.

THE ROUGH-LEGGED FALCON.

(*Falco Lagopus.*)

THE length of this bird from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail is twenty-two inches and a half;

breadth from tip to tip of the wings four feet four inches; weight two pounds and a half. The bill is slightly notched, short, and of a bluish black colour; cere yellow; irides pale yellow. The head is of a straw colour, streaked with narrow lines of brown; the breast and neck the same, but the streaks are broader; the middle of the belly to the thighs is of a chocolate brown; the back and wings the same, but the coverts are somewhat of a paler cast, the lesser edged with yellow, and the greater with rather undefined dirty or brownish white; the first and secondary quills are barred with brown; the upper coverts of the tail are white, with yellowish edges, and marked with longish pointed spots of brown; the under coverts are yellowish white; the tail feathers are white at the base, and irregularly barred alternately with deeper and lighter brown to near the end, where they are slightly tipped with dirty white; the long tufted feathers, which cover the thighs, are of a reddish or tawny yellow, streaked with spots of brown: the legs are of the same colour, and feathered to the toes: the toes are yellow and rather short; the claws are black and not much hooked.

THE ASH COLOURED FALCON.

(Falco cinerarius.)

Mr Montagu gives a figure and description of this bird as one hitherto not noticed as a distinct species, and has with his usual minuteness detailed his reasons for thinking it is. He says, "that it has been long known and confounded with the Hen-Harrier, a proof of which is evident by the description of what Mr Pennant supposed a variety of the Ringtail." He adds, "that it is hardly necessary to remark that the bright ferruginous colour of the markings is always sufficient to discriminate this." In the adult male, these bright markings on the under parts of the body, and under the wings, and the black bars on the secondary quills, independent of the great difference in the tail, at once point out the distinction from the male Hen-Harrier. In the female, the uniform ferruginous colour of all the under parts is sufficient to discriminate it from the female Hen-Harrier, besides the colours being much brighter: and in the adolescent or changing state of the plumage, the same difference exists in the markings. These birds breed in the south of England, but whether they remain with us the whole year, has not been ascertained.

THE EAGLE OWL,

OR GREAT EARED OWL.

(*Strix Bubo*, Lin.—*Le Duc, ou Grand Duc*, Buff.)

THIS is the largest of the Owl genus, being almost

equal in size to an Eagle, and has a powerful as well as a dignified look. The bill is strong, much hooked, and black; the claws are the same; the irides are reddish orange; the legs are very stout, and covered with a great thickness of short mottled brown feathers; the toes are the same down to the claws. The predominant colours of the plumage are very dark brown and ferruginous, but they are mixed and beautifully variegated with markings and shades of black, brown, and yellow, with spots of white, crossed with zig-zag lines, and innumerable minute specklings of white, ash colour, and brown. The outline of our figure was taken from a living bird exhibited in a show, the markings of the plumage from a very ill stuffed specimen of the bird, which was taken on the coast of Norway, and obligingly lent to this work by Captain Wm Gilchrist, of this port. These birds are sometimes met with in the northern Scottish isles, where they prey upon Rabbits and Grouse, which are numerous there, but they are very rarely seen in England.

THE SNOWY OWL,

OR GREAT WHITE OWL.

(Strix Nyctia, Lin.)

ON the authority of Mr Bullock, of the London Museum, we give this as a new species of British Owl. On his tour to the Orkney, Shetland, and the neighbouring isles, in the month of July, 1812, he discovered that these birds breed there, and live chiefly upon the rabbits,* which it appears are pretty abundant

* They are said also to live upon the Alpine hare, and the Ptarmigan and other birds.

in the warrens on the sea shores. He describes the male bird to be of an immaculate white, but observes that others of them are mottled with brown, and supposes them to be the female, or the young which have not attained to mature plumage. Montagu says this bird rather exceeds the Eagle Owl in size; that it measures nearly two feet in length, and sometimes weighs above three pounds; while Edwards and other ornithologists describe it as being less. The irides are yellow; the bill is black and nearly covered with feathers; the feet to the claws the same. In the stuffed specimen from which the above figure was sketched, the head, coverts, back, breast, and belly were thinly marked with brownish dusky spots; on the latter parts and sides, these spots assumed rather a more wavy shape, and the primary and secondary quills were somewhat barred near the tips. The abode of these birds is chiefly in the arctic regions; they are met with in Greenland, Hudson's Bay, Siberia, Lapland, Kamtschatka, Russia, Norway, and Sweden.

THE LITTLE OWL.

(*Strix Passerina*, Lin.—*La petite Chouette ou la Chevêche*, Buff.)

THE length of this bird is about nine and a half inches, breadth twenty-one and a half, and weight four ounces: the bill is of a light horn colour; irides pale yellow; the orbits black, and a patch or streak of that colour passes from underneath the eye to the beak. The circular feathers on the face are white, mixed or faintly streaked with pale brown, and surrounded with a border of black, somewhat divided by small spots of white; the head and neck are spotted with pale brown and white; the breast and belly are white, streaked and patched with various-sized spots of brown; the legs and vent are white; the back, wings, and tail are brown, somewhat inclining to olive, and prettily and distinctly marked with white spots. The legs and feet are covered with soft feathers down to

the claws. It frequents rocks, caverns, and ruined buildings, and makes its rudely constructed nest in the most retired places, and lays four or five eggs, spotted with white and yellow. It sees better in the day-time than other nocturnal birds, and it gives chase to small birds on the wing; it likewise feeds on mice, which it tears in pieces with its bill and claws, and swallows them by morsels: it is said to pluck the birds before it eats them, in which it differs from almost all the other Owls. It would appear from the accounts of ornithologists that this bird is seldom seen in Britain. The drawing from which our cut was engraven, was taken from a specimen shot at Widdrington, in Northumberland, in January, 1813, and we feel much obliged to Mr Richard Rutledge Wingate, of Newcastle, for his drawing, and the aid it affords us, to give so correct a representation of this bird.

THE LITTLE HORNED OWL.

(*Strix Scops*, Lin.—*Le Scops*, ou *petit Duc*, Buff.)

THIS is the smallest of the Owl kind ; its bill is of a brown colour at the base, and paler at the tip ; irides light yellow. The upper plumage appears of a brown colour, the under grey, but on nearer inspection the whole is prettily variegated with white spots, streaks, and bars of dusky brown, rufous and yellow, and almost every feather is speckled with white, brown, and grey ; the circular feathers on the face are powdered with brown ; the neck, head, and horns, or ear feathers, are much the same, but more distinctly marked with bars, streaks, and spots of white, yellow and brown ; the back feathers and greater coverts of the wings are barred, streaked, and speckled with the same kind of colours, but are on their outer margins patched with spots of white ; the greater quills are transversely barred on their outer webs with white and

freckled brown, and barred on the inner webs to their tips with the latter colour; the tail is barred nearly in the same way. The legs are covered to the toes with yellowish soft feathers spotted with brown; the toes are without feathers, and are also brown. The stuffed specimen of this rare and curious little bird, from which our figure and description were taken, was sent to the author by Mr Charles Fothergill, late of York: another of the same kind is now in the museum of P. J. Selby, Esq. of Twizell House, Northumberland. There is also one in the museum of the Hon. Mr Liddell, of Ravensworth Castle.

THE ROSE COLOURED STARLING,

OR ROSE COLOURED OUZEL.

(*Turdus Roseus*, Lin.—*Le Merle Couleur de Rose*, Buff.)

THIS bird is about the size of the Starling, and seems the connecting link between that species and the Ouzels. The bill is blushed with red, and is slightly notched at the tip, from whence, to the corners of the mouth, it is nearly an inch and a quarter long; the irides are dark hazel. Length from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail about nine inches; weight rather more than two ounces and a half. The feathers on the head are long, forming a silky looking crest, and those on the fore part of the neck, partake of the same appearance. The head, crest, neck, wings, tail, and upper coverts, are black, glossed with shades of blue, purple and green: the back, rump, breast and belly, pale rose

colour. The tail consists of twelve feathers; the middle ones are somewhat shorter than those on the outsides; its under coverts are black, very slightly edged and tipped with white. The legs, which are strong, are of a reddish colour; claws pale brown. The female is of an olive brown; all her quills and the tail are edged with pale or whitish brown: in our specimen the feathers on her head were divided from the brow to the hinder part. This beautiful bird is a rare visitant in this country.* It is found in various parts of Europe and Asia, and in most places is migratory. It seems to prefer the warmer climates. It is said to be fond of locusts, and frequents the places where these destructive insects abound, on which account it is held sacred by the inhabitants.

* A pair of them, male and female, were shot in the summer of 1817, in a tan-yard, in Newcastle; and another male and a young bird were shot out of a flock, at North Sunderland, County of Northumberland, in the month of July, 1817. We were favoured by the Hon. Mr Liddell, from his museum at Ravensworth Castle, with the specimen, from which the foregoing figure was drawn.

THE BROWN STARLING,

OR SOLITARY THRUSH.

(*Turdus solitarius*—*Le Merle solitaire*, Buff.)

THE above figure was taken from the stuffed specimen of a bird which was shot out of a flock, crossing the road at Kenton, Northumberland, in the month of September. It does not exactly correspond with the descriptions given of the solitary Thrush by Latham and Montagu, and theirs also differ from each other: our bird was not tinged with blue, neither had it the small whitish spots, which the former describes, nor the feathers of the back slightly tipped with pale brown, as noticed by the latter. In other respects, our bird does not differ materially from theirs. This bird is nearly of the same length as the Thristle, but not quite so bulky; the bill is dusky, and from the tip to the brow is about seven-eighths of an inch in length; it

is rather broad and flatted at the base, straight, and a little deflected at the tip, where it is very slightly notched. The nostrils (like those of the Starlings) are guarded above by a prominent rim, and the upper mandible is elevated nearly on a line with the brow and crown of the head. The whole upper plumage is brown, with the scapulars, quills, greater coverts and tail distinctly edged with pale rusty brown, the last somewhat forked. The chin and the throat are dingy white, and mottled down the fore part of the neck with dull brown; the under parts are also of a dull brown, but streaked with white from below the breast to the vent: the legs and toes are larger and stronger than those of any of the Thrushes, and are of a yellow brown. Latham says, "this bird is frequent in France, Italy, the Isles of the Mediterranean and of the Archipelago, and other parts; where it is not only esteemed for its song, but held in veneration by most people, so as to think it almost sacrilege to take the nest, or kill the bird." They are said to frequent mountainous and rocky places, and to be always seen alone, except in the breeding season.* Their food consists chiefly of insects and berries. The young are easily brought up, and besides their sweet natural wild song, they may be taught to whistle tunes, and articulate words.

* Many kinds of birds, which at other times are seen only singly, or in pairs, are known to assemble together in great numbers in certain seasons, probably on the business of conferring together, of the route they may have to take, and the districts they are destined to occupy.

THE MISSEL THRUSH,

MISSEL BIRD OR SHRITE.

(*Turdus viscivorus*, Lin.—*La Drainè*, Buff.)

THE length of this bird is eleven inches and three quarters, and its breadth above eighteen. The bill is dusky; the base of the lower bill yellow; the eyes hazel; the head, back, and lesser coverts of the wings are of an olive brown, the latter tipped with dull brownish white; the lower part of the back and rump tinged with yellowish brown and ash; the cheeks are of a yellowish white, spotted with brown; the breast and belly pale yellow, marked with larger spots of a very dark brown; the quills are brown, with pale edges; tail feathers the same, the three outermost tipped with white: the legs are yellow; claws black. The female builds her nest mostly on low trees, or on

high bushes, and lays four or five eggs of a greenish blue colour, marked with red spots. The nest is made of moss, leaves, &c. lined with dry grass, and strengthened on the outside with small twigs. This species begins to sing early, often on the turn of the year in blowing showery weather, whence, in some places it is called the Storm-cock. Its note of anger is very loud and harsh, between a chatter and a shriek, which accounts for some of its names. It feeds on various kinds of berries, particularly those of the mountain ash, and the misletoe. It was formerly believed that the latter plant was only propagated by the seed which passed the digestive organs of this bird, whence arose the proverb "*Turdus malum sibi cacat*;" it likewise feeds on caterpillars and various kinds of insects, with which it also feeds its young. This bird is found in various parts of Europe, and is said to be migratory in some places, but continues in England the whole year, and frequently has two broods.

THE GOLDEN THRUSH,

OR GOLDEN ORIOLE, LATHAM, AND GOLDEN THRUSH,
EDWARDS.

(*Oriolus Galbula*, Lin.—*Le Lorient*, Buff.)

“THE bill of this genus is straight, conic, and very sharp pointed, edges cultrated, and inclining inwards; mandibles of equal length; nostrils small, placed at the base of the bill, and partly covered; tongue divided at the end; toes, three forward and one backward; the middle joined near the base to the outermost one. These birds are a noisy, gregarious, frugivorous, granivorous, and voracious race, very numerous, and often have pensile nests.” Latham notices forty-five distinct species, which are spread over the warmer climates of America, Asia, and Europe; they live on figs, grapes, and cherries, and also upon insects.

The Golden Thrush is about the size and shape of the Blackbird, but its bill is somewhat larger and

stronger; it is rather elevated and arched, and slightly notched at the tip, and, as well as the irides, is of a reddish colour; a patch or stroke of black covers the space between the corners of the mouth and the eyes, and this spot is thinly beset with a few hairs. The whole plumage, excepting the wings and tail, is of a pure yellow; the two latter are black, but are marked as follows:—The edge of the wing at the *alula spuria*, is yellow, and a spot or patch of that colour is formed below, on the tips of the first series of the primary quills, or second bastard wing. The first quill of the primaries is remarkably short, the second is shorter than the third, and both the former are wholly black; the third and fourth are slightly edged with yellow on part of their outer webs; all the rest of the quills are more or less slightly tipped with yellow, and are glossed like satin on their undersides. The tail consists of twelve feathers; the two middle ones are black, slightly tipped with yellow; all the rest are more or less deeply marked with that colour, from their tips upwards. The legs are short, and, as well as the toes, are black, with the undersides wide or spread out, and have rather a coarse appearance; the claws are hooked and strong. The plumage of the female differs from that of the male. Where he is yellow, she is of a dull olive green; her wing coverts, secondary quills, and upper parts of the tail feathers, partake of the same colour, but are much darker; the quills and lower ends of the tail feathers are dusky, and, as well as the former, are all tipped, less or more, with pale dull yellow. The skin of the male was presented to this work by G. T. Fox, Esq. of Westoe: the bird was

shot as it was approaching our shore in the English channel.* A pair, male and female, were also lent for the same purpose, by the Honourable Mr Liddell, from his museum at Ravensworth Castle, and from these and the foregoing, our description and figure were taken. These birds are rare visitants in this country; they are often met with in the southern parts of Europe in the summer season. This species, as well as some others of the tribe, seems to partake of a middle nature between the Orioles and Thrushes, and Buffon has placed them as a connecting link before the latter.

* We have also seen a female, which was taken in the latter part of the spring, much spent, in a garden at Tynemouth.

THE CIRL BUNTING.

(*Emberiza Cirlus*, Lin.)

LATHAM says that these birds are found only in the warmer parts of France and Italy. Montagu, on the authority of Mr Anstice, as well as his own, makes them out to be British birds. He says, in "April, 1805, we observed a pair of Cirles in the high road between Bridgewater and Glastonbury." "To the westward it has been clearly traced to Falmouth, in Cornwall; a specimen was in the collection of Colonel George, of Penryn, which was shot near that place." Latham describes this bird as follows:—"Size of a Yellow-hammer: length six inches and a quarter; bill cinereous brown; the head olive green, with a dusky line down the shaft of each feather; side of the head yellow, with a dash of black between the bill and eye; some markings of black on the ears; the chin is also black, passing a little backwards; the hind part of the neck, back, and rump, brown; the feathers dusky in the middle; the under parts from the chin, are yellow; the breast inclining to brown, and a few dusky streaks on the sides of the body; across the throat a yellow band; the tail is brown, edged with grey, the outer feather with white on the inner web for half the length; the outermost feather but one has also a spot of white in the same place, but of a much smaller size; the shape a little forked: the legs yellowish." "The female is not unlike the male on the upper parts; the under are yellow, streaked with dusky, and inclining to white at the chin and vent." They frequent newly ploughed lands, feeding on grain, worms, and insects.

THE GREEN-HEADED BUNTING.

(*Emberiza chlorocephala*, Lin.)

THE crew of a collier vessel caught this rare visitant at sea, as it was making its way to the shore, on the Yorkshire coast, after a severe storm of wind in the month of May, 1822. It lived a short time after it was brought to land, and after its death, was stuffed and presented to this work by G. T. Fox, Esq. of Westoe. It is about the size of the Yellow Bunting, its bill is of a dark reddish colour; the head and neck, as far as the breast, are of a lightish olive green, and in some lights seem very slightly tinged with pale ash. The chin and throat are of a pale greenish yellow; and a streak of the same colour falls down from the corners of the lower mandibles, before the auriculars. The breast and belly are of a lightish rusty chesnut; the vent and under coverts of the tail are the same,

but of a paler and more dingy cast; the feathers on the back, scapulars, and greater and lesser coverts are of a very dark brown in the middle, but the rest of the webs are much lighter and of a rusty brown; the lower part of the back and upper coverts of the tail are also of the latter colour; the quills and tail feathers are deepish brown, the former edged with light brown; the middle tail feathers the same; the rest plain, and the outer feathers are somewhat longer than the middle ones. The legs reddish yellow. Dr Latham says, this bird is in "the collection of M. Tunstall, Esq." "That figured in Brown's work, was caught in Mary-la-Bonne fields, by a bird catcher."

THE GREATER REDPOLE,

GREATER RED HEADED LINNET, OR BROWN LINNET.

(*Fringilla cannabina*, Lin.—*La grande Linotte des Vignes*, Buff.)

THE length of this bird is five and a half inches; breadth nine and three quarters. The bill is thick at the base; the upper mandible dusky, the under one whitish. A pale brownish streak passes from the bill over and below each eye; the irides are dark; on the crown of the head is a bright crimson or lake-red coloured spot; the rest of the head is ash colour, striped with brown on the back part, and mottled with the same colours on the brow, and on each side of the crown; the chin is yellowish; the hinder part and sides of the neck are of a dingy ash; the fore part dull white, spotted with dark brown. The breast* is of the

* It loses the red breast in the autumn, and assumes it again in the spring; in this it differs from the Grey Linnet, whose plumage continues the same in all seasons.

same brilliant red as the crown of the head; the sides are of a pale reddish brown, fading into a dull white in the middle of the belly from the breast to the vent; the back, scapulars, and coverts of the wings are of a bright reddish brown, the middle of the feathers somewhat darker than the rest of the webs; the first quill feather is black, the eight next to it are the same, but white half their length on both the exterior and interior edges, the latter of which forms a stripe of that colour when the wing is closed. The tail is forked; the two middle feathers are narrow and pointed towards the tip, they are wholly black, the rest are also black, but edged with white on both the outer and inner edges: the legs are dull brown. The female is without the red on her head and breast, in other respects her plumage is nearly the same as that of the male, but much less brilliant. In a wild state this charming bird wastes the sweetness of its song on "the desert air," amidst "the blossomed furze, unprofitably gay," on the fells or heathy wastes which it almost constantly inhabits. There they build their nests and rear their young, concealed in the prickly close branches of the whin. The nest is composed of the stems of dry grass, mixed with a little moss, and lined with horse hair. The female commonly lays five eggs; they are white, with a zone of freckles and small brown spots near the thicker end.

THE MOUNTAIN LINNET,

OR TWITE.

(*Linaria Montana*.—*La Linotte de Montagne*, Buff.)

A pair of these birds, male and female, with their nest and six eggs, were obligingly presented to this work, by my late pupil, Mr John Laws, of Heddon Laws, Northumberland. He shot them on Callerton Fell, near their nest, on the 15th June, 1821; their stomachs were both filled with the seed of the dandelion. The male measured, stretched out, five inches in length and nine in breadth; the female was a little larger. The bill is thick and short, and of a pale flesh colour; the nostrils covered with a hairy kind of feathers; irides hazel; the space above and below the eye is of a pale tawny brown; the throat and fore part of the neck the same; the sides and hinder part of the latter is whitish, spotted with brown. The whole of the upper plumage is of a darker cast than the rest of

this genus, the middle of the feathers being dusky, edged with dull pale brown: the greater coverts are tipped with white; the primary and secondary quills are dusky, the former slightly edged on the exterior webs with pale brown, the latter with white; the tail is forked, and of a very dark brown, slightly edged half way to the tips with a lighter colour; and towards the base the outer webs are more distinctly margined with white, and the inner webs are still more deeply edged with that colour. The rump is of a bright lake coloured crimson; the breast and sides are pale dull brown, rather indistinctly marked with spots and stripes of a darker colour; the belly is of a pale silvery *blea*; the vent feathers are white with a streak of black down the middle one; the legs and toes are dusky. The female nearly resembles the male, only she is without the red feathers of the rump. These birds frequent the solitary wastes of moors and fells, and make their nest in the furze bushes, or near the tops of the tallest heath, with which these places abound. The nest is composed of a great quantity of heath and dry grass, and slightly lined with wool and feathers: the eggs are of a pale bluish green, spotted with brown. Dr Latham treats of the Twite as a variety of the Mountain Linnet, while Mr Pennant accounts it to be of the same species.

THE FIELD LARK,

OR ROCK LARK.

(*Alauda campestris*, Lin.—*La Spipolette*, Buff.)

THIS bird is six inches and seven-eighths in length, and eleven inches and three-eighths in breadth, being less than the Skylark, and larger than the Titlark. The bill is rather slender; irides hazel; a pale streak extends from the upper part of the beak over the eyes, and a dark one underneath; the plumage on the head, neck, back, wings, tertials, and tail, looks altogether of a deep olive brown, but on a nearer inspection, each feather is dark in the middle, and is of a lighter colour towards the edges; but the lower part of the back is not clouded, being of a more uniformly pale olive, or greenish brown; the two outside feathers of the tail are brownish white the whole length of their outer margins, and the inner web is of the same colour,

about half way from the end. In our figure, which was taken from a stuffed specimen, the tertial feathers were nearly the length of the quills, which latter are narrowly edged on the outer webs with pale greenish brown; the under parts, from the throat to the vent, are of a pale dingy yellow, spotted on the fore part of the neck, and clouded or striped on the breast and sides with olive brown. The legs are pale brownish red; the hind claws long and curved. This bird is by many called the Rock Lark, from its being mostly met with among the rocks on the promontories and isles near the sea shore: it builds its nest, commonly, in the crevices near the tops of those where the earth has crumbled down and made a lodgment; it is wholly composed of the small blades and stems of a good quantity of dried grass. The eggs, five in number, are closely freckled with ash, and sprinkled with small brown spots.

THE LESSER FIELD LARK,

OR TREE LARK.

(Alauda Minor.)

THIS bird measures six inches and three eighths in length, and ten inches in breadth. The upper mandible is dusky; the under one pale, with a blush of red: the upper part of the head, and hinder part of the neck are of a dingy light brown, streaked with very dark brown spots; the back feathers partake more of an olive colour, and are also streaked with dark brown; the lower part of the back, the rump, and upper tail coverts are dull olive brown, lightest on the edges; the tail feathers are deep brown, with lighter edges; the two outside ones dull white on the exterior margins and tips; and the two next to them are tipped with a spot of white; the chin, throat, and fore part of the neck and breast are of a dull yellow, the latter spotted with very dark brown; the belly and vent are of a

dingy white; the sides are reddish yellow, and marked with narrow streaks of brown: the ridge of the wings, and part of the lesser coverts are olive brown; the feathers next the greater coverts are dark brown, deeply edged with dull white; all the rest of the wing feathers are of a darkish brown, more or less margined with pale edges: the legs and toes are of a dull yellow.

This bird frequents woods and plantations, and sits on the highest branches of trees, whence it rises singing, to a considerable height, and descends slowly, with its wings set up and its tail spread out like a fan. Its note is full, clear, melodious, and peculiar to its kind. It builds its nest on the ground, commonly at the root of a bush, near the edge of a coppice or plantation. The outside is made of moss; the inside of the stems of dried grass, slightly bound together with a very few hairs. The eggs, seven in number, are blotched with deep vinous purple; the ground colour of them partakes of a tint of the same, but much paler.

THE SPOTTED FLYCATCHER.

BEAM BIRD.

(*Muscicapa Grisola*, Lin.—*Le Gobe-mouche*, Buff.)

LENGTH nearly five inches and three quarters: the bill is broad, flattened, and wide at the base, where it is beset with a few short bristles; a ridge runs along the upper mandible; both that and the under one are dusky at the tips, and the latter is yellowish towards the base; the inside of the mouth is yellow: all the upper plumage is of a mouse colour, darkest on the wings and tail: the head and neck are more or less obscurely spotted with dark brown; the wing coverts, secondary quills, and scapulars, are also dark brown, edged with dingy white; the under parts are of a very pale ash, or lint coloured white, tinged with rufous on the sides and breast, which latter is marked with streaks of brown: the legs are short, and of a darkish colour.

The Flycatcher, of all our summer birds, is the most mute. It visits this island in the spring, and disappears in September. The female builds her nest commonly in gardens, on any projecting stone in a wall, or on the end of a beam, screened by the leaves of a vine, sweet-brier, or woodbine, and sometimes close to the post of a door, where people are going in and out all day long. The nest is rather carelessly made; it is composed chiefly of moss and dried grass, mixed in the inside with some wool, and a few hairs. She lays four or five eggs, of a dull white, closely spotted and blotched with rusty red. This bird feeds on insects, for which it sits watching on a branch or on a post, suddenly dropping down upon them, and catching them on the wing, and immediately rising, returns again to its station to wait for more. After the young have quitted the nest, the parent birds follow them from tree to tree, and watch them with the most sedulous attention. They feed them with the flies which flutter among the boughs beneath; or pursuing their insect prey with a quick irregular kind of flight, like that of a butterfly, to a greater distance, they immediately return as before described.

THE GRASSHOPPER WARBLER,

—MONTAGU ;

OR THE GRASSHOPPER LARK,—PENNANT.

(*Sylvia Locustella*,—*Fauvette Tachétée*, Buff.)

THIS bird is between five and six inches in length, and of a slender form. Its tail is of a cuniform shape, rather long, as well as its legs ; and its wings short, reaching very little beyond the base of the tail. The irides are hazel ; upper mandible dusky, the under one yellowish white towards the base : a brown streak passes from the bill to the eye, and a white one above it ; the crown of the head, hinder part of the neck, shoulders, and upper part of the back are brown, with a slight tinge of olive, and the middle of each feather dusky ; the wings are nearly of the same colour, the feathers being dark in the middle and edged with pale brown ; the lower part of the back, upper tail coverts,

and tail, are also pale brown; the throat and fore part of the neck are yellowish white, terminated by a few darkish spots on the upper part of the breast; the sides of the neck, and all the under parts are of a pale dingy yellow; the legs are also nearly of that colour.

This bird is seldom seen, and is best known by the lengthened grinding or sibilous noise which it is heard to make about the dusk of a still summer's evening. It is an artful bird, and sculks and skreens itself from the sight of man, among old furze bushes, or in the thickest brakes and hedges, which it will not readily quit, nor be easily forced away. We were favoured with the drawing of the bird, from which our figure is taken, by Mr Richard Rutledge Wingate, of Newcastle, and also with a sight of its nest and eggs. The nest is composed of coarse dried grass, about three inches in thickness, but the space allotted for nidification is very shallow; it contained five beautiful eggs, the ground colour of which was white, but closely freckled all over with spots of a carnation hue. Mr W.'s account of the cunning manner in which it places its hidden nest, is very curious. He says, that having long wished to get the egg of this bird, to add to his curious collection, he at length, in June, 1815, after much watching, succeeded in *eyeing* it to the distant passage on the top of a whin bush, by which it entered and left its nest. Its curious habitation he found was built at the bottom of a deep narrow furrow or ditch, overhung by the prickly branches of the whin, and grown over with thick coarse grass, matted together year after year, to the height of about two feet. Before he

could find the object of his pursuit, he searched until he was wearied ; and at length found that there was no other plan left but that of taking away the grass by piece-meal, which he was obliged to do before he succeeded in obtaining the prize.

THE LESSER WHITE-THROAT.

(*Motacilla Sylvia*,—Lin.)

THIS bird is of a slender shape, like the Willow Wren, and from its shy and solitary disposition, is not often seen. By those who have watched its motions, it is described as darting like a mouse through the interior branches of the brakes and underwoods, among which it shelters itself. The length from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, is four inches and seven-eighths, breadth seven inches and a quarter, weight six drachms. The irides are dark hazel; both mandibles are dark at the tips; the under one yellowish towards the base. The upper plumage is of a mouse coloured brown; the scapulars and quills nearly the same, edged with lighter brown; and the two outside feathers of the tail, with dull white: the under parts, from the chin to the vent, are more or less of a dull or silvery white; legs, toes, and claws brown.

Our figure was taken from a bird which was shot in the boundary hedge of Newcastle Town Moor, on the 2nd June, 1815, and presented to this work by Mr R. R. Wingate. Its nest was built in a woodbine bush, about a yard from the ground: it was of a slight fabric, composed of the dried stems of small grass, and curled small roots, and very thinly interwoven or lined with a few hairs. The eggs, five in number, were white, spotted with brown, and intermixed with other spots of a pale bluish ash. They are somewhat less than those of the Whitethroat's, and differently marked.

THE CRESTED TITMOUSE.

(*Parus Cristatus*, Lin.—*Le Mesange Huppée*.)

THIS solitary and shy species is somewhat larger than the blue Titmouse, being more than four inches and a half in length. It is distinguished from the rest of the genus by having its head ornamented with a peaked crest of black feathers, narrowly margined with white; those between the crest and the brow are of the same colours, but the white greatly predominates. The bill and irides are dusky; the cheeks, and sides of the head and neck are dull white; the chin, and fore part of the neck to the breast is black; from thence a line of the same colour branches off, and bounding the white part of the neck, extends to the hinder part of the head; the auriculars, with the exception of a white spot in the middle, are black, and form a patch of that colour, which is pointed off towards the nape; the

back and coverts are of a rusty dull brown; the quills and tail nearly the same, but more deeply tinged with the rust colour; the breast, belly, and sides also partake of the same colours, but are much paler; the legs are of a lead colour tinged with pale brown.

Some of the species have been met with in Scotland, but are considered as rare visitants. They are said to take up their abode in the deep recesses of the forests, in various parts of the continent of Europe, and to prefer the shelter of evergreen trees; but from their being of so retired a disposition, they are seldom seen there, even by the few whose business may lead them into these gloomy wilds.

The above figure was made from a stuffed specimen obligingly lent to this work by the Hon. H. T. Liddell, of Ravensworth Castle.

THE GUERNSEY PARTRIDGE,

OR RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE.

(*Tetrao rufus*, Lin.—*La Perdrix rouge*, Buff.)

A stuffed specimen, from which the above figure was taken, was lent to this work by Mr John Wingate, jun. of the Westgate, Newcastle. Latham describes this bird as being thirteen inches in length, but does not mention either its breadth or weight. The bill, legs, and eyelids are red; the irides hazel; the chin and throat are of a dull white, surrounded by a black line or streak, which passes from the brow and nostrils to the eyes, behind which it continues, falls down before the auriculars, and meets on the fore part of the neck: a white streak extends from the brow over the eyes towards the hinder part of the neck; the fore-

head is of a bluish ash, fading into a rusty chesnut behind, where the feathers are somewhat elongated, and which it can erect or depress at pleasure; the hinder part of the neck is of the last named colour, and is formed into a stripe, which falls down towards the shoulders; the rest of the neck is of a pale ash, inclining to blue, with numerous longish spots of black; below this, to the shoulders and breast, the plumage is of a rusty brown, with a vinous reflection; the belly and thighs are of a pale rusty chesnut; the breast is of a pale lead colour; the sides are beautifully ornamented with stripes composed of black, bright reddish chesnut, and white; the upper parts of the plumage are rusty brown, somewhat tinged with olive grey; the quills nearly the same, but of a darker cast, with the outer edges yellowish; the vent brownish ash: the tail consists of sixteen feathers, the middle ones greyish rusty brown, the outer ones deep reddish chesnut; the under coverts of the tail nearly the same: the legs are furnished with a singular knob instead of a spur.

These birds are said to be found in various parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa; in Germany, France, and Italy; the islands of Madeira, Guernsey and Jersey; but the accounts of their breeding in England, are contradictory. In a wild state, it is said they prefer woody and heathy wastes, to inclosed ground, and that they are easily tamed, and soon become offensively familiar. Latham says they are "now and then met with in England, but do not breed there." Montagu says, "Notwithstanding many gentlemen have turned out the Red-legged Partridge upon their estates, with a view to propagate the species at large, few have suc-

ceeded." He then, in the next sentence says, "Mr Daniel assures us that they are now plentiful near Orford, in Suffolk, by the Marquis of Hertford having imported many thousand eggs, which were hatched under hens, and liberated;" and that this gentleman found a covey of birds in 1777, near Colchester, consisting of fourteen, several of which he shot. It has been represented to the author by several of his friends, that these birds have become so numerous, in some of the eastern counties of England, that they have banished the native breed.

THE PRATINCOLE,

AUSTRIAN PRATINCOLE.

(*Hirundo Pratincola*, Lin.—*La Perdrix de Mer*, Buff.)

BILL short, strong, strait, hooked at the end ; gape wide, nostrils near the base, linear, oblique ; legs long and slender ; toes connected by a membrane at the base ; tail forked, consisting of twelve feathers. Latham notices only three species and four varieties of this genus of birds.

The Pratincole has not till lately been noticed as a British bird. Montagu says, one of them was shot near Liverpool, on the 18th May, 1804, and was taken to Mr Bullock* before it was cold, which specimen is now in the collection of Lord Stanley. It was shot in the act of taking beetles on the wing, the remains of which were found in its stomach. Mr Mon-

* Mr Bullock also met with one of these birds in the summer of 1812, in Unst, one of the Shetland isles.

tagu acknowledges his obligations also to Mr Vaughan, for another specimen from Senegal, exactly the same as the drawing sent to him by Lord Stanley. The stuffed specimen from which our figure and description were taken, was lent to this work by Mr John Wingate, jun. of the Westgate, Newcastle. The length is about ten inches; bill black and short; the upper mandible convex or hooked; the under one red at the base; the gape is wide; the irides are said to be reddish: the colour of the plumage on the upper parts is brown, but the crown of the head and neck are somewhat tinged with rufous; the primary quills dark brown, the secondaries paler and tipped with white; the throat is brownish buff: a black line begins in front of the eye, and passing underneath it before the auriculars, falls down and encircles the throat; below this to the breast, the feathers are of a rufous pale brown, fading into a buff on the lower part. The belly, sides of the rump, and upper and under coverts of the tail, are white; the feathers at the base of the tail are also white on both the outer and inner webs; the rest of the feathers are deep brown; the tail is much forked, and the two outside feathers are about an inch and a quarter longer than the rest: the wings, as well as the tail are long, and both are formed like those of the Swallow: the edge of the wing from the *alula spuria* to the greater coverts, is whitish; the under coverts of the wing are partly brown and partly bright ferruginous; the legs are long, and bare above the knee; toes brown, the claws slightly bent. These birds are said to inhabit Germany, particularly on the borders

of the Rhine, are sometimes seen in France, but are most plentiful in the deserts towards the Caspian Sea, frequenting the dry plains in great flocks. They are also common throughout the deserts of Independent Tartary, as far as the rivers Kamyschlossca and Irtish. They make their nest in holes, like the Sand Martin, in the sandy banks of rivers, and lay six or seven eggs.

THE GREY PLOVER.

(*Tringa Squatarola*, Lin.—*Le Vanneau Pluvier*, Buff.)

THE length of this bird is about twelve inches. Its bill is black; the head, back, and wing coverts are of a dusky brown, edged with greenish ash colour, and some with white; the cheeks and throat are white, marked with oblong dusky spots; the belly, thighs, and rump are white; the sides are marked with a few dusky spots; the outer webs of the quills are black; the lower parts of the inner webs of the first four are white; the tail is marked with alternate bars of black and white: the legs are of a dull green; the hind toe is small. In the *Planches Enluminees* this bird is represented with eyes of an orange colour; there is likewise a dusky line extending from the bill underneath each eye, and a white one above it; but variations like these are common in many of the same species of birds.

We have placed this bird with the Plovers, as agreeing with them in every other respect but that of having a very small hind toe; this is so slight a difference as not to render it necessary to exclude this species from a place in the Plover family, to which it evidently belongs. The Grey Plover is not very common in Britain, but it sometimes appears in large flocks on the sea coasts: it is somewhat larger than the Golden Plover. Its flesh is said to be very delicate

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