

Appendix to Mr. Blyth's Report for December Meeting, 1842.

[Continued from vol. XII, p. 1011.]

Mynahs.—In Vol. XI, p. 178 (*bis*), I thought it necessary to describe the two Hill Mynahs of India (genus *Gracula*, v. *Eulabes*, Cuv.), and I have now approximated to these my *Ampeliceps coronatus* (vide XI, 986): perhaps an enumeration of the other Indian Mynahs will not be unacceptable. These vary considerably in form and habit, and may be resolved into different minor groups. The genus *Pastor*, Temminck, apud G. R. Gray, is typified by *P. roseus*; and *Acridotheres*, Vieillot, by *Acr. tristis*. I shall begin with the more bulky, heavy-formed species, which seek their food chiefly or wholly on the ground. Of these, the two first are distinguished by having a large naked space under and beyond the eye.

1. *Acr. tristis*, (Gm.) Vieillot; *Pastor tristoides*, Hodgson, mentioned in *J. A. S.*, V. note to p. 773. (COMMON MYNAH.) Everywhere abundant throughout India in the vicinity of human abodes and cultivation, and remarkable for its familiarity. It rarely nidificates except in the cavities of buildings.

2. *Acr. ginginianus*; *Turdus ginginianus*, Latham; *Gracula grisea*, Daudin; *Cossyphus griseus*, Dumeril. (BANK MYNAH.) Common in Bengal (though not in the immediate neighbourhood of Calcutta), Nepal, Assam, and in the Tenasserim provinces; but has never been observed by Mr. Jerdon in the Indian peninsula. It frequents the vicinity of water, at least during the breeding season, when it builds in holes in river-banks. The frontal feathers are erectile, forming a slight crest less developed than in the two next species, and those on the sides of the head are directed towards the median line. The young are plain greyish-brown, much as in the immature *Sturnus vulgaris*, but exhibit a whitish wing-spot and tips to the tail-feathers, and the plumage of the sides of the crown is disposed as usual. This species may generally be obtained of the Calcutta dealers.

The two next retain the bulky form of the preceding, but have no naked space on the face, and the frontal feathers stand up, forming a short and laterally compressed crest.

3. *Acr. cristatellus*; *Gracula cristatella*, Lin.; *Pastor griseus*, Horsfield; *P. cristalloides*, Hodgson, J. A. S., V, note to p. 773. (SUBCRESTED MYNAH.) Common in Bengal, Nepal, and eastward to the Chusan Archipelago, also in the Burmese and Malay countries; but replaced in Southern India by the next species. Always nidificates in the hollows of trees.

4. *Acr. fuscus*; *Pastor fuscus*, Temminck, apud Griffith's work; *P. Mahrattensis*, Sykes. (DUSKY MYNAH.) Closely allied to the last, but smaller, with the upper-parts inclining to brown instead of ashy, and the irides greyish-white instead of bright yellow. Southern India.

Acr. fuliginosus, Nobis. In a collection of bird-skins procured in the vicinity of Macao, are two specimens of a Mynah allied to *Acr. cristatellus*, but obviously distinct in species, though being in a transitional state of feather from the immature to the adult garb, the latter cannot be fully described at present. Length about ten inches, of wing five and a quarter, and tail three inches; bill to gape an inch and a quarter, and tarse an inch and a half. The new feathers of the upper-parts were coming dusky-cinereous, of the breast and flanks a purer dark cinereous, resembling in hue the fore-neck and breast of *Acr. cristatellus*: the belly and vent are uniformly coloured with the rest of the under-parts, and the lower tail-coverts are blackish, whereas in both the preceding species these are nearly or quite white at all ages: the nestling plumage of the head is blackish, and the form of the feathers indicates that these would be slender and elongated in the adult, which has probably a slight frontal crest less developed than in *Acr. cristatellus*; the new feathers of the wings are bronzed black, except the base of the primaries and the coverts impending them, which are white: tail wholly blackish: the beak is less compressed than in *Acr. cristatellus*, and the tip of the upper mandible is more distinctly incurved and emarginated; the colour of both mandibles would seem to have been orange at base, and white for the terminal half: the legs apparently have been yellow. There is no naked skin upon the face; and its superior size, with the total absence of white upon the tail and its under-coverts, distinguishes this species readily from *Acr. cristatellus* of any age.

The next are smaller and lighter-formed, more allied to *Sturnus*, but having a shorter and more compressed bill. Their habits are much

more arboreal, as they seek their food upon trees, and are very rarely seen on the ground. They constitute the *Sturnia* of Lesson.

1. *St. pagodarum*; *Turdus pagodarum*, Lin. (BRAHMINEE MYNAH.) Body greyish, the ear-coverts, neck, and under-parts, bright buff, with mesial streaks to the feathers of different texture; the cap black, and bearing a long pendent crest of slender pointed feathers; thighs, lower tail-coverts, and tips of the outer tail-feathers, white. Female rather less deeply coloured, with the crest not quite so long: and young yellowish-grey, inclining to pale buff on the throat and breast; the cap at first concolorous or nearly so, afterwards dusky-black and not crested. An abundant species in the Carnatic, and occasionally observed in other parts of Southern India: in Lower Bengal it is chiefly met with towards the close of the cool season, frequenting the arboreal cotton then in blossom. It may often be obtained of the Calcutta birddealers.

2. *St. Malabarica*: *Turdus Malabaricus*, Gm., but not *Pastor Malabaricus*, apud Jerdon, *Madras JI.* XI, 22, which refers to the next species.* (GREY MYNAH.) Upper-parts grey, the forehead and throat whitish, the former occasionally pure white; and entire under-parts from the fore-neck ferruginous-buff, deep and bright-coloured in old males, and comparatively very faint in the younger females; primaries slightly green-glossed black and tipped with grey, and the middle tail-feathers greyish, the rest dusky, successively more broadly tipped with deep ferruginous. The wings and tail, and in fact the plumage generally, are quite those of a typical *Sturnus*. Young pale greyish, lighter underneath, with rufous tips to the outer tail-feathers. There are few birds which abrade their plumage so much by the time the moulting season comes round: the colours fade, and even make a near approach to uniformity. It is very common in Bengal, Nepal, and Assam, but apparently rare or perhaps local in the peninsula of India.

3. *St. dominicana* (?); olim *P. malabaricus* apud Jerdon.† (WHITE-HEADED MYNAH.) Closely allied to the preceding, but dis-

*According to Mr. Jerdon, the *Pastor nanus* vel *Gracula cinerea* of Lesson's *Traité* appears to refer to this species.

† No doubt the *Pastor dominicanus* apud Lesson, *Voy. de Bélanger*, stated to be tolerably common on the Continent of India; but its identity with the Philippine species so named, remains I suspect to be ascertained. In a letter just received from Mr. Jerdon, that naturalist remarks that "*Pastor dominicanus*, as described by Lesson [in his *Traité* ?] can never be my *malabaricus*."

tinguished structurally by its longer tail, and in colour by having the whole head, neck, throat and breast, silky-white, the back of a more albescent grey, and the primaries plain black ; the flanks, belly, lower tail-coverts, and a portion of the tail, being alone rufous. Inhabits Southern India, and especially the lofty jungles of the Malabar coast, so that the name *malabaricus* is better applicable to this species than to the preceding one. Gmelin, it may be remarked, in his long and heterogeneous list of species assigned to the genus *Turdus*, has described two very different species by the appellation *T. malabaricus*, namely, the preceding bird and the *Phyllornis* (*v. Chloropsis*) modernly so named (XI, 957).

St. elegans ; *Pastor elegans*, Lesson, *Voy. de Bélanger*, p. 266. This is a beautiful species of the present group, inhabiting Cochin China and the Malay peninsula. Colour glistening grey, the forehead, lores, and throat, medial part of wing, rump, tail-tip, with the belly, flanks, and lower tail-coverts, bright golden-ferruginous ; fore-part of wing white, and the hinder half, brightly bronzed black ; base of tail also black ; bill lead-coloured, and tarsi yellow. According to M. Lesson, " this species was named *P. Chinensis*, by Temminck, in Kuhl's Catalogue of Daubenton's *Planches Coloriées* ; it is both *Oriolus Sinensis*, sp. 44, and *Sturnus sericeus*, sp. 8, of Latham ; and Daubenton's figure, pl. DCXVII, where it is termed *Kink* of China, is so bad as to give a false idea." More or less of this is certainly erroneous. I have now before me specimens of both sexes of the true *Sturnus sericeus*, Latham, received from Chusan, being evidently that described as such by Shaw and in the *Dict. Class.* It is a larger bird than any of the preceding members of this group, with a stronger bill less laterally compressed at tip, and may be thus distinguished :—

St. sericea. Length nearly nine inches, of wing four and three-quarters, and tail two inches and five-eighths ; bill to gape an inch and one-eighth, and tarsi an inch. Upper parts of male fine glistening ashy, the wings and tail bronzed green-black, excepting the coverts of the primaries which are white ; entire head, throat, and fore-neck, a silky subdued white, the feathers of the crown slender and elongate : rest of under-parts somewhat paler ashy than the back, the middle of the belly, under tail-coverts, and fore-part of the under surface of the wing, white : bill coral-red with a black tip ; and legs

bright yellow. Female rather smaller, having the ash-colour of the male replaced by brown, pale on rump, and the head and throat dingy whitish, passing into ashy-brown on the occiput. A handsome species, with delicate silky plumage.*

St. cana, Nobis. I can only describe this species from an imperfectly moulted specimen received from Macao. Length about seven inches, of wing three inches and seven-eighths, and tail two inches and three-eighths; bill to gape an inch, and tarse seven-eighths of an inch. Colour of the new feathers of the crown and back plain brownish-ash, and of those of the breast and flanks the same but much paler and delicately tinted, all being rounded as in the nestling plumage, not slender and elongate as usual in this group; throat and belly albescent: the unshed nestling feathers are uniformly of a paler or browner grey above, and lighter-coloured below: wings and tail darker, the primaries and middle tail-feathers glossy nigrescent: some of the larger coverts upon each wing towards the scapularies are white in the specimen, which however I conceive to be partial albinism, and not to be a constant character; but the coverts of the primaries are also white for the greater part of their outer web, which is more probably normal: tertiaries brownish and pale-edged, and the outer tail-feathers whitish towards their tips: bill yellowish, mixed with dusky; and legs appear to have been sullied yellow. This is obviously a distinct species from any of the foregoing.

The *Pastor tricolor*, Horsfield, *Lin. Trans.* XIII, 155, v. *P. melanopterus*, Wagler, is probably another species of this group inhabiting Java.

According to Mr. G. R. Gray (*List of the Genera of Birds*, 2nd edit.), the type of the genus *Pastor* is *P. roseus*, (Lin.) Tem., which is very common in many parts of India, but visits the neighbourhood of Calcutta only towards the end of the cool season, when flocks of this species and of *Sturnia pagodarum* are not unfrequently observed upon the arboreal cotton then in blossom. Nearly related to this, according to M. Lesson, is a Peguan species, *P. peguanus*, Lesson,

* In Mr. Strickland's catalogue of some Chinese birds exhibited in London (*Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, Sept. 1843, p. 221), the above species is termed *Acridotheres sericeus*, with the remark, that it "is quite distinct from *A. dauricus*, Pall., with which it is united by Wagler." To which of the minor groups this *A. dauricus* should be referred, it is not easy to divine from the description of it.

having "*les plumes capistrales courtes et serres*," : it would seem to connect the present form with *Sturnia*. Mr. Eyton has described a Mynah from the Malay peninsula as *Pastor Malayensis*, P. Z. S. 1839, p. 103 ; and the *Turdus ocreocephalus*, Gm. (Tem., pl. col. 136), said to inhabit Ceylon and Java, is referred to the group of Mynahs by Stephens.*

The ordinary Indian Starling, *Sturnus contra* and *capensis*, Auct., *Pastor jalla*, Horsfield, and apparently *P. auricularis* of the Dict. Class., constitutes Mr. Hodgson's division *Sturnopastor* : and the Himalayan Starling, considered to be identical with *St. vulgaris* by most authors, certainly differs considerably from the European bird in the form of its beak, which is longer and more compressed at tip, being drawn out to a much finer point, besides that this organ never turns yellow as in the European Starling : considerable numbers are sometimes sold alive in Calcutta, brought from the hilly regions of Bengal (as Monghyr, &c.), observation of which has led me to conclude that the distinctions above-mentioned are permanent, and therefore to follow Mr. Hodgson in styling this oriental analogue of the common European Starling *St. indicus*.

Finally, there remain two oriental species of *Sturnidæ*, which, though by no means nearly allied, have both been referred to the genus *Lamprotornis*. One is *Calornis cantor*, (Latham) G. R. Gray, v. *Turdus chalybeus*, and *T. strigalus*, Horsfield, which the Society has received from Arracan and the Tenasserim provinces, where it would seem to be very common. What are probably once-moulted females, rather than the young of the year, have the under-parts yellowish-white, with green-black central streaks to the feathers ; and in one specimen before me are some mingled under tail-coverts, of an uniform glossy green-black as usual. The other species is *L. spilopterus*, Vigors, figured in Gould's *Century*, an inhabitant of Nepál and the hill ranges of Assam, upon which Mr. Hodgson founds his genus *Saroglossa*, referring it to the *Meliphagidæ*, and which he characterises as follows :—

* In Griffith's edition of the *Régne Animal*, VI, 422, is described *P. temporalis*, Tem. "Cheeks naked, red ; head and streak over eyes pure white ; collar black ; another near the back white ; scapularies and wings black-brown ; chest and belly white ; wing-coverts white-edged ; tail-ends white. Length eleven inches. Bengal," undoubtedly, however, from some other locality.

“ Genus *Saroglossa*, H. Bill *Chloropsian*, but stouter. Tongue cartilaginous, flat, furnished with a full brush forwards. Wings considerably acuminate and firm, 1st quill bastard, 3rd longest, 2nd and 4th equal, and rather less than the third. Tail firm, stoutish, sub-furcate. Legs and feet strong, arboreal, and subrepatory. Tarsus (to sole) exceeding the mid-toe and claw: heavily scaled to the front; smooth to sides, and cultrated behind. Toes medial, unequal; the hind one large and depressed. Nails acute, well curved, suited for creeping or clinging.

“ Type, *Lamprotornis spilopterus*, Vigors.

“ Habits monticolous and arboreal, feeding like *Chloropsis*, to which genus and to *Hypsipetes*, *Brachypus*, &c., it has most affinity, both of structure and manners, seeming to represent the Sturnine birds in its own group.” I still prefer to retain it among the *Sturnidæ*.

Another group requiring elucidation, and which has strangely been referred by several authors to that of the Mynahs, is the genus of Doomrees (*Malacocercus*, Swainson), and its various allies. This genus was founded on a Ceylon species, identified by Mr. Swainson with the *Gracula striata* of the Paris Museum (or *Cossyphus striatus*, Dumeril), and figured by him in his ‘Zoological Illustrations’ as—

1. *Malacocercus striatus*. It closely resembles one from Southern India, and another from Bengal, Nepal, and Assam; but is distinguished from the first by the absence of the pale longitudinal markings of the feathers of the back and breast, and from the second by the obvious striation of its tertiaries and tail. A Cingalese specimen presented to the Society by Willis Earle, Esq., corresponds exactly with Swainson’s figure; the cross-striæ being much more conspicuous than in its Bengal representative, and consisting of rays of a deeper colour seen at all angles of reflection: the under-parts also are more deeply tinged with rufous. Length about nine inches and a half, of wing ten inches, and middle tail-feathers four and a quarter, the outermost an inch and one-eighth less: tarse an inch and one-eighth: the bill to gape an inch only.

2. *M. terricolor*, Hodgson; mentioned as *Pastor terricolor*, H., in *J. A. S.*, V, 771, and also classed by Dr. Pearson among the Mynahs in X, 650. Resembles the preceding species, excepting that all its colours are less brought out, the cross-rays on the tail being faint and inconspicuous, and barely discernible on the tertiaries; a very

weak tinge of fulvous on the abdominal region. Bill an inch and one-eighth to gape. This is one of the most common birds of Bengal, and it is only after examining a considerable number of specimens, that I consider it may be safely separated from *M. striatus*. It extends into Nepâl and Assam.*

3. *M. Somervillei*; *Timalia Somervillei*, Sykes, P. Z. S., 1832, p. 89. The general colour of this species is somewhat darker, with distinct pale mesial streaks on the feathers of the back and breast, which are seen also on the upper-parts of the next species; its tertials are but very obscurely striated, but the tail distinctly so, as in the first: tarse somewhat shorter than in the two preceding. Mr. Jerdon agrees with me in considering this distinct from *M. terricolor*, which it represents in the Indian peninsula, extending northward, according to Dr. Royle's list, to the plains nearest Saharunpore; but the species of this group approximate so very closely, that it is necessary to be most cautious in identifying them. Indeed, the present one is not improbably the original *striatus*, although not that of Mr. Swainson.

4. *M. griseus*; *Turdus griseus*, Latham; *Timalia grisea*, Jerdon, *Madr. Jl.* No. XXV, 258. This is another peninsular species, also closely related to the foregoing, but readily distinguished by its inferior size, yellowish-white crown or whole top of the head, and dark throat. Common in the Carnatic, and found sparingly in the more open portion of the West Coast.

A race allied to this was met with in the Southern Mahratta country by Mr. Elliot, being described by him to have whitish legs and feet, instead of yellow (vide *Madr. Jl.* No. XXV, 259). Mr. Jerdon has never observed *A. griseus* above the Ghauts.

* No doubt the *M. striatus* of a catalogue of Bengal birds published in the *An. and Mag. Nat. Hist.* 1843, p. 447.—It is also, I perceive from Edwards's *description* of his "Brown Indian Thrush," which was "brought from Bengal in the East Indies," decidedly the species intended by him: the figure, too, being chiefly faulty in attitude, while the colouring of it is enough to mislead any one. Upon this figure and description is founded *Turdus canorus*, Lin., and the "*Ianthocincla canora*, (Lin.)", of Mr. Strickland's list of some Chinese birds exhibited in London, *An. and Mag. Nat. Hist.* 1843, p. 221, is meant to refer to it, but doubtless indicates some other species, probably the *Turdus chinensis*, Osbeck, which Linnæus considered identical with the bird of Edwards. The specific name *canorus* has accordingly the priority for this species, but must be rejected from its extreme inappropriateness: the bird having a most particularly harsh voice (*atch, atch*), and no pretensions whatever to be musical, in the least degree.

In the following species, the tail is more elongated, narrower, and more graduated :—

5. *M. Malcolmii* ; *Timalia Malcolmii*, Sykes, *P. Z. S.* 1832, p. 88 ; *Garrulus albifrons*, Gray, in Hardwicke's Illustrations. Elevated lands of Southern India. Cawnpore (?), apud Hardwicke.

6. *M. Earlei*, Nobis. Allied in form to *M. subrufus*, but the beak more compressed, and plumage very different. Length nearly ten inches, of which the middle tail-feathers measure five, the outermost two inches less ; wing three and a half ; bill to gape an inch and one-eighth, and tarse an inch and a quarter. Upper plumage much as in *M. chatarrhæa*, the frontal feathers however more defined, and less inclining to rufescent, having similar dark central streaks ; transverse striæ of the tail-feathers scarcely, if at all, discernible : neck and throat dull-reddish fulvous, the feathers margined paler, and having faint dark central lines : rest of the under-parts dingy albescent-brown. Beak yellowish, and legs also light yellowish. Common in heavy reed and grass jungle in Bengal, and described from a specimen shot in the vicinity of Calcutta by Willis Earle, Esq., to whom the Society is indebted for numerous zoological contributions. Mr. Hodgson has since sent it from Nepal, and Mr. Barb from Tipperah ; and it has likewise been procured by Mr. Earle in the Rajmahl district. A young one shot near Calcutta is clad in the flimsy nestling plumage, having the markings generally less distinct, except upon the forehead, and the throat and breast of a clearer pale ferruginous. One of the drawings of the late Dr. Buchanan Hamilton appears to represent this species, and I would have adopted his specific name for it, had this only been a little more euphonious.

7. *M. chatarrhæa* ; *Timalia chatarrhæa*, Franklin, *P. Z. S.* 1831, p. 118 : *Cossyphus caudatus* (?), Dumeril, vide *Dict. Class : Megalurus isabellinus*, Sw., "Menag." Inhabits bushes and grass-jungle in the peninsula, also, according to Mr. Frith, the extensive reedy tracts covering the churrs in the large rivers of Bengal. Sir A. Burnes obtained it in Scinde.

8. *M. subrufus* ; *Timalia subrufa*, Jerdon, *Madr. Jl.*, 1839, p. 259 : *T. pæcilorhyncha*, de la Fresnaye, *Rev. Zool. de la Soc. Cuv.* 1840, p. 65. Tail broader and softer than in the preceding species. Neilgherries.

9. *M. (?) pellotis* ; *Timalia pellotis*, Hodgson, *As. Res.* XIX, 182. Nepal.

10. *M. (?) nipalensis* ; *Timalia nipalensis*, Hodgson, *loc. cit.* Mr. Hodgson has forwarded two skins as examples of his *T. pellotis* and *T. leucotis*, which latter would seem to be only another name for his *nipalensis*, which is stated by him to have the entire cheeks pure white ; the state of the specimen does not permit me to distinguish it from *T. pellotis*, to which, at all events, it is very closely allied.*

The true *Malacocerci* have been considered peculiar to India, but the *Crateropus Jardinii* of Dr. Andrew Smith's 'Zoology of South Africa' appears to me to belong decidedly to the present group, rather than to *Crateropus v. Garrulax* ; and I should also place here the *Malurus squamiceps* and *M. acaciæ* of Ruppell. The *Timalia hyperythra* of Franklin, though of very diminutive size, is so closely allied to *M. subrufus*, that I almost think it should be ranged with it:† and of the other reputed *Timaliæ* of Southern India, *T. hypoleuca*, Franklin, is the type of Mr. Hodgson's genus *Chrysomma*, being, I think, separated with propriety, and Mr. Frith informs me that there is a second species of this form in Bengal, additional to *hypoleuca* (vel *Horsfieldi*, Jardine and Selby), from which it differs in being about half larger : the *T. platyura*, Jerdon, approaches more to *Sphenura* than aught else, but cannot well rank therein, its bill much resembling that of *Sph. striata*, (*J. A. S.* XI, 603,) but the vibrissæ being less developed:‡ and lastly, the *T. poiocephala*, Jerdon, I refer to an extensive Malayan group, exemplified by *Malacopteron*, Eyton, which is my *Trichastoma*, XI, 795, and is hereinafter subdivided, the species in question falling under my division *Alcippe*, p. 384.

Gampsorhynchus, Nobis, *n. g.* Allied to the long-tailed *Malacocerci*, and also to *Sphenura*, but the bill intermediate in form to those of *Turdus* and *Lanius*, and the gape conspicuously armed with straight vibrissæ : it is nearly equal to the head, moderately compressed, the ridge of the upper mandible obtusely angulated, and its outline curv-

* The *Malacocerci* appear all to lay bright blue eggs, at least such is the colour of those of *M. terricolor*, *griseus*, and *chatarhæa*, in the Society's Museum ; and the *Oxylophus serratus*, which lays a nearly similar egg, but having a greenish cast, resorts to their nests to deposit it in.

† The crest of this species allies it to *Stachyris*, Hodgson, p. 378.

‡ Vide p. 374.

ing towards the tip, which is strongly emarginated, and forms a distinct hook, overhanging the extremity of the lower mandible; nostrils oval, pierced in the fore-part of the nasal membrane; wings and tail graduated, the first primary two-fifths the length of the fifth, which is equal to the sixth and seventh and longest: feet formed for perching, the tarse rather longer than the middle toe with its claw, and the claws but moderately curved: tail elongated.

G. rufulus, Nobis. Length about nine inches, of which the tail is four and three-quarters, and bill to gape above seven-eighths of an inch; wing three inches and a half; and tarse an inch and one sixteenth. Colour of the upper-parts uniform olive-brown: and the head and entire under-parts probably wholly ferruginous; but the only specimen examined is a partial albino, having the head and under-parts white, with a few ferruginous feathers intermixed: bill horn-coloured, the upper mandible dusky above, and the lower pale; and feet light brown: under-surface of the wings pale fulvescent, which also margins the basal portion of the inner webs of the large alars: tail much graduated, its feathers more or less tipped with albescent; rictorial bristles black. Received from Darjeeling.

Orthorhinus, Nobis, *n. g.* General structure of *Pomatorhinus*, but the plumage still more lax and open, the wings more bowed or hollowed, and the feet more decidedly adapted for progression on the ground, having the claws larger and straighter: the bill is less elongated than in the more typical *Pomatorhini*, and is much less compressed, its upper mandible shewing scarcely more than an indication of a curve, and the gonys of the lower mandible ascending posteriorly to the junction of its rami, by which a distinct angle is there produced.

O. hypoleucos, Nobis. Length about ten inches, of which the tail measures four; wing four inches and a quarter; bill to gape one and a half; tarse rather more; hind toe and claw an inch and a quarter. General colour fulvescent olive-brown above, the lower parts white, with traces of dusky terminal spots on the breast; streak backward from behind the eye, and the sides of the neck posterior to the ear-coverts, bright fulvous; sides of the breast ashy, with white centres to feathers: the bill dusky, a little whitish at tip, and beneath the lower mandible: legs pale: the feathers of the crown a little squamose. Inhabits Arracan.

Another Indian genus referrible to the same great series, is *Pellorinium* of Swainson, v. *Cinclidia*, Gould; and the only species—*P. rufi-*

ceps, Sw., *C. punctata*, Gould, and *P. olivaceum*, Jerdon,—appears also to claim *Megalurus ? ruficeps* of Sykes as a synonym ; at least his description of the plumage agrees precisely, only he states that the tail is equal and narrow, whence it may be that the outermost pair of *rectrices* were wanting in his specimen. The admeasurements which he assigns, also, are improbable for a bird of this group, whence I suspect that there must be some typographical error ; the minute description of the colouring coincides exactly.* The Society has received specimens of *Pellornium ruficeps* from Mr. Hodgson and from Mr. Jerdon. Very different is the

Megalurus palustris (?), Horsfield, (which is *Malurus marginalis*, Reinwardt ;) *Turdus toklao* of Buchanan Hamilton's drawings, *J. A. S.* XI, 603. This, I believe, is a genuine *Megalurus*. It has a long and much graduated tail, and is remarkable for the considerable difference of size between the male and female. Length of the male about nine inches and a half, of which the tail measures four and three-quarters, its outermost feathers two inches and a quarter less ; wings three inches and three-quarters, and their spread twelve inches ; bill to gape an inch, and tarse an inch and a half : female eight inches and a quarter, of which the tail measures four and a quarter ; expanse ten inches and a half, and closed wing three and one-eighth ; bill to gape seven-eighths of an inch, and tarse barely one and a quarter. Colour much as in the British *Locustella Raii* ;† the feathers becoming extremely worn prior to their renewal, and tail much rubbed away. In new plumage the upper parts are bright olive-brown, with a mesial broad black stripe to each feather of the back and scapularies ; margins of the wing-feathers also brown, their inner portion dusky ; crown rufescent, with mesial dark lines to the feathers, tending to become obsolete towards the front, these coronal feathers being small, rigid, and appressed ; a pale streak over the eye ;

* In a valuable communication from Mr. H. E. Strickland, that naturalist remarks, of Col. Sykes's specimen,—“*Megalurus ruficeps*, Sykes, is not a *Megalurus*, but seems to me to belong to Gould's Australian genus *Hylacola*.” The latter would seem, however, from the description in *P. Z. S.* 1842, p. 135, to come very close upon *Pellornium*, and I should not be surprised to learn of their identity. Gould's illustrated work on the ‘Birds of Australia,’ I have not at present an opportunity of referring to ; but I think I can recollect the figures of his two *Hylacolæ*, and that they do closely approximate the *Pellornium*.

† The *Locustella* is indeed more allied to this and proximate genera than to the birds with which it is usually arranged.

and the under-parts are dull whitish, tinged with brown, the breast usually more or less speckled with small linear dark spots; tail brown without markings: bill horn-coloured, the lower mandible chiefly pale, and inside of the mouth light yellowish, with merely a black spot at each posterior angle of the tongue,—but during the breeding season the interior of the mouth is wholly black, and the bill is then of a livid colour, suffused above with blackish: legs dull purplish-brown. In worn plumage, the black portions of the feathers have faded to dusky-brown, and their brown lateral margins have more or less disappeared, what remains of them having faded in hue. The young nearly resemble the newly moulted adults in colouring, but have a strong tinge of yellow on the eye-streak and under-parts, and the lower mandible is chiefly bright yellow; their crown also is devoid of any rufous tinge. The different size of the sexes is very conspicuous when they leave the nest (which is during May). In many respects, this bird resembles the *Sphenura*, but the beak is considerably more slender and elongated, the rictorial bristles are inconsiderable, and the tarse is larger and stronger, with proportionate toes and claws. Both genera have remarkable freedom of action of the legs, enabling them to sprawl widely as they clamber among the reeds and grass-stems, and the black interior of the mouth during the breeding season is common to both, the entire beak also becoming black in the *Sphenura*.*

Of the latter genus, I now suspect, from analogy with the *Megalurus*, that the two supposed species noticed in XI, 602-3, are merely male and female of the same, notwithstanding the considerable discrepancy of size. In all other respects they agree precisely; and of four specimens of the large size which I have now obtained, all proved to be males, while the only example of the small size which I have yet succeeded in procuring, was a female. Mr. Jerdon has lately procured two or three of the small size in the vicinity of Nellore, and it remains to ascertain whether all of these were females. The large measure eight inches and three-quarters long, by eleven across; wing three and a quarter; middle tail-feathers three and three-quarters; bill to gape seven-eighths of an inch, to forehead under five-eighths; tarse

* Mr. Frith informs me, that the *Megalurus* ascends singing, with a fine flute-like voice, to some height above the reeds which it frequents, and then suddenly drops down among them.

an inch and three-sixteenths. The small female gave seven by nine inches; wing two and seven-eighths; tail eight inches, and tarse an inch and one-sixteenth. Mr. Frith has well suggested that the very remarkable ant-orbital bristles of this genus are admirably adapted to protect the eyes when the bird is forcing its way through the dense tufts of high grass and reeds, among which both it and the *Megalurus* are constantly found.

Following the *Sphenura* should rank Mr. Jerdon's *Timalia platyura*, for which I have suggested to him the generic name *Schænicola*; but I have not a specimen now by me wherefrom to draw up its particular characters. Another allied but distinct form may be designated

Eurycercus, Nobis. General form diminutive of *Sphenura*, but proportionally much less robust; the bill weaker, slenderer, and more compressed; the rictal bristles feeble and inconsiderable: the feet and claws resemble those of *Sphenura*, but are somewhat less elongated: the wings also are shorter and more rounded, having the fourth, fifth, and sixth primaries subequal and longest, the third equalling the ninth, and the first being half the length of the fourth: the tail-feathers are much broader and softer, and extremely graduated; plumage lax and soft.

Eu. Burnesii, Nobis. Length six inches and a quarter, of which the middle tail-feathers are three and three-quarters, the outermost two and one-eighth less, and breadth of middle tail-feathers above half an inch; wing two inches and one-eighth; bill to gape five-eighths of an inch; and tarse three-quarters of an inch. Upper-parts coloured as in the *Malacocerci* generally, or brownish-grey with darker central streaks to the feathers, chiefly apparent on the scapularies and inter-scapularies; tail very faintly barred, only discernibly so in certain lights, having no subterminal band or white tip; under-parts whitish, tinged with fulvescent on the flanks; a shade of the same also on the sides of the neck, where the mesial streaks to the feathers are tolerably distinct; under tail-coverts ferruginous: the upper mandible of the bill is dusky-horn above, the lower yellowish-white; legs yellowish-brown. Inhabits the Indus territories, where obtained by the late Sir Alexander Burnes and Dr. Lord.*

* Both this and the preceding genus are distinct from *Sphenæacus*, Strickland, founded on the *Fluteur* of Levaillant, figured as *Malurus africanus* in Swainson's 'Zoological' Illustrations. *Sphenæacus* should be placed next to *Sphenura*.

The *Suya criniger*, Hodgson, (*As. Res.* xix, 183,) may next be introduced, a form which connects *Sphenura* and its allies with *Prinia*, being again much related to *Malacocercus chatarrhea*: and hereabouts should probably also range the *Cossyphus minutus*, Dumeril, briefly described in the *Dict. Class.* to have "the upper-parts brown; head rayed longitudinally with rufous and brown; under-parts fulvous-grey, with a white throat: length four inches and a half:" and inhabiting India.

The various Indian *Priniæ* are perfectly identical as a group with the African *Drymoicæ* of Swainson, numerous species of which are figured by Dr. A. Smith and by Ruppell, and two or three by Levaillant. Ruppell, or rather his editor Dr. Cretzschmar, adopts *Prinia* (in the 'Neue Wirbelthiere'); but Dr. Smith employs *Drymoica* for the whole series, including the *Pinc-pinc* of Levaillant, upon which Swainson founded his *Hemipteryx*. Referring to Mr. G. R. Gray's 'List of the Genera of Birds', 2nd edit., I find *le Capocier* of Levaillant (*Sylvia macroura*, Lath., v. *Malurus capensis*, Stephens,) cited as the type of the genus, and the date given so far back as 1827; but this must be a typographical error for 1837, when *Drymoica* appears to have been first defined by Mr. Swainson in his classification of Birds published in Lardner's Cyclopædia; at least, there is no mention of the group in Swainson's remarks on the *Sylviadæ* in the 'Fauna Americana-borealis,' II, 201, (1831,) nor in the notice accompanying his figure of *Prinia familiaris*, Horsfield, in the "Zool. Ill.," 2nd series, Vol. III, (1832-3.) In the 'Classification of Birds,' the same author suggests that *Prinia familiaris*, Horsf., is probably an aberrant species of *Orthotomus*; and gives, as the types of *Drymoica*, firstly, *Sylvia cysticola*, Tem., and secondly, Levaillant's *Capocier*: but the former of these, if considered separable, (and if 1837 be the true date of *Drymoica*,) must rank as *Cysticola schænicola*, (Bonap.) Lesson, who elevated it to the rank of a subdivision in 1831; and the latter would appear to be a true *Prinia*, Horsfield, (1820,) whence the name *Drymoica* becomes inadmissible. To judge from the coloured figures, it would seem that the various African species effect a complete transition from *Prinia* into *Cysticola*, which latter is rather an aberrant form of *Prinia* than a distinct natural group, the particular aberration attaining its ultimatum in *Hemipteryx*, Sw. I shall follow Dr. A. Smith in uniting the entire series,

as Mr. Jerdon and others have done with the Indian species, which are as follow :—

1. *Pr. sylvatica*, Jerdon, *Madr. Jl.* XI, 4. This is one of the most *Timalia*-like, having the bill comparatively deep and compressed. It inhabits the Neilgherries.

2. *Pr. socialis*, Sykes, *P. Z. S.* 1832, p. 89. Indian peninsula. Probably also Bengal, as it is figured in one of Buchanan's drawings, by the name *Sylvia kalaphutki*, i. e. 'Black Phutky (or Foodkey, apud Latham,) a name by which this tribe is generally known to the natives of India.

3. *Pr. flaviventris* ; *Orthotomus flaviventris*, Delessert, *Souv.* pt. II, 30. Neilgherries ; Bengal, Tenasserim, Singapore.* The *Motacilla olivacea*, Raffles, *Lin. Trans.* XIII, 313, is probably allied to this.

4. *Pr. inornata*, Sykes, *P. Z. S.* 1832, p. 89. Very common in the Indian Peninsula, in Bengal, and also in Nepal. The wing varies in length from an inch and three-quarters, or even less, to two inches, and this in specimens from the same locality. That described as new in XI, 883, is, I now think, but a variety of the present species.

5. *Pr. Franklinii*, Nobis ; *Pr. macroura*, Franklin, *P. Z. S.* 1831, p. 118, but not *Pr. macroura*, (Latham,) founded on the *Capocier* of Levaillant. "Closely allied to the last, though perfectly distinct ; differing in the more reddish or fawn tint of the brown, and the more rufous tint of the white. It is much more rare than the last, and prefers more jungly and wooded places." Jerdon. *Non vidi*.

6. *Pr. Buchanani*, Nobis ; *Pr. rufifrons*, Jerdon, *Madras Jl.* XI, 4, but not of Ruppell. Southern India. Probably also Bengal, as it is figured by Buchanan Hamilton.

7. *Pr. Hodgsonii*, Nobis ; *Pr. gracilis*, Franklin, *P. Z. S.* 1831, p. 119, but not *Malurus gracilis* of Ruppell, (figured also by Savigny,) which pertains to the present group. A Nepalese specimen forwarded by Mr. Hodgson, appears perfectly identical in species with one from Southern India presented by Mr. Jerdon.

8. *Pr. lepida*, Nobis. A delicate little species, with the colouring of a *Malacocercus*. Length four inches and three-quarters, of which the

* At least, M. Delessert's description of the Neilgherry bird applies to specimens from the vicinity of Calcutta and from Tenasserim and Singapore ; and M. Delessert, to whom I have shewn the latter, thinks them identical in species : but actual comparison is still necessary to confirm this.

middle tail-feathers are two and a half; wing an inch and three-quarters; bill to gape half an inch, and tarse five-eighths of an inch. Upper parts light brownish-grey, with central dark lines to the feathers; wing-coverts and tertials edged paler, the latter faintly rayed: tail distinctly rayed and tipped as usual: a whitish streak over the lores; and the whole under-parts slightly yellowish white: bill dark brown; legs pale. Indus territories. Sir A. Burnes.

9. *Pr. cysticola* (?); *Sylvia cysticola* (?), Tem.; *Cysticola schænicola* (?), Bonap.) Lesson; *Prinia cursitans*, Franklin, *P. Z. S.* 1831, p. 118.* In Griffith's 'Animal Kingdom,' VI, 467, the *Sylvia cysticola*, Tem., is mentioned to inhabit "India (Gen. Hardwicke)," as well as Southern Europe: and previously to observing this statement, I had provisionally identified the present species with it. It varies a good deal in length of wing. Mr. Jerdon gives this as two inches, and such is the measurement of the wing of one specimen sent by Mr. Hodgson, while that of another from the same quarter barely exceeds an inch and three-quarters, and the wing of one sent by Mr. Jerdon is only an inch and five-eighths in length: these three have the crown longitudinally striated like the back; and Mr. Jerdon's bird is more fulvescent than the others, especially on the under-parts. In another from Mr. Hodgson the striation of the crown is less distinct, the wing measuring two inches; while in three others from the same naturalist the crown is almost uniform brown, and the rump of these is brighter fulvous; the wing of one measuring as much as two inches and a quarter, and of the other two inches. I incline to consider all identical in species;† but should Mr. Hodgson's prove distinct, he proposes the specific appellation *subhemalayana*.

In immediate contiguity to these *Priniæ*, ranges the genus *Orthotomus* (or Tailor-bird), whereof I believe there is but one Indian species, the adult of which was termed *O. Bennettii* by Sykes, while the young constitutes his *O. lingoo*: this bird, following Mr. Strickland, "should be called *O. longicauda*. I consider it," he adds, "to be the *Motacilla longicauda*, and *sutoria* (imperfectly described), of Gmelin;

* A figure of this species is given in the 1st No. of Mr. Jerdon's 'Illustrations of Indian Ornithology.'

† A contrary opinion is expressed in XI, 884, at the period of writing which, I had fewer specimens whereupon to found a conclusion.

Sylvia guzuratta, Lath. ; *Orthotomus sphenurus*, Swainson ; and *Sylvia ruficapilla*, Hutton," Elsewhere he remarks, of the Malayan species, "according to my observation, the *Edela ruficeps*, Lesson, (*Orthotomus edela*, Tem. p. c. 599, f. 2,) is the same as *Motacilla sepium*, Raffles, but is not the *Orthotomus sepium* of Horsfield.*

The true *Timaliæ*, with which the *Malacocerci* have been often arranged, are chiefly a Malayan group, and several presumed new species from Singapore have been described by me in *J. A. S.* XI, 793 *et seq.*† One common Malayan species, *T. pileata*, Horsf., extends into Assam, Nepal, and Bengal generally ; and there is also one allied to *T. gularis*, Horsf., (which latter is common in Tenasserim,) the *T. chloris*, XI, 794, this being the type of Mr. Hodgson's *Mixornis*, and, as I suspect, the *Motacilla rubicapilla*, Tickell, *J. A. S.*, X, 576. I am aware of no other Indian species of true *Timalia*, unless *T. hyperythra*, Franklin, be retained in it ; but the following group is considerably allied :—

Stachyris, Hodgson. Beak moderately slender, straight, compressed, and tapering sharp to the extremity, where the tip of the upper mandible has a very slight downward inclination, with little or no trace of a notch ; nostrils almost closed by an impending scale ; and rictus nearly smooth. Tarse of mean length and strength, the outer and inner front toes subequal ; and claws moderate. Wings rounded, the 5th, 6th, and 7th primaries equal and longest : exterior three or four pairs of tail-feathers graduated. Crown subcrested, the feathers of this part semi-erect and more or less divergent.

1. *St. nigriceps*, Hodgson. Length five inches and a half, of wing two and a quarter, and tail two inches : bill to gape eleven-sixteenths of an inch ; and tarse above three-quarters of an inch. Upper-parts

* *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.* 1842, p. 371, and 1844, p. 35. Accordingly, the Indian Tailor-bird would rank as *O. longicauda* ; that of Sumatra as *O. edela* ; the Javanese species as *O. sepium* ; and Mr. Swainson describes a fourth, from the S. W. coast of Australia, as *O. longirostris*. Mr. Strickland, who has recently examined the specimens upon which Col. Sykes and Dr. Horsfield founded their descriptions, writes me word ; that "*Orthotomus lingoo*, Sykes, seems to be the young of his *O. Bennetti* ; but I may be wrong," he adds : and he mentions that "*O. sepium* has the whole head and chin rufous, breast olive-brown, belly cream-colour, upper-parts olive :—not *Mot. sepium*, Raffles."

† One or more of these are probably identical with the Sumatran, *T. lugubris*, *T. mitrata*, or *T. striolata*, of M. M. Müller and Temminck, *Tydschrijf voor natuurlyke geschiedenis*, &c. (44 to 1835,) the descriptions of which I have not seen.

olive-brown, the lower paler and rufescent; crown, throat, and face, dusky-black, the coronal feathers laterally margined with whitish-grey; chin somewhat albescent, and a white moustache from the base of the lower mandible: bill dusky-horn above, the lower mandible whitish; and legs pale. Nepal.

2. *St. pyrrhops*, Hodgson. Length about five inches, of wing two inches, and tail the same: bill to gape five-eighths of an inch; and tarse three-quarters of an inch. Upper-parts slightly greenish olivaceous, tinged with rufous on the head; below rufescent, more or less brown; lores and chin black, a pale line impending the latter: beak brown; and legs pale, probably greenish. The young differ only in the looser texture of their feathers. Nepal.

3. *St. chrysæa*, Hodgson. Length four inches and a quarter, of wing two inches, and tail an inch and seven-eighths: bill from gape nine-sixteenths of an inch, and tarse eleven-sixteenths. Upper-parts yellowish-olivaceous, the lower bright yellow; wings and tail dusky, margined with the colour of the back; forehead and crown yellow, the latter with black central streaks to the feathers; lores black; bill plumbeous; and legs pale yellowish. Nepal, Arracan.

4? The *Ægitalus flammiceps*, Burton, *P. Z. S.* 1835, p. 153, may perhaps belong to this group.

Erpornis, Hodgson. Combines the bill and crested crown of the preceding with the wings and tail of *Iora*.*

* Mr. Hodgson sends the following diagnostics of his genera *Stachyris*, *Erpornis*, and *Mixornis*.

"*Stachyris*, Mihi. (*Certhianæ*? *Leiotrichanæ*? *Parianæ*? [I do not hesitate to place it as above.—E. B.] Bill equal to head, very strong, pointed, and trenchant; tips equal and entire; its form conico-compressed and higher than broad, with culmen raised between prolonged nareal fossæ. Nares basal, lateral, with ovoid postæal aperture, the front being closed by the very salient rude scale above. Gape smooth. Frontlet rigid. Tongue cartilaginous, bifid, simple. Legs and feet very strong, suited to creeping and climbing in inverted strained positions. Tarse very stout, longer than any toe or nail. Toes short, unequal, depressed, basally connected, the hind stoutest and exceeding the inner fore. Nails very falcate and acute. Wings short, feeble, the first four primaries much graduated, the four next subequal. Tail medial, simple, firm.

"Type *St. nigriceps*. Sylvan, shy; creeps among foliage, buds and flowers, like *Zosterops* and *Orthotomus*; feeds on minute hard insects and their eggs and larvæ. Habitat, hills exclusively, central region chiefly. Sexes alike.

"*Erpornis*, Mihi ($\epsilon\rho\pi\omega$, to creep]. Close to the last form. Bill medial, conico-compressed, strong, straight, scarpt, pointed; the tip of the upper mandible rather

Erp. zantholeuca, Hodgson. Length about five inches, of wing two and a half, and tail an inch and seven-eighths: bill to gape five-eighths of an inch, and tarse the same. Entire upper-parts light olive-green, the lower dull white; coronal feathers elongated and spatulate: bill dusky yellowish-brown, and feet pale. Young having looser feathers, those of the crown not spatulate, and general colour of the upper-parts weaker and somewhat rufescent. Nepâl; common in Arracan, and occurs also in the Malay peninsula.

Iora, Horsfield. There are three distinct species of this genus, which have been erroneously considered identical; viz.

1. *I. zeylonica*; *Motacilla zeylonica*, Gmelin; *I. meliceps*, apud Horsfield, *J. A. S.*, X, 50. Inhabits the Indian peninsula, and is at once distinguished by the jetty-black cap of the male, with more or less of this colour margining the dorsal plumage; tail also margined with yellowish-white, with often traces of green towards the extremities of the feathers.

2. *I. typhia*; *Motacilla typhia*, Lin. Inhabits Bengal, Nepal, Assam, and Arracan, being somewhat rare in the last-named province. Has no black except on the wings and tail of the male, though a dusky tinge is often perceptible on the crown and back of the male. One specimen only, of many dozens obtained in the vicinity of Calcutta during the height of the breeding season, has the hinder half of the crown

longer and notched. Nares elliptic, lateral, free, and placed in a membranous groove, with small process above the aperture. Tongue cartilaginous, simple. Wings medial, round, acuminate, firm, the fifth primary longest, first small. Tail subfurcate, simple. Legs and feet strong and repertatory, feebler than in *Stachyris*, but otherwise similar.

"Type, *Erp. zantholeuca*. Hab. central region. Sexes alike. Structure and habits passing from those of last towards those of *Zosterops*, by the notched bill, stronger wings, shorter feet, and furcate tail.

"*Mixornis*, Mihi ($\mu\acute{\iota}\xi\varsigma$, compound]. Still near the last, but tending to *Iora*. Bill rather plus head, elongate, conic, but culmen and commissure inclining to arch: base subdepressed, gradually attenuated to blunt tip: upper mandible barely longer, or notched. Tomiæ scarpt, erect, entire. Nares ovoid, free, fossed, shaded behind by fossal membrane. Wings submedial, rounded, the fifth and sixth primaries subequal and longest; four first consecutively graduated. Tail medial, rounded, simple. Legs and feet suited to creeping and clinging. Tarsus smooth, strong, rather plus any toe. Toes short, unequal, depressed, basally connected: hind large, and in length equal to outer fore. Nails highly curved and acute.

"Type *M. chloris* [*Timalia* and *Iora chloris*, XI, 794; closely allied to *T. gularis*, Horsfield]. Hab. Lower hills. Sexes alike. Shy and exclusively arboreal. Essentially linked to the two last by its powerful bill and creeping feet, but leans towards *Iora* and Sylvian forms in the depression of the base of the bill."

black, with but a slight admixture of yellow, and appears as if it had been assuming the colouring of *I. zeylonica* by a change of hue in the feathers; but there is reason to suppose that this may have been a hybrid between the present and the preceding species. Mr. Jerdon, to whom I suggested their identity, upon the authority of the specimen in question, remarks, that "I think your first opinion of their distinctness will still hold good, at least the males have always some black here [in the South of India], though at one time I thought not," by which I presume he means some black upon the head. Certainly, I have tried much, in vain, to obtain a second specimen thus characterized. The females have the tail of the same colour as the back, more or less infuscated, and the dark portion of the wings merely dusky. I do not perceive that they can be distinguished with certainty from the females of the preceding species, though the darkened tail is a tolerable criterion, so far as I have observed.

3. *I. scapularis*, Horsfield. Inhabits the Malay countries. Colour considerably greener than in the others (as represented in Dr. Horsfield's figure), especially upon the head; and the white on the wings less developed. I have only seen females.

Another genus which appears to me to belong to the great *Timalia* group, is the *Cutia* of Mr. Hodgson, *J. A. S.*, V, 771, as was first suggested to me by Mr. Frith: and there is a difficult series of species with more Thrush-like or Warbler-like bills, but which are likewise referrible to the same subfamily, exemplified by the genera *Brachypteryx*, Horsfield, *Macronous*, Jardine and Selby, and *Malacopteron*, Eyton, all of which much require elucidation.

The genus *Brachypteryx* (*Lin. Trans.* XIII, 157,) was founded on two Javanese species, to the first of which it has since been restricted; and though several others have been referred to it by different authors, (as *Br. nigrocapitata*, Eyton, *P. Z. S.* 1839, p. 103,—*Br. atriceps*, Jerdon, and *Br. bicolor*, Lesson, *Rev. Zool. &c.* 1839, p. 138,) it would appear that all of these, with the *Br. sepiaria* of Dr. Horsfield, exhibit more of the characters of *Malacopteron*, Eyton, (*P. Z. S.* 1839, p. 102), with which Mr. Strickland identifies my *Trichastoma* (*J. A. S.*, XI, 795). To the same group must likewise be assigned the *Timalia poiocephala* of Jerdon's Supplement. In the first edition of Mr. G. R. Gray's 'List of the Genera of Birds,' the name *Brachypteryx* is

stated to have been pre-employed in Entomology, and *Goldana* is substituted for it; but in the second edition of that work, the former appellation is restored to Ornithology.

The very curious species upon which the genus *Macronous* was founded, has more the character of the true *Timaliæ* than any of those which follow, and has been described in *J. A. S.* XI, 795.

Next to it, I had arranged a bird which has recently been described by Mr. Strickland by the name *Malacopteron macrodactylum* (*Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.* 1844, p. 417), but I still consider it to merit separation, from the general robustness of its conformation, and the great strength of the tarse and of the middle and hind toes. The bill closely resembles that of *Macronous*. I designate it

Turdinus, Nobis. Form somewhat Meruline, thick-set, with large strong legs and toes, and rounded wings and tail. Bill as long as the head, moderately stout, straight, compressed, the ridge of the upper mandible angulated, its tip emarginated, and curving over that of the lower mandible; nostrils oval, and pierced in the fore-part of the nasal membrane, at some distance from the frontal feathers; rictus well armed: legs stout, the tarse equalling the middle toe with its claw; outer and inner toes equal, and proportionally small, their terminal joint reaching only to the penultimate joint of the middle toe; hind toe strong, and furnished with a rather large claw, but moderately curved: wings much graduated, the fifth to the ninth primaries inclusive subequal and longest, the first about half their length; tail also graduated externally, and hollowed underneath; plumage lax and scale-like, at least on the upper-parts, very copious and puffy over the rump.

T. macrodactylus, (Strickland) Blyth. Length about seven inches (making allowance for the manner in which the skins which I have seen have been prepared), of wing three and a half, and tail two and a half; bill to gape an inch; tarse an inch and one-eighth; hind-toe and claw seven-eighths. Colour a rich brown above, generally darker on the crown, the centres of the feathers paler, and their margins black; rump inclining to rusty, and devoid of marking: wings and tail also plain rusty-brown, darkening on the latter: throat white, with the shaft of each feather blackish, terminating in a slight spot more developed towards the breast; rest of the under-parts confusedly mottled,

the abdominal feathers dull white, laterally marked with greyish, the breast and flanks nearly resembling the back, and the under tail-coverts rusty-brown: bill dark horn-colour, and legs and toes brown, the claws pale. Brought from Singapore.

Malacopteron, Eyton, *P. Z. S.* 1839, p. 103, founded on two species, *M. magnum* and *M. cinereum*, Eyton, to which, according to Mr. Strickland (*An. and Mag. Nat. Hist.* 1844, p. 35), my *Trichastoma rostratum* and *Tr. affine*, *J. A. S.* XI, 795, must be referred; an identification which I suspect holds true in neither instance, further than as regards the genus. With the series of species before me, I find it necessary to restrict the group *Malacopteron* to those species which, as stated by Mr. Eyton, have the bill about equal to the head in length.

1. *M. magnum*. Eyton. Described to have the forehead and tail ferruginous, the neck black, the back, and a streak across the breast, cinereous; wings brown, and bill yellow. Length six inches; of bill seven-twelfths of an inch, and tarse nine-twelfths. Female smaller, with the head and neck ferruginous, spotted or mottled with black. Inhabits the Malay peninsula.

2. *M. ferruginosum*, Nobis. Bill somewhat thicker and more Flycatcher-like than in the others, and the wings comparatively longer. Length about seven inches, of wing three and a quarter, and tail two and three-quarters: bill to gape an inch; tarse an inch and one-sixteenth; hind-toe and claw three-quarters of an inch, the latter very large, being double the size of the middle front claw. Colour of the upper-parts ferruginous-brown, purer dull ferruginous on the crown and wings, and much brighter ferruginous on the tail; coronal feathers of different texture from the rest, being somewhat broad, with disunited webs, inconspicuously squamate: under-parts much paler, the throat and belly white; lores albescent, contrasting with the rufous hue of the crown. Bill dusky-brownish above, pale and yellowish below; and legs light brown. Probably from Singapore.

3. *M. rostratum*; *Trichastoma rostratum*, Nobis, *passim*. I have nothing to add to the description before given of this species, to which that by Mr. Eyton of *M. magnum* does not apply. Its form is less robust than that of the preceding species.

Alcippe, Nobis. Has the bill much shorter than the head, approaching nearly in form to that of *Leiothrix* : in other respects resembling the foregoing ; but the toes generally are small and proportionate.

1. *A. cinerea* ? (Eyton). A species which, from the name, I suspect must be this, differs from the next in its predominating more ashy tinge, having the crown, neck, and back, uniform dusky greyish-brown, the wings and rump tinged with fulvous, tail darker and inclining to dingy maronne, but still fulvescent in some lights, and the under-parts whitish, tinged on the throat and breast with ashy ; bill light horn-colour, and feet pale. Length about five inches and a half, of wing two and five-eighths, and tail two and a quarter ; bill to gape eleven-sixteenths of an inch, and tarse three-quarters of an inch. The tail, also, is less rounded, and the tips of its feathers are less wedge-shaped, than in the next species. Received from Singapore.

2. *A. affinis* ; *Trichastoma affine*, Nobis, *passim*. Distinguished from the preceding by its darker crown, paler nape, the more rufescent hue of the back and rump, and deep ferruginous tail-feathers ; the under-parts are whiter, with a distinct brownish-grey band crossing the breast. This species could scarcely have been designated *cinerea*, which name is appropriate in the instance of the preceding one.

3. *A. poiocephala* ; *Timalia poiocephala*, Jerdon, *Supplement to Catalogue*. This considerably approaches *Siva nipalensis*, Hodgson, of the *Leiotrichane* series ; and has the rictal bristles less elongated, and the feet stouter, with a more robust hind-toe, than in the foregoing. The colour is olive, passing to dark russet on the rump, tail, and wings ; the crown ashy ; and under-parts pale rufescent. Inhabits Southern India.

4. *A. atriceps* ; *Brachypteryx atriceps*, Jerdon. Rictal bristles still shorter ; the crown and ear-coverts black ; the rest of the upper-parts fulvescent-brown, and under-parts white, passing into brownish on the flanks. Legs apparently have been lead-coloured. Inhabits Southern India.

The two next would seem to approach the second species, but cannot well be identified with it, nor with each other. The length of both is given as five inches only.

5. *A. (?) sepiaria* ; *Brachypteryx sepiaria*, Horsfield. "Olivaceo subfulvescens, subtús dilutior, gula abdomineque medio albidis. Remiges

et rectrices badio-fuscae, externae fere badiæ ; rectrices duæ mediæ concolores. Crissum badio testaceum." Hab. Java.

6. *A. (?) bicolor* ; *Brachypteryx bicolor*, Lesson, *Rev. Zool. de la Soc. Cuv.*, 1838, p. 138. "Corpore supra, sincipite, genis caudaque brunneospadiceis ; gula, collo, thorace, abdomineque albo sericeo ; tibiarum plumis castaneis. Rostro livido ; pedibus subincarnatis." Hab. Sumatra.

The *Brachypteryx nigrocapitata*, Eyton, is rather a peculiar species, intermediate in development of bill to *Malacopteron* and *Alcippe*, but having the lengthened rictal vibrissæ characteristic of those divisions little more than rudimentary. It is described in *J. A. S.*, XI, 796.

Setaria, Nobis. Very close to *Alcippe*, but cannot exactly be arranged therein. Bill shorter than the head, moderately stout, somewhat depressed at base, a little compressed beyond the nostrils, the upper mandible slightly emarginated, its ridge angulated throughout, and the tips of both distinctly accurved : rictus armed with large setæ, which are particularly strong and firm towards their base, offering much resistance ; the frontal feathers also are erect and rigid to the feel, and especially those which surmount the loreal region. Wings of mean length, having the fifth and sixth primaries longest : tail also of mean length, a little graduated externally. Feet moderately stout, the outermost toe exceeding the inner one in length, the hind toe and claw large and strong, equalling in length the middle toe with its claw, and all the claws moderately curved. Plumage lax, but squamate upon the crown, copious and puffy over the rump.

S. albogularis, Nobis. Length about five inches and a quarter, of wing two and three-quarters, and tail two and a quarter ; bill to forehead half an inch, to gape eleven-sixteenths of an inch ; tarse three-quarters of an inch ; hind toe and claw above five-eighths of an inch. Upper-parts olive brown, tinged with rufous on the rump ; head, including ear-coverts, dark ash-colour, with a white streak over but not beyond the eye, and meeting its opposite above the base of the bill ; lores black ; throat white ; an ash-coloured band across the breast ; flanks and under tail-coverts rufescent, and belly white slightly tinged with the same : bill black above, beneath whitish ; and feet have probably been greenish. Received from Singapore.

The following very distinct form among the Flycatchers is also believed to be from the same quarter.

Iole, Nobis, *n. g.* Allied to *Muscipeta*, and especially to my *M. plumosa* (*J. A. S. XI*, 791), but the beak much less widened, being nearly similar to that of *Trichastoma ferruginosum* (hereinbefore described.) Bill of moderate length and strength, undepressed, and scarcely compressed, narrowing evenly to the tip, the ridge of the upper mandible angulated throughout, and its tip slightly overhanging that of the lower mandible, and distinctly emarginated; nostrils fissured in the lower part of the nasal membrane; gape well armed. Feet as in *Muscipeta*, but rather stouter, the outer front toe and claw barely exceeding in length the innermost. Wings of mean length, graduated, the fourth, fifth, and sixth primaries subequal and longest, and the seventh exceeding the third: tail slightly rounded. Plumage soft, and excessively dense and copious over the rump; the crown (at least in the species described,) subcrested, with pointed feathers much as in *Hypsipetes*.

I. olivacea, Nobis. Length about six inches and three-quarters, of wing three and a quarter, and tail three inches; bill to gape seven-eighths of an inch; tarse five-eighths of an inch; hind-toe and claw seven-sixteenths. Colour of the upper-parts deep olive-brown, with a slight greenish tinge, which latter is wanting on the tail, and is scarcely visible on the subcrested head: under-parts much paler, passing into dull yellowish-white on the belly, and darker on the sides of the breast. Bill dark corneous above, the lower mandible pale; and feet light brown.

Muscicapa leucogastra, Nobis. Length about six inches, of wing three, and tail two and a quarter; bill to frontal feathers half an inch, and tarse nearly five-eighths. Head, throat, front and sides of the neck, ear-coverts, and breast, glossy-black; nape, scapularies, interscapularies, wings and tail, dusky greyish-brown; the rump purer grey; and belly and under tail-coverts white, slightly tinged with fulvous. Bill black; and legs, in the dry specimen, dusky. Probably Malayan, but perhaps Chinese.

M. rubecula, Nobis.* Length six inches and a half, or more, of wing three and five-eighths, and tail three and one-eighth; bill to frontal feathers above half an inch, and tarse five-eighths of an inch. Head, including ear-coverts, glossy dull black; scapularies

* The *M. rubecula*, Sw., is a female *Cyornis*, vide p. 390.

and interscapularies ashy-brown; the rump dark grey; wings and tail dusky-brown, the outermost feather of the latter slightly albescent: throat, fore-neck, and breast, bright ferruginous; the belly and under tail-coverts fulvescent-white. Bill dark horn-colour, and legs appear to have been leaden-brown.

A supposed young female is smaller, having the wing but three inches, and tail two and three quarters. The nestling garb appears to be retained about the nape, where the feathers are of open texture, and of a light brown colour. Crown and ear-coverts dark ashy; and the colours generally are less deep, the breast being of a much weaker ferruginous, still more diluted on the throat. Bill imperfect, and what remains of it induces me rather to doubt the specific identity of this with the preceding specimen. Both, with *M. leucogastra*, have the bill remarkably broad at base, and approximating the *Muscipetæ*.

Vanellus leucurus (?); *Charadrius leucurus* (?), Lichtenstein, mentioned in Griffith's work to inhabit Tartary, as well as Egypt and Nubia. I have obtained a single specimen in the Calcutta bazar of a species which I doubt not is the Tartarian bird here alluded to,* but whether perfectly identical with the African species is more doubtful. As compared with the figure in the great French work on Egypt, this Asiatic specimen differs in having no trace of the rufous-isabelline tint represented, beyond a mere blush of this hue on the abdominal region, and there is no defined grey patch on the breast. Length (of a female) eleven inches, by twenty-three inches in alar expanse; wing seven inches; tail two and three-quarters; bill to forehead an inch and one-eighth; tarse two inches and five-eighths. Irides reddish-amber; bill black, and legs and toes bright yellow, the claws black. General colour brownish-grey, with a reddish-purple gloss on the mantle, extending over the tertiaries; head and neck browner and glossless, the throat and around the bill white; breast more ashy, the feathers margined paler; rest of the under-parts, with the tail and its upper coverts, white, the belly and flanks conspicuously tinged with dull rosy, or a roseate-cream hue; primaries and their coverts black, the secondaries and their coverts largely tipped

* Here may be mentioned that I have likewise procured a beautiful fresh specimen of the *Anas formosa*, Gmelin, shot on the salt-water lake near Calcutta, which species is described to frequent Lake Baikal, and was unknown to Mr. Hodgson who had never met with it in Nepal. The tracheal bony vesicle is but slightly developed.

with white, and having a black bar above the white ; rest of the wing-coverts like the back.

The general colour of this species approaches that of the *Lobivanellus cinereus*, Nobis (XI, 587), which latter is perhaps the *Vanellus keptuschka*, Tem., of a catalogue of Bengal birds published in the *An. and Mag. Nat. Hist.* 1843, p. 447, as it sufficiently agrees with the brief description of *Charadrius keptuschka*, Lepech., in Griffith's work, where, as synonyms, are attached the *Tringa fasciata*, Gmelin, as the female, and *Ch. gregarius*, Pallas, as the young. The same synonyms are, however, annexed in a paper by Prof. Brandt, 'On certain Siberian birds described by Latham,' published in the *An. and Mag. Nat. Hist.* 1843, p. 114, where it is added that the 'Black-sided Sandpiper' of Hardwicke's published drawings "seems to belong to this species," being, on the other hand, very different from my *cinereus*. Cawnpore is mentioned on Hardwicke's plate as the locality where his two specimens were obtained, and Mr. Frith tells me, that he also has met with the same species in Bengal ; but it has not hitherto occurred to me, nor to Mr. Jerdon in the South of India. In the same list of Bengal specimens, *Vanellus cristatus* is also mentioned, a species which is common along the Indus, and is included in Mr. Hodgson's MS. catalogue of Nepalese birds ; but this also I have not yet met with here, neither have I hitherto obtained the *Hoplopterus ventralis* in this vicinity ; but I have procured two examples only of *Sarciophorus bilobus** : *Lobivanellus goensis* is very common, and *L. cinereus* far from rare. For an arrangement of this Lapwing group, vide *P. Z. S.* 1841, p. 42.

Totanus brevipes, Vieillot (apud Drapiez, *Dict. Class. d'Hist. Nat.* III, 572. "Patrie inconnue"). The Society possess an old specimen of a Sandpiper which I think may be referred to this, though rather superior in dimensions to those assigned in the work cited. It is not very unlike the Green Sandpiper (*T. ochropus*), but is larger, with no white over or upon the tail, and remarkably short legs. Length about nine inches and a half ; of wing six inches, and tail two and a half ; bill to forehead an inch and a half ; and tarse under an inch and a quarter. Colour of the upper-parts uniform dingy olive-

* Recently, (in September and October 1844,) several fresh examples of this species have occurred.

brown, the small wing-feathers having a subterminal faint dusky bar, and slightly tipped with albescent; primaries dusky-brown: throat, fore-neck, and breast, paler than the upper-parts; the belly and under tail-coverts white: a whitish line also from the beak to the eye above it, and a darker one bordering it below on the lores. This specimen (with the two *Muscicapæ* just described,) formed part of a collection made at Macao, but comprising many Malayan species; and it is probably Chinese. Eight inches (French) is stated to be the length of M. Vieillot's species; but I have little doubt that the present specimen is correctly referred to it.

T. solitarius, Vieillot, apud *Dict. Class.* This is another little-known Sandpiper, from the western coast of South America, intermediate to *T. glottis* and *T. fuscus*. Length about fourteen inches, of wing seven and a half, and tail three inches; bill slender, and two inches and three-eighths to forehead, its tips much accurved; tarse two inches and three-quarters. Upper-parts olive grey, the feathers laterally margined with dusky-black and whitish alternately, forming the extremities of transverse bars which are obsolete in the medial portion of the feather; crown dark, the feathers laterally margined with whitish; neck streaky, the dark colour predominating behind, and the white in front; above the lores, the throat, and the under-parts from the breast, pure white, having some dark streaks and broken bars on the pectoral feathers; primaries dusky; the upper tail-coverts chiefly white; and tail closely barred white and dusky, the colours of its middle feathers blending except on their lateral margins. Bill dark; and the legs appear to have been greenish. Inhabits Chili.

P. S.—It is so long since the foregoing Report, and the former portion of its Appendix, were published, that I have now a few further elucidations to offer on some of the groups treated of.

Vol. XII, p. 930. For *Erythrospiza rosea*, read *E. erythrina*, vide Strickland in *An. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 1844, p. 38. It is a typically formed species.

P. 933. *Corvus rufus*, Lath., is identical with *Crypsirina vagabunda*. *Temnurus leucopterus* seems to be allied to the Drongos, and like them would appear to have only ten tail-feathers.

P. P. 941, 1007. Genus *Cyornis*, Nobis. Add, as a fifth species, *Muscicapa pallipes*, Jerdon; and probably as a sixth, *M. indigo*,

Horsfield. The *M. rubecula*, Swainson, would appear rather to be the female of *C. Tickellia*, Nobis, than of *C. banyumas*, in which case the name *rubecula* must stand for the former.

P. 944. *Chrysococcyx lucidus* has now been also received from Arracan: and I have just seen a fine adult from the hilly district of Monghyr, in Bengal.

P. 945. *Centropus dimidiatus*, Nobis. Lately received from Cuttack, and may yet probably turn out to be the final plumage of *C. lepidus*.

Phœnicophaus lucidus, Vigors, "described in Lady Raffles' Memoir, p. 671," is identical, as I am informed by Dr. Horsfield, with the species No. 18 of my Monograph of eastern *Cuculidæ*, XI, 923, and XII, 246.*

* Mr. Strickland has favored me by examining certain specimens of *Cuculidæ* in London, and otherwise aided in reducing the synonyms of the group. "The *Cuculus flaviventris*, Scop., v. *radiatus*, Gm." (vide XI, 900), he informs me, "is a good species. I have a specimen from Malacca, exactly agreeing with Sonnerat's description, except that the tail is not even, but very slightly rounded, with the outermost pair of feathers an inch and a quarter shorter than the rest. It is of the size of *C. fugax*, the beak rather more slender." (Can it be the *C. tenuirostris*, Lesson, referred by me to *C. fugax*, vide XII, 943? In such case, it would doubtless have been confounded with *C. fugax*.) Of the Javanese specimen referred to *C. canorus* by Dr. Horsfield (vide XI, 902), Mr. Strickland writes—"Apparently the same as the European, but I had not a European one to compare with it at the time. It is not the *micropterus*, nor the *fugax*, both of which are at the India House.—*C. pravata*, Horsfield,=*C. Sonneratii*, Lath.,=*C. rufovittatus*, Drapiez" (XI, 906, 911). "I have seen many specimens from Malacca, all in the same plumage, but I never saw any adult-looking bird to which it could be referred. It has a broader beak than any other Cuckoo of the same size.—*Cuc. lugubris* is, I suspect, the same as *dicruroides*. I have a forked-tailed one with the wing four inches and three-quarters long, and an even-tailed one from Malacca with the wings five inches and a quarter, being the reverse of the supposed distinctions between them." To this (vide also XII, 244), I may remark, that several Malayan specimens which I have seen have all been smaller than the Indian ones; and the same relation holds between the Malayan *C. flavus* (of which *C. pyrogaster*, Vieillot, J. A. S. XI, 912, is probably a synonym,) and the Indian bird which I referred to *C. niger* (XI, 908, XII, 940 *et seq.*, 944), but which I now think cannot be the *C. niger*, Lath., founded on the "Black Indian Cuckoo" of Edwards, which, if his figure and description can be depended upon, would seem to be a small species of Coël (*Eudynamys*); though in that case I should doubt its occurrence in Bengal. Of *Eudynamys*, too, I must remark that the Australian Coël, referred to *Eu. orientalis* by Messrs. Vigors and Horsfield (vide XI, 913), is considered distinct by Mr. Swainson, who styles it *Eu. australis* ('Menag.', p. 344), and

P. 948. Genus *Garrulax*. *G. rufifrons*, No. 3. There is also a *Crateropus rufifrons*, Sw. ('Menag.,'), which is probably identical with M. Lesson's species.

No. 11, *G. melanotis*. Capt. Phayre sent two specimens with black ear-coverts, such as I have never seen among numerous examples of *G. pectoralis* from the Himalaya; but a third, forwarded subsequently, has an admixture of white on the ear-coverts, though less than in the Himalayan specimens: and hence I now think that the Arracan bird had better be regarded as a variety only of *G. pectoralis*.

Nos. 13, *G. lunaris*, and 14, *G. ruficollis*, are identical, and will retain the latter appellation. The Society has received fine specimens from Tipperah.

No. 29, *G. Delesserti*, is nearly allied to *G. gularis*, No. 8.

Nos. 25, *G. lineatus*, and 26, *G. setafer*, are also, I greatly suspect, identical, in which case the former name must be preserved.

assigns to it considerably larger dimensions. Lastly, I have to observe that the alleged Chusan specimens referred to *Cuc. flavus* in XII, 944 (note), and the *Chrysococcyx chalcites* of the same page, and *Centropus dimidiatus* of p. 945 (note), were obtained, as I have now much reason to suspect, from the vicinity of Singapore, although the former localities were given to me with much positiveness; certainly the specimens were prepared as the Singapore bird-skins usually are, and one in the same lot which was stated to be South American, proves to be the Malayan *Turdus modestus*, Eyton, which Capt. Phayre has since procured in Arracan. But to return to Mr. Strickland's notes: the Malayan *C. flavus*, he remarks, "should more properly stand as *C. merulinus*, Scopoli; and the Australian *C. cineraceus*" (XII, 242) "is very distinct from *merulinus*, being much larger and longer in the wing," &c. For the Indian bird he retains the name *tenuirostris*, Gray. "*Cuculus basalis*, Horsf., is identical with immature specimens of *Chrysococcyx lucidus*, from Australia. *Phœnicophaus melanognathus*, Horsf., has the nostrils narrow, and the lower mandible black:—not *Cuc. melanagnathus* of Raffles, your *Ph. viridis*" (XI, 927), "which has round nostrils, and a red spot on the lower mandible. The *Cuculus sumatranus*, Raffles, is also distinct from *Ph. Diardi*," (No. 24 of my monograph, XI, 928, vide XII, 246,) "having the belly and lower tail-coverts rufous, and the nostrils narrow, almost linear, and oblique. I have it from Malacca. *Centropus lepidus*" (XI, 1102, XII, 945 note) "is larger (not less, as Horsfield states,) than *C. affinis*, and has the beak stronger and higher. *C. affinis* is the smallest of all the species, the wing measuring but five inches and three-eighths, and tail six and a half. It is certainly the *Cuculus viridis*, Scopoli, founded on Sonnerat's *Voy. Nouv. Guin.*, pl. 80. The curve of the hind claws in Horsfield's specimen is only very slight." May not this be *C. bengalensis*, v. *pumilus*, XI, 1104, XII, 945?

No. 29, *G. Delesserti*, is nearly allied to *G. gularis*, No. 8.

The *Turdus ochrocephalus*, Gm., Horsfield, *Lin. Trans.* XIII, 149, is now doubtfully referred by Dr. Horsfield to this group.

Nos. 1, *G. leucolophos*, and 20, *G. rufogularis*, occur in Sylhet ; and the former also in Arracan.

P. P. 953 and 958. The genus *Ixops*, as Dr. Horsfield informs me, is identical with *Actinodura*, Gould ; and *Sibia* must be retained for *S. picoides* and *S. gracilis*, while *S. nigriceps* should perhaps be separated, and is allied to *Yuhina*, Hodgson, *As. Res.* XIX, 165.

Leiocinclla plumosa is also an inhabitant of Sylhet ; and the *Turdus canorus*, Lin., mentioned in the note, I have now referred to the common *Malacocercus* of Bengal, vide note to p. 368.

P. P. 955, *et seq.* The name *Phyllornis* has the priority over *Chloropsis*, and must therefore be adopted. The specimen which I described as the female *Ph. cœsmarhynchus* proves to be a male of the species referred to *Ph. cochinchinensis* by Mr. Jerdon : but it is doubtful whether the latter be the true *cochinchinensis*, Auct., which is described as being "towards the tail and outer edges of the wings blue." Now Mr. Jerdon's species has no trace of blue either on the tail or wings, except the usual verditer patch on the shoulders of the wings, and a tinge of the same on the lesser coverts of old birds, the outer primaries having their external webs more or less yellowish, especially in the females and young. Should it prove distinct, I would propose for it the appellation *Ph. Jerdoni*. The black portion of the throat of this bird is surrounded by dull pale yellow, which is continued up over the forehead.

From Arracan, the Society has received three species of this genus, viz. the Himalayan *Ph. Hardwickii* (v. *curvirostris*, &c.), which is there rare, and the other two common,—*Ph. aurifrons*, and a species which resembles the so-called *Ph. malabaricus* in size and colouring, but has the bill more tapering and pointed, as in those of India. I do not like, however, to venture on separating it from *Ph. malabaricus*. It may be added, that *Chloropsis mysticalis*, Sw., refers to the female of the Malayan *malabaricus* ; and *Turdus viridis*, Horsf., (according to Mr. Strickland,) is the female *Ph. Sonneratii*, v. *Meliphaga javensis* of Dr. Horsfield's catalogue.

P. 960. *Pitta malaccensis* has, I believe, been already so denomi-

nated by Scopoli.* *P. nigricollis*, Nobis (of which I suspect *P. rodogaster* to be merely the young), is the *P. cucullata*, Hartlaub, described in the *Rev. Zool.*, 1843, p. 65, and recently by Mr. Strickland in the *An. and Mag. Nat. Hist.* 1844, p. 410. Mr. Strickland retains the name *Pitta* for this genus, rejecting *Brachyurus*, Thunberg, which Mr. G. R. Gray proposes should be substituted.

P. 963. Genus *Phylloscopus*. All the species described, with the exception of *Ph. magnirostris*, (which I have now reason to suspect is the *Sylvia javanica*, Horsfield), and two or three others in addition to them, have now been obtained by Mr. Jerdon in Southern India. *Ph. tristis*, Nobis, was referred to *Sylvia trochilus* in that gentleman's first catalogue.

P. 968. *Culicipeta Burkii*. Add *Cryptolopha auricapilla*, Swainson ('Menag.', p. 343), as another synonym.

P. 983. *Diceum Tickelliae*, Nobis, is the *Certhia erythrorhynchus*, Latham; the young bird having a fleshy-red bill, which colour is much exaggerated in one of Buchanan Hamilton's drawings, a duplicate of which was probably Latham's authority for the species. The specific name *erythrorhynchus* is, however, so inappropriate that it can scarcely be retained.

P. 985. Magpies. I was wrong in identifying the Chilian species with that of Europe, which latter has since been received by the Society. The other is intermediate in its proportions to *P. bottanensis* and *P. caudata*, and may be termed

P. media, Nobis. Exactly similar to the British Magpie, but larger, with proportionally stouter legs, and tail scarcely so long. Length of wing eight inches and a quarter, that of the Bootan species measuring nine and three-quarters, and of the European Magpie but seven inches. Middle tail-feathers ten inches; bill to gape one and seven-eighths; and tarse two inches and one-eighth. Inhabits the Andes. The tertiaries and borders of the secondaries are of a finer steel-purple than in the European species, and the gloss of the tail is greener, with less of a bronze cast. The tail of the Yellow-billed Magpie of Western North America has again a different gloss; and I remember seeing a species smaller than that of Britain among

* Vide, however, a Note by Mr. Strickland in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for July 1844, p. 47.

the stores of the Zoological Society, which had a black bill, but the tail was glossed as in the yellow-billed species.

P. 990. *Buceros pucoran* should be *B. pusaran*, Raffles. Specimens of both it and *B. plicatus* have lately been received from Arracan, and the former proving to have a yellow gular skin, may now be considered as sufficiently determined.

P. 998. *B. gingalensis*, Shaw. This I have since examined, and it seems, with some others, (as the African *B. limbatus* and *B. flavirostris* of Ruppell,) to constitute a particular group of Hornbills, which may some day rank as a subgenus.

"*Halcyon smyrnensis*, var. ? *albogularis*," is identified by Mr. Strickland with *H. gularis*, (Kuhl); *H. ruficollis*, Sw.; and *H. melanoptera*, Tem.: a species which was procured in the Philippine Islands by Mr. Cuming.

P. 1000. *Picus (Gecinus) viridanus*, Nobis. The female has the crown and *pileus* wholly black, the ear-coverts and sides of the neck are darker than in the male, and the entire plumage is more dingy, with the marking of the under-parts less defined.

P. 1005. *Picus (Chrysocolaptes) melanotus* is the *Dendrocopus Elliotti* of Mr. Jerdon's catalogue, and perhaps also identical with *P. strenuus*, Gould, obtained by Dr. McClelland in Assam. For the present it will range as *Chrysocolaptes Elliotti*. The female differs in having the frontal feathers to above the eye broadly tipped with whitish, and the crest glistening bright yellow, with a tinge of red at its extremity.

P. 1008. The two Barbets mentioned are the *Bucco viridis*, Gm., and *B. zeylanicus*, Auct, v. *caniceps*, Franklin, v. *lineatus*, Tickell.

P. 1010. The *Fringilla agilis*, Tickell, *Pipra squalida*, Burton, and *Parisoma vireoides*, Jerdon, prove to be the same species, which must be distinct from *Pardalotus pipra* of Lesson, to judge from the generic characters which he assigns to the latter, upon which is founded his genus *Idopleura*, Rev. Zool. &c. 1838, p. 44.* The present species I distinguish as follows:—

Piprisoma, Nobis, n. g. Bill short and subconical, acutely triangular as viewed from above, the ridge of the upper mandible angulated,

* There is a *Pardalotus maculatus*, Tem, p. c. 600, from Sumatra and Borneo, which may perhaps be referable to either *Idopleura* or *Piprisoma*.

and that of the lower slightly but distinctly so ; the outlines of both accurved, of the lower somewhat more abruptly (being tumid at base towards the divarication of its two lateral rami), and the tip of the upper overhangs that of the lower mandible, but without showing any marked terminal bend ; nostrils almost closed by the nasal membrane ; gape unarmed. Feet formed for perching, and rather small than otherwise, the tarse equalling the middle toe with its claw, the outer and middle toes connected to the first joint, and the claws compressed and moderately hooked, as in the more typical perchers. Wings reaching to the end of the tail, which is rather short ; and having the first primary exceedingly minute, and the four next equal and longest : tail even. Plumage sombre and unadorned.

P. agilis, (Tickell,) Nobis. Length four inches,* of wing two and a quarter, and tail one and one-eighth ; bill to gape three-eighths of an inch, and tarse half an inch. Colour dull ashen-olive, tinged with green upon the rump and upper tail-coverts, and margining the greater wing-feathers ; beneath whitish, having a few ashy-brown striæ on the breast, and one along each side of the throat : tail darker towards the end, and slightly edged at tip with whitish, which forms a terminal spot upon the inner web of its outermost feathers : bill mingled whitish and dusky-corneous ; and feet lead-coloured. Inhabits the Himalaya, and central and Southern India.

Vol. XIII, p. 363. *Sturnia*, No. 3, has just been figured by Mr. Jerdon with the specific name *Blythii*. *Calornis cantor*.

P. 366. *Calornis cantor*, &c. The *Turdus strigatus*, Horsfield, is founded on the second state of plumage referred to ; so that this species is both *T. chalybeus* and *T. strigatus*, Horsfield. *Strickland*.

P. 373. *Sphenura striata*. I have just obtained the nest and eggs of this species, the latter blue as in the *Malacocerci*, and the vest also nearly accords with that of a *Malacocercus*.

P. 376. *Prinia Franklinii*. Add, as a synonym, *Sylvia longicaudata*, Tickell, J. A. S. II, 576.

* The preserved skin sent on loan by Mr. Jerdon, measures but three inches and a half, which is the length given by Burton.



Blyth, Edward. 1844. "Appendix to Mr. Blyth's Report for December Meeting, 1842." *The journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* 13(1), 361–395.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/123800>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/244504>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.