COLUMBIA MAGPIE, OR JAY.

+ *PICA BULLOCKII*, *Wagler*.

PLATE CCXXIX.—ADULT MALES.

Were I to relate to you, good reader, the various accounts which I have heard respecting this splendid bird, I should have enough to say; but as I have resolved to confine myself entirely to the results of my own observation, I must for the present remain silent on the subject.

The specimen from which the drawings were taken was presented to me by a friend who had received it from the Columbia river. I adjoin a notice respecting it, with which I have been favoured by my friend the Prince of MUSIGNANO. “Le superbe geai, dont vous me parlez, est sans doute l’oiseau que WAGLER a fait connaître le premier, sous le nom de *Pica Bullockii*, et que TEMMINCK a figuré dans ses planches coloriées, sous celui de *Garrula Gubernatrix*. Son nom legitime, suivant mes principes, sera *Garrulus Bullockii*, mais vous avez raison de dire qu’il ne se trouve pas dans mon Synopsis: ce n’est que par votre lettre que j’ai appris qu’il se trouvait dans le territoire des Etats-unis. Jusqu’à présent on ne l’avait trouve qu’au Mexique et à la Californie. Il n’est pas etonnant qu’il se retrouve sur la rivière Columbia. Mais comment l’avez-vous obtenu, et avez-vous pu le dessiner vivant? Trois autres especes de geais, qui ne sont pas dans mon Synopsis, habitent l’extremité nord de l’Amerique, et il est probable, qu’outre votre superbe *geai commandeur*, plusieurs autres des especes Mexicaines se retrouvent dans sa partie occidentale.”

COLUMBIA JAY, *Garrulus Bullockii*, Nutt. Man., vol. i. p. 220.

COLUMBIA JAY, *Corvus Bullockii*, Aud. Orn. Biog., vol. i. p. 483.

Male, 31, 26.

Woody portions of North California.

Bill of ordinary length, straight, robust, compressed; upper mandible with the dorsal outline straightish at the base, declinate and convex towards the tip, which is deflected, the sides convex, the edges rather sharp; lower mandible with the dorsal outline slightly concave towards the base, convex and ascending towards the tip. Nostrils basal, oval, partly concealed by short bristly feathers. Proportions of parts ordinary. Feet of ordinary

length, rather strong; tarsus compressed, about the length of the middle toe, anteriorly scutellate, covered behind with two longitudinal plates, meeting at an acute angle; toes free, scutellate above; claws of ordinary size, arched, convex above, canaliculate beneath.

Plumage compact, glossy. Feathers of the head elongated into a crest, the posterior ones recurvate. Wings longish, the third and fourth quills longest, the first short. Tail very long, graduated, of twelve feathers, of which the two central are slightly curved, and greatly exceed the rest in length.

Bill and feet brownish-black. Iris hazel. The general colour of the plumage is bright blue, with purple reflections. The fore neck and anterior part of the breast black; the rest of the under parts white. The inner webs of the quills dusky, the four outer feathers of the tail white towards the tip.

Length 31 inches, extent of wings 26; bill along the ridge $1\frac{1}{3}$, tarsus 2, middle toe 2.

GENUS III.—GARRULUS, *Briss.* JAY.

Bill of moderate length, strong, straight, compressed, rather pointed; upper mandible with the dorsal line slightly arched, the ridge scarcely distinct, the sides sloping, the edges nearly straight, sharp, and overlapping, the notches slight, the tip slightly depressed; lower mandible with the angle of moderate length, rather wide, the dorsal line ascending, slightly convex, the sides sloping outwards, the edges direct, the tip acute. Nostrils basal, elliptical, covered by reversed stiffish feathers. Head rather large; neck short; body stout. Feet of moderate length, rather stout; tarsus of ordinary length, compressed, with eight scutella; toes moderate, the first large, the outer considerably longer than the inner; claws well-arched, rather long, compressed, acute. Plumage blended; small bristles at the base of the upper mandible; feathers of the head generally elongated; wings rather short, first quill very short, fourth and fifth longest; tail rather long, much rounded. Roof of upper mandible concave, with three ridges; digestive organs as in *Corvus*.

Columbia Magpie or Jay.
Males

Audubon, John James. 1842. "Columbia Magpie, or Jay, *Pioca bullockii*, Wagler. [Pl. 229]." *The birds of America : from drawings made in the United States and their territories* 4, 105–106. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.319342>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/125069>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.319342>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/319342>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

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>.