EMBERIZA FUCATA, Pall.

J. Gould & H. Richter del et lith.

Walter Imp.

EMBERIZA FUCATA, *Pall.*

Painted Bunting.

- Emberiza fucata*, Pall. Itin. App., no. 22.—Id. Zoog. Ross.-Asiat., tom. ii. p. 41, pl. 46.—Gmel. edit. Linn. Syst. Nat., tom. i. p. 871.—Lath. Ind. Orn., vol. i. p. 419.—Shaw, Gen. Zool., vol. ix. p. 385.—Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xi. p. 601, vol. xiii. p. 957?—Gray, Gen. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 377, *Emberiza*, sp. 7.—Sieb. Temm. et Schleg. Faun. Jap., p. 96, tab. lvii.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., tom. i. p. 464, *Emberiza*, sp. 3.—Jerd. Birds of India, vol. ii. part i. p. 375?—Blak. Ibis, 1862, p. 328.—Swinh. Ibis, 1860, p. 61, 1861, pp. 45, 334, 1863, p. 378; Proc. of Zool. Soc., 1863, pp. 301, 337.—Whitely, Ibis, 1867, p. 202.—v. Pelz. Ibis, 1868, p. 318.
- *lesbia*, Gould, Birds of Eur., vol. iii. pl. 178.—Temm. Man. d'Orn., 2nd edit. tom. iii. p. 235.
- *cia*, Jerd. Cat.
- *provincialis*, Gmel. edit. Linn. Syst. Nat., tom. i. p. 881?
- *Durazzi*, Bonap. Faun. Ital., tom. i. pl. 35, fig. 2?
- Le Gavoné de Provence*, Buff. Hist. Nat. des Ois., tom. iv. p. 321?—Id. Pl. Enl. 656, fig. i.?
- Coloured Bunting*, Lath. Gen. Syn. Supp., ii. p. 202.—Id. Gen. Hist., vol. v. p. 332.
- Euspiza fucata*, Blyth, Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 129?—Id. Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xiii. p. 215?—Horsf. and Moore, Cat. of Birds in Mus. East-Ind. Comp., vol. ii. p. 488?
- Onychospiza fucata*, Bonap. Compt. Rend. de l'Acad. Sci., 1853, p. .
- Hypocentor fucatus*, Cab. Mus. Hein., Theil i. p. 131, note.

THE figures in the accompanying Plate were taken from Japanese and Chinese specimens—that of the male from an example killed at Hakodadi by Mr. Henry Whitely, and that of the female from a specimen collected near Canton. I mention this particularly, because I find that Japanese and Indian examples differ considerably both in size and colour; unfortunately I have not a sufficient number of Indian birds at my command to determine with certainty whether they constitute two species, or if they must be regarded as mere local varieties; I strongly suspect, however, that the Indian bird, which is the smallest in size, and has the rufous colouring of the under surface of a deeper tint and more widely spread, has yet to receive a specific appellation, unless it should prove to be identical with Gmelin's *Emberiza provincialis*. The European bird so called certainly assimilates to Indian rather than to Chinese examples; I have therefore placed a mark of doubt against all those synonyms having reference to European and Indian birds. Siebold, Temminck, and Schlegel have given a good figure of this bird in their 'Fauna Japonica,' wherein, after mentioning that Pallas's bird was from Dauria, they say—"the Dutch voyagers found it in Japan, and sent thence numerous examples to the Museum of the Netherlands; and it is from them that the description of *Emberiza lesbia*, given in the third volume of Temminck's 'Manual of Ornithology,' and the figure which Mr. Gould has published, under the same name, in the third volume of his 'Birds of Europe,' were taken. It has been said that some specimens of this Bunting have been observed in the South of France and in Italy; but the descriptions and figures given of them are not sufficiently accurate to prove their identity with the painted Bunting of Eastern Asia.

"This species, which is one of the most curious of its genus, is distinguished from all the others by the length of the tertiaries, which cover the primaries throughout nearly their whole length, and by the claw of the hind toe being a little longer and less curved than ordinary, which latter circumstance, recalling to our minds the Larks, Pipits, Wagtails, and other birds which mostly frequent the ground, leads one to suppose that this Bunting differs in its mode of life from all the other members of the genus, which, as is well known, gives the preference to trees. Pallas, indeed, says that it inhabits the islets and meadows of Dauria; and to this limited information his notice of the habits of the bird is confined."

Whether the Indian bird be the same or not, I think it well to append Mr. Jerdon's account of those seen there by him:—"This Bunting appears to spread sparingly through Northern and Central India in the cold weather. It has been found in Bengal, near Calcutta occasionally, in some seasons occurring rather plentifully, also in Nepaul and the Dehra Dhoon, and is not uncommon about Simla and Mussooree. I have seen it at Jalna, in the Deccan, at Mhow and at Sangor, and also near Nagpore. In most of these places it was frequenting rocky and bushy hills in small parties; and I occasionally saw it in the fields, near hedges and trees. Its Hindustani name, which means stone-grazer, is given to it from its being seen so much about rocks and stones.

"In some specimens the pectoral band is more or less imperfect, consisting chiefly of spots; and the sides of the abdomen are streaked with brown. In the cold weather the majority want the mesial streak on the

feathers of the back, the black lines from the gape, and the black pectoral band; and the lower parts are uniform whitish-cinereous, tinged with rufous on the throat and breast, and passing into reddish white or fulvous posteriorly. The ashy hue of the head, too, has a fulvous tinge. The female is said, by Blyth, to want the cinnamon-coloured band, and the colours to be generally duller."

Mr. Blyth states that it is "common in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, and frequently brought for sale in the medley of species purchased as 'Ortolans' by Europeans. Apparently an irregular and uncertain winter visitant to Lower Bengal."

Major Tytler observed some examples, and shot a male near Pakree during a march from Simla to Mussooree.

Von Pelzeln, in his paper on "Birds from Thibet and the Himalayas," states that examples were found at Serahan, Tranda, and Gaora.

Mr. Swinhoe informs us that the true *E. fucata* is "a winter visitant to Formosa, but is not common there;" that he has found it between Takoo and Peking, in North China, and that it winters in South China; he has "met with it among standing grain during winter; but it was difficult to procure, from its habit of dropping under cover of the grain and seldom perching in exposed places." It is more or less common, and, he thinks, resident, in Hongkong, Macao, and Canton.

Mr. Henry Whitely informs us that "this bird is rather common at Hakodadi. My specimens, shot in October, had the bill brown, the irides dark hazel, and the legs and toes brownish flesh-colour."

The male has the head and neck dark grey, with a streak of brownish black down the centre of each feather; feathers of the back brownish black, margined with rufous; lower part of the back rufous, deepest in tint down the centre of each feather, gradually passing into dull grey with black centres on the upper tail-coverts; lesser wing-coverts rusty red; greater coverts blackish brown, with buffy grey margins and lighter tips; primaries brown, finely margined with reddish grey; lengthened tertiaries brownish black, bordered externally with greyish white; over the eye a light superciliary stripe; ear-coverts deep rufous; throat and breast greyish white; from each angle of the gape proceeds a narrow black streak, which increase in breadth as they descend, and unite on the breast, forming a gorget; on each side of this gorget the feathers are white, with black centres; immediately below it a narrow band of rufous; abdomen buffy white, washed with rufous and streaked with blackish brown on the flanks; tail brown, the central feathers margined with greyish fawn-colour, and the outer feather with a line of white down the inner web next the shaft, increasing in breadth from the base to the end.

The female is similar, but very much paler-coloured on the upper surface, has the under surface buff, and the gorget-like mark indicated by a few small spots of brownish black.

The Plate represents a male and a female, of the size of life.

Gould, John. 1869. "Painted Bunting, *Emberiza fucata*, Pali. [Pl. 9]." *The Birds of Asia* 5(XXI), -. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.323180>.

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