



CUCULUS STRENUUS, Gould.

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Powerful Cuckoo.

Cuculus strenuus, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc. April 22, 1856.

MR. BLYTH, in his memoir on the *Cuculidae*, has shown that the members of the genus *Cuculus* as restricted are naturally divided into two sections,—the ordinary Cuckoos, of which the Common Cuckoo of Europe (*C. Canorus*) may be considered a typical example; and the Accipitrine Cuckoos, so called from their resemblance to the Sparrow Hawk; of which latter section the *C. Sparveriioides* of my “Century of Birds” may be quoted as a representative. From the very scanty information which has reached us from those who have had opportunities of observing the members of the latter division in a state of nature, we gather that they are more secluded in their habits than the ordinary Cuckoos, usually remaining in the interior of the large forests, and seldom quitting them except when alarmed by the great hunting parties driving the covers and woods in search of deer and other game. It is to this section that the bird represented on the accompanying Plate is referable. In outward appearance this species so closely resembles the *C. Sparveriioides* that one description would nearly serve for both, but in size it so far exceeds that bird, as well as every other true Cuckoo I have yet seen, that I have no doubt of its being distinct, and I have therefore assigned it a separate specific appellation, and have selected the term *strenuus* as indicative of its great size and strength.

This fine bird is a native of Manilla, whence the specimen from which my figure was taken was transmitted to me direct, unaccompanied, I regret to say, by any information as to its habits. This specimen has since been transferred to the National Collection at the British Museum, where it will always be available for the purposes of science.

Crown of the head, back of the neck, cheeks and chin dark grey; all the upper surface, including the upper tail-coverts, olive-brown with shining purplish reflexions; tail olive-brown, crossed by four bands of darker brown and tipped with buffy white; throat white, deepening into chestnut, forming a band across the lower part of the chest, each feather also has a double mark of black and chestnut down the centre; breast and upper part of the abdomen white, crossed by semi-crescentic bands of very dark brown, bordered with pale chestnut-red; edge of the shoulder, lower part of the abdomen, vent and under tail-coverts white; upper mandible olive-black; lower mandible yellow; irides and feet rich yellow.

Total length $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $1\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $9\frac{3}{8}$; tail, 9.

The front figure represents the bird of the natural size.



Gould, John. 1856. "Powerful Cuckoo, Cuculus strenuus [Pl. 42]." *The Birds of Asia* 6(VIII), -. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.323308>.

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