PICUS OCCIPITALIS.

Male. 2 Female.

TAB. XLVII.

PICUS OCCIPITALIS.

Mas. *Pic. viridis, uropygio lutescenti; fronte coccineo; vertice, strigâ latâ occipitali ad nucham extendente, alterâque utrinque sub oculos postrictali, atris; remigibus reatricibusque fusco atris, harum duabus mediis pallido-fusco striatis, illis externè albo maculatis; gulâ genisque canis.*

Fœm. *Fronte atrâ albo lineatâ.*

Longitudo corporis, 12 unc.; alæ, 6; rostri, 2; tarsi, 1½; caudæ, 4¾.

THERE appears to be a natural group of the Woodpeckers, intermediate betwixt the genus *Colaptes* whose habits confine them entirely to the ground, and the typical *Picidæ* who gain their subsistence almost wholly from the bark of trees. In this intermediate division—of which our own *Picus viridis* and the *Picus canus* of the Continent may be considered as the types, and which are the only species found in Europe—the present as well as the succeeding Himalayan species may be classed; all these birds being found, like the typical Woodpeckers, to frequent trees as a resort for food; while at the same time they equally subsist, like the ground-feeding species, on ants and other insects, which they obtain on the surface of the ground.

The *Picus occipitalis*, so named from the peculiar black mark on the hinder part of the head, has hitherto been entirely unknown, and it is only in the more temperate parts of the mountains so often alluded to, that it has as yet been captured.

In the male the forehead is bright scarlet; the top of the head, occiput and back of the neck, are jet black; the sides of the face and throat grey, with the exception of a slight black moustache; the upper surface is of a dull green passing into yellow on the rump; the wings olive green; the quills and tail are brown, the former having their outer edges barred with white, the latter its two middle feathers obscurely barred with a deeper brown; the breast and under parts are dull greenish grey; the bill and tarsi black.

The female differs only in having the forehead black instead of scarlet.

The male is figured of the natural size. The head of the female is alone given, showing the difference of plumage above alluded to.

Gould, John. 1831. "Picus occipitalis [Tab. XLVII]." *A century of birds from the Himalaya Mountains* –. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.323593>.

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