libero, late expanso, umbilicum falsum formante; rostro breviusculo, recurvato, canali aperto, sinuoso.

Long. 130, diam. 60 mill.

Hab. L'Agulhas Bank, Cape of Good Hope.

This species of the genus *Fusus* is remarkable from its ventricose form, recurved rostrum, and from the columellar lip being much expanded at the fore part of the aperture, thus giving it the appearance of being umbilicated. It was dredged on the L'Agulhas Bank, off the Cape of Good Hope, and has been placed in my hands for description by Mr. Cutter, of Great Russell Street. One specimen only was obtained.

February 24, 1870.

Dr. E. Hamilton, V.P., in the Chair.

A communication was read from Mr. R. Swinhoe, F.Z.S., stating that when at Hankow last summer he had ascertained from H.M. Consul in that city that some living Amherst's Pheasants (*Thaumalea amherstiæ*) which had passed that way to England had been received from a French priest, Monseigneur Chauveau, Bishop of Sebastopolis, who was stationed at Ta-tsien-leou, on the Tibetan frontier. Mr. Swinhoe had been permitted to take a copy of M. Chauveau's letter upon the subject, which ran as follows:—

"You may possibly at this moment wait for a letter about the Lady Amherst's Pheasants. Our exertions have been successful enough; and we have to-day in my little mountain-home (so well known to Mr. Cooper) nine Lady Amherst's Pheasants, some of them in a perfectly good state, some in a less suitable condition. These birds are exceedingly common in our hills, but exceedingly cunning likewise. When they perceive, say the natives, in any corner of the hill a small handful of Indian corn or rice, suspecting a snare they do not approach easily, but endeavour with their long tails to sweep away some of the corn in order to eat it without danger. Unfortunately we cannot, at any rate or by any means whatever, save the old ones; they refuse every kind of food. If you present them any thing they will never eat, but they peck your fingers and wound you cruelly; their captivity irritates them, say our good Chinamen. The young ones, on the contrary, appear to be very gentle birds, eating corn or rice in your hand without fear. They have magnificent tails, 24 inches in length generally."

In reference to this communication, Mr. Sclater remarked that there could be no doubt that these birds were those subsequently received by Mr. Stone, and for some time deposited in the Society's Gardens*; and pointed out the position of Ta-tsien-leou on the slope

* See P. Z. S. 1869, p. 468.

of the Yung-lin mountains, between Tibet and the Chinese province of Sechuen.

Mr. P. L. Sclater exhibited, and made remarks on, a specimen of a newly described Lemur of the genus *Indris* from Madagascar, which had been placed in his hands by Mr. A. J. Franks, jun., for that purpose. This animal was stated to have been discovered by Mr. Van Dam during his recent explorations in North-eastern Madagascar, and to have been described by Mr. F. Pollen, C.M.Z.S., under the name *Propithecus damanus*.

A second letter on the ornithology of Buenos Ayres*, addressed to the Secretary by Mr. William H. Hudson, was read. It was as follows:—

"Buenos Ayres, December 22nd, 1869.

"Sir,—A few days ago I wrote you a letter, in which I spoke of the wood bordering on the Plata, and of some of its birds. I will now send you another letter on the same subject.

"South of the city of Buenos Ayres, the low shore of the river is from six to eight miles in width; but for more than half this width the portion furthest from the river is frequently inundated, and covered with reeds and aquatic plants. Passing this there occurs a strip of light and dry land, running parallel with the river, composed chiefly of fossil shells, and grown over with a forest of low trees. In some places this high ground is extremely narrow; in others there are great breaks in it, through which the river passes when greatly swollen. In this strip of forest may be found all the birds inhabiting Buenos Ayres that perch on trees, not even excepting the Pampas Woodpecker (*Colaptes campestris*), of which Mr. Darwin has so unfortunately said:—'It is a Woodpecker which never climbs a tree' (Origin of Species, p. 165). I will reserve for another letter an account of this interesting bird. Between the strips of high ground I have mentioned and the river itself is a low swampy region, often flooded, and covered with *sayus*-trees, interspersed with beds of aquatic shrubs, canes, and reeds. Though there is here in summer a tropical profusion of splendid flowers, the sombre foliage of the trees, and sere withering colour of the reeds, give it a peculiarly sad and desolate appearance. This *sayus*-swamp is a great breeding-place for the Carranchos (*Polybori*) and other Hawks, of which there are great numbers of all the species known in this country. But in this region I have met with a very few species of the small birds found on the pampas. This part of its fauna, like its vegetation, being derived from the north, differs from that of the adjacent country. All such species as are found exclusively in the riverine forest which I have described may be considered as reaching the extreme southern limit of their geographical range at about one degree south of the city of Buenos Ayres. I will now tell you what I have learned of some of these, and will mention others in future.

* See *anteà*, p. 83, for Mr. Hudson's first letter.—Ed.

"1. *Bathmidurus variegatus* (Burm.).—I have met with but one individual of this prettily mottled Flycatcher. There is no example in the Buenos-Ayres Museum. It is probably very rare in La Plata, but is, I believe, found in Brazil.

"2. *Tyrannus aurantio-atro-cristatus* (Lafr. et d'Orb.).—Of this species I have also obtained only one specimen. Its flight was like that of the *T. melancholicus*. It was of a uniform dusky colour, with a golden crest. The specimen in the Buenos-Ayres Museum was brought from Entre Rios.

"3. *Fluvicola albiventris* (Spix). The Buenos-Ayres Museum has specimens of this bird from Brazil; but I have met with several individuals here. The black upper and snowy-white lower plumage render it conspicuous; but though so small a bird, it is extremely shy of approach, and has a rapid flight. It frequents the borders of streams, and breeds in the thick bushes of *sarandi* growing in the water. Its only note is a low ticking, uttered when the nest is approached.

"4. *Synallaxis albescens**.—The specimens in the Buenos-Ayres Museum of this bird were obtained in South Brazil. I met with it frequently in the *tola*- and *sayus*-woods, where it unfailingly discovers itself by its loud, harsh, incessant note. It has also in the pairing-season a low strange song, very different from the usual shrill trilling notes of all its tribe. It leaves us in the winter.

"5. *Synallaxis ægithaloides*.—There is no example of this bird in the Buenos-Ayres Museum. Its colour is a yellowish brown. I met with a few individuals of it in some beds of a peculiar reed, of which the only other inhabitants were the *Limnornis curvirostris*. Though only about half the size of that bird, in notes and habits, as well as in habitat, it is exactly similar.

"6. *Lepidocolaptes atripes*.—This bird, remarkable for its extravagantly long bill, I have observed in the *tola*-woods. Their notes are exceedingly loud and shrill; their flight, while passing from tree to tree, rapid, low, and undulating. They invariably alight on the bole of a tree, and sit upright with the head thrown far back, or run round and up the trunk searching for insects in the dead bark. They arrive here late in the spring.

"7. *Thamnophilus argentinus*.—Inhabits the *sayus*-swamps, but is not common. Its low and trilling note is very peculiar, and is more like the song of a night insect than that of a bird.

"8. *Poospiza albifrons* (Vieill.).—Inhabits the *sayus*-woods and reed-beds, but is a rare bird, and resembles in colour the yellow withered herbage which it frequents. I have never heard it sing. The allied species, the *Poospiza nigro-rufa*, is much more common, frequenting the *tola*-woods, and often met with in orchards and hedges at a distance from the river. It is a pretty bird, the ruddy brown throat and breast and the straw-coloured line over the eye contrasting well with the dark upper plumage. It feeds and makes its nest on the ground, but loves to sit in a bush or low tree, and has a sweet and lively song.

* I am now a little doubtful whether the single skin thus named (P. Z. S. 1868, p. 141) was not rather *S. spixi*, of which three examples occurred in Mr. Hudson's third collection (see P. Z. S. 1869, p. 632).—P. L. S.

"9. *Tanagra cyanoptera*.—This bird frequents the *tola*-woods. They come in small flocks in spring, but are afterwards seen in pairs. Its note is low and plaintive. The absence of every colour but blue is the most remarkable characteristic of this bird, even its feet and bill being almost the same pale blue as the entire plumage. The *Tanagra striata* is a much more common bird.

"10. *Stephanophorus leucocephalus* (Vieill.).—A very beautiful bird; in size, shape, and habits like the last. There is no end to the beautiful contrasts of colours in birds; but in few species do they present so lovely an appearance as in this, with the uniform deep rich Prussian blue of its plumage, and the cap of silvery-white feathers with the crimson spot in its centre. It is met with frequently in the *tola*-woods in summer. There is nothing remarkable in the low, chattering song of the male, often repeated for hours while the female is sitting.

"11. *Guiraca glauco-cærulea*.—This bird, characterized by its thick bill, is much smaller than the last, but resembles it somewhat in its dark blue colour and low continuous song. It is a rare bird, inhabiting the *sayus*-swamps, and feeding on the ground on buds and seeds.

"12. *Amblyrhamphus holosericeus*.—A common bird in *sayus*-swamps, found in flocks and remaining with us all the year. The English residents here have called it 'Chisel-bill,' from its bill, formed for extracting insects from the soft stem of decayed reeds, resembling that instrument in shape. Its clear and mellow whistle has also won for it the name of '*Buellero*' (Ox-driver). All its notes are soft, sweet, and flute-like. The plain red of its head and neck, contrasted with the shining black of the other plumage, gives to it a striking and beautiful appearance. Its nest is built in the reeds or shrubs growing in the water; the eggs are four, pale blue and spotted with black; the young birds are entirely black."

Mr. P. L. Sclater read a paper on the Deer of the Old World living in the Society's Menagerie. Amongst these there were stated to be examples of several recently described and very little-known species, of which coloured drawings were exhibited.

This paper will be printed in the Society's 'Transactions.'

Mr. Sclater then made some remarks on the arrangement of the family *Cervidæ*, which he proposed to divide, mentioning only their most obvious external characters, into eight genera, as follows:—

Subfam. I. Cervinæ.

Cornua decidua: dentes canini parvi aut nulli.

a. Rhinarium pilosum.

- Cornua in utroque sexu ..... 1. *Rangifer*.
- Cornua tantum maris ..... 2. *Alces*.

b. Rhinarium nudum.

a'. Cornua palmata ..... 3. *Dama*.

b'. Cornua non palmata.

- Cauda præsens ..... 4. *Cervus*.
- Cauda extus nulla ..... 5. *Capreolus*.

Subfam. II. Cervulinæ.

Cornua decidua: dentes canini maris exserti ..... 6. *Cervulus.*

Subfam. III. Moschinæ.

Cornua nulla: dentes canini maris exserti.

{ Apparatu moschifero nullo ..... 7. *Hydropotes.*
{ Apparatu maris moschifero ..... 8. *Moschus.*

In conclusion, Mr. Sclater pointed out the geographical distribution of the known species of the genus *Cervus*. The total number of *Cervi* recognized as probably valid species were twenty-three in the Old World and seventeen in the New World, namely:—

Cervi *of the Old World.*

a. Cervus

1. *elaphus*, ex Europa et Asia bor.
2. *xanthopygus*, ex Asia orient.
3. *affinis*, ex mont. Himalayanis.
4. *cashmeerianus*, ex Cashmiria.
5. *maral*, ex Caucasia.
6. *barbarus*, ex mont. Atlantis.

b. Sika

7. *mantchuricus*, ex Sina bor.
8. *taëvanus*, ex ins. Formosa.
9. *sika*, ex Japonia.

c. Elaphurus

10. *davidianus*, ex Sina bor.

d. Rucervus

11. *duvaucelli*, ex Ind. Brit.
12. *schomburgki*, ex Siam.
13. *eldi*, ex Ind. Malayana.

e. Rusa

14. *aristotelis*, ex Ind. Brit.
15. *equinus*, ex Ind. Malay. Sumatra et Borneo.
16. *swinhoii*, ex ins. Formosa.
17. *rusa*, ex Java.
18. *moluccensis*, ex ins. Moluccis.
19. *peronii*, ex Timor.
20. *marianus*, ex ins. Philippin.
21. *kuhlii*, ex ins. Bavianis.

f. Hyelaphus

22. *porcinus*, ex Ind. Brit. et Malayana.

g. Axis

23. *axis*, ex Ind. Brit. et Malayana.

Cervi *of New World.*

a. Cervus

1. *canadensis,* ex Amer. bor.

b. Cariacus

2. *virginianus,* ex Am. bor. orient.
3. *leucurus,* ex Amer. bor. centr.
4. *mexicanus,* ex Mexico et Guatemala.
5. *macrotis,* ex Am. bor. centr.
6. *columbianus,* ex Am. bor. occident.
7. *gymnotis,* ex Venezuela.
8. *savannarum,* ex Guiana.

c. Blastocerus

9. *paludosus,* ex Brasil. et Paraguay.
10. *campestris,* ex Brasil. et Paraguay.

d. Furcifer

11. *antisiensis,* ex Andibus Boliv. et Peruv.
12. *chilensis,* ex And. Peruv.

e. Coassus

13. *nemorivagus,* ex Guiana.
14. *rufus,* ex Brasil.
15. *rufinus,* ex Venezuela et Nov. Granada.
16. *toltecus,* ex Mexico.

f. Pudu

17. *pudu,* ex Chilia.

The Secretary read the following letter, which had been addressed to him by Sir George Grey, K.C.B., F.Z.S., in reference to Prof. Owen's communication of a letter from Dr. Haast read at the Meeting on January 27th* :—

"I am much obliged to you for calling my attention to Dr. Haast's statements. I see that he has found some kitchen-middens on the banks of the Rakaia river in the Middle Island of New Zealand, which contained bones of the Moa, the Native Dog, the Seal, the Whale, and also of Sea-Gulls.

"These bones were found in cooking-places or ovens built like those of the Maories, and are now covered by from six to eight inches of silt and vegetable soil.

"I have often found Moa-bones under similar circumstances, sometimes covered by a greater depth of soil; but I have regarded the ovens as of comparatively recent construction. These ovens are Polynesian cooking-places; the Australian and several other savage races cook their food in quite a different way.

"Along with Moa-bones I have several times found bones of the

* See *antea*, p. 53.

Kakapo (*Strigops*), a bird now extinct in the districts where I found the ovens, exactly as the Moa is.

"I have seen many hundreds of old ovens undistinguishable from those in which Moa-bones were found; and in some of these cases the natives were able to tell me the circumstances under which war-parties or travellers had formed these very ovens many years since. I would observe that the native word 'Moa' is a Polynesian word, and the very word which new comers to the islands of New Zealand would have been likely to apply to the *Dinornis*, if they had found it in existence there. The natives all know the word Moa as describing the extinct bird; and when I went to New Zealand twenty-five years ago, the natives invariably spoke to me of the Moa as a bird well-known to their ancestors. They spoke of the Moa in exactly the same manner as they did of the Kakapo, the Kiwi, the Weka, and an extinct kind of Rails in districts where all these birds had disappeared.

"Allusions to the Moa are to be found in their poems, sometimes together with allusions to birds still in existence in some parts of the islands. For instance, in page 9 of 'Ko nga Moteatea, me nga Hakirara o nga Maori'*, you will find a man speaking of the death of all his sons, who says, 'Ka ngaro, i te ngaro, a te moa' ('they have disappeared as completely as the Moa'); and, again, at page 324 of the same work you will find in another poem as follows:—

"'Kua rongo 'no au,
Na Hikuao te Korohiko
Ko te rakau i tunua ai te Moa.'

"That is, 'I have heard, indeed, that from Hiknao was the *Korohiko*, the tree or shrub with which the Moa was cooked.'

"Probably the meaning is, that the boughs, leaves, and flowers of that tree were used to cover up the flesh of the Moa in the oven where it was cooked. In the same poem the Weka (*Ocydromus australis*) is immediately afterwards alluded to.

"From these circumstances, and from former frequent conversations with old natives, I have never entertained the slightest doubt that the Moa was found by the ancestors of the present New-Zealand race when they first occupied the islands, and that, by degrees, the Moa was destroyed and disappeared, as have been several other wingless birds from different parts of New Zealand."

The following papers were read:—

1. Notes on the Classification of the *Capitonidæ*.

By C. H. T. Marshall and G. F. L. Marshall.

In examining the classification of this family for our forthcoming monograph, a few points have occurred to us which we should wish to bring to the notice of ornithologists.

We have primarily grouped the Capitonidæ into three well-defined

* New Zealand: printed by Robert Stokes, Wellington, 1853. 1 vol. 8vo.

subfamilies, of which the following diagnoses will furnish distinguishing characteristics :—

a. With the upper mandible toothed or notched	*Pogonorhynchinæ*.
b. With margin of mandible smooth ; rictal bristles strongly developed	*Megalæminæ*.
c. With margin smooth ; rictal bristles rudimentary or wanting	*Capitoninæ*.

The first subfamily is represented in Africa and America ; the second in Asia and Africa ; the third is common to all three continents.

The ornithology of Asia and America has received so much attention, and the facilities for research are comparatively so great, that but little remains to be done in the way of classification ; and, with the exception of cancelling a few of Bonaparte's genera, of which we are unable to give sufficient diagnoses, we have retained the existing arrangement.

In the American group we have re-united *Eubucco* of Bonaparte with *Capito* of Vieillot.

In the Asiatic group, *Cyanops* and *Chotorea* of Bonaparte are merged in *Megalæma* of Agassiz.

The ornithology of Africa, on the other hand, is considerably less developed, the opportunities for study and research being few and precarious ; it contains types of all three subfamilies, and nearly half of the known species, including the most aberrant forms, are found there : among these is one species which we are unable to identify with any of the received generic types, and which presents sufficient structural peculiarities to found a new genus, for which we propose the following name and diagnosis :—

Stactolæma.

Type *S. anchietæ* (fig. 1, p. 119).

1. Rictal bristles rudimentary or wanting.
2. Bill with the margin smooth.
3. Culmen acute, inflated.

The first and second features identify it with the subfamily of Capitoninæ ; the third distinguishes it from *Caloramphus* and the remaining genera. *S. anchietæ* is the only species as yet known ; it is one of the latest discoveries, and was described and figured in the 'Proceedings' of this Society for 1869, p. 436, as *Buccanodon anchietæ*, by Prof. J. V. Barboza du Bocage. The genus *Buccanodon* of Verreaux belongs to the subfamily Megalæminæ, and has the rictal bristles fully developed ; it is similar in form and appearance to *Xylobucco* of Bonaparte, with which we have included it,—*Xylobucco*, the older name, being retained, while *Buccanodon* sinks into a synonym (see figs. 3 & 4, p. 119).

The genus *Trachyphonus* of Ranzani, contains two very distinct types,—*T. margaritatus*, on the one hand, having a comparatively slender, elongated, and much compressed bill, with a fully developed occipital crest (see fig. 5, p. 119) ; on the other hand, *T. purpuratus* (fig. 6), having a short stout bill, with the culmen strongly arched,

Fig. 1.

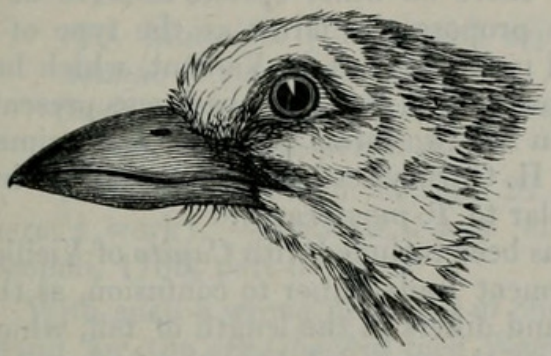
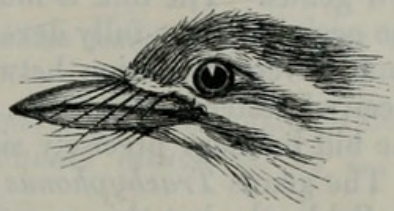
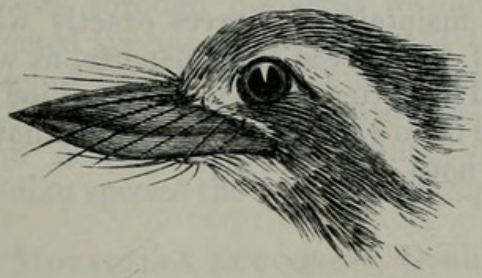


Fig. 2.





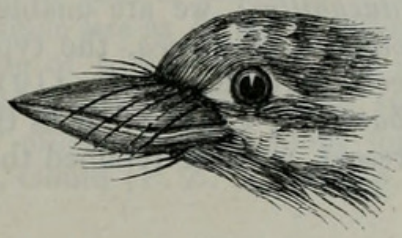


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 1. *Stactolæma anchietæ.*
2. *Barbatula leucolæma.*

Fig. 3. *Xylobucco duchaillui.*
4. —— *scolopacea.*

Fig. 5.

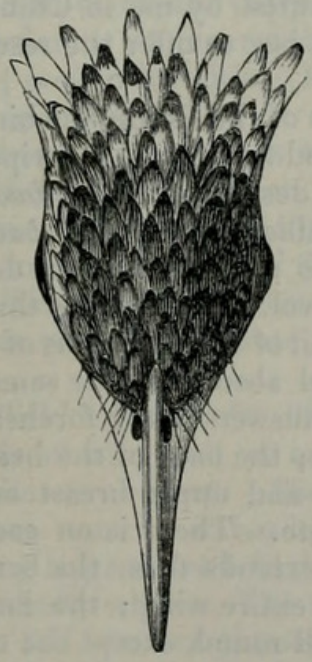


Fig. 6.

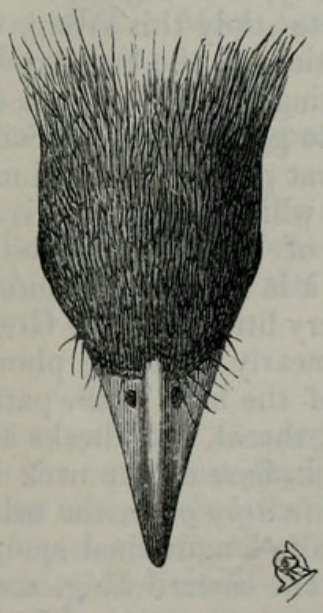


Fig. 5. *Trachyphonus margaritatus.*
6. —— *purpuratus.*

and no trace of a crest. In fact the marked differences between them are so great that, were there no other species to serve as a link, we should unhesitatingly propose the latter as the type of a new genus. The link is found in *T. cafer* of Le Vaillant, which has the occipital crest fully developed, but in different specimens presents almost every gradation between the two forms of bill. A specimen received yesterday from Mr. J. H. Gurney settles the question, having the bill in shape precisely similar to *T. purpuratus*.

The genus *Trachyphonus* has been included with *Capito* of Vieillot by Schlegel; but this arrangement leads rather to confusion, as the latter is confined to America and differs in the length of tail, which averages two-thirds the length of the wing, while in the former it is as long or longer, and the genus is confined to Africa.

Buccanodon of Verreaux, of which there is but a single species (*B. duchaillui*), we are unable to maintain; it agrees exactly with *Xylobucco scolopacea*, the type of *Xylobucco* of Bonaparte, as will be seen by the figures (p. 119). This latter genus is closely allied to *Barbatula* of Lesson; but as there is no good connecting-link known at present, we have retained them both.

2. On the Pied Wagtails of China.

By R. Swinhoe, F.Z.S.—Part I.

Without comparison of specimens, Indian authors have referred their white-faced black-backed Wagtail to the *Motacilla luzonensis* of Scopoli; and putting faith in Blyth's identification of the ordinary Chinese bird, I have followed suit with ours. Two other races of the same type having been lately procured by me in China I have been led to study this group, and now beg to offer the result of my investigations to the Society.

Not being able to procure a specimen of the Philippine bird, I have nothing to go upon except Scopoli's and Sonnerat's descriptions.

Sonnerat procured from Luzon and described a *grey-backed* pied Wagtail, which he tells us is closely allied to the *grey-backed* pied Wagtail of Europe; but he gave it no name. His description (Voyage à la Nouvelle Guinée, 1776, vol. i. p. 61) runs thus:—"It differs very little from the Grey Wagtail of Europe; it is of the same size and nearly the same plumage, and absolutely the same habits; the top of the head or the part which answers to the forehead, round the beak, throat, and cheeks are white; the back of the head, all the hind neck, base of the neck in front, and upper breast are black; the *back is ashy grey*, the belly is white. There is on each wing a broad white longitudinal spot, which extends from the bend of the wing, or the bastard-wing, across the entire wing; the large quills are black, edged with a white border all round, except the outermost quill, which is quite black; the tail is black above, whitish below; the two outer rectrices of each side are white; the beak and feet are black, iris hazel."

This grey-backed species Scopoli actually diagnoses as *black-backed*, thus:—

"105. Motacilla (luzonensis) *nigra; fronte, gula, pectore, abdomine et fascia alarum albis.*

"*Oculi intra aream albam. Pone oculos linea alba, sursum arcuata. Rectrix prima alba.*

"In insula Luzon, p. 60, tab. 29 (referring to the plate in Sonnerat's work)."—*Deliciæ Floræ et Faunæ insubricæ*, by J. A. Scopoli, 1786, part ii.

With such a wrong diagnosis of characters this name can scarcely stand for the *grey-backed* pied Wagtail of Luzon, to which it evidently refers. There may be also a black-backed species in Luzon to which this description would in all probability apply. At all events, through Sonnerat we now know that it refers to a grey-backed species similar to and of the same size as *M. alba* of Europe. Such a bird is *M. dukhunensis*, Sykes, of India, and not the small black-backed type hitherto identified with the Philippine species and bearing Scopoli's name. We must therefore adopt for the Indian species the term *M. leucopsis*, Gould (P. Z. S. 1837, p. 78).

MOTACILLA LEUCOPSIS, Gould.

Length of wing 3·7, of tail 3·75, of tarse ·92. Upper parts from centre of crown black. Wing-coverts broadly margined with white, concealing the black of their bases and forming a pure white bar across the wing. Tertiaries and winglet broadly edged, secondaries conspicuously edged and tipped, and primaries edged to their curve and lightly tipped with white. Axillaries and broad under edges to quills white. Upper tail-coverts more or less edged exteriorly with white. Tail black, the outermost feather pure white, the next with a black border to its inner web. *Breast with a black band not exceeding* $\frac{1}{2}$ *inch* in breadth. Bill and legs black.

Hab. in India.

The above description is taken from Mr. Gould's type specimen and another in his collection.

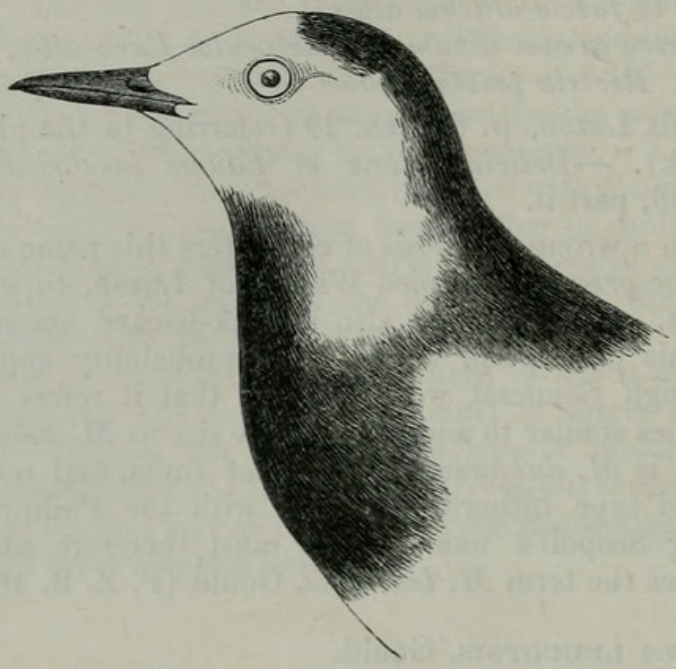
In China, from Canton to Shanghai, occurs a race of the above bird which is to be distinguished from the Indian by its whole breast being black. This I have hitherto considered the same as the species of India, but will now separate as

MOTACILLA FELIX, sp. nov.

Length of wing 3·6, of tail 3·6, of tarse ·92. General plumage very similar to the last. The tail has the outermost feather as well as the one next to it bordered on the inner web with black; but among my large series I have a specimen or two in which the outermost is wholly white. The most notable difference is in the breast, which in full summer plumage is black, the black extending upwards till it reaches about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the base of the gonys of the bill. Winter and summer this black is conspicuously large. In some specimens a few black speckles show themselves on the white of the

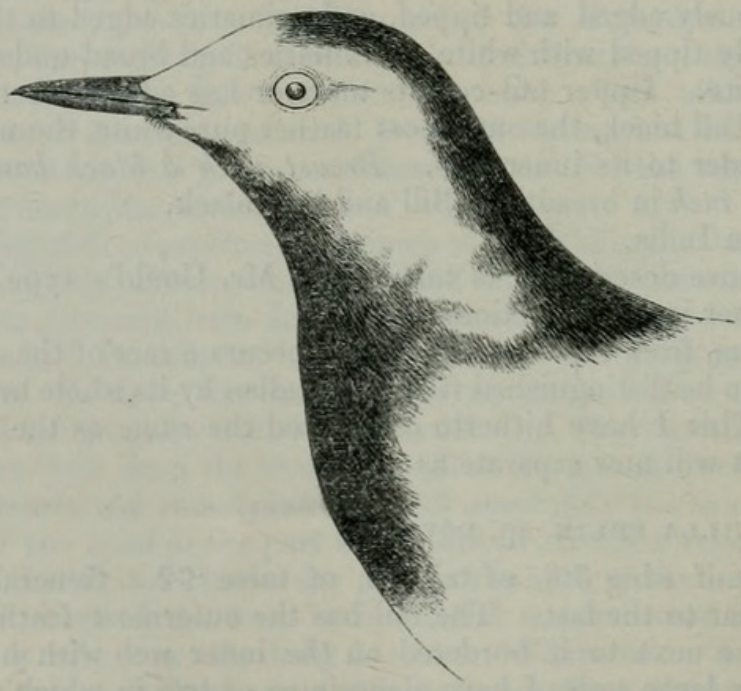
throat, but in no bird of my collection from the coast is the throat black.

Fig. 1.



Motacilla felix.

Fig. 2.



Motacilla felix, var. *sechuenensis.*

In my late trip up the *Yangtsze* at *Wooshan* and *Yunyang* (over 1000 miles from the coast in Western China) I procured at the end of April examples of apparently the same bird with the throat and

chin also quite black. The two forms are otherwise so alike that I cannot possibly separate them specifically, but will distinguish the blackest bird as *M. felix*, var. *sechuenensis* (from Szechuen, the province in which it occurred).

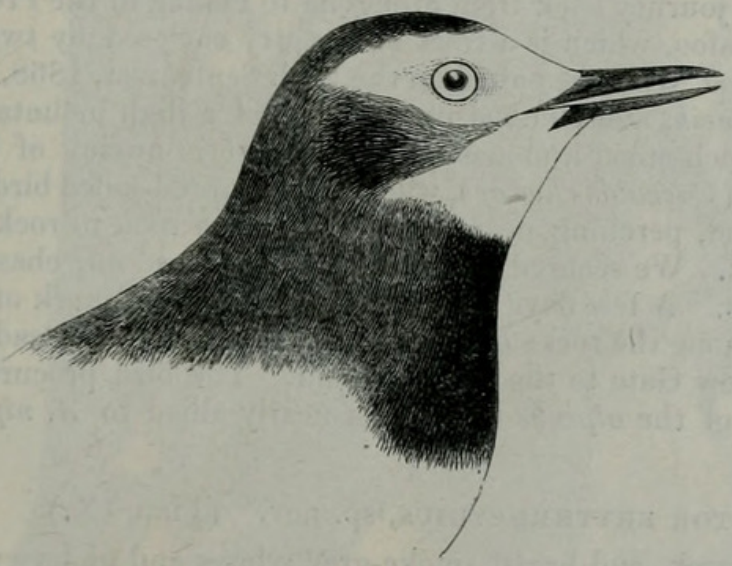
From the Amoor, V. Schrenck describes a Wagtail as *M. alba*, var. *paradoxa*, that looks like another race of this section.

We come, lastly, to an ally of this black-backed group, but with somewhat the face of Mr. Gould's grey-backed *M. personata* of India (Birds of Asia, part 13), for which I beg to propose the name

MOTACILLA FRANCISI, sp. nov.

Length of wing 3·55, of tail 3·7, of tarse ·93. General colour the same as in *M. felix*. Its main difference lies in the black being more advanced towards the forehead in a line with the front corner of the eye, then stretching back, leaving a white eyebrow and advancing at a sharp angle over the ear-coverts to the rictus of the bill; an intervening border between it and the eye and the throat white.

Fig. 3.



Motacilla francisi.

I got an adult male of this species on the 19th May last, near *Chungking* city in Szechuen. I had previously got it at Hainan in undeveloped plumage; but in this plumage the black markings on the cheeks and on the dotted line under the eye are sufficient to distinguish it from *M. felix*, which is otherwise so like it. In the Hainan specimen the third outer tail-feather has a long white blotch of white on its inner web, and the wings are more broadly edged with white than in the Szechuen bird. A second example from Hainan, more immature still, wants the tail-blotch, but shows some dark markings on the cheeks. I consequently take the Hainan and Szechuen birds to be the same. I have dedicated this species to Mr. Robert Francis, one of the two delegates of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce who accompanied me up the Yangtsze.

I will in conclusion briefly recapitulate the main characters of this black-backed group of the *leucopsis* type. General characters the same in all, as given above.

1. *Motacilla leucopsis*, Gould. With narrow black pectoral band. India.

2. *M. felix*, sp. nov. With the whole breast black. South China (Canton to Shanghai).

3. *M. felix*, var. *sechuenensis*. Breast black to the bill. Western China (Szechuen).

4. *M. francisi*, sp. nov. Breast, ear-coverts, and moustache black. China. Extreme west and south (Szechuen and Hainan).

3. On a New Species of *Accentor* from North China.

By R. Swinhoe, F.Z.S.

(Plate IX.)

On my journey back from Mongolia to Peking in the Prefecture of Seuen-hwafoo, which is a tract of country enclosed by two portions of the Great Wall, we halted on the 26th September, 1868, at a place called *Kemeih*, and climbed up the sides of a high mountain, on the top of which stood a monastery. We were in pursuit of the Rock-partridge (*Caccabis chukar*), when a party of red-tailed birds whisked past us and, perching near, kept flying from rock to rock, uttering loud notes. We secured one, and then continued our chase after the Partridges. A few days later I saw another small flock of the same species among the rocks of the fine mountain-pass that leads through the Nankow Gate to the Peking plain. The bird procured was an *Accentor* of the *alpinus* type, most nearly allied to *A. nipalensis* of Hodgson.

Accentor erythropygius, sp. nov. (Plate IX.)

Head, neck, and breast smoke-grey ; lores and under eye mottled with white. Throat for nearly an inch downwards white, with narrow bars of black. Lesser and greater coverts and winglet black, with a large spot of white tipping each feather. Secondary quills black, margined for the greater part of their length with yellowish brown, and broadly tipped with light chestnut terminating with white; on the tertiaries the chestnut brightens, and increases in extent, and the terminal white spots are conspicuous. Primaries blackish brown, edged with light yellowish brown, browner near their bases, and lightly tipped with white. Back light yellowish brown, with broad brown centres to the feathers. Scapulars brownish chestnut, with a median streak of blackish brown and a small white tip to each feather. The yellowish brown of the back soon brightens into brownish chestnut, which is rich and conspicuous on the upper tail-coverts, the longest of which have black centres. Tail brownish black, the outer rectrix with the greater part of its outer

J. Smit lith.

M. & N. Hanhart imp.

ACCENTOR ERYTHROPYGIUS.