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THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
BRITISH BIRDS;

OR, A
SELECTION OF THE MOST RARE, BEAUTIFUL, AND INTERESTING
BIRDS
WHICH INHABIT THIS COUNTRY:

THE DESCRIPTIONS FROM THE
SYSTEMA NATURÆ

OF
LINNÆUS:

WITH
GENERAL OBSERVATIONS,
EITHER ORIGINAL, OR COLLECTED FROM THE LATEST
AND MOST ESTEEMED
ENGLISH ORNITHOLOGISTS:

AND EMBELLISHED WITH
FIGURES,
DRAWN, ENGRAVED, AND COLOURED FROM THE ORIGINAL SPECIMENS.

By E. DONOVAN.

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PLATE CLXXIII.

TRINGA ISLANDICA.

RED SANDPIPER.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, as long as the head: nostrils small, linear: tongue slender: feet four-toed: the hind-toe of one joint, and raised from the ground.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill and legs fuscous: back variegated with fuscous, rufous, and black: body beneath ferruginous: secondary quill-feathers edged with white.

TRINGA ISLANDICA: rostro pedibusque fuscis, dorso fusco rufo nigroque variegato: corpore subtus ferrugineo remigibus secundariis margine albis.

TRINGA ISLANDICA: rostro pedibusque fuscis, corpore subtus ferrugineo remigibus secundariis margine albis.

Gmel. 682. 24.

PLATE CLXXIII.

TRINGA FERRUGINEA. *Brünn. Orn. n. 180.*

RED SANDPIPER. *Brit. Zool. 2. n. 202. b. 72.*

ABERDEEN SANDPIPER. *Brit. Zool. 2. n. 203.—Lath. Gen.,
Syn. 3. I. p. 186. n. 84.*

The specimen of the Red Sandpiper, originally deposited in the Leverian Museum, and thence described by English authors, has been in our possession from the period in which that Museum was dispersed; and as our own Museum was allowed to remain open to public view for some years since that time, the appearance of this bird may be perhaps familiar to many of our readers, for it can scarcely be imagined that any visitor would have neglected to bestow some attention towards this elegant and truly interesting species.

As a British Bird, the Red Sandpiper was always, we believe, considered rare. It is indeed recorded to have appeared occasionally, and even flocks of them have been observed; but from peculiar circumstances few of these had been procured, and it remained a rarity till the spring of 1812 afforded this curious bird in some plenty. A flock of them, as we understand, was seen at that time in the fens, and several of these being captured in the fowling-nets, they passed very fortunately from the wild-fowl dealers of the London market into the hands of Mr. Corbet, an ingenious preserver of birds, by whom they were prepared for the cabinet, and who has since furnished several of the principal collections with the specimens they possess.

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One of these last-mentioned birds is now in our own possession : it differs in no material particular from the original bird, which is at present before us, and with which we have compared it with due attention ; the only dissimilarity consists in the general hue of the upper parts of the plumage, in the more recent subject being somewhat darker, and the lower more deeply rufo-ferruginous.

Notwithstanding the apparent scarcity of this kind of Sandpiper, it should be remarked however, that there is some reasonable grounds for believing, that it is only rare to us in this more lively state of plumage ; that in its ordinary dress we should recognize it to be no other than the *Tringa Canutus*, the bird familiarly known to our poulterers by the name of the Knot-bird. This idea was first suggested by the appearance of one of the Knot-birds, which we met with some years ago among a parcel of the common kind in Leadenhall market. The whole of the lower surface had assumed a richly varied intermixture of brown with the white feathers, and dusky crescent-like marks of the neck, breast, and sides of the abdomen ; and besides this specimen, there was another, the breast of which had begun to assume the same ruddy aspect. The correspondence in this respect was striking ; but there was nothing in the upper surface of the plumage to distinguish it from the common Knot ; unlike the true Icelandic Sandpiper, it was entirely destitute of that elegant intermixture of black and oblong spots of rust colour, which appears conspicuous in the example we have represented, and which Linnæus considers characteristic of the Iceland species.

These last-mentioned birds were placed in the spring of 1812, with other varieties of the Knot-bird, in our Museum, in a situation immediately contiguous to the original specimen of the Red Sandpiper, in

PLATE CLXXIII.

order that every observer might be enabled to form his own judgment as to the relative connection of the two birds, and it is, we may be allowed to conceive, from the publicity thus afforded them, that an opinion has arisen of the Common Knot and the Iceland Sandpiper, being only the winter and summer dresses of the same bird.

In a future plate we shall submit a portrait of the rufous bellied Knot, above described, to the attention of our readers; together with such information as we may conceive likely to elucidate the obscurity that seems to prevail respecting them.

Length of the original specimen of the Red Sandpiper eleven inches; of the one recently captured about ten inches.



PLATE CLXXIV.

LARUS MARINUS γ .

WAGEL GULL.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, sharp edged, a little falcated at the tip, and toothless: lower mandible gibbous below the point: nostrils linear, broader on the fore part, and placed in the middle of the bill.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Varied brown, ash and white with brown spots: band of black on the tail, tip white.

LARUS MARINUS γ . *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 814. 6.

LARUS NAEVIUS: albus, dorso cinereo, rectricibus apice nigris.
Gmel. Linn. Syst. 598. 5.

LARUS VARIUS. *Brünn. Orn. n.* 150.

LARUS MACULATUS. *Brünn. N°* 146. *young bird?*

Le Goiland varié, ou le Grifard. *Brisf. Orn.* 6. p. 167. 5. pl. 15.—
Buff. Oif. 8. p. 413. pl. 33.—*Pl. Enl.* 266.

Wagel, Burgo-master of Groeland, Great Grey Gull, *Raii Syn.* p.
130. *A.* 13.—*Will. Orn.* p. 349. pl. 66.

Wagel. *Br. Zool.* 2. n. 247. *A.*—*Art. Zool.* N° 453.

PLATE CLXXIV.

To reconcile the various opinions that have prevailed among naturalists respecting the identity of some species of the Gull tribe would be a task of more than ordinary difficulty: the transitions of their plumage, resulting from the effects of climate, the seasons of the year, the difference of sex, and the various periods of their growth, preclude the possibility of speaking with any positive degree of precision in some instances, and in no one more it would appear upon the testimony of the best writers, than in the identity of the species before us.

Among the first of these opinions we may mention that of Linnæus, who considered it as the Herring Gull in the first year's plumage, Fabricius, the author of *Fauna Groenlandica*, on the contrary conceived it to be the young of the Black-backed Gull, and Pennant concludes that it is not an immature bird, but the female of the Black-backed Gull.

It would have tended much to consolidate the two first of these opinions had the conclusions offered by Dr. Latham in his general Synopsis, been established by later observation; namely, that the Herring Gull and the Black-backed Gull are of the same species; but the contrary of this opinion has been so clearly ascertained, that in a subsequent production, (*Index Orn.*) Dr. Latham himself abandons that idea, and admits the Herring Gull and Black-backed Gull to be specifically distinct.—This is our own opinion: we have the two sexes of both species in very perfect order of maturity in our own Museum, and from a due comparison of these, we cannot entertain the least distrust of the accuracy of this last conclusion. In stating this, the reader will perceive that the idea of the Wagel being the female of the Black-backed Gull, as Mr. Pennant imagines, is not admissible, the female of that species being altogether dissimilar.

But

PLATE CLXXIV.

But although Dr. Latham divides the Black-backed Gull from the Herring Gull in his *Index Ornithologicus*, he does not separate the Wagel from the first-mentioned species, but places it as a variety, or rather as the young of that bird *Larus Marinus* γ . This arrangement is, we believe, founded on actual observation of the species in the various stages of its growth, or we might be inclined, from the general appearance of the bird, to follow, in preference, the example of Gmelin, who establishes the Wagel as a distinct species, subject to some variations, under the specific name of *Naevius*. The Wagel is a large bird measuring, in length, two or three feet, and exceeding, when full grown, the ordinary size of the Black-backed Gull; it is also considerably larger than the Herring Gull which, in point of size, is inferior to the Black-backed Gull*.

* Mr. Montagu, in his *Ornithological Dictionary*, remarks, that "the appellation (*WAGEL GULL*) has been assigned to several species of the genus in the mottled infant plumage; and as there is no such bird claiming specific distinction, it should be erased as such from the pages of *Ornithology*." *Suppl.* This assurance deserves consideration; for if it be correct it must prove the fallacy of all discussion upon the subject, as the Wagel will be identified in the young of several species of the Gull tribe, which in their perfect state are acknowledged to be specifically distinct. But we cannot yield entirely to an observation which, in our opinion, testifies a precipitancy of conclusion beyond even what the author himself intended, for he considers in another place the Wagel as the young of the Black-backed Gull alone. That the young of all the Gull tribe have the plumage mottled in the early periods of their growth, is a fact sufficiently known, but every individual possesses yet some striking peculiarity of the adult bird, by which the judgment of the skilful Ornithologist may be directed, and we think successfully, to the determination of the species; and in proof of this, we cannot doubt that the true Wagel may always be distinguished from the rest of the Gull tribe in their mottled state of plumage.

With respect to the Wagel when full grown, its ordinary size is known to exceed that of the Black-backed Gull, a circumstance that does not arise from the greater laxity of the feathers as might be imagined in admitting it to be the younger bird; but from the bird itself being actually larger than the Black-backed Gull at the full maturity. This would tend, at least in some degree, to prove that it might not be the "infant offspring" of that bird, although there may be certain instances in some species of the young bird being larger than the adult.

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These birds occur on the sea shore and in the vicinities of great rivers in various parts of Britain, but it is said not in any considerable plenty. In severe winters they have been known to visit the banks of the Thames in company with others of the Gull tribe, and one shot near Richmond, about twenty years ago, by a well-informed sportsman was transmitted to us as a rarity. Within a few years past they appear to have become more common about the banks of the Thames, and in that of 1812 in particular, when they occurred in some abundance. It may not be amiss to add, that in the summer of the year 1801, we were favoured with a recent specimen of the Wagel (shot in Cornwall) from the late Mr. Hutchins, a very intelligent Ornithologist, the plumage of which did not differ from that of the Wagels shot in winter, as before mentioned.



PLATE CLXXV.
HIRUNDO URBICA.
HOUSE MARTIN.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill small, weak, curved, subulate, and depressed at the base: gape larger than the head: tongue short, broad cleft: wings long: tail generally forked.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Blue-black, beneath white: tail without spots.

HIRUNDO URBICA: nigro-coeruleascens subtus alba, reticibus immaculatis. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 573.

HIRUNDO URBICA: reticibus immaculatis, dorso nigro-coeruleascente, tota subtus alba. *Linn. Fn. Succ.* 271.
—*Linn. Syst. I. p.* 344. 3.—*Gmel. Syst. I. p.* 1017.

Hirundo minor f. rustica. *Briss. av. 2. p.* 490. n. 2.

Hirundo rustica f. agrestis Plinii. *Raj. av. p.* 71. n. 2.—*Will. Orn. p.* 155. t. 39.

PLATE CLXXV.

Hirondelle à cul blanc. *Buf.* 6. p. 614. t. 25. f. 2.

Le Petit Martinet. *Pl. Enl.* 542. f. 2.

MARTIN, MARTLET, or MARTINET. *Will.* (*Angl.*) p. 213.

t. 39.—*Alb.* 2. t. 56. a.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 4. p. 564. 3.—*Id. Suppl.*
p. 192.

The House Martin differs from the Sand Martin, which we have already given in this Work, in some very striking particulars. It is a larger bird, and unlike that species which forms its residence in the banks of sand, in situations solitary and remote from the habitations of man; this little intruder, emboldened by familiarity, constructs its nests, and breeds under the cornices and eaves of our houses, against our windows, or amongst the thatch, wherever a convenient resting place is afforded; but not in chimnies like swallows. Their nest is composed of mud and a few twigs or sticks, and lined with feathers; and the eggs, which in the first laying are five in number, in the second four, and in the third three, are of a white colour. There are two or more broods in the year.

This species is more abundant than the common Swallow, and though many build and breed here, the House Martin performs an annual migration like that of the common Swallow, and nearly about the same time. They arrive in England about twenty days before the Swallow, and depart again in Autumn.

It is a small bird, being only five inches and a half in length; the colour above blackish, very richly glossed with blue; the wings
brown,

PLATE CLXXV.

brown, and tail uniformly brown glossed with blue; the plumage beneath white, and the legs covered with a whitish down. A supposed variety that inhabits North America, has the quill and tail feathers tipped with white.

The House Martin, like the rest of its tribe, subsists on insects, which it chiefly takes on the wing.



PLATE CLXXVI.

LARUS RIDIBUNDUS γ .

BROWN-HEADED GULL.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, sharp-edged, a little falcated at the tip and toothless, lower mandible gibbous below the point : nostrils linear, broader on the fore part, and placed in the middle of the bill.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

White, head blackish : bill and legs red.

LARUS RIDIBUNDUS. *Linn. Syst. I. p. 225. 9.*

LARUS RIDIBUNDUS : albidus, capite nigricante, rostro pedibusque rubris. *Oedm. Nov. Act. Stockh. 1783. 2. n. I. p. 119. n. 9.*

LARUS RIDIBUNDUS γ : albidus, capite fusco maculis albis, dorso cano, rectricibus decem intermediis fascia nigra. *Lath. Ind. Orn. 812.*

BROWN-HEADED GULL. *Lath. Syn. 6. p. 383. 11.—Albin. 2. pl. 86.*

BROWN-HEADED GULL. *Lev. Mus.*

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The length of this bird is sixteen inches; the plumage white, with the head and neck mouse colour: tail white, and composed of twelve feathers; the exterior one of which on each side is white and immaculate, the interior black at the tip, and the bill and legs red.

This is generally believed by Ornithologists to be the Black-headed Gull in its summer state of plumage, the dark brown colour of the head and neck assuming a more intense or blacker hue towards the winter season.

The Brown-headed Gulls are found, we understand, in plenty along the banks of the Thames and Medway towards the sea; we have ourselves seen them among the flocks of gulls that haunt the shallow waters off the north of the isle of Sheppy, in Kent; and we think also about the isle of Grain, in the same vicinity. That which we have represented is a Leverian specimen; and it may not be improper to mention this, as the different supposed varieties of *Larus Ridibundus* seem yet involved in some obscurity; at least there is a considerable diversity of opinion among writers respecting them.





PLATE CLXXVII.

TRINGA NIGRICANS.

PURPLE SANDPIPER.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, as long as the head: nostrils small and linear: tongue slender: feet four-toed: the hind-toe of one joint raised from the ground.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Cinereous brown: back black with subviolaceous gloss: chin and middle of the abdomen white.

TRINGA NIGRICANS: cinereo-fusco, dorso nigro subviolaceo-nitens, mento abdomineque albo.

TRINGA NIGRICANS: Blackish ash: chin and middle of the belly white: base of the bill and legs red. *Linn. Transf. IV. 40.*

PLATE CLXXVII.

The description of the Purple Sandpiper, inserted in the fourth volume of the Transactions of the Linnæan Society, was taken from a specimen killed at Langharne, on the coast of Caermarthenshire, in company with the Purre: it was killed in the month of January, and two others of the same kind having been shot there the same winter, it obtained the trivial name of the Welsh Sandpiper, and from its colour, the specific name of *nigricans*.

A figure of the same bird had previously appeared in the work of Walcot, *Syn.* 11. *t.* 155, under the name of the Purple Sandpiper; and as the bird has been since found on the coasts of Kent and Suffex, the appellation of Purple Sandpiper seems more appropriate than the very local name of Welsh Sandpiper.

Nor is the merit of its original introduction into the British Fauna even due to Walcot, since the bird must have been known as one of the rarest of our Sandpipers prior to the time in which his Synopsis was composed, for long before that period there was a specimen of it in the late Leverian Museum, and which, if we mistake not, was the first example of this interesting species introduced to public notice.

Having mentioned this, it is equally due, in justice, to those by whom the species was described to state, that whilst it remained among the Leverian birds it bore the name of the "Knot," and it is not impossible, under that designation, it might have escaped remark, or been considered as a variety of the common Knot. That the species had a place in the Leverian Museum can admit of no distrust, for we are in possession of the original bird with the label annexed.

In submitting the preceding observations to our readers we are
only

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only anxious to award the credit of the discovery of this elegant British Sandpiper to its true source: we believe it was Mr. Bolton who discovered it; it was assuredly Sir Ashton Lever who afforded it publicity. This slight digression, we trust, will be the more readily excused, when it is further added, that the Purple Sandpiper passes usually among collectors, even at this period, as an addition to the British *Tringæ* of recent date. Our remarks, however, testify the contrary, and very obviously demonstrate that the Purple Sandpiper of the Leverian Museum, has suffered the fate of many other of its valuable articles, in having been for years before the public, and yet appearing to have been as little known, or at least as little noticed as if it never had been placed there.

Besides the Leverian specimen above recorded, we have another example of the Purple Sandpiper, captured on the Kentish coast within the last four or five years, and which merely differs from that specimen, in being somewhat smaller or less robust, and in having the general tint of the plumage more inclining to dusky. The length of the former is nine inches; of the latter, eight inches and three quarters.

Like the rest of the birds that haunt the sea shores, the Purple Sandpiper feeds on the small marine worms, and insects found on the beach as the tide recedes from the shore.



PLATE CLXXVIII.

ANAS FERINA.

GREATER RED-HEADED WIGEON.

POKER, OR POUCHARD, *fem.*

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed, obtuse : three fore-toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Cinereous waved : head brown : pectoral band, vent, and rump black : wings cinereous.

FEMALE more dusky : head pale reddish brown : pectoral band obscure cinereous and brown : wing coverts cinereous.

ANAS FERINA : cinereo-undulata, capite brunneo, fascia pectorali crisso uropygicoque nigris. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 127.
—*Brünn. Orn. n.* 80.—*Gmel.* 530. 31.

Anas erythrocephala. *S. G. Gmelin it. I. p.* 70

Anas fera fusca. *Raii. Syn. p.* 143. *A.* 10.

Penelope. *Bris. 6. p.* 384. 19. *t.* 55. *f.* 1.

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Millouin. *Buff.* ix. p. 216. *Pl. Enl.* 803.

Rothhals. *Bloch. Bef. der Berl. Nat.* 4. p. 603. t. 17. f. 5, 6.

Poker, Pochard, Red-headed Wigeon. *Br. Zool.* 11. N° 284.
Will. (Angl.) p. 367. t. 72.

These birds are common in the fens during the winter season, and are often caught in great plenty, and sent for sale, with other wild fowl, to the London markets, where it is known by the name of the Dunbird. This is the size of the common Wigeon, but is held in rather more esteem for the table. The species is of the migratory kind, and is found to inhabit Asia and America, as well as Europe.

With us it appears to be only an occasional visitor during the winter season. Its ordinary food consists of the testaceous tribes of animals, and various fishes of the smaller kind, which inhabit fenny situations. The flight of these birds is distinguished by its swiftness.

The length of the male bird is about nineteen inches, that of the female is somewhat less, and the general tints of the plumage more obscurely cinereous and dusky than in the male bird.



PLATE CLXXIX.

ARDEA CICONIA.

WHITE STORK.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, pointed, long, somewhat compressed, with a furrow from the nostrils towards the tip : nostrils linear : tongue sharp : feet four-toed, and cleft : toes connected at the base.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

White : orbits and quill-feathers black : bill, legs, and skin, red.

ARDEA CICONIA : alba, orbitis remigibusque nigris, rostro, pedibus cuteque sanguineis. *Liun. Fn. Suec.* 162.—*Scop. ann.* 1. n. 123.—*Brünn. orn.* n. 154.—*Gmel.* 622. n. 7.—*Lath. Gen. Syn.* 3. 1. p. 47. n. 9.

CICONIA *Bell. av.* 45. a.—*Aldr. orn.* 3. p. 291.—*Jonst. av.* 147. t. 50.

CICONIA ALBA : *Brif. av.* 5, p. 365. t. 32.

CICOGNE

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CICOONE BLANCHE. *Buff. Hist. Oif.* 7. p. 255. n. 12.—*Pl. enl.* n. 866.

WHITE STORK. *Will. (Angl.)* p. 286. t. 52.

Albin. 2. t. 64.

Lath. Syn. 5. p. 47.—*Suppl.* p. 234.

The Stork is a general inhabitant of various parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa, preferring however the more mild and temperate regions, and migrating regularly in flocks under the guidance of a leader, at certain seasons, from one country to another, in order to avoid the extreme of heat and cold. For this reason, the Stork is never met with between the tropics, and is rarely known to penetrate northward beyond the country of the Swedes, or the southern parts of Russia. In Holland, it is met with only during the summer, arriving in the spring, and departing about Michaelmas. In England the Stork is very rare.

Like the rest of the Grallæ race, the Stork feeds on fishes, frogs, and other reptiles, and being a large and powerful bird is eminently serviceable in those countries infested with serpents, and other noxious creatures, which it attacks and destroys with impunity. All writers concur in assuring us, that in many of the eastern countries, the Stork is held in great respect: in Egypt, the fens of which they visit in autumn, they are highly venerated; and in Turkey they are never molested, but allowed to build upon the tops of their houses, and even sometimes on places of religious worship. In Persia also, they are treated with equal lenity; and no European traveller need be informed, that in certain parts of Spain, of France, and Holland, they experience every possible indulgence, and are allowed to build their nests

upon

PLATE CLXXIX.

upon the tops of the houses in return for the benefits they bestow on the inhabitants, in destroying the reptiles that harbour about their habitations.

The flesh of the Stork is reputed insipid, a circumstance that may have contributed among other causes towards the preservation of this useful race of birds; for it cannot be denied, that where the gratification of the appetite is in view, we are too apt to disregard every other useful property in the lower race of animals. The Stork, however, passes unmolested, as there is no temptation to destroy the bird for the value of its flesh as an article of food.

The nest is composed of sticks, in which the female lays from two to four eggs, that correspond in size with those of the goose, but are rather more elongated, and the colour a fordid yellowish white. The young, which are hatched in the space of a month, are at first brown, and are watched by the male and female alternately with the greatest assiduity.

Though very rare in Britain, the Stork obtained a place in the British Fauna at an early period; a specimen shot in Norfolk being recorded by Willughby. Albin is less explicit than might be wished; but he seems to intimate, that although this bird was rare in England, it had occurred occasionally. "They are seldom," observes this writer, "found in England in the summer time, without being driven over by a storm, or brought over by some curious person. I saw two of these birds at his Grace the Duke of Chandos, at Edger, in Middlesex." *Alb. vol. 2. p. 59**.

* The author of the General Synopsis remarks, "that two instances only are on record (of its being met with in England), Willughby mentions one being shot at Norfolk,

PLATE CLXXIX.

The Stork has been known of late years to visit the southern coasts of Britain. One, Dr. Latham was informed by Mr. Boys, had been picked up dead, but fresh, on the shore of Sandwich Bay; another, as stated by Mr. Macreth, was shot in the winter of 1785, at Southfleet, in Kent; and Mr. Montagu mentions another shot in Hampshire, in the autumn of 1808, by the game-keeper of Major Guiton.

and Albin a second in Middlesex." This latter observation we are afraid has arisen from oversight (a circumstance by no means usual in the writings of Dr. Latham), for the words of Albin, as above transcribed, and to which by the synonyms we are referred, can never be supposed to imply, that the Stork had been shot in Middlesex, but only that he saw Storks at the Duke of Chandos, in Middlesex; and which, from the general tendency of the text, we should apprehend, had been introduced as curiosities by the Duke from Holland.





PLATE CLXXX.

ANAS FERINA.

GREATER RED-HEADED WIGEON.

POKER, OR POUCHARD, *male*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth: tongue fringed, obtuse: the three fore-toes connected, the hind-one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Cinereous, waved: head brown: pectoral band vent and rump black: wings cinereous.

ANAS FERINA: cinereo undulata, capite brunneo, fascia pectoral crisso uropygioque nigris. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 127.

POUCHARD, OR GREAT RED-HEADED WIGEON. *Anas fera fusca.*
Albin. V. 2. 87.—*pl.* 98.

POUCHARD. *Lath. Gen. Syn. V. 6.* p. 523. 68.

The plumage of the male of the Greater Red-headed Wigeon is distinguished by being of a brighter hue, and in having the charac-

PLATE CLXXX.

teristic colours defined with more distinctness than in the female: there is otherwise a general resemblance as conspicuous at least as usually prevails between the two sexes of the Duck tribe; and in point of size, the female is very little inferior to the male bird.

As the two sexes associate and are found in the same places, their habits and manners may be presumed the same: they are not supposed to breed in Britain, but to visit us in autumn, and retire again in the spring: they usually appear in flocks of thirty or forty together, and are observed to fly with greater velocity; but not like some of the Wild Fowl tribe, in a regularly marshalled manner, under the direction of a leader; they fly rather indiscriminately. During part of the year they inhabit North America.



PLATE CLXXXI.

SCOLOPAX GALLINAGO.

COMMON SNIPE.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, obtuse, longer than the head : nostrils linear : face covered : feet four-toed, hind toe consisting of many joints.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill straight, tuberculated : legs fuscous : front with four brown lines,

SCOLOPAX GALLINAGO: rostro recto tuberculato, pedibus fuscis, frontis lineis fuscis quaternis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 173.—*Gmel. Linn. Syst.* 662. 7.

Gallinago. *Bris. Orn.* 5. p. 298. n. 2. t. 26. f. I.

Gallinago Minor. *Bell. av.* 54.

Ald. Orn. 3. p. 484. 476. t. 477.

Bécassine. *Buff. Ois.* 7. p. 483. t. 26.

Schnepf. *Frisch. av.* t. 229.

PLATE CLXXXI.

Snipe, or Snite. *Raj. av. p. 105. n. 2.*
Will. Orn. p. 290, t. 3.
Albin. av. I. t. 71.

COMMON SNIPE, *Brit. Zool. 2. p. 187. t. 68.*
Arct. Zool. p. 463. n. 366.
Lath. Syn. 111. I. p. 134. n. 6.

The common Snipe is abundantly diffused throughout every part of the known globe. In England, the species is common in the fens and swampy places, during the winter; but after the early part of spring they disappear; some, it is believed, migrating, and others retiring to the higher or more mountainous situations, where it is found during the whole summer season. It is stated, on the authority of Dr. Heysham, that the Snipe, as well as the Jack Snipe, are found throughout the year in the hilly parts of Cumberland; and, according to Barrington, they never quit the fens of Lincolnshire, Wolmar Forest, and Bodmin Downs. Its food consists of worms, insects, and small snails.

The nest of the common Snipe is frequently found in the fens and marshes: it is composed of dried plants, intermixed with a few feathers; and the eggs, which are from four to five in number, are of an oblong form, and fordid olive colour, marked with dusky spots.

The length of this bird is about twelve inches; its weight four ounces.



PLATE CLXXXII.

PELECANUS GRACULUS.

SHAG.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, hooked at the point, and furnished with a nail: nostrils an obliterated slit: face rather naked: legs equally balancing the body: all the four toes palmated.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Tail rounded: body black, beneath fuscous: tail feathers twelve.

PELECANUS GRACULUS: cauda rotundata, corpore nigro subtus fusco, rectricibus duodecim. *Lynn. Fn. Sv.* 146.
Brünn. n. 121.—*Gmel.* 574. 4.

PHALACROCORAX minor. *Briff. av.* 6. p. 516. n. 2.

Corvus Aquaticus. *Albin. av.* 2. p. 74. t. 81.

Petit Cormoran, ou Nigaud. *Buff. Hist. Oif.* p. 319.

Shagge, or Crane. *Raj. av.* p. 123. A. 4.

Will. Orn. p. 330. t. 63.

Shag,

PLATE CLXXXII.

Shag. *Arch. Zool.* 2. p. 581. n. 508.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 111. 2. p. 598. n. 14.

The Shag is an inhabitant of the northern parts of Europe: it occurs on the sea coasts of the British isles, and also those of Holland, Sweden, Norway, and Iceland. There is one variety of it found in Cayenne and the Caribbee islands, and another at the Cape of Good Hope: but the variety found in Britain is that peculiar to the northern regions.

This bird is smaller than the Corvorant, being only thirty inches in length: like that bird, its haunts are the rocky parts of our sea coasts, where it breeds in the cliffs, and also like the Corvorant in trees. Ray informs us, the eggs are long and white. When on land, the Shag is reputed a very stupid bird; but in the water, it is remarkably active, and is not shot in that element without great difficulty, as it swims with only the head and neck above water, and dives with uncommon celerity the instant it perceives the flash of the fowling piece.

The general tints of the plumage of this bird are dusky, glossed with ashen green or olive, and the darker parts with a vivid blue, appearing altogether resplendent, as the light falls upon it in various directions.



PLATE CLXXXIII.

PAVO CRISTATUS β .

PIED PEAHEN.

GALLINÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, robust: head covered with revolute feathers: nostrils large: feathers of the rump, long, broad, expanfile, and covered with ocellar spots.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Head with a compressed crest: spurs solitary.

PAVO CRISTATUS: capite crista compressa, calcaribus solitariis β .

Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat. 729. 1.

PAVO VARIUS. *Briff. Orn.* I. p. 288. A.

Bunter Pfau. *Frich. av. t.* 119.

Paon Panaché. *Buff. Hist. Ois.* 2. p. 327.

The representation of the male bird of this Pied variety of the Peacock in the Fifth Volume of the present Work, appears to have afforded

PLATE CLXXXIII.

afforded so much satisfaction to many of our readers, that we are prevailed upon to add in this place a figure of the Hen and Young.

The female of this bird, we must acknowledge, yields in point of gracefulness and commanding gaiety of the plumage to the male; and still more conspicuously in the deficiency of that fine flowing train of feathers, which constitute the tail coverts: but it yet possesses a very pleasing air, and its introduction in the present Work will assist to complete the history of that much admired variety of the Crested Peacock.

The Pied Peacock, an intermediate breed or mixture between the common and the white Peacock, is not inferior in point of size to the common kind, and as in that bird the female is rather smaller; the crest is also shorter, and the legs rarely armed with spurs.





PLATE CLXXXIV.

TRINGA MACULARIA.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, as long as the head: nostrils small, linear: tongue slender: feet four-toed; the hind-toe of one joint, and raised from the ground.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill at the base and the legs flesh coloured: every part of the body spotted; eye-brows and double band on the wings white.

TRINGA MACULARIA: rostro basi pedibusque incarnatis, corpore undique maculato, superciliis fasciaque gemina alarum albis. *Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 672. 7.

TRINGA MACULARIA: *Linn. Syst. I.* p. 249. 7.

TURDUS AQUATICUS: *Brisson. av.* 5. p. 255. n. 20.

Grive d'Eau. *Buff. Hist. Nat. des Ois.* 3. p. 180.

PLATE CLXXXIV.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. *Brit. Zool.* 2. n. 196.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 5. p. 179. 24.

—*Ind. Orn.* 734. 29.

We esteem this one of the rarest of the British Sandpipers: the length of our bird is eight inches and a half.

The species is described as a native of America as well as Europe; and the female is said to be distinguished by having the under parts of the plumage immaculate.



PLATE CLXXXV.

TURDUS VISCIVORUS.

MISSEL THRUSH.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straightish: the upper mandible a little bending and notched near the point: nostrils naked or half covered with a small membrane: mouth ciliated with a few bristles at the corners: tongue jagged.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Back brown; neck spotted with white; bill yellowish.

TURDUS VISCIVORUS: dorso fusco, collo maculis albis, rostro flavescens. *Scop. Ann. I. p. 132. n. 193.*

Brünn. Orn. p. 65. n. 231.

Kram. el. p. 361. n. 6.

Gmel. Linn. Syst. 806. 1.

Turdus Viscivorus. Gesn. av. 759. t. 760.

Turdus Viscivorus major. Ray. av. p. 64. n. 1.

Turdus Major. Bris. av. 1. p. 200. n. 1.

PLATE CLXXXV.

Tordo. *Olin. ucc. t. 25.*

Draine. *Buff. Hist. Oif. 3. p. 295. t. 19. f. 1. Pl. Enl. n. 489.*

Miffel Bird, or Shrite. *Will. Orn. p. 187.*

Albin. av. 1. t. 33.

Miffel Thrush. *Brit. Zool. 1. n. 105.*

Arch. Zool. 2. p. 341. B.

Lath. Gen Syn. 11. 1. p. 16. n. 1.

The Miffel Thrush is the largest of the Turdus tribe; the length eleven inches. The plumage of the female is inferior to that of the male in brightness.

This bird inhabits the temperate parts of Europe, where it lives in woods, and feeds on berries of various bushes, such as the holly, ivy, and hawthorn, and, as the name implies, on those of the miffel-toe; and besides these, it subsists on caterpillars and insects.

The nest, which is usually placed in a low tree or bush, is composed of moss, lichens and leaves; the lining of withered grass. The eggs, four or five in number, of a dirty flesh colour, marked with reddish spots. The note of this bird, though pleasing, is not equal to that of the Thrush. The flesh is held in some esteem for the table.



PLATE CLXXXVI.

SCOLOPAX GALLINULA.

JACK SNIPE.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, obtuse, longer than the head: nostrils linear: face covered: feet four-toed: hind-toe consisting of many joints.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill straight, tuberculated: legs greenish: lores brown: rump varied with violet.

SCOLOPAX GALLINULA: rostro recto tuberculato, pedibus viref-
centibus, loris fuscis, uropygio violaceo-vario.

Scop. Ann. I. n. 139.

—*Gmel. Syst. Nat. 662. 8.*

Gallinago minor. *Brisl. av. 5. p. 303. n. 3. t. 26. f. 2.*

Gallinago minima. *Bell. av. 217.*

Cinclus quartus. *Aldr. Orn. 3. p. 493.*

Petite

PLATE CLXXXVI.

Petite bécassine. *Buff. Hist. Nat. Ois.* 7. p. 490.—*Pl. enl. n.* 884.

Halbschnepfe. *Frisch. av. t.* 231.

JACKSNIPE, GID, JUDCOCK. *Will. (Angl.) p.* 291.—*Albin.* 111.

t. 86.—*Brit. Zool.* 11. 189. *t.* 68.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 5. p. 136. 8.

The Jacksnipe has the same habits and manners of life as the common Snipe, but appears to be less abundantly dispersed over the globe than that bird. Dr. Latham remarks that he cannot trace it more South than Aleppo (where, according to Dr. Ruffel, it is not uncommon), and to the North as far as lat. 80. 27.

This is only half the size of the common Snipe, weighing no more than two ounces; its length eight inches and a half.





PLATE CLXXXVII*.

PHALOROPUS LOBATUS.

LOBATE, or GREY PHALAROPE.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, straight, and usually somewhat inflected at the top : nostrils minute : feet lobate, or furnished with lateral membranes, generally scalloped.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill subulate, the tip inflected : legs pinnate : breast undulated white.

PHALAROPUS LOBATUS. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 776. 2.

TRINGA LOBATA : rostro subulato : apice inflexo, pedibus pinnatis : pectore albo undulato. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 179.—*Brünn. Orn. n.* 171.

—*Fab. Fn. Groenl. n.* 75.

PHALAROPUS. *Brieff. av. 5. p.* 18. n. 1.

Phalarope a festons dentelés. *Buff. Ois. p.* 226.

Grey

* ERRATUM.

Through an error in numbering the Plate of the Grey Phalarope, which belongs to this place in the present Volume (Plate CLXXXVII.) it has been improperly introduced into the former, or Seventh Volume.

This

PLATE CLXXXVII.

Grey Coot-footed Tringa. *Edw. glean. t. 308.*—*Acc. Angl. 50. t. 6.*

GREY PHALAROPE. *Brit. Zool. n. 218. t. 76.*

Lath. Syn. 3. 1. p. 272. n. 2.

This elegant species is very rare in England. Its size is that of the common Purre: the bill black: the legs cinereous.

It is found sparingly in Europe, Asia, and America.

This mistake was not discovered till a considerable number of the Seventh Volume had been bound up and sold, and at a time therefore when any alteration in placing the Plates would only have created perplexity.

The true Plate CLVII. is included in the present Volume, inscribed with its proper number.

The Plate numbered CLVII., in the former Volume, should be CLXXXVII.

By altering the erroneous number CLVII. last mentioned, into CLXXXVII., and then referring the two Plates to their proper situations in Vol. VII. and VIII. as indicated by their several numbers, the oversight will be corrected.

When the two Plates are thus transposed the letter-press will be found to correspond respectively with the Plates referred to them; for it is nothing more than the misnumbering of one Plate in Vol. VII. that has occasioned confusion.



PLATE CLXXXVIII.

TURDUS ILIACUS.

RED WING.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straightish; the upper mandible a little bending, and notched near the point: nostrils naked, or half covered with a small membrane: mouth ciliated with a few bristles at the corners: tongue jagged.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Wings beneath ferruginous: eye-brows whitish.

TURDUS ILIACUS: alis subtus ferrugineis, superciliis albicantibus.

Linn. Fn. Suec. 218. *Scop. ann.* 1. n. 196.—

Kram. el. p. 361. n. 9.—*Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 808. 3.

Turdus Ilias. *Gesn. av.* 760. t. 761.

Aldr. orn. 2. p. 597.

Turdus Iliacus. *Nozem. nederl. Vogel.* t. 12.

Klein. av. 66.

Brif. av. 2. p. 208. n. 3. t. 20. f. 1.

Mauvis. *Buff. Hist. Nat. Ois.* 3. p. 309.—*Pl. enl.* n. 51.

PLATE CLXXXVIII.

Klera Kladra, Tall-Traft. *Fn. Suec. sp.* 218.

Weindroffel. *Frisch. av. t.* 28.

Redwing, Swinepipe, or Wind-Thrush. *Will. Orn.* 189.

Ray. av. 64. n. 4.

Albin. av. 1. t. 35.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 2. 1. p. 22. n. 7.

The Redwing is rather smaller than the Fieldfare, to which, in general appearance, as well as in its manners of life, it bears considerable resemblance.

The usual length of the Redwing is about nine inches, that of the Fieldfare ten inches. They appear in flocks so nearly about the same time, that they may be considered as accompanying each other in their periodical migrations; the flocks of the Redwing arriving usually at the place of destination a few days only before the Fieldfare; and it is also known that in the northern parts of Europe, where these birds breed, both kinds occur together.

One of the most remarkable characters of the Redwing, and by which, independently of other peculiarities, it may be distinguished from the Fieldfare, is the colour of the inner surface of the wing, that part of the Fieldfare being wholly white, while in the Redwing it is marked with a rufous orange spot. The name of Redwing, given to this bird by Ray and other early writers, appears hence to be happily chosen, as it at once implies the distinction that prevails between this bird and its very analogous species.

Linnæus informs us in the *Fauna Suecica*, that in Sweden this species

PLATE CLXXXVIII.

species builds its nest in some low shrub or hedge; and that the female lays six eggs, which are of a blue-green colour, and spotted with black *: it is observed also, that the Redwing perches on high trees in the maple forests in Sweden, and has a fine note in spring.

* We believe it may be asserted with entire confidence, that the collection of the eggs of British Birds in our possession, is beyond comparison, the most perfect that ever has been brought together; and as the introduction of the eggs are confessedly requisite to complete the Natural History of our birds, the reader will be induced, we trust, to approve our intention of introducing the figures of these in the most compendious form the interest of the subject will admit, in a distinctly separate Supplement to the present Work. A genuine work on this interesting subject is unquestionably much wanted.

THE HISTORY OF THE

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PLATE CLXXXIX.

TRINGA PUGNAX, *fem.*

REEVE, OR FEMALE RUFF.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, as long as the head: nostrils small, linear: tongue slender: feet four-toed; the hind toe of one joint, and raised from the ground.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill and legs red: three lateral tail feathers without spots: face with flesh-coloured granulations.

Fem. Pale brown; back spotted with black: tail brown, the middle feathers spotted with black: breast and belly pale.

TRINGA PUGNAX. *Linn. Syst.* 1. p. 247. 1.—*Fn. Sv.* N° 175.—

Gmel. Syst. 1. p. 669.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 725. 1.

Avis Pugnax. *Aldr. Orn.* 3. p. 523. t. 526.

Combattant, ou Paon de Mer. *Buff.* 7. p. 521. t. 29, 30.—*Pl. Enl.*

305. 306.

Pavoncella,

PLATE CLXXXIX.

Pavoncella. *Cet. uc. Sard.* p. 253.

Ruff and Reeve. *Will. (Angl.)* p. 302. t. 56.

Albin. 1. t. 72. 73.

Lath. Syn. 5. p. 159. 1.

In an early part of the present work we presented our readers with a figure of the Male or Ruff*; the subject now chosen is a variety of the Female or Reeve. The length of the male is about twelve inches, that of the female is rather less.

It is remarked of this species that the ruff or male birds are so variable in colour, that it is scarcely possible to find two birds that perfectly correspond in this particular. The Reeves are also variable in a less considerable degree.

The males when in full plumage are distinguished by the remarkable tufts of feathers which form a kind of collar or ruff round the neck, from whence it derives the name; but in the moulting season this ruff falls off, and the appearance of the male at that time so nearly resembles the female that they cannot easily be distinguished.

* Plate XIX, Vol. I.



PLATE CXC.

ANAS PENELOPE.

WIGEON.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed and obtuse : three fore-toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Tail rather pointed : vent black : head brown : front white : back cinereous waved.

ANAS PENELOPE: cauda acutiufcula, criffo nigro, capite brunneo, fronte alba, dorfo cinereo undulato. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 124.—*Brünn. n.* 72.—*Kram. el. p.* 342. n. 16.

PENELOPE. *Gefn. av.* 108.

Aldr. orn. 3. p. 217. t. 219. 220.

Jonft. av. 39.

Anas fistularis. *Gefn. av.* 121.

Canard

PLATE CXC.

Canard siffleur. *Buff. Oif.* 9. p. 169. t. 10. 11.—*Pl. Enl.* n. 825.

Pfeifente. *Bloch. Besch. der Berl. Naturf.* 4. p. 601. t. 18. f. 5.

Blaffente. *Frisch. av.* t. 164.

WIGEON, WHEWER, or WHIM. *Ray. Orn.* p. 146. *A. S.*

Will. Orn. p. 375. t. 12.

Albin. av. 2. t. 99.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 3. 2. p. 518. n. 63.

This species of wild fowl occurs abundantly in various countries of Europe, Asia, and Africa, in all which it is reputed of the migratory kind: it migrates as far as Aleppo and Egypt during the winter, and at different seasons appears in various parts of Europe as far to the northward as Sweden: it is believed to breed more to the northward than the British isles.

During the winter months the Wigeon is taken in plenty in our marshes, with others of the Duck tribe, by means of the nets and decoys, and as the flesh is much admired, the London markets are pretty regularly supplied with the Wigeon throughout the winter, and early part of the spring.

The length of this bird is twenty inches: the female is rather smaller, of a brown colour, and undulated: the neck and breast paler: scapulars dark brown, and the wings and belly as in the male bird. The young males are observed to resemble the female till the following spring after being hatched, when they acquire the full plumage, which however they retain only till the end of the summer, when they again resemble the female till the ensuing moulting.



PLATE CXCI.

TURDUS PILARIS.

FIELDFARE.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straightish; the upper mandible a little bending, and notched near the point: nostrils naked, or half covered with a small membrane: mouth ciliated with a few bristles at the corners: tongue jagged.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Tail feathers black, the outermost at the inner edge tipped with white: head and rump hoary.

TURDUS PILARIS: rectricibus nigris: extimis margine interiore apice albicantibus, capite uropygioque cano. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 215.—*Scop. Ann.* 1. p. 133. n. 194.—*Brünn. Orn.* p. 65. n. 232.

TURDUS PILARIS. *Gesn. av.* 753.—*Aldr. Orn.* 2. p. 595. t. 596.
Turdus Pilaris sive Turdela. *Briff. av.* 2. p. 214. n. 5.

PLATE CXCI.

Litorne ou Tourdelle. *Buff. Hist. Nat. des Ois.* 3. p. 301. t. 19.
f. 2.—*Pl. Enl.* n. 490.

FIELDFARE, or FELDEFARE. *Brit. Zool.* 1. n. 106.

Will. Orn. p. 188. t. 37.

Albin. av. 1. t. 36.

Lath. Syn. 2. 1. p. 24. n. 11.

Length ten inches; the bill yellowish, with the tip black, the legs blackish. The male and female much resemble each other.

The Fieldfare, like the Redwing, is of the migratory kind: retiring to the northern regions, as far as Iceland, during the summer or breeding season, and returning southward in autumn: it arrives in Britain about the month of October, or later, when the northern winter is more mild than usual: it also visits France and Italy, but not till about the month of December. In Sweden it is observed to build in high trees, and to prefer those situations where the juniper grows. It subsists chiefly on the berries of various plants, among which, those of the hawthorn and the holly appear to be favourite food.

The Fieldfare and the Redwing are frequently taken in the nets during winter: the flesh, though sometimes rather bitter, being held in some esteem. The capture of these birds (*Turdi* of the Romans) was an object of attention among the ancients as we learn from their historians: they were accustomed to take these birds alive in vast numbers at particular seasons of the year, and fatten them in aviaries by thousands, as an article of delicacy and luxury for the table*.

* Varro, Plutarch, Martial, &c.

PLATE CXCI.

Several varieties of this bird are described by writers, all which differ from the common kind only in having the plumage varied with white, especially about the head and neck: the Pied Fieldfare of Albin, which is of this kind, has the head and neck entirely white.



PLATE CXCI.

ANAS CRECCA. *Fem.*

COMMON TEAL. *Female.*

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex and obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth: tongue fringed and obtuse: three fore toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Wing spot green: line above and below the eye white, *male*.—Head and neck whitish and brown varied; wing spot green: vent white.

ANAS CRECCA: speculo alarum viridi, linea alba supra infraque oculos. *Linnaeus*.—Caput et collum albidum fuscoque varia; alæ ut in mare: crissum totum album. *fem.* *Linn. Syst.* 1. p. 204. 33.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 872. 100.

Querquedula secunda Aldr. *Raii. Syn.* p. 148. 9.

COMMON TEAL. *fem.* *Lath. Gen. Syn.* 6. 551. 88.

The

PLATE CXCII.

The Common Teal is a native of Europe and Asia, inhabiting the north as far as Iceland, and the south to the Caspian sea, beyond which it extends on the east as far as China, India, and some other adjacent countries.

During the winter season there are few species of wild fowl more abundant in this country than the Common Teal, which is caught in vast numbers for the supply of the London markets. But it was long before it was clearly ascertained to breed in this country. It is now known to breed in the north of England, and also in Scotland.

In France, where the Common Teal inhabits throughout the year, it frequents watery places, making its nest, in April, among the rushes that grow about the edges of the ponds, and feeds on the seeds of the rushes, and on the grasses and weeds the ponds afford, as well as on the smaller kinds of fishes. The nest is said to be of a large size, and so placed in the water as to rise and fall with it: the eggs, which in point of size, resemble those of a pigeon, are of a whitish colour, with small hazel spots.

The subject represented in the present plate is the female, which differs materially in some particulars of the plumage from the male.

Length about fourteen inches.



PLATE CXCIII.

ANAS CRECCA, *Mas.*

COMMON TEAL, *Male.*

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex and obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth: tongue fringed and obtuse: three fore-toes connected, the hinder one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Wing spot green: line above and below the eye white.

ANAS CRECCA: speculo alarum viridi, linea alba supra infraque oculos. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 129.—*Linn. Syst.* 1. p. 204. 33.—*Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 552. 33.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 872. 100.

Petite Sarcelle, *Buff.* ix. p. 265. t. 17. 18.—*Pl. enl.* 947.

COMMON TEAL. *Br. Zool.* 11. N^o 290.—*Arch. Zool.* 11. p. 577. P.—*Lath. Gen. Syn.* 6. p. 551. 83.—*Id. Supp.* p. 276.

PLATE CXCIII.

In the preceding Plate we have given a figure of the female Teal, the present is that of the male bird, which confessedly excels the female in point of elegance; there is a general resemblance, and the size is nearly the same, but the superior brightness of its colours, added to the very beautiful appearance of the head of the male bird, affords a very striking contrast to the appearance of the female.

There is a supposed variety of this bird with the legs cinereous instead of reddish brown.



PLATE CXCIV.

ANAS ACUTA.

PINTAIL. *Fem.*

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex and obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth: tongue fringed and obtuse: three fore-toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Tail pointed, long, beneath black: hind-head each side with a white line; back waved cinereous.

Female rufous brown and dusky varied: wing-spot pale brown, margined above and beneath with a white line: two middle tail feathers not elongated.

ANAS ACUTA: cauda acuminato elongata subtus nigra, occipite utrinque linea alba, dorso cinereo undulato. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 126.—*Scop. Ann.* 1. n. 73.—*Georg. it. p.* 166.—*Lath. Gen. Syn.* 3. 2. p. 526. n. 72.

PLATE CXCIV.

The male of this very elegant species of the *Anas* tribe has appeared already in the present work, being included in the sixth volume, at Plate CXXIX. The female is little inferior in the beauty of her plumage to the male bird, from which, however, on comparison, it will be found to differ in several material particulars. The female is rather smaller, the head and neck pale brown, and marked with numerous short dashes of fuscous; the back and wing coverts dark brown, with a delicate reddish buff-coloured margin, and many of the feathers marked across the middle with a curved band of the same colour: wings pale fuscous; wing-spot pale brown, bounded above and beneath with a white band or line: the tail cuneate, having the middle feather rather longer and pointed, but not elongated like the two middle tail feathers of the male bird.



PLATE CXCIV.

HIRUNDO APUS.

SWIFT.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill small, weak, curved, subulate, and depressed at the base: gape larger than the head: tongue short, broad, and cleft: wings long: tail in general forked: toes all placed forward.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Blackish, throat white.

HIRUNDO APUS: nigricans, gula alba, digitis omnibus quatuor anticis, *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 272.—*Scop. Ann.* 1. p. 166. n. 251.—*Brünn. Orn.* p. 74. n. 292.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 582. 32.

Le Grand Martinet. *Buff. Pl. Enl.* 542. f. 1.

Martinet Noir. *Buff. Hist. Nat. Oif.* 6. p. 643.

Rondone Zinnan. *Uov.* p. 47. t. 7. f. 33.

Cett. Uc. Sard. p. 231.

Mauerschwalbe. *Frisch. av.* 17.

PLATE CXC.V.

SWIFT. *Brit. Zool.* 1. N° 171. t. 57.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 214. t. 39.—*Albin.* 2. p. 55.
Lath. Gen. Syn. 4. p. 584. 34.

The Swift appears to be an inhabitant of almost every part of the known globe, as we learn from the testimony of many travellers who have seen it in the different countries they have respectively visited: in the British isles it remains only for a very short period, seldom arriving before the early part of May, and retiring again about the beginning of the month of August.

The species is about eight inches in length, the colour footy black, except the chin, which is white; the female differs from the male only in being rather smaller, the plumage brownish, and the white on the throat more obscure than in the male bird.

From the diminutive size of the feet it walks with much difficulty, and cannot rise from the ground. It is, therefore, never seen in any low situation, unless it should chance to fall there by accident, but rests upon the tops and sides of houses, church steeples, the lofty craggs of hills or other considerable elevations, from whence it can conveniently take its flight. In the mornings and evenings it is observed on the wing, flying and darting in a swift and peculiar manner in search of insects, its customary food; and which it easily catches in the enormous gape of its mouth, while on the wing. The Swifts fly only in the morning and evening: during the day time, and in the night they lurk in their hiding places to avoid the extremities of either heat or cold.

The Swift is said to have only one brood in a year: the eggs, usually five in number, are of a lengthened form, and white colour.



PLATE CXCVI.

SCOLOPAX ARCUATA.

CURLEW.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, obtuse, longer than the head: nostrils linear: face covered: feet four-toed, hind-toe consisting of many joints.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill arched, legs blueish: wings blackish, with snowy spots.

SCOLOPAX ARCUATA: rostro arcuato, pedibus cærulefcentibus, alis nigris maculis niveis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 168.—

It. scan. 333.—*Gmel.* 655. 3.

Numenius. *Briff. av.* 5. p. 311. n. 1.

Nozem. nederl. Vogel. t. 57.

Numenius f. Arquata. *Gesn. av.* 222.—*Aldr. Orn.* l. 20. c. 21.—

Marf. dan. t. 17.

NUMENIUS ARQUATA, cinerascente nigroque varius, pedibus cærulefcentibus, alis nigris maculis niveis. *Lath. Ind.*

Orn. 710. 1.

P L A T E C X C V I.

Le Courlis. *Buff.* 8. p. 19.—*Pl. Enl.* 818.

COMMON CURLEW. *Br. Zool.* 2. 176. t. 63.

Will. (Angl.) p. 294. t. 54.

Albin. 1. t. 79.

Lath. Syn. 5. p. 119. 1.—*Id. Suppl.* p. 242.

The Curlew inhabits the marshy parts of Europe and Asia; and a variety of the species is also found in Africa and America. During the summer season it migrates in flocks to the Northward, and returns again to the Southward as the winter approaches.

These birds never leave Great Britain entirely, for although they migrate in great numbers they are found in plenty at all seasons of the year, both on our sea coasts and among the fens in the inland parts of the kingdom. With us they breed in April; the eggs are four in number, and of a pale olive colour, with brownish spots.

The remarkable incurvate structure and disproportionate length of the bill seem to indicate the habits of life these birds are destined by nature to pursue: those which haunt our sea coasts are seen running in flocks along the shore in quest of worms and crustaceous animals, which they draw out of the sands and from the crevices of the rocks, by means of their elongated bill, with perfect ease; and in like manner they readily obtain the worms, the larva of insects, and other creatures which inhabit the fens and marshes to which they retire when they retreat inland from the sea coast. The flesh of the Curlew is admired generally: those which feed upon the sea coasts acquire a certain degree of fishy rankness in flavour, from the nature of their food, which is

PLATE CXCVI.

not observed in those which inhabit the fresh water marshes. The two sexes much resemble each other.

The Curlew varies in size: it is usually from twenty to about twenty-four inches in length, and has a bill of an incurvate form, nearly seven inches long; sometimes they occur much larger. We have the head of one, the bill of which is ten inches long, but the Curlew of this size is not common, and it was for this reason the head was preserved by a curious sportsman as a very singular novelty.

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