

XXIX.—*Critical Remarks upon Mr. J. E. Gray's published Catalogue of the specimens of Mammalia and Birds presented by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., to the British Museum.* By ED. BLYTH, Curator to the Museum of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, &c.

By the politeness of Mr. J. E. Gray, I have just been favoured with a copy of his published Catalogue of Mr. Hodgson's specimens presented to the British Museum; and as I have sundry emendations of nomenclature and corrections of synonyms to offer relative to the species enumerated in that Catalogue, I shall proceed to do so without delay, in hope of checking the diffusion of error so far as my present information suffices for the purpose.

Page 1. *Presbytis schistaceus*, Hodgson: erroneously referred to *Pr. entellus* of Bengal; and all the synonyms incorrect, except the MS. synonyms of Mr. Hodgson. *Pr. hypoleucos*, nobis (noticed as a variety of *Pr. Johnii* by Mr. Martin, and since named *Dussumieri* by M. Schinz), is a conspicuously different species peculiar to Malabar and Travancore; and the *Pr. anchises*, Elliot, quoted with a mark of doubt, is more nearly allied to the Himalayan *Lungoor* (judging from several elaborate descriptions of the latter which I have received) than is *Pr. hypoleucos*, but is doubtless also quite distinct, as is likewise *Pr. priamus* of the Coromandel coast and Ceylon*. Gentlemen in Europe, who derive their knowledge of exotic species chiefly or solely from a few museum specimens, may be pardoned for such occasional mal-identifications; which cultivators of zoology who study the species in their indigenous abodes, as I have the *Pr. entellus*,—of which I have repeatedly seen troops of many dozens as tame as domestic animals, and permitting of the closest observation and examination short of actually handling them,—could scarcely fall into. The true *Pr. entellus* I have never observed to vary.

P. 2. *Macacus assamensis*, M'Clelland and Horsfield, P. Z. S. 1839, p. 148, if identical with *M. pelops*, Hodgson, as might easily be ascertained by reference to the India-house specimen of the former, would of course bear the name by which it was first described.

P. 6. To the well-known small Cat termed *Leopardus Elliotti* by Mr. Gray, must be referred, as an occasional variety merely, the *Felis Charltoni*, Gray, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1846, p. 211. This variety has been received by the Asiatic Society from Assam; and intermediate specimens occur which prove the specific identity here asserted beyond all question.

P. 7. The Tibetan Lynx does not appear to me to be identical with the species to which Mr. Gray refers it. I have examined several specimens.

P. 11. *Canis lupus*, apud Elliot, is strangely enough given as a dubious synonym of *C. aureus*. A naturalist and sportsman of Mr. Elliot's experience and discernment would about as soon mistake a

* Mr. Jerdon informs me that both *Pr. priamus* and *Pr. hypoleucos* are common in the vicinity of Tellicherry, on the Malabar coast, where he now resides.

jackal for a wolf as Mr. Gray would mistake a leopard for a royal tiger!—*Canis corsac*, Blyth, is quoted as a synonym of *Vulpes bengalensis*. I merely followed Mr. Ogilby in so referring it. Vide 'Mammalogy of the Himalaya' in Royle's 'Botany,' &c.

P. 15. *Helarctos malayanus* (*verus*), if it does not occur in the Nepal Terai, assuredly does in Assam, Arracan, the Tenasserim provinces and Malayan peninsula. I have had two living specimens from Assam; and have likewise seen the *Ursus tibetanus* (erroneously so named) alive.

P. 16. *Sorex pygmaeus*, Hodgson. Is not this *S. Perrotellii*, Guerin? It occurs in the Neilgherries as well as in the Himalaya, and has even been obtained in a cellar in Madras.

P. 20. *Lepus orientalis*, Brown, 1836, surely takes precedence of *L. macrotis*, Hodgson, 1840; but the species was rightly referred by Mr. Ogilby to *L. rufocaudatus*, Is. Geoffroy.

P. 22. *Pteromys nobilis*, Gray, v. *chrysothrix*, Hodgson, is merely an occasional variety of *Pt. nobilis*.

Sciurus macruroides, Hodgson (1841, not described) is described by M'Clelland as *Sc. giganteus* in Proc. Zool. Soc. 1839, p. 151, so that if really different from *Sc. bicolor* (*verus*), which I doubt exceedingly, the latter name should have the preference, only that Raffles had long previously bestowed the name *affinis* on a pale variety of the same species since termed *Sc. aureiventris* by Is. Geoffroy. Should it not therefore (*i. e.* the dark or ordinarily coloured variety) in this case rank as *Sc. affinis*? albeit Raffles alludes evidently to this dark race by the name *Sc. maximus* of Schreber. With regard to the name *bicolor*, it is certain that Sparrman founded it upon a Javan specimen; and the question therefore turns upon the fact whether the dark Malacca race inhabits Java? Schinz correctly describes the latter, and gives Java, Sumatra and Borneo as the habitats; but Mr. Gray, assuming (it would seem) the contrary, refers *bicolor* to *javensis*, Schreber, and adopts *macruroides*, Hodgson, for the common dark race abundant from the S. E. Himalaya and Assam, southward to the Straits of Malacca at least, if not further. These great Squirrels are extremely puzzling, more especially in the Malay countries. On the continent I know three well-marked races, viz. the dark one already noticed with its pale Malayan variety, the *purpureus* of the Indian peninsula, and *macrourus* (*verus*) of Travancore and Ceylon, of which last I am now publishing a coloured figure.

P. 29. *Ovis burrhel*, Blyth, is now acknowledged by Mr. Hodgson to be distinct from *O. nahoar*. And I consider *O. ammonoides*, Hodgson, to be identical with *O. ammon*, Pallas: if distinct, it should bear the name *O. Hodgsonii*, nobis. *O. Vignei*, nobis, placed as a synonym of *O. ammonoides* by Mr. Gray, is a widely different species, appertaining to quite a different section of the group of Wild Sheep. Mr. Gray might as well identify *Cervus dama* with *C. hippelaphus*!

P. 32. The *Bara Sing'ha* of India (or "twelve-antlered" Stag) is the *Cervus Duvauceleri*, not *C. Wallichii*, which has but a dubious claim to be regarded as an Indian animal, though I suspect that to it must be referred the great truly elaphine Stag of Kashmir.

P. 34. I do not agree with Mr. Gray in identifying *Cervus Aristotelis* (the Jerrow of the Himalaya) with *C. hippelaphus* (the Sambur or Saumer of Bengal, the Indian peninsula, Arracan, Tenasserim, &c.).

In conclusion of the Mammalia, I am glad to observe that Mr. Gray, now that he has specimens to form a legitimate opinion upon, recognises (as a matter of course) the distinctness of the Gaour and Gayal, *Bos gaurus* and *B. frontalis*, which, in his Catalogue of the specimens of Mammalia in the British Museum, he united as one and the same animal: just as he still "lumps together" the various Indian Monkeys of the type of *Presbytis entellus*, in opposition to the opinion of myself and scientific co-labourers in this country, who assuredly possess much better data to judge from.

P. 36. *Gypaetos hemachalanus* (nec *hemalayanus*) is a name bestowed by Capt. Hutton, not by Mr. Pearson.

P. 38. *Gyps tenuirostris*, v. *tenuiceps*, Hodgson, is *Vultur indicus* of Scopoli and Latham, nec Temminck.

P. 41. *Falco caligatus*, Raffles, v. *Spizaetus alboniger*, nobis, from Malacca, is quite distinct from *Nisaetus pallidus*, Hodgson, which I presume to be the *Falco cirratus*, auctorum. *Morphnus hastatus*, Lesson, is an aberrant species of true *Aquila*. Very different species were also sent by Mr. Hodgson to the Asiatic Society as his *Sp. nipalensis* and *Sp. pulcher*.

P. 42. *Circaetus undulatus* is the *Falco cheela* of Latham, which specific name claims the priority.—*Ictinaetus*, Jerdon (nec Kaup), must stand as the divisional appellation of *Falco malaiensis*, Reinwardt.

P. 45. *Tinnunculus interstinctus* (M'Clelland and Horsfield). An exceedingly doubtful species, from all that I have seen (at least of specimens so designated), as distinct from the common British Kestrel.—*Ierax eutolmus*, Hodgson, can scarcely be referred safely to *F. bengalensis*, Brisson.

P. 46. The common Indian Kite, in the opinion of Mr. H. E. Strickland, is *M. ater* (verus), as distinct from *M. parasiticus* of Africa. Mr. Gould's Australian *M. affinis* does not appear to differ in any respect.

P. 51. With abundance of specimens of both before me, I consider *Ephialtes lettia* (Hodgson) of the Himalaya, Assam, Sylhet and Arracan to be quite distinct from *Eph. lempiji* of the Malay countries, Ceylon and Malabar.

P. 53. The name for *Caprimulgus nipalensis*, Hodgson, will be *C. albonotatus*, Tickell.

P. 54. *Hirundo rustica* (vera). Several Nepalese specimens of this bird were presented by Mr. Hodgson to the Asiatic Society exactly according with specimens from England; and I recently obtained one in the vicinity of Midnapore flying with *H. daurica* and *H. gutturalis*, Scopoli. The latter name holds precedence of *H. javanica*, Sparrman, for the common Indian species termed *H. jewan* by Sykes; and *H. panayana*, Lath., is another synonym.

P. 55. Mr. Gray is right (in his Appendix) in referring *H. subsoc-*

cata and *H. minuta*, Hodgson, to the common little Indian Bank Martin, *H. sinensis*, badly figured in Hardwicke's 'Illustrations;' *H. brevicaudata*, M'Clelland and Horsfield, refers to the same.

P. 56. *Halcyon amauropterus* (Pearson) is not, as stated in the Appendix, the *H. capensis*, apud Jerdon. The former is very rare in the Indian peninsula, but far from being so in the vicinity of Calcutta, and along the eastern coast of the bay of Bengal, in Arracan and the Tenasserim provinces it is extremely common. The latter appears to be abundant throughout India, and will now stand as *H. gurial*, Pearson, v. *brunniceps*, Jerdon, as distinguished from the nearly-allied *H. leucocephalus* (Gm., very badly so named) of the Malay countries. The voice of *H. amauropterus* is extremely harsh, and remarkably unlike that of *H. gurial*.

P. 57. *H. smyrnensis* (L.). Mr. Gray unites with this the *H. gularis*, Kuhl, v. *smyrnensis*, var. *albogularis*, nobis, which is peculiar to eastern Malasia. He also identifies *Ceryle varia*, Strickland, with *C. rudis*. Both the Indian species referred to are extremely common, and never vary so as to exhibit the distinguishing characters of their respective near affines, which I therefore quite agree with Mr. Strickland in separating.—*A. meninting*, Horsfield, vel *asiatica*, Swainson, is a distinct species from *A. bengalensis*. Both occur in the Malayan peninsula, but the latter is there comparatively rare.

P. 58. *Merops torquatus*, and the *Merops* referred doubtfully to *M. viridis*. I have no doubt whatever that what Mr. Gray says, in the Appendix, of these being mere varieties of *M. viridis*, is correct. Specimens of this bird, from Arracan, are remarkable for the great development of the rufous hue on the crown and nape; and there is one in the museum of the Asiatic Society (locality unknown) equally remarkable for the bright verditer-blue of the throat, more especially on its sides: but to regard these as separate species seems to me to be altogether unwarrantable; that last noticed accords with the description of *M. torquatus*.

P. 59. *Nectarinia saturata* (Hodgson), and also *N. assamensis*, M'Clelland and Horsfield, claim precedence of *N. Hodgsoni*, Jardine; and I consider (with Mr. Jerdon) *N. mahrattensis*, Sykes, to be *Certhia asiatica*, auct.

P. 60. Specimens which I have examined, marked *Myzanthé inornata* by Mr. Hodgson, are of the species termed *Nectarinia minima* by Capt. Tickell, and *Certhia erythrorhynchos*, Lath., which latter name is founded on error, or at least can only be applied to the nestling, so that I now designate this bird *Dicæum minimum* (Tickell). The species occurs throughout India, even in Ceylon, where it would appear to be very common. It also inhabits Arracan.

P. 61. *Chloropsis cæsmarhynchos*, Tickell (a misprint for *gampsorhynchos*, Jardine and Selby), refers to *Phyllornis Jerdoni*, nobis.—*Certhia himalayana*, Vigors, is assuredly assigned incorrectly to *C. spilonota*, Franklin*.—*Sitta cinnamoventris*, nobis, is probably *S. himalayana*, Jardine and Selby.

* I now see that Mr. Gray has verified *Certhia spilonota* from a specimen

P. 62. *Tesia concolor* is a mere variety of *Pnoëpyga squamata* (Gould), v. *albiventer* et *rufiventer*, Hodgson. *Pnoëpyga pusilla*, Hodgson, is I think distinct.—*Troglodytes subhimalayanus* is described as *Tr. nipalensis*, Hodgson, in J. A. S. B. xiv. 589.

P. 63. *Orthotomus edela*, Temm., v. *Edela ruficeps*, Lesson, is distinct from *O. longicauda* v. *Bennettii*, &c., which together with *O. edela* and *O. cineraceus*, nobis, occurs at Malacca. *O. sepium*, Horsfield, is distinct again.

P. 64. *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* of India will stand as *Acr. brunescens* (Jerdon), being distinct from the large European species.

Salicaria affinis, Hodgson, is described as *Dumeticola thoracica* in J. A. S. B. xiv. 583; also *Tribura luteoventris*, *Horornis flaviventris*, *H. fortipes*, *Horeites brunnifrons*, *H. pollicaris* and *H. schistilata* (which I could not distinguish from *H. brunnifrons*) under Mr. Hodgson's name *Nivicola schistilata*.

P. 65. "*Phyllopneuste affinis*, Hodgson, Gray, Zool. Misc. 1844; *Phylloscopus lugubris*, Jerdon; *Ph. affinis*, Blyth." I presume this to mean *Ph. lugubris*, nobis (nec Jerdon), J. A. S. B. xii. 968 (1843). *Ph. affinis* is the *Sylvia indica*, Jerdon, referred to *Motacilla affinis*, Tickell, J. A. S. B. ii. 576 (1833).—*Phyllopneuste xanthoschistos*, Hodgson, is *Ph. schisticeps*, J. A. S. B. xiv. 592: nearly allied to which is *Abrornis poliogenys*, nobis.—*Ph. magnirostris*, nobis (the *Ph. trochilus*? Hodg.), I take to be *Sylvia javanica* of Horsfield. It is commoner on the eastern side of the bay of Bengal.

P. 66. *Phylloscopus nitidus*, nobis, *Ph. reguloides*, nobis, and *Ph. modestus* (Gould), nobis—vide Mr. Gray's Appendix—are three conspicuously distinct species, of which *Ph. reguloides* must now stand as *Ph. trochiloides* (Sundevall). *Ph. flaveolus*, Blyth, is no published synonym of mine.—*Neornis flavolivacea* is described in J. A. S. B. xiv. 590. It is not the *Sylvia indica*, Jerdon, which is *Phylloscopus affinis* (Tickell).

P. 67. *Abrornis schisticeps*, Hodgson, is identical with *Motacilla cantator*, Tickell, J. A. S. B. ii. 576. I have once obtained it near Calcutta.—N.B. Add *Acanthiza arrogans*, Sundevall, to the synonyms of *Culicipeta Burkii* (Burton).

Copsychus mindanensis (Gm.), v. *Lanius musicus*, Raffles, and *Gryllivora magnirostra*, Sw., though very closely allied, seems distinct from *Copsychus saularis* of India*.

procured by Hodgson from Behar, and made it into a new genus, *Salpornis*, and with this he has been describing a *Caulodromus Gracei* (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., May 1847), which is my *Rimator malacoptilus*, J. A. S. B., February 1847; founded on the identical specimen described by Mr. Gray, which was lent me for the purpose of being described by Mr. Grace, and was so labelled by me when I returned it to him. I labelled the whole of Mr. Grace's collection for him, with a view to prevent *doubles emplois*. I have now three distinct and well-marked Himalayan species of true *Certhia*, viz. *C. himalayana*, Vigors, vel *asiatica*, Swainson, with a very distinctly-banded tail, from the Deyra Doon; *C. nipalensis*, Hodgson, from Nepal; and *C. discolor*, nobis, common about Darjeeling. That of Gray's list will doubtless be *C. nipalensis*.

* In a letter recently received from Dr. Horsfield, that gentleman re-

P. 69. Is not *Muscisylvia leucura* a true *Notodela* of Lesson?—*Nemura* (*Ianthia*, nobis) *flavolivacea* is quite distinct from *N. rufilatus*, of which *cyanura* is the female.

P. 70. *Calliope*? *cruralis*, nobis, is a typical *Brachypteryx*.—*Thamnobia fulicata* of S. India and Ceylon is distinct from *Th. cambaiensis* (Lath.), of which *Saxicoloides erythrurus*, Lesson, is the female.—*Bradypterus phœnicuroides* is described as *Sylvania phœnicuroides* in J. A. S. B. xvi. 136.

P. 71. *Saxicola rubicola*. Is not this *Pratincola indica*, nobis, J. A. S. B. xvi. 129?—*Accentor variegatus*, Blyth (to which I formerly put the name *himalayanus* with a query, being doubtful whether an *Accentor* had not been thus described), is distinct from *A. nipalensis*, Hodgson: but Mr. Hodgson's specimen labelled *immaculatus*, which he sent to the Asiatic Society, was merely *A. nipalensis* with abraded plumage.

P. 72. *Parus nipalensis*, Hodgson, as forwarded by that gentleman to the Asiatic Society, is identical with *P. cinereus*, Vieillot, v. *atriceps*, Horsfield: specimens from the Himalaya, Central and Southern India, Ceylon and Java, being absolutely alike.

P. 73. I have little doubt that *Parus seriophrys* (an *sericophrys*?), Hodgson, is the *Sylviparus modestus*, Burton, and I think fairly separable from *Parus*.—*Suthora nipalensis* and *S. fulvifrons* will, I suspect, prove to have been rightly distinguished by Mr. Hodgson, judging from specimens before me.

P. 74. The name *Ixulus*, Hodgson, I now adopt for *I. flavicollis* and *I. (olim Siva) occipitalis*, nobis, J. A. S. B. xiii. 937; for these two species are too nearly allied to be ranged otherwise than together, while the bill of *I. occipitalis* quite precludes its being referred to *Yuhina*.—*Y. nigrimentum* is also described in J. A. S. B. xiv. 562.

P. 77. *Anthus striolatus*, Blyth, is placed as a synonym of *A. rufescens*; the said *A. striolatus* not having been yet described by me, neither has it been forwarded by me to Europe: Mr. Jerdon barely mentions the name in one of his catalogues; and he is the only person, I believe, besides myself, who can know to what the MS. name *striolatus* refers. But even if correctly assigned, I think it necessary to protest against any unpublished names of my coining being thus cited to swell the list of empty synonyms*!—The species sent by Mr. Hodgson to the Asiatic Society as his *A. hortulanus* was the common Indian variety (?) of *A. arboreus*.

P. 79. "*Petrocossyphus pandoo*:" quære *P. affinis*, nobis?

P. 80. *Oreocinclla micropus*, Hodgson, is the female of *Merula Wardii* (Jerdon).

P. 81. *Merula pæcilopectera* (Vig.) is the *Lanius bouboul* of Latham.

P. 84. *Trochalopteron*? *setifer*, Hodgson. Is not this *Cinclosoma lineatum*, Vigors?—*Actinodura Egertoni*, apud nos, is placed as a syn-

marks, "The *Copsychus amœnus* described by me is commonly given as a synonym of *C. saularis*, but is decidedly distinct. It has always a black abdomen in maturity."

* Except that the tarsi of *A. striolatus* measure full an inch, this species seems to agree with Mr. Gray's description of *A. pelopus*, Hodgson.

onym of *Ixops nipalensis*, Hodgson. I have no recollection of having ever made this mal-identification, much less committed it to print.

P. 85. *Mixornis chloris*, Hodgson, is not satisfactorily referable to *M. gularis* (Horsf.), although undoubtedly very nearly allied.—*Erpornis xanthochlora* (it should be *xantholeuca*) is decidedly not a *Timalia*, nor are its affinities easy of determination. The range of this bird extends to Arracan and Malacca.—*Timalia*? *nipalensis* (v. *leucotis*) and *T.*? *pellotis*. Are not these identical?

P. 86. *Chrysomma hypoleucos* (Franklin), J. A. S. B. xiv. 602, v. *Pyctoris* apud Hodgson, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1845, p. 24. This bird is the *Parus sinensis*, Lath.; also *Gotah Finch* and *Emberiza calfat*, var. A, of Latham. It should therefore bear the specific name *sinensis*, if really an inhabitant of China.—*Malacocercus griseus* (Gm.), peculiar to the south of India, is a distinct species from *M. terricolor*, Hodgson, the “Brown Indian Thrush” of Edwards, on which is founded *Merula bengalensis* of Brisson, which specific name must be retained.—*Malacocercus geochrous*, Hodgson, is identical with *M. Earlei*, nobis.—*Iora typhia* (L.), *I. zeylonica* (Lath.), and *I. scapularis*, Horsfield, are three distinct species. *I. typhia*, one of the commonest birds of Bengal, is alike at all seasons of the year.

P. 87. *Oriolus Hodgsoni*, Sw. All the Black-headed Orioles which I have seen from Nepal were referable to the common *O. melanocephalus*.

P. 88. *Hypsipetes M'Clellandii*, Horsf., is identical with, and the name takes precedence of, *H. viridis*, Hodgson.

P. 89. “*Hæmatornis cafer*.” This is *Pycnonotus bengalensis*, nobis; but why it should be called the “White Hæmatornis” requires explanation, it being the *blackest* species of the genus known to me (whence *atratus* would have been a better name for it). A case of *lucus a non lucendo*!—“*Hæmatornis striata*” is the *Alcurus* (nec *Alcopus**) *nipalensis*, Hodg., v. *A. striatus*, nobis.

P. 90. Instead of “*Hemipus flavula*,” read *Hemixos flava* (*flavula*, i. e. *chrysopterus*), Hodgson. *Hemipus*, Hodgson, is a genus of Flycatchers (vide p. 93 of Mr. Gray's Catalogue).—*Muscicapa acormus*, Hodgson (a *Muscicapula* apud nos), is quite distinct from *M. poonensis*, Sykes (apud Jerdon), which I refer to *Butalis latirostris* (Raffles, Swainson).—Mr. Gray follows Sundevall in referring *M. leucura*, Gm., to *M. parva*, Bechst. This can scarcely be, if Stephens's description of the latter, or that in the ‘Dict. Class. d'Hist. Nat.’ be correct; neither does *M. leucura* accord exactly with my recollections of *M. parva*.—*M. albogularis* must be referred to *M. superciliaris*, Jerdon; a species very common in the N.-W. Himalaya.

P. 91. *Bainopus grandis*. Is not this the most typical species of *Niltava*? To which genus the only other species that I know of are *N. sundava* and *N. M'Gregoriae*, the female of which latter is *Leiothrix signata*, M'Clelland and Horsfield, and *N. auricularis*, Hodgson.—*Phænicura rubeculoides* is the type of my genus *Cyornis*; and *Musc. melanops* that of my genus *Staparola*; both comprising several species, though the two mentioned are confounded in the genus *Niltava*,

* *Alcopus* is a name which Mr. Hodgson proposed to substitute for *Sibia*.

Hodg., by Mr. Gray : vide J. A. S. B. xvi. 125, 128.—*Siphia superciliaris* is decidedly congeneric with *Musc. superciliaris*, Jerdon, and must therefore bear my subsequent name *hyperythra* rather than *rubecula*, which was afterwards applied by an unlucky oversight on my part.

P. 93. *Hemipus picæcolor*, Hodgson, is *Muscicapa capitalis*, M'Clelland and Horsfield, and is, I think, distinct from *Musc. picata*, Sykes, v. *tyrannides*, Tickell.—Some *Darjeeling* specimens of *Tchitrea* lately received are referable to *Tch. affinis*, A. Hay.—*Leucocerca pectoralis*, Jerdon, is distinct from *L. fuscoventris* (Franklin).—*Chelidorhynx* is typical *Rhipidura*.—*Cryptolopha ceylonensis* will rank as *Cr. cinereo-capilla* (Vieillot).

P. 94. *Proparus chrysotis*. This specific name must have been a slip of the pen for *leucotis* or *chrysopterus*.

P. 95. *Siva nipalensis* I now refer to my genus *Alcippe*. It is nearly allied to *Brachypteryx sepiaria*, Horsfield, which I also refer to *Alcippe*.

P. 97. The *Pericrocotus* (unnamed) is *Pr. solaris*, nobis, J. A. S. B. xv. 310.—*P. rubritinctus*, nobis, mentioned in the Appendix, may be cancelled, as I have never published *P. roseus* by this name ; Mr. Jerdon having favoured me with his identification of the species with *Muscicapa rosea*, Vieillot.—*Campephaga lugubris*, according to Mr. Strickland (*in epistola*), is *C. fimbriata* (Temm.).

P. 98. *Dicrurus pyrrhops*, Hodgson, v. *longicaudatus*, A. Hay, is very distinct from the Malayan species which I refer to *D. cineraceus*, Horsf. : vide J. A. S. B. xv. 279.

P. 99. *Tephrodornis indica* is the *Muscicapa pondiceriana*, Gm., which specific name claims the priority. Mr. Jerdon first ascertained this.—*T. sylvicola*, Jerdon, is distinct from *T. pelvica*, Hodgson.

P. 100. *Lanius erythronotus*, Jerdon, is my *L. caniceps* ; distinct from the Himalayan species figured by this name in Gould's 'Century.'—*L. cristatus*, Linn. As this bird is not crested, it must rank as *L. phænicurus*, Pallas.

P. 101. There are three species of *Psilorhinus* in the Himalaya, all, I suspect, distinct from *Ps. sinensis* : vide J. A. S. B. xv. 27, 284.—I also suspect that *Cissa venatoria*, Gray, is distinct from *C. sinensis* : in Bengal this is only known as a cage bird, whence M. Lesson's name, *bengalensis*, is inapplicable.—*Dendrocitta vagabunda* : should not this stand as *D. rufa* (Scop., Sw.) ?

P. 102. *Corvus macrorhynchos* of the neighbourhood of the Straits of Malacca is a distinct species from *C. culminatus* of India, which however also extends its range to the Straits of Malacca.

P. 103. *Gracula religiosa*. The Nepal species is *Gr. intermedia*, A. Hay : vide J. A. S. B. xv. 32.—*Maina cristelloides*, Hodg., will stand as *Acridotheres griseus*, Horsf. (nec *mahrattensis*, Sykes).—*Pastor* (or *Sturnia*) *pagodarum*. Add as a synonym *Turdus melanocephalus*, Vahl.

P. 104. I consider Mr. Hodgson's *Pastor caniceps* to be *Sturnia malabarica* (vera). It is very distinct from *St. Blythii* (Jerdon).

P. 105. *Euplectes striatus*, nobis, is rightly assigned to *Eu. flaviceps* (Sw.) ; and both must be referred as synonyms to *Ploceus man-*

yar, Horsf. We have three species in Bengal, *Pl. philippinus*, *Pl. bengalensis* and *Pl. manyar*; but I cannot affirm with certainty which are the two mentioned in Mr. Gray's Catalogue. Judging from Mr. Hodgson's names, it is not improbable that *atrigula* refers to the male in breeding dress, and *flavigula* to the female or male in non-breeding dress, of *Pl. manyar*.

P. 106. For the species of *Amadina* (v. *Munia*), vide J. A. S. B. xv. 36, 285.

P. 108. *Emberiza sordida*, Hodgson, judging from a female sent to the Asiatic Society, I consider to be *E. pusilla*, Pallas, identical with *Emb. sinops*, Hodgson.

P. 109. *Alauda dulcivox*, Hodgson. From several specimens sent by Mr. Hodgson to the Asiatic Society, this seems perfectly identical with *A. arvensis*, Linn.—The *Plocealauda typica*, Hodgson, is *Mirafra assamica*, McClelland and Horsfield, according to specimens which Mr. Hodgson so labelled; certainly a distinct species from *M. javanica*, Horsfield.

P. 112. *Buceros albirostris*, Shaw, is distinct from *B. pica*, Scopoli. Vide Mr. Gray's Appendix.

P. 113. The Asiatic Society possess a *Palæornis* from the Mauritius which I consider to be *P. bitorquatus* (verus). It is very distinct from *P. torquatus*.

P. 114. The Nepal Barbet referred to *Bucco caniceps*, Franklin, is *B. lineatus*, Vieillot, distinct from *B. zeylanicus* v. *caniceps*.

P. 115. *Picus majoroides* is *P. darjellensis*, nobis.—For "*P. cathphorius*" read *cathpharius*.

P. 116. *Dendrocopus moluccensis*, apud Hodgson. This is *P. pygmæus*, Vigors; distinct from several nearly allied species: vide J. A. S. B. xiv. 197, xv. 14, 52.—*Gecinus xanthoderus*. This I consider to be *Picus chloropus*, Vieillot.—*P. affinis*, Raffles, v. *dimidiatus*, Temm., and *viridanus*, nobis, is distinct from *Gecinus occipitalis*.

P. 117. *Meiglyptes brachyurus*, Hodgson, is *Micropternus phaeocephus*, nobis, one of three nearly allied species.

P. 118. The Himalayan Sirkeer is *Taccocua infusca*, nobis, distinct from three other Indian species that have been confounded under *T. sirkee*: vide J. A. S. B. xiv. 200, xv. 19, xvi. 118.—*Centropus lepidus*, Horsf., will stand as *C. Lathamii* (Shaw).—The South African species which I refer to *Oxylophus ater*, Gm., and which is figured by Shaw, is very distinct from the Indian *O. serratus*.

P. 119. *Cuculus poliocephalus*, Lath., v. *himalayanus*, Vigors, is not *C. saturatus*, Hodgson.

P. 120. *C. striatus*, Drapiez, v. *micropterus*, Gould, must also not be confounded with *C. himalayanus*, Vigors.—For "*C. nivicolor*," read *nisicolor*.—*Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchos* I have only seen from the Tenasserim provinces and Malayan peninsula and Archipelago. Is not Mr. Gray's species referred to this the *Chr. smaragdinus*, nobis, J. A. S. B. xv. 53?

P. 121. *Treron Sti. Thomæ* can scarcely be *Tr. militaris* of Northern India.—*Tr. cantillans*, nobis, I may remark, seems (as I am informed by Capt. Hutton) to be but a caged example of *Tr. sphenura*, Ann. & Mag. N. Hist. Vol. xx.

which had moulted in confinement! Mr. Hodgson, I think, termed it *Ptilinopus maroneus*.

P. 122. I consider *Alsocomus*, Tickell, vel *Dendrotreron*, Hodgson, to be a good group, embracing the *Carpophaga*-like species of true *Columba*, with twelve tail-feathers only, instead of fourteen as in the *Carpophagæ*. The species have of late been variously classed, some in *Carpophaga* and others in restricted *Columba*; and the following are among those which are referable to it:—*C. Hodgsonii* and *C. punicea** of India, *C. arquatrix* and *C. guinea* of Africa, and *C. leucomela* of Australia; while *Lopholaimus antarcticus* is immediately allied, indeed scarcely separable. *Palumbus*, Kaup, seems another natural group, comprising *C. palumbus*, L., *C. Elphinstonii*, and I would refer to it *C. ænas*, L.—Mr. Gray identifies *C. pulchricollis*, Hodgson, with *C. Elphinstonii*, in which case the total length given by Sykes of nearly sixteen inches must be erroneous; especially as the length of tail assigned by him ($5\frac{1}{2}$ inches) is the same as in the Himalayan bird.

P. 123. For *Columba pulchrara*, Hodgson, read *pulchr-ala*.—*Columba chinensis*, Scopoli, is a distinct species from *C. suratensis*, Gmelin.—*Turtur humilis*. What I have described as the old and young prove to be the adult male and female of this species, as was first intimated to me by Capt. Hutton.

P. 124. *Gallophasis leucomelanos* (Lath.), the *Káledge* Pheasant of Nepal, seems to me to be a bastard race between *G. albocristatus* of the N.-W. Himalaya, and *G. melanotus*, nobis, of Sikim. In like manner, every possible gradation of plumage is exhibited between *G. Cuvieri* (v. *Horsfieldi*, G. R. Gray) of Assam and Sylhet, and *G. lineatus* of Arracan and Tenasserim.

P. 125. Should not the common Jungle-fowl or wild Common Fowl, so very abundant throughout the northern half of India and in the Indo-Chinese and Malay countries, be now designated *Gallus ferrugineus* (Gm.), instead of *bankiva*, Temminck? *G. alector* should have been the name for it. The hen is the *Hackled Partridge* of Latham.

P. 126. *Francolinus gularis* and *Fr. pondicerianus* should, in my opinion, be referred to restricted *Perdix*; a very different group from that exemplified by *Fr. vulgaris* and *Fr. pictus*.—*Arboriphila*, Hodgson. There are two Himalayan species of this type, and a third in the Assam hills, and those of Sylhet and Arracan.

P. 128. *Perdicula*, Hodgson. This is also, I think, properly distinguished, for the Pigmy true Partridges, *P. rubiginosa* and *P. cambaiensis*, or *Coturnix argoondah* and *C. pentah* of Sykes.—Of *Turnix*, the common Himalayan species is undistinguishable from *T. ocellatus* of the Malay countries, represented in Bengal by the nearly allied *T. bengalensis*, nobis, and in South India and Ceylon by the equally allied *T. taigoor*, Sykes: *T. Dussumieri* extends throughout India and in Arracan; and the *T. joudera* (Hodgson) is, I suspect, the same as *T. Sykesi* (A. Smith, 1838), described with *T. lepurana*

* This also inhabits Arracan and the Tenasserim provinces.

in the 'Zoology of South Africa;' a species also generally distributed over the country.

P. 133. *Hiaticula subrufina*. This I take to be *H. Leschenaultii* (Lesson), and *Charadrius cirripedesmos*, Wagler, apud Sundevall.—*Ardea nobilis*, nobis. Is not this *A. goliath*, Rüppell?

P. 134. *Herodias orientalis*, Gray, is an old specimen of *H. garzetta*, having dropped its crest. I have seen many like the figure in Hardwicke's 'Illustrations,' both crested and uncrested.—*H. modesta* I consider to be *H. alba* (Linn.). There are three species of purely white Egrets exceedingly common throughout India in suitable localities; and the two larger of these have the bill black during and towards the breeding season, yellow at other times. These are *H. alba* and *H. intermedia*. The seasonal changes of these birds I shall elsewhere explain in detail. Mr. Gould has lately figured two Australian Egrets, which would not appear to differ in any respect from *H. alba* and *H. garzetta*, represented from dry skins.

P. 136. *Argala immigratoria*, Hodgson, refers to *Leptoptilus javanicus*, vel *Ciconia nudifrons*, M'Clelland, and *C. calva*, Jerdon: *C. nudifrons*, Jerdon, appears to me to refer to the young of *L. argala*, v. *A. migratoria*, Hodgson.

P. 137. The common Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) varies in size to a very extraordinary degree, and so does the *Limosa ægocephala*; but I have satisfied myself that the large, small, and intermediate are all of one species, respectively. Mr. Gould has lately figured a new Godwit, as he thinks, from Australia; but it appears to me to be no other than the *L. ægocephala*.

P. 143. The Indian *Porphyrio* is *P. poliocephalus*, Lath., distinct from *P. smaragdinus*, Temm., v. *indicus*, Horsfield, of Malacca and Java.

P. 144. *Anser rubrirostris*? Is not this *A. cinereus*, the common Gray-lag Goose, now rare in England, but extremely common in India? It is not well known to the generality of British ornithologists.

P. 149. *Carbo albiventer*, Tickell, refers to the young of *Graculus carbo*; *Phalacrocorax leucotis*, Blyth, to a much smaller species, which I have been considering as the *C. graculus*, apud Temminck. *Gr. carbo* (verus) is common in various parts of India; but I have only obtained *Gr. pygmaeus* in Lower Bengal.

The foregoing is a hastily written commentary on Mr. Gray's 'Catalogue,' which embodies the results of my study of the species enumerated, so far as relates to their nomenclature and synonymy. I think that it would have been much better if the very numerous synonyms previously unpublished had been suppressed; but as the evil appears together with its antidote, there seems no necessity for encumbering future catalogues or descriptions with this host of superfluous names, that could have been meant only as provisional appellations. Mr. Hodgson's merits, as the accumulator of such stores, contributing so largely to diffuse an acquaintance with Himalayan mammalia and birds, can never fail of being fully and deservedly appreciated.

Calcutta, April 14, 1847.



Blyth, Edward. 1847. "XXIX.—Critical remarks upon Mr. J. E. Gray's published catalogue of the specimens of mammalia and birds presented by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., to the British Museum." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 20, 313–323.
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