

This species lived in the same manner as the foregoing, and on the same vegetables, but was more rare. It more often utters its restless cry, and during flight keeps its wings more still. It is remarkable for the appendage to the points of the wings, and has a strong, sharp point on the bend of each wing. This last character occurs in many waders of the torrid zone, *e. g.* many species of *Parra*, *Vanellus*, *Charadrius*, *Palamedea*, &c.

84. *Gallinula phœnicura*, Lath.—Rallus ph., Gm. Gall. erythrina, Bechst., Lath.

Nigricans crisso ferrugineo. (Affinis *G. chloropodi*.)

♂ (junior? d. 14 Dec. e *Ceylon*; nec a me in *Bengalia inventa*). Cinereo-nigricans, olivaceo tincta. Gula et vitta longitudinalis e rostro ad abdomen alba, sed corporis collique latera colore dorsi. Abdomen et plumæ tibiæ rufo-testacea. Crissum ferrugineum. Cauda mollis, rotundata, fusco-nigra. Alæ fusco-nigræ, remige 1^a margine externo albo. Rostrum et pedes flavi. Lamina frontalis minima seu vix ulla: tantum e culmine rostri, basi paullo dilatato; postice rotundata; colore rostri. Longit. (collo extenso) 13 poll. Ala 165 millim., cauda 70, rostrum cum laminula frontis 37, digitus medius 53, cum ungue 64; tarsus 53, os tibiæ 83, extensio alarum 20 poll.

Structura. Corpus valde compressum, angustius quam *G. chloropodis*, collo longiore in formam S inflexo. Rostrum ut *G. chlorop.* Lingua cartilagineo-carnosa, crassa, apice membranaceo-lacera. Ala inermis, rotundata. Pedes toti scutati, ut in *G. chloropode* constructi, sed ratione corporis majores. Ventriculus valde musculosus. Intestinum longit. 20 poll. pariete crassa, cavitate tenuissima. Intestina cæca 2, longit. 1 poll.; ab ano 2 pollices distantia.

This water-hen was caught on board ship about twenty [Swedish] miles west of Ceylon, in 5° 50' N. It had consequently flown a longer way than I could have expected one of these heavy-flying birds to do when it was not the season for migration, at which time a remarkable and peculiar vigour is excited in birds. I did not see it in Bengal, but will not assert that it is not found there. In the stomach were many pebbles, and remains of plants which resembled those mentioned under the species of *Parra*. It flew with a rapid motion of the wings almost like a partridge, and with the feet stretched backwards. The readiness with which it went upon deck, and especially on the cordage, sometimes even on the rigging, was remarkable. It grasped the ropes with wonderful security by means of its long curved toes, and seemed to be accustomed to climb among reeds and branches in the marshes of Ceylon.

85. *Fulica atra*. Only one specimen of the Coot was seen; I shot it on March 24, in the small lake near Sucsagor which I have often mentioned, as it was swimming among the roseate

Lotus-flowers. It presented no difference from a full-grown Swedish specimen. The frontal disc was white, and not larger than in our own specimens; after drying it as usual became red. It had fed on the same sort of water-plants as *Parra indica*. (Length $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing 210 mill.; tarsus 62; middle toe and claw 87; beak from front 31.)

86. *Scolopax gallinago*, Linn. The common Snipe is one of the more frequent birds near Calcutta, where it is considered to be in great measure stationary, but in all February and March they are found in much greater numbers than in April. They were met with not only near water and in swampy places, but as often on the dry and bare ground in woods, and even among the houses in the villages. In February they are said to run about in families, although those which were found together never constituted a flock, or were followed until they flew up. Later in the spring some occurred to me which must have had their eggs among the fallen leaves in the aforesaid dry grounds; but this is only a conjecture. On two occasions the well-known cry of the snipe while flying was heard in the morning. It happened that no specimen was brought home, so that I have not been able to compare the species with European specimens; but as far as I could see on the spot, not the slightest dissimilarity was noticed. *Scolopax major* was not seen.

87. *Numenius arquata*, Lath. Of this bird also no specimen was brought home, but I saw it in the latter half of March, once shot and twice living, on the river banks. I did not hear it cry so loud or continuously as it is wont to do at the breeding season in Europe, but only with a shorter *heeee*! as one also often hears with us. Temminck also mentions (in his *Manuel d'Ornithologie*) that the Curlew occurs in India.

88. *Totanus glareola*, Temm. This Swedish species was also met with on the Ganges, and pursues the same mode of life as with us. In its stomach were found small snails. According to a rigid comparison it precisely resembles those of our climate, and I will therefore only give the measurements of a female, shot March 24. Beak to front 30 mill.; wing 135; tarsus 37; middle toe and claw 34; tail 50.

Near Sucsagor, on March 20—25, some other *Scolopacidae* were seen, among which I thought I recognised *Totanus glottis* and *Limosa rufa* in their winter dress, but they did not occur very frequently. The species of *Parra*, *Charadrius*, *Ardea* and *Scolopax gallinago* seemed to be the most abundant waders in Bengal.

89. *Charadrius minor*, Meyer, occurred commonly near the



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