

CUCULUS SINENSIS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Rostrum teretiufculum.

Nares margine prominulæ.

Lingua sagittata, plana, integra.

Pedes scanforii.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 168.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

CUCULUS macrourus cæruleus, subtus niveus,
caudæ rectricibus rectricibusque macula ni-
vea notatis.

CUCULUS cauda cuneiformi macroura, corpore
cæruleo subtus albo, rectricum apicibus ma-
cula alba.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 171.

CUCULUS sinensis cæruleus.

Briss. av. 4. p. 157. t. 14.

Ab erudito Briffono mutuatus sum hanc descrip-
tionem, qua nulla possit esse plenior et accuratior.

“ Speciem istam nondum mihi videre contigit.
Ipfius descriptionem desumpfi ab icone in Sina ad

G

vivum

vivum depicta a D. Poivre; et sic eam æri insculptam esse curavi.

Merulam crassitie circiter æquat. Ipsi longitudo ab apice rostri ad caudam extremam tredecim circiter pollices explet, et ad extremos ungues septem pollices et novem lineas. Rostrum ab ipsius apice ad oris angulos usque undecim lineas longum est; cauda septem pollices et sex lineas; pes decem cum femi lineas; digitorum anticorum extimus cum ungue undecim lineas, intimus novem lineas; posticorum exterior decem lineas, interior quinque cum femi lineas. Alæ complicatæ ultra caudæ exortum non multum protenduntur. Summum caput albore nitet, minutisque variegatur maculis cæruleis. Totum reliquum caput et guttur nigricant: color autem nigricans super inferiorem colli partem in acumen protenditur. In utroque capitis latere macula exstat rotunda candida, pone oculum posita. Pars colli superior, dorsum, pennæ scapulares et superiores alarum tectrices splendidissimi cærulei sunt coloris, exceptis tamen superioribus alarum tectricibus majoribus a corpore remotioribus albis. Uropygium dilutissimo tingitur cæruleo. Superiores caudæ tectrices eodem imbuuntur cæruleo ac dorsum ipsum tingitur, et ex istis quælibet majuscula macula ovata nivea versus apicem insignitur. Collum inferius et ad latera, pectus, venter, latera, crura, inferioresque caudæ tectrices niveo candore nitent. Alarum remiges majores sunt ab ipsarum exortu mediam versus longitudinem usque dilutissime cæuleæ, a medietate ad apicem eodem ac dorsum cæruleo imbutæ: minores quoque dorso concolores. Caudam

dam componunt decem rectrices splendidissime cæruleæ, majuscula macula ovata nivea versus ipsarum apicem notatæ. Binæ intermediae utrinque proxime sequentem trium pollicum et totidem linearum longitudine excedunt: laterales vero gradatim longitudine minuuntur ad utrinque extimam usque unum pollicem et novem tantum lineas longam. Oculorum irides rubræ. Mandibulæ superioris basis quibusdam obsita est plumulis rigidis, piliformibus, antroorsum versis. Rostrum, pedes, unguesque rubent. Habitat in Sina.”

THE
CHINESE CUCKOW.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill somewhat bending.

Nostrils bounded by a small rim.

Tongue short, pointed.

Feet scanforial.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

Long-tailed blue CUCKOW, white beneath; the tail-feathers and their coverts each marked with a white spot.

Le COCOU bleu de la Chine.

Briff. 4. p. 157.

SAN-HIA de la Chine.

Buf. ois. 6. p. 389.

The Chinese Cuckow is thus described with elaborate exactness by the celebrated ornithologist Briffon.

“ Not having seen the bird myself, I have given its description from a drawing taken from the life in China by Monf. Poivre. It is about the size of a black-



a blackbird: its length, from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, is about thirteen inches; and to the end of the claws about seven inches and nine lines. The bill, from the tip to the corners of the mouth, eleven lines: the tail seven inches and six lines: the foot ten lines and a half: the exterior fore-toe, with the claw, eleven lines; the interior nine lines; the exterior hind-toe ten lines; the interior five lines and a half. The wings, when closed, do not reach much beyond the beginning of the tail. The top of the head is of a clear white, variegated with minute specks of blue: all the rest of the head, with the throat, is blackish: the blackness being produced on the lower part of the neck into a sharpened form. On each side the head is a round white spot, placed behind the eye. The upper part of the neck, the back, the scapular feathers, and the upper wing-coverts are of a most brilliant blue, except the larger upper wing-coverts farthest from the body, which are white: the rump is of a very pale blue: the upper tail-coverts are of the same blue color with the back, and are each marked with a rather large, snow-white spot towards the end: the lower part and sides of the neck, the breast, belly, sides of the body, thighs, and lower tail-coverts are of a beautiful snow-white. The larger wing-feathers are of a very pale blue from their origins to their middles; and from their middles to their tips of the same blue with the back: the smaller wing-feathers are also of the same color with the back. The tail is composed of ten feathers of a very bright blue, each marked towards the tip with a largish snow-white spot: the two middle
feather

feathers exceed in length the two next them on each side by three inches and as many lines; but the side-feathers shorten gradually to the exterior one on each side, which is only one inch and nine lines in length. The irides of the eyes are red: the base of the upper mandible is beset with some small, stiff, hair-like feathers, turned forwards. The beak, feet, and claws are red. It is a native of China."



Shaw, George. 1797. "The Chinese Cuckow, Cuculus sinensis [Pl. 277]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 8(XCI), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.310820>.

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