

General colour light blackish brown, darker on forehead, frontal tuft, back of ear, and along back; quite black on legs.

Underparts rather lighter-coloured, pure white on under tail, between thighs, and on tips, inside, and base of ears, their inner surface being crossed by a bar of blackish; the upper lip with a whitish line above it, and the lower with whitish just below it.

Mr. Keuleman's drawing gives a very good idea of this animal, which measures about 21 inches in height.

10. On the Eggs of some little-known *Limicolæ*.

By J. E. HARTING, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

[Received June 16, 1874.]

(Plate LX.)

The great assistance which may be derived in determining the natural affinities of birds by a study of comparative oology has been ably exposed by M. des Murs. No apology, therefore, seems to be needed for the following brief remarks on the eggs of some little-known wading-birds in the collection of the writer. It may be observed, however, that, for want of a recognized standard of colours amongst ornithologists, it is extremely difficult to describe an egg properly, or in such a manner even as to render its identification easy. For this reason, it seems better to appeal to the eye, at once, by means of a coloured representation, rather than to attempt a description which might defeat the object in view. I have accordingly confined my remarks to a description of the breeding-haunts, number of eggs laid, and other details of a like nature, leaving the coloured figures of such as are represented to speak for themselves.

GLAREOLA MELANOPTERA, Nordm.

Pallas described this bird (which he took for *G. pratincola*) as very common between spring and autumn in the deserts of Tartary from the Volga to the Irtish. It has since been ascertained to have a much more extensive range, being found not only in Southern Russia, Turkey in Asia, Persia, and Arabia, but also throughout a considerable portion of the African continent, even to the west coast, specimens having been received from the Gaboon, Princes Island, and Damaraland. It is found also at the Cape.

I have received the egg from Southern Russia through Herr Möschler, but without any indication, unfortunately, of the precise locality where it was taken. It resembles the egg of *Glareola pratincola*; but the ground-colour is clearer and less suffused with spots and blotches.

TEREKIA CINEREA (Güldenst.).

Several eggs of this bird were taken by Messrs. Alston and Harvie Brown on the Dwina, near Archangel, in June 1872 (*cf.* Ibis, 1873,



J. Smit lith.

M & N. Hanhart. imp.

EGGS OF RARE LIMICOLÆ



p. 68), some of which have been kindly presented to me. The finders describe the nest as a slight saucer-shaped hollow in the ground, lined with chips of wood and bits of thick reed, and placed in open marshy parts of the alder thickets by the sides of "hourias," or creeks, or in the sand amongst bent-grass. The eggs were found between the 15th June and the end of that month. They add, "the eggs in many instances closely resemble those of *Actitis hypoleuca*, but are a little larger. They bear no resemblance whatever to the eggs of *Limosæ*; indeed all this bird's habits, motions, cry, and quick darting erratic flight show its affinities with the Sandpipers and not with the Godwits."

GLAREOLA LACTEA, Temm. (Plate LX. fig. 1.)

The small Swallow Plover, as it is called by Anglo-Indians, is generally distributed throughout India, Nepal, Upper Burmah, and Tenasserim, but not in China or the Malay archipelago. Jerdon found it breeding at Thyetmyo in Upper Burmah, in May, when the young were just flown; and Mr. Brooks, C.E., found nests in a large sandy churr near Mirzapore. The egg here figured was procured with another by Dr. A. Anderson at Futtehghurh in April 1873. He reports that this species never lays more than two eggs at a time; and the parent birds are described as endeavouring to entice away the intruder from their nests just like a Plover.

LOBIVANELLUS GOENSIS (Gmelin).

This is a common species enough in India; but the egg does not appear to be well known. It resembles the egg of *Vanellus cristatus*, but is less pyriform, and the ground-colour is paler.

The bird breeds in June or July, on rushy sand islets on large rivers, or on bushy downs inland. The eggs are laid on the bare ground, without any attempt at a nest, but are often concealed amid grass or under a thicket, although more frequently exposed to view. The specimen here figured is one from a nest of four taken at Futtehghurh on the 27th April, 1873, and forwarded by Dr. A. Anderson.

HOPLOPTERUS VENTRALIS (Wagler). (Plate LX. fig. 3.)

The Indian Spur-winged Plover is reported to be generally distributed throughout India, Burmah, Arracan, and Tenasserim, down as far as Singapore; and Mr. Swinhoe has recorded it from Hainan, although it is not found in China. It breeds at the close of the cold weather, when the rivers are at their lowest, laying its eggs (generally four in number) on the bare sand, and always on an islet. The example now figured for the first time was forwarded from Futtehghurh by Dr. A. Anderson.

ESACUS RECURVIROSTRIS (Cuvier).

The handsome egg here referred to was sent home by the late Lieut. Beavan as an egg of this species; but unfortunately the particulars of locality, date, &c. have been either lost or mislaid. That it really

is the egg of *Esacus recurvirostris* there can be no doubt, since its size, shape, and peculiar coloration preclude its belonging to any other species inhabiting India. It resembles in some respects the egg of *Ædicnemus crepitans*, but is larger, the ground-colour of a warmer tint, and the surface more richly blotched. Thienemann figures it (plate lvii. fig. 1) as larger than the Australian *Ædicnemus grallarius*; but this is surely a mistake. Jerdon states (Birds of India, ii. p. 653) that he never procured the eggs of this bird in India; but Mr. Layard found it breeding in Ceylon.

PLUVIANUS ÆGYPTIUS (Linn.). (Plate LX. fig. 2.)

The only account that I have found of the nesting of this bird is in Bäder's work. He refers to it as breeding on the sandy islands of the Nile, and says "it scratches a hole in the sand or gravel, and lays four eggs therein. These are very difficult to find, as the vigilant bird when it observes the approach of an intruder covers them over before it leaves the nest." The eggs seem to be extremely rare in collections. That now figured is the only one which I have seen. It was found on a sand-bank near Damietta, by Mr. J. H. Cochrane, who shot the old bird in May 1862.

It may be here observed that this so-called Nile Plover is not confined to East and North-east Africa, but is also found on the west coast. Hartlaub records it from Senegambia (Orn. W.-Afr.). Monteiro found it in Angola (Ibis, 1862, p. 336); and I have in my collection a specimen which was obtained by Mr. Ussher on the Volta river in August 1870.

HOPLOPTERUS SPINOSUS (Linn.).

The North-African Spur-winged Plover is one of the commonest birds in Egypt, where it remains throughout the year. Captain Shelley states (Birds of Egypt, p. 232) that it commences to breed in March, at which season he has found as many as thirty nests close together towards the point of a sand bank. It also breeds in the fields. The nest consists of a circular shallow hole in the sand, roughly lined with short pieces of dried reeds, just sufficient to prevent the eggs from touching the ground.

Four, taken by Mr. J. H. Cochrane about three miles above Damietta, are now before me. They are not unlike the eggs of *Lobivanellus goensis*, above referred to.

CHÆTUSIA CORONATA (Gmelin).

For two eggs of this African Plover I am indebted to my friend Mr. E. L. Layard, who procured them with several others in Cape Colony. The nest, he informed me, is a mere depression in the soil, and was generally found to contain but three eggs. Andersson thought that this species must breed in Damaraland, as he found young birds there in almost every stage of plumage (cf. Birds of Damara Land, p. 269). A specimen is figured by Thienemann (plate lviii. fig. 6); but the figure is unsatisfactory for want of colour.

ŒDICNEMUS MACULOSUS, Temm.

This is another egg obtained by Mr. E. L. Layard in Cape Colony, where the bird is generally distributed, preferring broken ground sparingly covered with dwarf bush. The nest, like that of the last-named bird, is a mere depression in the soil. This egg, I find, is figured by Thienemann (plate lvii. fig. 3), but is unfortunately uncoloured.

ÆGIALITIS PECUARIUS (Temm.). (Plate LX. fig. 4.)

Since working out the synonymy of this species (*Ibis*, 1873, p. 262), I find that Vieillot's specific name *varius*, to which I gave priority in consequence of its having been published four years prior to *pecuarius* of Temminck, had been previously applied by Linnæus (ex Brisson) to the Grey Plover, *Squatarola helvetica*, so that Temminck's name will stand after all.

In the paper above referred to (p. 266) I thus described the eggs of this bird, one of which is now figured:—"The eggs, of which I have specimens procured in South Africa by my friend Mr. Layard, are most like the eggs of *Æ. tricolor* and *Æ. nigrifrons* (Australia). They are a trifle smaller than those of the well-known *Æ. cantianus*, less pyriform in shape, and with a smoother and therefore more glossy shell. In colour, though not in shape and size, they remind one of the egg of *Cursorius gallicus*, being of a pale clay-colour closely freckled over with minute specks and scratches of umber-brown."

ÆGIALITIS TRICOLLARIS (Vieill.). (Plate LX. fig. 5.)

This bird, according to Mr. Layard (who presented the specimen now figured), breeds on the sea-shore or along the banks of streams and "vleys" in the Cape Colony and never far from water. "The nest," he adds, "is a mere depression in the soil, unprotected by stone or bush; and the eggs, enormous for the size of the bird, are two in number, of a dirty white ground-colour, profusely and minutely covered with hair streaks, having a tendency to run in zones, there being always one at the obtuse end." This peculiar character is not shown by Thienemann, whose figure of this egg (plate lix. fig. 7) is not satisfactory.

VANELLUS CAYENNENSIS (Gmelin).

This South-American Lapwing in its mode of nesting, number and colour of its eggs, closely resembles our well-known *Vanellus cristatus*.

An egg now before me was taken by Mr. G. Fitzmaurice in Uruguay, not far from Monte Video.

ÆGIALITIS FALKLANDICA (Latham). (Plate LX. fig. 6.)

I am indebted to Mr. Gould for a nest of three eggs of this species from the Falkland Isles, one of which is here figured. I believe no representation of this egg has been previously published, although Captain Abbott has referred to his having found the nest and eggs, without describing them, also in the Falkland Isles. He says (*Ibis*, 1861, p. 155.), "This Plover is a spring visitor, arriving

about the beginning of September, and breeding shortly afterwards, although I have also found a nest with fresh eggs in it in October. The eggs, three in number, are generally laid on a bank at a short distance from the beach, without any nest, being merely deposited in a hole."

This species is not confined to the Falkland Isles, but is met with also throughout Patagonia and Chili.

ÆGIALITIS COLLARIS (Vieillot). (Plate LX. fig. 7.)

This is one of the birds which Mr. Edward Bartlett found breeding on the Upper and Lower Ucayali (*cf.* P. Z. S. 1873, p. 309). His note on the species is to the effect that it breeds on the sand banks in company with *Chordeiles rupestris* and *Phaethusa magnirostris*, laying two, sometimes four eggs, smaller but similarly coloured to those of our Little Ringed Plover. From a comparison of the eggs, I may add that those of *Æ. collaris* are of a richer or warmer colour than those of *Æ. minor*, which in other respects they much resemble. From what we know of the habits of its congeners, no doubt the full complement of eggs is always four.

LOBIVANELLUS LOBATUS (Latham).

Mr. Gould has kindly presented me with eggs of this and the following species from New South Wales. In his 'Birds of Australia,' and subsequently published 'Handbook' on the same subject, he has mentioned various localities for this bird in Southern and Western Australia, and he was then of opinion that it was not found in North Australia. Specimens, however, have reached me from Wide Bay, Queensland, so that it is evident the species is pretty generally distributed. It is found in Tasmania and on the islands of Bass's Straits—particularly on Green Island, where it breeds. It frequents marshy ground and the borders of inland pools and lakes, and breeds in September and October. Mr. E. P. Ramsay, who has figured the eggs of this and the following species (*Ibis*, 1867, pl. ix.), states that "the eggs, which are four in number, are placed with the thin ends inwards, and laid upon the ground by the side of some tuft of grass or rushes, in a slight hollow made for their reception, with occasionally a few blades of grass placed under and around them, but as often as not without any sign of a nest."

This Plover, like the well-known European Lapwing, shows great anxiety for its eggs and young, fluttering off at the approach of an intruder, and using every artifice, by feigning broken leg or wing, to entice him away from the spot.

SARCIOPHORUS PECTORALIS (Cuvier).

According to the observations of Mr. E. P. Ramsay (*l. c.*) this bird breeds in similar situations to the last named, but somewhat earlier in the season. It is more local, however, and frequents drier tracts of country. Mr. Morton Allport has recorded the fact of its breeding in Tasmania (*Proc. Roy. Soc. Tasmania*, 1859, vol. i.



Harting, James Edmund. 1874. "On the Eggs of some little-known Limicola."
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