

“Among his other gatherings Mr. Jerdon obtained a female *Caprimulgus mahrattensis*, Sykes—the first I have ever seen of this species. It is quite new to this part of India.

“March 11th.—With regard to the *Caprimulgidae* of these countries, one grand error pervades all the books hitherto, viz., the mal-identification of *Podargus cornutus*, Temm., with *Batrachostomus javanensis*, Horsfield. We have a very fine specimen of the former bird, sent to us under that name by the Batavian Society, and it exactly agrees with the figure in the ‘Planches Coloriées,’ which is copied by Stephens in the continuation of Shaw’s ‘Zoology.’ We have also an excellent specimen of *B. javanensis* from Malacca, equally according with Horsfield’s figure of that bird in his ‘Zoological Researches in Java.’

“The *Podargus cornutus* is an *Otothrix*, as distinguished from a *Batrachostomus*, and appears to me to be absolutely identical with *O. hodgsoni*, G. R. Gray, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 101, Aves, pl. clii., that plate representing the juvenile plumage, and Temminck’s the adult. Mr. Jerdon agrees with me in this opinion. But what is *Podargus crinitus* of Temminck? This, from its name, should be another *Otothrix*. Gould’s *B. stellatus* I do not know. Moore, in his list of Cantor’s specimens, makes it distinct from *B. javanensis*.

“The *Pod. parvulus* of Temminck I suspect to be identical with my *Batr. affinis*, which is found both in Malacca and Sikhim, and perhaps also in Java, as *O. cornutus* (v. *hodgsoni*) is both from Sikhim and Java.

“*B. moniliger*, nobis, is a good species from Ceylon; and Jerdon suspects that this must be the *Batrachostomus* of peninsular India, which he has heard of, but never seen. He is certain about its existence.”

Mr. Swinhoe’s last letter, dated Tamsuy in Formosa, January 17th last, says:—

“I am not doing much in birds just now, as we are scarcely settled yet at this new port; but by next month you may hear of my making some progress.

“*Suya striata*, nobis, is common on these hills, and, as I imagine, *Cisticola volitans*; but the latter I have not seen this trip. No



news of the wonderful Parrot yet. I think I told you of the three Parrakeets shot at Canton the summer before last, but, at the best, they can only be looked upon as occasional visitants to that neighbourhood. I suspect *Loriculus puniceus* has no more claim to Canton as a *habitat* than have the Lories, the Waxwings, the Peacocks, or the Argus Pheasants that are offered for sale in that city. I could send a fine collection of so-called Chinese birds, if I only had an agent at Hong Kong or Canton to watch the bird-shops; but I never heed the assignation of birds to particular localities, unless I have the authority of some person that has actually met with them in a wild state, and has proofs that they are not caged birds let loose. The Japanese Deer and some other species of *Cervidæ* may be found on the hills of Hong Kong; but we should be very wrong in considering them indigenous there; for if we only take the trouble to inquire, we may learn that several animals of this kind have been set free in that colony by some sport-loving Europeans.

"In passing through Amoy, I met with, for the first time, a fine male of the *Muscicapa hylocharis* of the 'Fauna Japonica'; and as you may like to publish a description of this interesting species, taken from a fresh example, I will transcribe the note from my journal:—

"*Muscicapa hylocharis*, Schlegel, ♂, Amoy, November 27, 1861. Looks at first sight like the male of *Erythrosterna parva*, but there is no white on the tail. Length, 5·1; wing, 2·85; tail, 2·2 in. Bill blackish clove-brown; legs and claws ditto, with paler soles. Inside of the mouth yellowish flesh-colour, with a blackish rim to the tongue. Ear roundish, of the size of the eye, the diameter bone being nearly at right angles to the direction of the bill, and the crescent-shaped operculum placed on the arc furthest from the bill. Throat and breast yellowish robin-colour, rather golden, paler on the axillaries and flanks; pale and mixed with olive over and under the eye, the cheek being mottled with darker olive. Belly and vent white. Upper parts brownish olive-green. Wings and tail hair-brown, the former margined with yellowish ochre, more strongly on the tertiaries, small coverts and secondary coverts.

"*Dissection*.—Œsophagus about 1 inch wide, enlarging at



proventriculus to .25. Stomach roundish, hard and muscular, not much adpressed, with small lateral tendons; depth and breadth, .4 in.; length, .6. Epithelium sienna-coloured, rugose, thin and leathery, containing remains of beetles and amber-yellow oval seeds of some berry. Intestine 6.8 in. long, .1 to .15 thick, no cæca discoverable. Heart .4 in. long, .2 broad.

"I have been looking through the second volume of Perry's 'Expedition to Japan,' wherein the birds collected in China are enumerated, with short notes on most of them by Mr. Heine. This gentleman, who was artist to the Expedition, I had the pleasure of meeting, and from the love he professed for the feathered tribes, I should have expected fuller remarks on the species he had had the opportunity of seeing in their native haunts. If the few plates of birds in this volume can be looked upon as the best the Americans can produce, I must say they are far behind this age of truthful iconography. If I may be allowed to criticise (and my acquaintance with Chinese birds may justify me, in so far as they are concerned), I will venture on a few remarks.

"*Garrulax perspicillatus*, plate 4. The bill and head of this figure are by far too small in proportion to the size of the bird given, which is a good deal smaller than life-size. The eye in the living bird is hazel.

"*Sturnus cinereus*, plate 5. The head of this figure should be flatter, and the iris white.

"Mr. Heine's reason for the scarcity of birds at Macao is rather erroneous. It is not the Chinese who exterminate the birds at that settlement, but the half-caste Portuguese or Macaese, who sally out in numbers every Sunday, each man and boy armed with a gun, and ruthlessly destroy every small bird they can set eyes on. In Camoens' garden, where guns are not admitted, birds are common enough, and comparatively tame.

"*Artamus fuscus*. I think this species must have been labelled wrong. I question much whether it is found about Macao.

"*Hypothymis cyanomelæna*. What is meant by this species "inhabiting bushes"? If it refers to its occasionally alighting on the tops of bushes, or settling on some exposed branch, it is correct enough. But the species is a pure Flycatcher in habits, and never



dreams of creeping about bushes, or even entering them after the manner of Warblers. The remark may well be applied, however, to the next species that follows, *Lusciola cyanura*.

"*Petrocincla manilensis*. I have repeatedly shot specimens of this bird without a tinge of ferruginous on the under-parts, and undistinguishable from examples of *P. pandoo* received from Mr. Blyth; I cannot therefore help agreeing with that gentleman, in thinking that both of the so-called species may be referred to *P. cyanea*, the red tints of the belly and vent being probably attributable to certain climatal causes, as is the case with the different varieties of *Cuculus tenuirostris*.

"*Ixos hæmorrhous*, plate 6. The crest given in this plate is a perfect mistake. The bird has no crest, the black crown-feathers being but of ordinary length.

"*Gallinula chloropus*. I once saw this bird at Amoy. I have since procured a pair at Formosa.

"*Charadrius plumialis*. This must be a mistake in identification. The Chinese bird, of which I have seen a large number, is undoubtedly referable to *C. virginicus*.

"*Sterna minuta*. This bird is found occasionally on the coast of China; but all the small Terns I have yet seen in Formosa are of some other species—perhaps *S. nereis* of Gould. One would expect to find the Formosan species at Loochoo."

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We are indebted to the courtesy of Sir William Hooker for the inspection of a valuable paper furnished to the newly established Institute of Rupert's Land by the editor of 'The Nor'-Wester,' a journal published at Red River Settlement. The writer, the Rev. W. W. Kirkby, therein describes a journey lately performed by him from the Mackenzie River to the Youcan or Jukon. Besides affording some interesting information respecting the Indian tribes, to which this gentleman is a missionary, he gives us the first account we have received of the energetic collector of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. A. Kennicott, whose expedition was announced by us two years ago ('Ibis,' 1860, pp. 309, 310), and whom he met with at the fort situated at the junction of the Jukon and the Porcupine Rivers. Mr. Kirkby proceeds to say that "he (Mr. Kennicott) delighted