

along the larger rivers, the Gato being a good deal smaller than the river one crosses to get from it to the town.

In addition to the three Woodpeckers I have mentioned, I also saw on two occasions another species, apparently rather smaller than *Chrysophilus cristatus*, but marked with large patches of black and white. I also noticed very large Storks with white breasts and black wings, a bluish grey Heron, a bird the natives call Jacá, about the size of a Turkey, with two sharp spurs on each wing; and occasionally I think I saw in Cordova a small black Vulture, which I afterwards saw often in the Banda Oriental, and which the natives call "Cuervo." Of course Caranchos, Chimangos, and Teroterros or Spur-winged Plover swarmed everywhere. The egg of the latter is very like that of the Pewit.

Snipes I don't think I ever saw in Cordova; but I shot two or three in Entre Rios, and my companion said he once had a decent morning's shooting at them. The Widow bird and little "Sangre Pura" were very common about the Gato, and of course a great variety of other small birds; but I only attempted to collect the Hawks, Owls, Woodpeckers, and Kingfishers; and I think I must have got nearly all there were to be found in that part.

XVIII.—*Descriptions of six new Species of West-African Birds.* By Captain G. E. SHELLEY.

1. SCOPS ICTERORHYNCHUS, sp. nov.

Above tawny-brown, finely pencilled with dark brown; a few of the feathers of the forehead are nearly white, with black shafts; those of the crown are palest towards their centres, especially the ones forming the ear-tufts; and all are triangularly barred with narrow wavy streaks of dark brown; the feathers of the face above the eyes are buff, their ends narrowly edged with dark brown; those in front of the eyes have a rather more rufous tinge; and those on the cheeks and ear-coverts are similar in colour to the crown, but of a looser texture; the frill of feathers round the face, towards the chin, is buff, with black ends fading into brown at their extremities.

The feathers of the back are partially barred with arrow-headed spots narrowly edged with dark brown. Tail tawny-brown, partially barred towards the centre of the feathers with a shade of paler brown, these bars imperfectly edged with black. Wings similar in colour to the back; a few feathers on the shoulders (smaller scapulars) have their outer webs buffy white, with two or three distinct black bars; and one or two of the middle scapulars are similarly marked; the primaries have on their outer webs five or six broad creamy white bars, most perfect on the outer primaries; the inner web of the primaries and both webs of the secondaries are barred with blackish brown, the intermediate tawny bars fading into white towards the basal portion of the inner webs, more especially of the secondaries. The lesser coverts are similar to the back, but a shade darker; the primary coverts are barred with brownish black and buffy white, and a few of the larger coverts have a broad white bar on their outer webs. The throat and under surface of the body are brownish buff, the feathers similarly marked to those of the back, with the white and dark brown more distinct on the chest. Tarsi buff narrowly barred with brown; claws yellow, shaded with black towards their tips. Beak yellow.

Entire length 7·5, culmen 1·00; wing, carpus to tip, 5·25; tail 3·20, tarsus 0·85.

Hab. Fantee: collected by Governor Ussher.

2. *DRYODROMAS NIGRICEPS*, sp. nov.

Entire upper part of the head, lores, cheeks, and ear-coverts black, washed with slaty grey. Back and lesser wing-coverts yellow; upper tail-coverts slaty grey. Wings black, with a narrow grey edging to a portion of the greater primaries; outer web of the scapulars and secondaries edged with yellow. Tail slaty black with obsolete bars, and all the feathers broadly tipped with white, which colour runs some way down the exterior web of the outer one. Chin, throat, and underparts white, washed with yellow on the sides of the breast and flanks. Beak black; tarsi and feet brownish flesh-colour. Irides hazel.