

XXIV.—On the Ornithology of Hainan.

By ROBERT SWINHOE, F.Z.S. &c.*

(Plate X.)

[Concluded from p. 256.]

77? *ORIOLOUS CHINENSIS*, Linn.

I introduce this Oriole into my list on the authority of Père Michel Chagot, the French priest, who resides at Lingshanshe, near the capital city. To this gentleman, Monsgr. Guillemin, the French bishop at Canton, had given me a letter of introduction. I found him in Chinese queue and costume, living in a wretched hovel, part of a small farm-house in a poor village about ten miles from Kiungchowfoo. He had been seven years in the island without leaving it, and had the cure of the western division of the north of the island, while another Frenchman had charge of the eastern division. The two met once in three months. The mission once had chapels in the city; but they had long since been seized; and the priests driven away. M. Chagot did his best to be hospitable; but I must confess that notwithstanding all his efforts, his board and his quarters showed small cheer. The life of a priest in Hainan is not an enviable one. After thus introducing my informant I will tell what he told me about the Oriole. He said that in the summer one of their commonest birds was a yellow bird about the size of a Thrush. This, I should think, was pretty certain to be the species that summers in China. We did not leave Hainan till the 4th of April; and up to that date there were no signs of the Oriole.

78. *PSAROPHOLUS ARDENS*, Swinhoe (Ibis, 1862, p. 363, pl. xiii.), *var. NIGELLICAUDA*.

* I find I have wrongly referred (*suprà*, p. 88) the small horned Owl of Hainan to *Ephialtes lettia* (Hodgs.). It is more nearly related to *E. griseus*, Jerd., from which, however, it differs in its proportions, by its much longer tarsus and longer toes, its much deeper and richer colouring, the want of the white spot on the underneck, and in having its tarsal feathers reddish brown barred and mottled with dark brown. I will distinguish it as *E. UMBRATILIS*.