

particularly large, and the outer singularly small. Peculiar to mountain regions. This bird conducts in some respects to *Archibuteo*.

These several Eagles exhibit variation of habit, as of form. The *Ictinaëtus* is pre-eminently a nest-robber, and feeds much on eggs: vide *J. A. S.* XII, 128; where also is a notice of the nest-plundering propensities of *Aq. hastata*, under the supposition of the latter species being *Limnaëtus unicolor*. The more powerful of the tribe do not disdain to feed on carrion; and Mr. Elliot remarks, of *Aq. fulvescens*,—"The *Wokhab* is very troublesome in hawking after the sun becomes hot, mistaking the jesses for some kind of prey, and pouncing on the Falcon to seize it. I have once or twice nearly lost *Shaheens*" (*F. peregrinator*,) he adds, "in consequence, these flying to great distances for fear of the *Wokhab*." This is probably, therefore, the *Jimach* mentioned by Buchanan Hamilton, (in Montgomery Martin's compilation from his *MSS.* I, 505). "The only pursuit worth notice which I saw in several days' hawking," observes the author, "was from a large bird of prey named *Jimach*, which attacked a very strong Falcon as it was hovering over a bush into which it had driven a Partridge. The moment the Falcon espied the *Jimach* it gave a scream, and flew off with the utmost velocity, while the *Jimach* eagerly pursued. They were instantly followed by the whole party, foot, horses, and elephants, perhaps 200 persons, shouting and firing with all their might, and the Falcon was saved, but not without severe wounds, the *Jimach* having struck her to the ground. I have never been able," adds Buchanan, "to procure a *Jimach*; but it appears to be a small Eagle, and is said to live entirely on other birds of prey." *Aq. fulvescens*, however, is a very indiscriminate feeder, preying on rats, lizards, snakes, insects, and sometimes even carrion; besides hares, and in fact whatever, living or dead, it happens to meet with: still the fact of its attacking Falcons, or indeed of any bird of prey attacking another, except for combat, or as when a tame Falcon is flown at a Kite, (of Hawks thus "picking out Hawks' een,") is, I apprehend, little known to the majority of naturalists. Lastly, *Hieraëtus pennatus* is a noted robber of the dove-cot and poultry-yard; whose depredations, as Mr. Jerdon remarks, are probably often mistaken for those of the Kite.

Ephialtes spilocephalus, nobis, n. s. ? *Noctua auribarbis* (?), Hodgson, mentioned in *J. A. S.* VI, 369: *Athene badia*, (?), Hodgson, enumerated in Mr. G. R. Gray's list of the Raptorial birds in the British Museum.

This little Owl is certainly an *Ephialtes* (vel *Scops*, Auct., though it appears this latter name was first appropriated to the Crowned Cranes), and probably a young bird, from the loose and floccose character of its plumage; but the aigrettes are not easily made out in the only specimen examined, though I believe that I have distinctly traced them. Its size is that of *Eph. lettia*, but the bill, feet, and talons, are considerably smaller. Length about nine inches, of wing six, and tail three and a quarter; bill, in greatest vertical depth, seven-sixteenths of an inch; feathered tarse an inch and one-eighth; length of middle toe and claw but an inch, the claws slender, delicate, and of a whitish hue; beak pale yellowish, or yellowish-white. The plumage of the head is very full and puffy, the feathers loose and light; each of them having two pale-coloured spots, set off with blackish, and the rest of the feather a dull light bay or tawney, a little pencilled: facial disk fulvescent. Upper-parts uniform dull tawney, pencilled with blackish; and the ordinary white spots occur on the outer scapularies: the primaries have also a series of three white bands on the unemarginated portion of their outer webs (the emargination being very slight): the secondaries and tertiaries are principally bay on their outer webs, with imperfect blackish bands; and the tail is barred with the same colours in about equal proportions, the central feathers having six tawney-rufous bands. Under-parts paler than those above, minutely speckled with dusky, and with some larger whitish spots set off with blackish: lower tail-coverts white, a little barred, except the longest which are distinctly so; the tarsal plumes tawney-rufous, with dusky bars. From Darjeeling.*

Syrnium nivicolum, Hodgson, XIV, 185. Since describing this species, I have seen several fine specimens. One, from near Simla, presented by L. C. Stewart, Esq., now of H. M. 50th Ft., has the wing twelve inches and a half: colour dusky above, mottled with larger spots of fulvous-white than in that formerly described; but the under-parts are much the same. Two males and a female, the former with wing eleven inches,

* In the 'Madras Journal,' No. XXXI, 120, Mr. Jerdon describes a *Scops* (*Ephialtes*) *griseus*, which = *lettoides*, Jerdon, nobis, *J. A. S.* XIV, 182. Dr. Stewart has recently favored the Society with a specimen, from near Futtehpore, on the route from Allahabad to Cawnpore, which tends to indicate the specific identity of *Eph. lettia* and *Eph. lettoides*.