

inct species of much more considerable size? This supposition is probable enough; but it would be perhaps premature to establish at the present time a new specific form; and before inscribing it in our systematic catalogues, it seems to me more prudent to wait till new researches shall have produced some parts of the skeleton belonging to adult birds, which will inform us more exactly as to the proportions of our British Pelican.

We know at what geological epoch most of the mammals whose remains are found buried in the drift have appeared; we know also the epoch at which some of them have ceased to exist. With birds it is unfortunately not thus; the materials of study we have at our disposal are not yet sufficient to let us reconstruct the entire history of the species of which we can determine the history during the "quaternary" period. Has the ornithological population of this epoch, contemporary with the first ages of man, having been submitted to the same influences as the mammalian fauna, undergone analogous modifications? The little we at present know of it inclines to make us think so; for we know that at the epoch when the caves were filled up many of our birds already existed in large numbers. Others, such as the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nivea*) and the Willow-Grouse (*Tetrao albus*), have gradually retired towards the north; others, again, have at last disappeared, as proved by the remains of the large Crane discovered in the caves of the Dordogne*. The remains collected in the peat-bogs of Cambridgeshire seem to indicate facts of the same order; for by the side of the Swan, the Duck, the Grebe, the Bittern, and the Coot we find a Pelican of gigantic stature, which seems to belong to a species different from those which represent this genus in our actual fauna, and has lived in England along with the Great Irish Elk, the Urus, and perhaps even with the Tichorhine Rhinoceros.

XXXI.—Notes on Various Indian Birds.

By R. C. BEAVAN, Bengal Staff Corps, C.M.Z.S.

[Continued from p. 181.]

772. CROCOPUS PHENICOPTERUS. Bengal Green Pigeon.
I found this species tolerably abundant in the Maunbhoom

* [Cf. Ibis, 1866, p. 414.—Ed.]

district in 1864-65 ; at least I presume it must have been this, and not *C. chlorogaster*, Blyth, since Dr. Jerdon mentions that Col. Tickell procured it in the same tract of country (as that about Phuteeala, a village near Ambekanuggur, in Maunbhoom) where I observed it in February 1865, in small flocks of seven and eight. I found that Dr. Jerdon's description of the specific differences between the two species was not sufficient without having specimens of both by one, or minute enough to enable one to distinguish between them. I copy the following from my note-book :—

“ Irides blue, surrounded by carmine, which gives a purplish hue to the eye where the two colours meet. Feet light yellow, claws pale blue. Bill horny white. The note is a kind of warbling whistle (it may be syllabled “teeu-toi-toi-teeu-u”) uttered slowly and with distinctness, generally when two or three are seated near each other at the top of some shady fig or other tree in fruit.”

I have found them common throughout the hills bordering the Grand Trunk-road from Raneegunge upwards. In Maunbhoom they generally frequent the same kind of cover ; and when once one finds out a tree in fruit which is frequented by them, it may be visited day after day, and each visit will be rewarded by one or two specimens, which are highly esteemed for the pot. Each flock seems to frequent a certain number of trees, such as the peepul, banyan, or other *Fici* when in fruit ; and when disturbed from one, they fly off to the next, thus taking them all in turn. The species breeds in Maunbhoom, where I procured several specimens of the eggs in April 1865. They are of course white, two in a nest, and differ from ordinary Pigeons' eggs in being more blunt and rounder at the ends. This species also occurs sometimes about Umballah, according to the late Dr. Scott.

774. OSMOTRERON BICINCTA. Orange-breasted Green Pigeon.

I met with this beautiful species in some abundance in the hilly and forest-covered parts of the Maunbhoom district, especially near Ambekanuggur in December 1864, and, in January 1865, among the Jubee Hills. It was tolerably common there in the

eventually I never learnt. They do not occur in a wild state about Umballah.

838. *SYPHEOTIDES BENGALENSIS*. Bengal Florikin.

I have only met with this bird when out in the Bhootan dooars after Rhinoceros, when with the 73rd Native Infantry at Julpigoorie in 1859. Numbers used on these occasions to be flushed from thick grass when beaten up by our advancing line of elephants; and the males in flying showed a good deal of white on the wing. I never met with it elsewhere.

OTIS TETRAX, Linn. Little Bustard.

This was, I think, originally determined as an Indian species by my friend the late Dr. Scott, who first told Mr. Blyth of its existence at Peshawur (*Ibis*, 1867, p. 163); he has repeatedly given me the same information, which I am glad to have this opportunity of making public.

840. *CURSORIUS COROMANDELICUS*. Indian Courier-Plover.

Of this species I procured a pair at Lallroo, near Umballah, on the 14th of November, 1866. Dimensions as follows:—

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Spread foot.	Bill, from front.	Bill, from gape.	Extent.
A.	8.75	5.75	2.375	1.9375	1	.8125	1.1875	19
B.	9.375	6.125	2.375	2.25	1.125	.875	1.25	21.5

Two shot at Morar, December 19, 1866, measured as follows:—

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Spread foot.	Bill, from front.	Bill, from gape.	Extent.
A.	9.5	5.75	2.25	2.1875	1.125	1	1.25	20
B.	9.125	5.375	2.25	2.125	1.0625	.8125	1.125	18.5

In this bird the legs look as if they had been enamelled or painted white, as though they had been made "beautiful for ever." The species is not uncommon in the cold weather at Umballah, frequenting chiefly ploughed land, in small flocks, but wary and difficult to get near. Seen more abundantly a month later at Morar, near Gwalior, where they frequent the open plain.

843. *GLAREOLA LACTEA*. Small Swallow-Plover.

I observed this species in some numbers on 16th February, 1864, on the sand-banks of the Damoodah River, on the out-

skirts of the Maunbhoom district. Swift-like, both in its flight and general aspect, I was much struck, I recollect, at the time, with this particularly chaste and elegant bird, which I never, before or since, recollect to have seen.

845. *CHARADRIUS LONGIPES*. Golden Plover.

I have found this species tolerably abundantly in the neighbourhood of Julpigoorie, but I do not recollect it at Maunbhoom. It is occasionally, I hear, found near Umballah.

847. *ÆGIALITIS PYRRHOTHORAX**. Lesser Sand-Plover.

Three specimens of this species were shot by me on the mud-banks of the Salween River, near Moulmein, on September 7th, 1865. Dimensions of one as then noted were—Length 7·25, wing 5, tail 1·875, bill, from front, 75, tarsus 1·25.

849. *ÆGIALITIS PHILIPPENSIS* †. Indian Ringed Plover.

I procured specimens at Ambekanuggur, in the Maunbhoom district, in December 1864, where also it was observed breeding in March by a late intimate friend, who gave me the information, as before recorded (P. Z. S. 1864, p. 376); but I did not see its nest myself, as stated by Mr. Blyth.

850. *ÆGIALITIS MINUTUS*. Lesser Ringed Plover.

I shot a pair out of a small flock which were feeding along the edge of a small tank near the Native-Infantry lines at Umballah in January 1866.

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Bill, from front.	Extent.
A. . .	6·3	4·25	2·25	·875	·5	13
B. . .	6·5	4·5	2·5	·875	·5	13·5

The irides in both were reddish-brown, the legs flesh-coloured with a tinge of blue, the claws black, orbits bright yellow; bill black, yellow at the base.

852. *CHÆTUSIA GREGARIA*. Black-sided Lapwing.

A specimen was killed by me at Lallroo, near Umballah, on the 14th November, 1866; and this species is mentioned by the late Dr. Scott, who sent specimens from Umballah to the Montrose Museum.

* [*Lege* *Æ. mongolicus*; cf. *Ibis*, 1867, p. 164.—Ed.]

† [*Æ. curonicus*, *fide* Blyth, *Ibis*, 1867, p. 164.—Ed.]

Gould's 'Birds of Australia'; for that plate represents *Phalacrocorax punctatus*; and although pl. 72 contains a figure of *Attagen ariel*, it is evidently not the same bird as this species.

Of the Pelican family it is not my intention to treat here, as, although I made numerous notes on the species found in Burmah, they have all been placed at the disposal of Mr. P. L. Selater, the zealous Secretary of the Zoological Society, and, I doubt not, will be duly treated by him in the memoir on the genus which he has in preparation.

Leaving this question, then, in his hands, I must now bring to a conclusion these notes on Indian birds from the pen of a "wild worker in the woods," hoping that, if hereafter they meet with favour from the readers of 'The Ibis,' I may thereby be encouraged, not only to continue my labours in the sunny land of India on my return thither, but also to obtain yet further opportunities of continuing my collections in the pleasant land of Burmah, endeavouring thoroughly to elucidate its at present comparatively little-known Ornithology and Zoology generally.

South Penge Park,
July 18, 1868.

XXXII.—*On some of the Birds of Prey of Central Bulgaria.*

By C. FARMAN, C.E.*

IN laying the following notes before the readers of 'The Ibis,' I would merely remark, by way of preface, that a person so young in the study of ornithology can hardly be expected to be able to say much, if anything, that is new on the subject. Still, as the ornithology of Turkey has not received any very great amount of attention, and my opportunities of observing such birds as frequent a particular part of that country have been great, I have thought that a list of the birds of prey to be found in Central Bulgaria, with some few observations upon them, might be both interesting and useful.

The tract of country to which my observations have been confined is that district of Bulgaria which lies between the Danube, at Rustchuk, and Varna, on the Black Sea, in length about one

* [Kindly communicated by Mr. H. E. Dresser.—Ed.]