

A Description of the Birds inhabiting the South of Africa. By ANDREW SMITH, M.D. Member of the Wernerian Natural History Society of Edinburgh; Honorary Member of the Mineralogical Society of Jena, &c.

[Continued from p. 241.]

BUTEO LAGOPUS.*

Falco Lagopus, Gmel. Syst. 1, p. 260, sp. 58.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* vol. 1, p. 19.—*Mery Tasschenb. Deut.* vol. 1, p. 37.—*Falco Plumipes*, Daud. Orn.—*Falco Sclavonicus*, *Lath. Ind.* vol. 1, p. 26. sp. 54.—*Buse Gantée*, *Le Vaill. Ois. d'Afrique*, vol. 1, pl. 18.

B. fuscus ex albido vario reatricibus fuscis basi dimidia apice que albis; cera pedibusque luteis.

Male.—Head, upper part of neck, throat, breast, and thighs, whitish yellow, variegated with large oblong brown streaks; interscapulars, wing coverts, and back, brownish black, each feather with a yellowish red edging; a large transverse band or blotch of deep brown on the posterior part of belly; rump and under tail coverts whitish yellow. Tail white towards base, elsewhere uniform brown, with all the feathers terminated by dirty white; legs feathered as far as the toes; the latter and eyes brown; cere yellow; bill black. The male measures nineteen inches, and the female two feet three inches.

The female has less white upon the head, the neck, and the

* In consequence of an error in the printing department, the name and synonymes of this bird were made to finish that portion of the communication, descriptive of the Birds inhabiting the South of Africa, which appeared in our last number, even without having undergone the common typographical corrections.

tail; more brown upon the belly and sides; the thighs and tarsi have a greater proportion of white; and the interscapulars are edged with yellowish white.

Varies according to age, being in different specimens more or less spotted with brown, more or less varied on the upper parts with white, with a more or less distinct white stripe over eyes, and with brown and white more or less irregularly dispersed on the breast. The greater part of the belly is often white, and variegated by some small brown spots; the feathers of the thighs rayed transversely, and the tail, towards extremity, with three transverse bands, the first of which, or that next the base, is broadest; iris a beautiful yellow.

Le Vaillant only found this species amongst the woods of Antiqualand. He says it is more ferocious than the other African species of the genus, that it avoids inhabited places, and lives quite isolated. Its flight is rapid; and it often destroys partridges by suddenly pouncing upon them from the top of a tree, where it places itself to observe their motions. As I have only met with one bird resembling that just described, and had not the opportunity of examining it for more than a few minutes, I cannot pretend to say that it was actually the booted buzzard of Europe. As both Cuvier and Temmink consider the bird figured by Le Vaillant under the name of "*Buse Gantée*," as identical with the *Falco* (*Buteo*) *Lagopus* of Linnæus, I have preferred giving the description of it by the latter author, to furnishing from my own notes what could only be a very imperfect detail.

BUTEO TACHARDUS.

Falco Tachardus, Daud.—Le Tachard, *Le Vaillant Ois. d'Afrique*, pl. 19.

B. supra brunneus, subflavo aut rubro-albo variegatus; subtus albus, striis et maculis brunneis notatis; femoribus plerumque rubro-brunneis; cera et tarsis flavis; oculis brunneis; rostro nigro; flavo maculato.

Male.—Bill black, with the base of lower mandible, and a small portion of the under adjoining it, yellow; cere yellow; eyes brown; head, neck, back, and rump brown, with the edges and tips of the feathers light grayish brown, or reddish yellow, and the bases of many of them, particularly on the head and neck, white; also many of those of neck, back, and shoulders clouded, spotted, or crossed by irregular white streaks; under parts white, with the throat streaked by narrow longitudinal brown lines, and the breast and posterior part of belly more or less spotted with oblong or roundish brown blotches; thighs dirty reddish brown. Primary quill feathers black, with the exception of the inner vanes towards quills, which are white; secondaries brown, with blackish ir-

regular transverse bands, and the edges of the inner vanes white. Tail moderately long, slightly rounded, of a dirty grayish color, with ten or more narrow waved transverse blackish brown bands; tip of each feather dirty reddish white. Legs and toes greenish yellow; claws black. Length from bill to base of tail eleven inches; length of latter seven inches and a quarter. Wings, when folded, as long as the tail.

Young.—Above brown, verging towards blackish brown, with the bases of the feathers, of at least the head and neck, white; below brownish red, with the shafts of the feathers black; chin with a slight mottling of white. Primary and secondary quill feathers as in adult specimens. Tail feathers grayish, on outer vanes crossed by many waved or oblique narrow blackish bands; on inner vanes reddish white, or reddish brown, with similar black bands; tips of all the feathers dirty reddish yellow. Legs and toes greenish yellow; claws black; bill black, with yellow in the same situations as in the old bird, but neither so extensive nor so brilliant. Tail brownish gray, with the inner vanes crossed by eight or ten transverse tawny or reddish white bands; tips light reddish brown or dirty tawny.

Inhabits the whole of South Africa, but is much more scantily distributed than the first described species of this genus. When on the wing, the two have a considerable resemblance to each other, but they are readily to be distinguished by the smaller size of the present species.

Obs.—Like the other birds of this genus, the Tachard exhibits much variety of colouring, and it is very seldom that any two specimens are found which exactly resemble each other. The markings on the breast and belly, and the colors of the tail, are what exhibit most varieties in the bird just described. In some the belly and breast are almost divested of spots, and exhibit nearly an uniform white color; while in others both of those parts, and even the throat, are densely covered with streaks or roundish blotches, when but little difference appears to exist in the ages of the individuals. In most instances the tail is grayish brown, banded with blackish brown, yet in not a few is it deep chesnut or bright rufous, and distinctly banded transversely by numerous black lines, when no reason exists for considering them as not of equal years. In the majority of individuals of this species, whatever may be the color of the lower parts, the legs, in general, are reddish brown, but in some they are occasionally found exhibiting a white ground, variegated by brownish spots or longitudinal streaks.

BUTEO DESERTORUM.

Falco Desertorum, *Daud., Shaw, Latham.*—Le Rongri, *Le Vaillant*, vol. 1, pl. 17.

B. ferrugineus; gutture, pectore et tectricibus inferioribus caudæ subalbidis; abdomine nigro notatis; remigibus primariis nigris, cauda subtilis ferruginea infra grisea indistincte fasciata; rostro et tarsis flavis; oculis rubris.

Male.—Bill and cere yellow; eyes red; head, neck, back, and belly ferruginous red; the latter with dashes of black; throat, breast, and under tail coverts grayish white. Primary quill feathers black. Tail ferruginous red above, grayish white, with indistinct transverse bands, beneath; legs and toes yellow; claws black. Size considerably below that of the Buteo Jackals, or most common South African buzzard.

Female.—Size rather exceeding that of the male, and the ferruginous tint is less deep and brilliant.

This species I have never met with, and am therefore forced to have recourse to the works of Le Vaillant. He states that it inhabits the more retired spots of South Africa; that it feeds upon rats, moles, mice, and even insects; and that its cry resembles much that of the common European buzzard. It places its nest in bushes; constructs it externally of dry twigs, internally of wool, hair, and feathers; and lays from three to four eggs.

GENUS. CIRCUS, Auct.

Rostrum mediocre, a basi aduncum; nares subovales; tarsi elongati; acrotarsia scutellata; digiti plerumque breves; Remex 3tus. longissimus. Capitis latera plumarum circulo instructi disco capitali strigium persimili; cauda æquales.

Bill moderately strong, curved from the base; nostrils oviform; tarsi elongated; acrotarsia scutellate; toes for the most part short; the third quill feather longest; sides of the head with a circle of decomposed silky feathers, as in the owls.

CIRCUS LALANDII.

C. nigro-fuscus, tectricibus superioribus caudæ albis; remigibus, primariis albo, nigro-fusco et cano notatis; cauda nigro fusca cum fasciis canis instructis.

Male.—Bill black, with the base of lower mandible, and the portion of the edge of upper adjoining it yellow; cere and eyes yellow; head, neck, back, rump, shoulders, and all the under parts brownish black, verging on pure black; the bases of the feathers of the nape pure white. Primary quill feathers hoary gray on outer vanes, on inner, towards quills, white, and elsewhere grayish brown, or grayish black; secondaries with the outer vanes hoary, the inner nearly white, and both towards tips crossed by a broad blackish band; upper

tail coverts white, under ones black, with some narrowly tipped with white. Tail nearly even, black, with four transverse bands of dark bluish gray, and the tips of all the feathers grayish white; the vanes close to quills pure silky white. Legs and toes yellow; claws black. Length from bill to base of tail ten inches; length of latter nine and a half inches.

Female.—Size rather greater than that of the male, and the prevailing color is more of a dull blackish brown.

Young.—Bill and cere as in mature specimens; front blackish brown; crown and part of nape light rufous, variegated with brownish black streaks or clouds: back of neck an uniform brownish black; shoulders, wing coverts, and scapulars, brownish black, broadly tipped with pale rufous or tawny white; chin, throat, breast, and belly, tawny rufous; the two first with brownish streaks or spots, the third clouded by brownish blotches, and the last slightly marked by longitudinal brown streaks. Quill feathers with the gray less clear, with the tips tawny white, but otherwise as in old specimens. Tail blackish brown, with three distinct white transverse bands, besides the bases and tips of all the feathers being white. Legs and toes dirty yellow.

This bird frequents marshy damp grounds in the vicinity of Cape Town, as well as along both the eastern and western coasts. It feeds upon mice, rats, frogs, and lizards, and in quest of those it skims slowly along close to the surface of the ground. It builds its nest sometimes in low bushes in the vicinity of swamps, but more generally amongst rushes or reeds in the middle of marshes; constructs it externally of dried twigs, rushes, &c.; internally of wool and hair; and lays from three to four eggs.

Obs.—In very young specimens of this bird, the whole of the under parts are nearly of an uniform tawny tinge; but as the plumage develops itself, the throat and breast exhibit dark brown variegations, and in proportion as it advances in age, those become more distinct, and also appear on the belly. In many specimens irregular white spots are observed on the latter, and many of the feathers are also narrowly tipped with white. In some old birds the transverse bands of the tail are pure silky white, instead of gray.

CIRCUS SWAINSONII.

C. supra argenteus; subtus albus; remigibus nigro-cæruleis; rectricibus lateralibus albis, fasciis transversis irregularibus notatis; mediis, canis fasciis obscuris transversis variegatis; tarsis flavis; rostro nigro.

Bill black; cere yellow; eyes —; front nearly pure white; head, neck, back, rump, and shoulders light grayish

white, or pale silvery; throat, breast, belly, vent, under tail coverts, and inside of wings, pure white; upper tail coverts white, banded transversely with dusky black. Primary and secondary wing coverts gray, slightly tipped with white; primary wing feather deep dirty bluish purple, with the inner vanes towards bases white; secondaries dirty hoary gray, with the edges of the inner vanes white. Tail long, square, the three lateral feathers on each side white, and crossed by five or six irregular transverse brownish bands; the centre ones deep hoary blue, with faint dusky transverse bands, particularly on inner vanes, tips of all the feathers white; tarsi and toes yellow; claws black. Length from bill to base of tail eight and a half inches; length of tail nine inches.

I have only met with two specimens of this species in the Colony, the one was procured near Groenekloof, in the Cape District, and the other in Albany. Both of them exhibited exactly the same markings, and gave every reason to believe they were birds arrived at full maturity.

CIRCUS SUPERALIARIS.*

C. supra brunneus plumis plurimis albo marginatis, fronte, fascia supra et infra oculos, partibus inferioribusque subfulvis; rostro nigro; cera et oculis flavis; remigibus brunneis, pogoniis internis albo fasciatis.

Male.—Bill black, with a small yellow spot on each side of lower mandible towards base; eyes brownish yellow; cere yellowish; above dirty brown, with many of the feathers tipped with reddish white, particularly on the shoulders; front, chin, throat, breast, belly, vent, and a stripe over, and another below each eye, pale tawny; upper tail coverts pure white; under ones tawny; cheeks deep brown. Primary quill feathers dirty brown; the inner vanes towards quills with alternate white and brown transverse broad bands; secondaries uniform dirty brown. Tail even; the three outermost feathers of each side marked by broad alternate white and dirty brown bands; tips of all the feathers inclined to white; legs and toes yellow; claws black. Length from bill to base of tail eight and a half inches; length of latter eight inches.

Female.—————

Young.—Above brown, with most of the feathers broadly edged and tipped with dirty red; front, chin, collarlets, and band over and under eyes tawny; breast, belly, vent, and thighs with reddish brown longitudinal blotches; inside of wings deep chestnut. Primary quill feathers blackish brown, with the inner vanes broadly banded transversely with white. Tail nearly even, with the three outermost feathers of each side

* South African Commercial Advertiser, for May 30, 1829.

broadly banded brown and reddish tawny, middle ones brownish black, with irregular tawny bands or blotches; the tips of all the feathers reddish white; tarsi and toes yellow; claws black.

Inhabits Namaqualand and the country about Oliphant's River, as well as various parts on the eastern coast of the Colony. Of this species I have only met with two specimens, and as both of them had the tips of many of the feathers on the back, of a color distinctly differing from the prevailing one, I am disposed to consider neither of them as birds arrived at complete maturity. I should not be surprised if farther observation may enable us to identify this with the last described species.

CIRCUS ACOLI. *Witte ralk. Leeuwerkanger.*

Falco Acoli, *Daudin, Shaw. L'Acoli, Le Vaillant, tom. 1, pl. 31.*

C. supra caeruleo-griseus, subtus subalbidus pectore, abdomine et femoribus nigro lineatis.

Male.—Bill horn-colored towards base, bluish black towards tip; cere red; eyes orange red; color of plumage above pale bluish gray; beneath whitish, with the breast, belly, and thighs, finely rayed transversely with black; body slender; legs long; tail nearly even, and of a dirty brownish white tint; shafts reddish brown; legs and toes yellowish; claws black.

Female.—A third larger than the male, and the cere of a less deep red.

This species, according to *Le Vaillant*, occurs in Zwartland, and about the Twenty-four Rivers. It feeds upon mice, rats, lizards, &c. has a quick flight, and commonly soars along close to the ground, over cultivated lands and sandy deserts. The male and female are for the most part observed together; and the latter constructs her nest in small bushes, and lays four dirty white oval eggs.

Obs.—Having never met with this bird myself, I include it solely upon the authority of the naturalist just quoted, whose imperfect description I have introduced; and, great as the authority is, I cannot refrain from stating a doubt as to the existence of such a species: being disposed to consider it as the *Accipiter Musicus*, immediately before moulting.

CIRCUS RANIVORUS. *Hekeersvanger of the Colonists.*

Falco Ranivorus, *Daudin, Shaw. Le Grenouillard, Le Vaillant, tom. 1, pl. 22.*

C. supra brunneus, rubro-albo variegatus, humeris nigro-brun-

neo, ferrugineo et albo notatis; subtilus ferrugineus cauda, fasciis transversis, nigro-brunneis et griseis; tarsis flavis; rostro nigro.

Male.—Bill black, with a shade of yellow on lower mandible near base; eyes and cere yellow; front and crown brown, varied with tawny; back of neck and interscapulars dirty dark brown, the feathers edged with pure or reddish white; back and rump brown, with tawny tips; upper tail coverts ferruginous and brown, with whitish tips; shoulders mottled dark blackish brown, ferruginous and pure white; cervical collar blackish brown and white; chin, throat, and breast dirty brown, the feathers edged and tipped with dirty reddish white. Primary and secondary wing coverts blackish brown, with gray transverse bands; primary quill feathers with the outer vanes marked by alternate transverse bands of deep hoary gray and brownish black; inner with a considerable proportion of bluish gray, variegated by partial transverse blackish bands, and the inner edge of vanes, towards quills, clear white; towards tips, the feathers all nearly uniform brownish black; secondaries brown and deep bluish gray, in alternate transverse bands; inner edges of inner vanes white. Tail with about five blackish brown transverse bands, and with six deep bluish gray ones, besides bluish gray tips to all the feathers. In many of the feathers, more particularly the lateral ones towards quills, there is a strong tinge of chesnut. Legs and toes yellow; claws black. Length from bill to base of tail nine inches; length of latter nine inches.

Female.—The colors are rather less bright, but in other respects resembles the male.

This species is found about marshy situations, over the greater part of South Africa. In those it skims along close to the reeds, rushes, or long grass with which they are generally more or less supplied, and feeds on mice, rats, lizards, and such like animals as resort to these damp situations. It builds its nest sometimes on trees or bushes in the vicinity of marshes, but more commonly on the ground, amongst the luxuriant vegetation of those spots. The nest is formed externally of dried twigs or rushes; internally of hair, wool, &c., and it lays three or four white eggs.

CIRCUS LE VAILLANTII.

C. fronte vertice nucha, cervice et pectore albis aut fulvo-albis; dorso brunneo; gutture abdominæque, sub-ferrugineis; cauda brunnea fasciis transversis subfulvis variegata; rostro nigro; tarsis cera et oculis flavis.

Male.—Bill black; base of lower mandible yellow; front, chin, nape, cervix, and part of breast, white or reddish white;

the feathers of the neck and nape each with a spot of brown at tips; interscapulars and back dirty brown; upper tail coverts brown, with the tips pale tawny; throat, sides of neck, and anterior part of breast blackish brown; flanks, belly, thighs, and vent reddish brown, inclined to dirty ferruginous; shoulders variegated brown and pale tawny; inside of wings dark tawny, spotted with brown. Primary and secondary wing coverts brown, with tawny tips; primary quill feathers dark brown, with the exception of the greater part of the inner vanes, towards quills, which are light tawny, variegated by longitudinal waved dusky lines; secondaries similarly colored. Tail nearly even, dark brown, with the three outermost feathers of each side distinctly marked by transverse interrupted tawny bands; centre ones with indistinct light colored bands on inner vanes; tips of all the feathers tawny. Legs and toes greenish yellow; claws black. Length from bill to base of tail ten and a half inches; length of latter eight inches.

Female.—With the exception of being a little larger, she exactly resembles the male.

Young.—When it leaves the egg, it is covered with a white down, that in time is succeeded by an uniform dark brown plumage, which is only very slightly variegated by some streaks of bright tawny about the chin, front, and anterior edges of shoulders. The brown of the upper parts is dark and clear; that of the lower reddish brown or ferruginous. Tail feathers nearly uniform brown, with tawny tips, and some similarly colored spots towards quills. Bill blackish blue, with the lower mandible yellow at base. Legs and toes dirty yellow.

This bird is met with about the sandy flats near Cape Town, as well as in low marshy or damp situations along both the southern and western coasts. On account of its habitats and manners, it has generally been considered as identical with the last described species; but its constant and invariable characters prove it to be a separate and independent one. This is evidently the same species as is obscurely described by Le Vaillant, and stated by him to have been procured near Algoa Bay.*

Obs.—The bands on the tail are much more distinct in some specimens than in others, and appear sometimes on all the feathers, at other times only on the inner vanes of the middle ones. In some examples the white of the front, nape, cervix, and breast, is clear and abundant, whilst in others it is scarcely distinguishable.

* Histoire Naturelle des Oiseau d'Afrique, tom. I, p. 97.

STIRPS. MILVINA.

Rostrum mediocre a basi subaduncum. Cauda furcata.

GENUS. ELANUS.

Rostrum mediocre debile, compressum. Tarsi breves semiplumati. Acrotarsia reticulata. Ungues medio excepto interne rotundi. Remex 2^{dus} longissimus; 1^{mus}. et 2^{dus}. fortiter interne emarginatus.

Bill moderately long, weak, and compressed. Tarsi short, half feathered. Acrotarsia reticulated. Claws, with the exception of the middle one, rounded. Second wing feather the longest; first and second strongly emarginate.

ELANUS MELANOPTERUS, Leach. Witte Spervel of the Colonists.

Elanus Caesius, Savigny.—Falco Melanopterus, Daud.—Le Blac, *Le Vaillant*, pl. 36 and 37.

E. plumbeus, subtus albidus, remigibus nigricantibus; rostro humerisque, nigris; cauda subalbida; pedibus, cera que flavis, oculis rubris.

Male.—Bill black; cere yellow; eyes red; front and eyebrows white; crown and back of neck light bluish gray; interscapulars, back, rump, and scapulars, bluish gray; shoulders jet black; chin, throat, breast, belly, vent, and inside of wings pure white. Primary and secondary wing coverts bluish gray, with the edges of inner vanes white, and some of the feathers distinctly tipped with that color; primary quill feathers dusky, hoary gray, shaded towards tips with reddish brown; secondaries bluish gray. Tail slightly forked, pale bluish white, with the outer vane of each feather faintly tinted with purple near tip; vanes dark reddish brown; legs and toes yellow; claws black. Length from bill to base of tail six and a half inches; length of latter five inches.

Female.—Size rather exceeding that of the male, and the color of the plumage less deep.

Young.—Bill black; base of under mandible, and the part of the upper one adjoining it, yellowish; front reddish white; crown and back of neck dusky, slightly variegated with very fine reddish tawny streaks; interscapulars dirty blackish blue, with fine reddish white tips; back uniform dusky blue; scapulars dirty blackish blue, with a tinge of brown, and broadly tipped with impure white; shoulders black, many of the feathers faintly tipped with white. Primary and secondary wing coverts bluish gray, many of them with white tips; primary wing feathers blackish blue with white tips; secondaries with reddish white tips. Chin and throat white; breast and belly pale tawny or dull reddish white; thighs white. Tail a pale

dusky, hoary blue, with shades of brown; part of edges of inner vanes white; tips of feathers white or reddish tawny; legs and toes yellow; claws black.

This bird is found throughout the whole of South Africa; but is particularly abundant along the western coast, and in the country about the Twenty-four Rivers, and the Piquetberg. It frequently resorts to the habitations of the farmers, and proves highly destructive to their poultry. It builds its nest in the clefts of trees; lines it inside with down and feathers, and lays from four to five white eggs.

GENUS. MILVUS.

Rostrum mediocre, debile superne subangulare. Nares obliquæ ellipticæ. Tarsi breves. Acrotarsia scutellata. Alæ longissimæ. Remex Atius longissimus; cauda furcata.

Bill moderately long, weak, and subangular above. Nostrils oblique, elliptical. Tarsi short. Acrotarsia scutellate. Wings very long. Fourth quill the longest. Tail forked.

MILVUS PARASITICUS. Kuikenduif of the Colonists.

Le parasite, *Le Vaillant Ois d'Afrique*, tom. 1, pl. 22.

M. capite colloque cinereo-fuscis, nigro lineatis; dorso et humeris fuscis; mento et gutture longitudinaliter striatis sub albo et nigro; pectore et abdomine subferrugineis striis nigris variegatis.

Male.—Bill and cere yellow; eyes dark brown; head and neck pale tawny, with each feather marked in the centre by a longitudinal black or blackish brown streak which includes the shaft; interscapulars, back, tail coverts, and shoulders brown, each feather tipped with a lighter tint; chin and throat streaked longitudinally with brown and dirty white; breast and belly dirty dull rufous, with a narrow stripe of black along the centre of each feather; under tail coverts and thighs rufous; primary and secondary wing coverts blackish brown, with light tips. Primary wing feathers black, mottled slightly with white on inner vanes towards quills; secondaries brown, with the inner vanes crossed by indistinct dusky bands, outer vanes sometimes of as dusky a hue as the bands. Tail slightly forked, reddish brown, with eight or nine narrow blackish transverse bands, and the tips of all the feathers reddish white: the bands are most distinct on the inner vanes, and below, on both, they are much more evident than above, being there black and nearly pure white; legs and toes yellow; claws black. Length from bill to base of tail eleven inches and a half; length of latter eight and a half.

Female.—With the exception of the rufous color being less

clear, the female, in most other respects, resembles the male; and there is not the great difference in size that occurs in many others of the family.

Young.—Bill black towards tip, light horn-colored at base; cere yellowish; irides brown; head and neck brown, with all the feathers broadly tipped with reddish white or tawny yellow; back brown, with the feathers tipped with tawny yellow or pale rufous; shoulders varied brown and tawny, with a longitudinal blackish streak along the centre of each feather; chin with longitudinal streaks of black and dirty tawny; breast with the feathers black in their centres, then tawny, and on the edges dirty rufous, the tips are also tawny; under tail coverts light tawny rufous; thighs with the centres of the feathers light brown, and the edges somewhat rufous. Primary and secondary wing coverts dark brown, tipped with tawny; primary wing feathers black, and the inner edges of inner vanes near quills much mottled with white, tips tawny rufous; secondaries blackish brown, indistinctly banded with dusky black, and all tipped with tawny. Tail grayish brown, with nine or ten blackish oblique transverse bands, and each feather broadly tipped with tawny; below the colors appear black and grayish white; legs and toes dull yellow; claws black. When it leaves the egg it is covered with a grayish down.

It feeds upon young chickens and other small birds, as well as carrion, and in search of such it evinces much courage, sometimes carrying them away from almost the very doors of farm-houses. It belongs to the migrating class of birds, and only spends the hot months of the summer in South Africa. During that period it is found very generally distributed over the whole colony, as well as over the country both to the northward and eastward of it, and usually resorts daily to the neighbourhood of inhabited places between the hours of ten and four. It breeds during its temporary residence; and "builds its nest commonly upon trees or rocks, but, when possible, prefers bushes in the neighbourhood of marshes, and lays four eggs spotted with reddish."

Obs.—Though Temminck has set this bird down as identical with the European species, yet I have no hesitation in viewing it as quite distinct. The bill of the South African bird is invariable fine yellow, and that, with many other less evident differences, which will, doubtless, be more clearly discovered by persons who possess good opportunities of comparing specimens of both countries, appears to me to warrant the conclusion.

The following species has been met with since those of the genus to which it belongs were described:

FALCO CUVIERII.

F. subcæruleus, gutture, albo; pectore et parte anteriore abdominis rubro-albis, maculis nigris, longitudinalibus notatis; parte posteriore abdominis, crisso et femoribus, ferrugineis; tarsis flavis.

Above grayish blue, with the shafts of many of the feathers black; a transverse black band or blotch beneath each eye; chin and front of neck white; breast and anterior part of belly reddish white, and variegated by many longitudinal black blotches; hinder part of belly, vent, under tail coverts, and thighs deep chesnut or ferruginous. Primary and secondary wing coverts deep grayish blue; primary and secondary quill feathers bluish black, the inner vanes banded transversely, towards quills, with light tawny. Tail somewhat rounded, the two middle feathers about an inch longer than either of the others, somewhat pointed, and of a grayish blue color; the outer vanes, and a narrow line over each eye, tawny white; base of bill bluish white; tip black. Tarsi and toes yellow; claws black. Length from bill to base of tail seven inches; length of tail six inches.

The specimen, of which the foregoing is the description, was obtained in Cafferland, near to the Kai River, and is said to be not unfrequent there.

ACCIPITER RUFIVENTRIS. *Vide page 231.*

At the time that the description of this bird was prepared, I had not (it now appears) seen a full grown specimen. When the plumage of maturity is attained, it is above of a dark slate color, and below white, closely banded on the throat, breast, and belly, by reddish brown transverse lines. The tail is dusky brown, with four broad transverse blackish bands, and two or more blotches or partial transverse broad white lines on the inner vanes of several of the central feathers.

(To be continued.)