

nishing the scanty stock that yet remains. The mode of cutting increases the evil, the practice of the peasantry almost invariably being to level the whole tract which they attack. The consequence is that there is a tolerably vigorous spring from the stocks. This is soon cut, when a more feeble spring takes place, and is again levelled, after which operation being repeated a few times, every remnant is annihilated, and the country reduced to the open waste it now exhibits. In the oak tribe it is of vast consequence to leave standard trees, as the fruit is not blown about, and has a scanty power of vegetation, which is soon lost by exposure to the air. The acorns fall in a mass underneath the tree, where they are soon devoured by various animals, or spring in situations where they cannot thrive, whilst the seeds of the sycamore, or ash or pines, are transported by the winds about, and have infinitely greater chance of being perpetuated. The ash grows along the foot of the Guadarrama range, but not farther south, to my knowledge. The elms, and poplars, and other trees of similar description are not intended to be noticed, being of little value, compared with the more important species enumerated.

Should it be intended seriously to establish woods and forests in Spain, which must be done before any regular improvement can take place, the quercus cerris, and probably the Apennina, and sessiliflora, which grows in the kingdom of Naples, ought to be introduced in the southern and middle provinces, and above all the larch, of which the value is quite unknown, and for which they have vast tracts of waste peculiarly suited.

It will be easily seen that naval resources for building may be said not to exist. With the exception of a small

quantity of the q. robur in the northern provinces, only to be obtained with great difficulty, and expence, there is in the wide range of this magnificent country, absolutely none available for such purposes.



P.C. Monumental de la Alhambra y Generalife
CONSEJERÍA DE CULTURA

CHAPTER XXIV.

Ornithology.

In the ornithology it is impossible to find assistance in the country, and very little information is to be obtained from natives or foreigners. Neither public nor private collections exist, and I never met with an individual who had attended regularly to the subject. No written account is to be found, and I entered the country without the actual local knowledge of a single species, and no other proof need be given of the paucity of information, than the imperfect and scanty notices of Temminck, where this country is spoken of. I sought in vain at Madrid, Paris, and London, in the public libraries, for the work quoted by him as the *Fauna Aragonensis*, and I never saw a list of Spanish birds in any language. The royal cabinet at Madrid contains scarcely any thing. An individual there, has a few specimens of birds found in the neighbourhood, very well set up by himself, but he was ignorant of their names, and so indifferent on the subject as to decline my offer of supplying them. This was the only thing I met with deserving the name of a collection. I have followed the nomenclature of Temminck, to whom the European ornithologist is so much indebted. It is needless

to observe that the *habitats* are those which fell under my own observation, and are not meant to convey the idea of the species being confined to those localities.

The plan has been followed of going down the orders, as preferable to arranging them by localities, which would have made it less clear and intelligible. The native names are not given, or account of their varying so much in the provinces, that only error would have resulted from it. In the quadrupeds and reptiles, the means are yet more scanty of obtaining information, and the same cause only which induced the making public the ornithological notices, induces me to offer these.

VULTURE.

The great ash coloured vulture, *v. cinereus*, is common in new Castile, where it is called the Franciscan vulture, from its colour resembling that of the habit of these monks.

THE TAWNY VULTURE.

V. fulvus, is in great numbers in Andalusia. Its favorite haunts seem to be the mouths of rivers. They are very numerous at Malaga, and I have seen them in the interior, on the great plain of Antequera. They breed at the back of the rock of Gibraltar, but no doubt chiefly in the lofty range of the Serrania de Ronda, and at Ape's hill. I have understood they are also to be seen in Castile*.

* The species alluded to is tawny, with dark tips to the wings. Whether it be the true *fulvus*, or the *Indicus*, I am ignorant, never having seen it, but on the wing.

THE CATHARTES PERCNOPTERUS.

The small or Maltese vulture, of which a young bird was shot in England in 1828, is in great numbers near Seville. They follow the plough in the manner of rooks, picking up the grubs, etc.

THE GYPAETES BARBATUS.

Or great Alpine vulture, is not uncommon in the Pyrennees, but I never heard of it in the interior.

FALCO.

I have never seen the first division of the falcons in Spain, but no doubt they are found in the Pyrennees, or Sierra Nevada.

THE F. ESALON.

Stone falcon, is common in the mountainous parts of the south, and is probably spread over great part of Spain.

F. TINNUNCULOIDES.

In the southern and middle regions, the beautiful species of *f. tinnunculoides* is found in vast numbers. They live in the cities, breeding in the lofty towers which have replaced the minarets of the Moors, enlivening the air with their loud notes, which are less dissonant than those of their congener the *tinnunculus*,

which they represent. They are in great numbers in the Giralda of Seville, and in all parts of the city. They remain long on the wing, in the manner of swallows. In the day time they may be seen chasing the beetles about the *palmetos*, or carrying off mice from the *cortijos*. They appear to have some attachment to each other. A very old male I shot on a cliff near Malaga, fell wounded, and scrambled to some distance; his female hovered close over him, shrieking and expressing the most lively interest in his fate. I never met with them in the northern region, where I suspect they are replaced by the *f. tinnunculus* or common kestrel, which is not seen in the other divisions. The most northern point I noticed them was at Toledo. I have never seen the real eagle in any part of Spain, or in the Pyrennees, although they no doubt inhabit part of them, but as I was two years successively in every part of the latter chain, without once observing them, they cannot be numerous.

THE F. NISUS.

Sparrowhawk, is seen in various parts of the country.

THE F. MILVUS.

Common kite, may be seen in the central parts.

THE F. CYARGUS.

Hen Harrier, is common about Granada, as it is at Rome; thus extending its range very widely over Europe.

THE OWLS.

STRIX FLAMMEA.

White owl, is common in most parts of Spain.

STRIX BRACHIOTUS.

Short eared owl. In Castile.

STRIX BUBO.

Great eared owl. Common in the Guadarrama range, and I believe also in the Serrania de Ronda. The latter may be the variety lately observed, differing as I have understood from the genuine bubo of the north.

STRIX SCOPS.

Common in the centre and southern regions.

CORVUS, CROW.

C. CORAX.

Raven, common all over Spain, especially near Granada, and the Sierra de Cuenca, and is seen in the northern provinces. On the road to Cuenca in a small defile was a nest which some hungry peasants were despoiling of the full fledged brood, in order to feast on these savoury morsels. They had calculated to a day the time, necessary to take them as they made their escape from the nest, but could not rise from the

ground. The old birds came from a great distance on hearing the noise of the young ones, who were aware of their danger before the man who descended the cliff reached them.

C. CORONE.

Carrion crow. In the north and south, in Asturias, and at Baza.

C. FRUGILEGUS.

Rook. In old Castile only, near Valladolid, where they probably breed in the pine forests, to the south of that city.

C. MONEDULA.

Jackdaw. In the central region and in the Sierra Morena, where they are seen in small flocks, being apparently expelled from the ruins by the Roller.

PICA, MAGPIE.

P. PICA.

Magpie. Common throughout Spain.

P. CYANEA.

Blue magpie. This beautiful species, which is so rare, as to have escaped the notice of Temminck, is common in new Castile, in the wooded parts, and is in vast numbers in the Sierra Morena, where they destroy the

fruits to such a degree, that a premium is given for their eggs. As the species is to be found in very few books (I have only seen it described in Wagler, besides Pallas, who, I believe, discovered it in Siberia), the general description is subjoined. They live in small flocks, generally spread into a line, are extremely watchful, and are constantly moving, in short flights, commonly in cover, feeding on the roads, or as food may offer. The head is black, the wings and tail light blue, breast and under body dun or dirty white. The body is small, the wings short, tail extremely long, and motions sprightly, like those of the common species.

I believe their range to be confined to the districts above mentioned.

C. GLANDARIUS.

Jay. Very common throughout Spain.

NUCIFRAGA CARYOCATACTES.

Nutcracker. In the Pyrennees.

PYRRHOCORAX PYRRHOCORAX.

Alpine crow. More common in the Pyrennees than in the Alps. They live in common with the Chough.

PYRRHOCORAX GRACULUS.

Cornish chough. In the Pyrennees, on the north coast of Spain, in the Sierra de Baza, and at Cuenca, thus covering the whole range of the country.

CORACIAS GARRULA.

Roller. This beautiful species, which connects in plumage the European birds with those of the tropical regions; is common in Castile, and Estremadura, but most so in lower Andalusia. They are in vast numbers in the ruined villages along the Guadalquivir, and in the Moorish castles, occupy the place of the jackdaw. They appear in April. I never saw them in the winter. They are sociable, living almost in the houses, and are not shy and solitary, as described in the books, which represent them frequenting the deepest recesses of the forests. They breed in the walls of the castle at Alcala de Guadaira and other places in the vicinity of Seville.

ORIOIUS GALBULA.

Golden oriole. Common in the Sierra Morena, and in new Castile; migratory.

STURNUS VULGARIS.

Common starling. Common throughout Spain, where the situation suits them. In vast numbers near Seville and Xeres. They are taken by nets in the former district, in caves, which they enter for warmth in winter.

STURNUS UNICOLOR.

Purple starling. This species, which I believe has

not been noticed on the continent of Europe, is very common in Castile, in Estremadura, and in Andalusia. They live in the decaying villages along the Guadalquivir, and are abundant in the city of Seville, breeding about the public buildings and convents. They are generally in small flocks, never with the other species. Their habits are just the same; their cry less harsh.

LANIUS. SHRIKE.

Lanius meridionalis, which might be termed the Spanish Shrike, as it is almost peculiar to the Peninsula, is in great numbers in Andalusia, and inhabits also Castile. In the former province it is stationary. It is, I believe the only European species which does not emigrate, and Spain is the only country where it hibernates.

LANIUS RUFUS.

Red headed shrike, arrives in vast numbers at the end of March, and spreads over the country, very many remaining in lower Andalusia. I never met with the other species, but they are most probably in the northern provinces.

MUSCICAPA, FLYCATCHER.

Muscicapa grisola. Spotted flycatcher. In Castile.
M. Luctuosa. Pied flycatcher. In Andalusia.

TURDUS, THRUSH.

T. VISCIVORUS.

Missel thrush. Is in great numbers in the south of

Spain; in those parts where the locality suits them. These birds, with many others, are compelled by circumstances to use food very different from their habits in other countries. One I shot in the forest of Macael, late in the autumn, when berries ought to have been its food, had the crop filled with bees.

T. PILARIS.

Fieldfare. Is rare in Andalusia, but probably in the northern and middle regions is not so, in the winter. I found it at the Fuente de Segura, where it was evidently a resident, in November.

T. MUSICUS.

Thrush. In vast numbers in the lower parts of the Sierra Nevada, and in the north of Spain, as no doubt in almost every wooded district.

T. ILIACUS.

Redwing. In great numbers in the Xeresano, lower Andalusia, in the winter. They probably breed in the Serrania de Ronda.

T. TORQUATUS.

Common in the high Pyrennees, and in the northern provinces, in the high districts.

I never met with the rare species, atrogularis or naumanni.

T. MERULA.

Black bird, Abundant wherever they find shelter.

T. CYANEUS.

Blue thrush. Common near Granada, Malaga, Ronda, and Gibraltar, and I saw it near Cape Peñas, the northern extremity of Spain; thus extending its range from the two extremes of latitude, and it probably may be found in the woody parts of the middle region.

T. SAXATILIS.

Rock thrush. Rare in the Pyrennees. I once saw it near Malaga, and between Pamplona and Vittoria.

CINCLUS AQUATICUS.

Dipper. Common in the high Pyrennees, and in some of the higher Sierras in different parts of Spain.

SILVIA.

Of the *Sylvia* my list is incomplete, from the time necessary to be resident in every place, and the difficulty of procuring specimens.

S. TURDOIDES.

Common in new Castile.

S. SUECICA.

In the neighbourhood of Madrid.

S. LUSCINIA.

Nightingale. In vast numbers, but not stationary, even in Andalusia.

S. MELANOCEPHALA.

Very abundant, wherever there is cover, in Andalusia, and in the Tierra Caliente, to which region they are nearly confined

S. CINEREA.

Common near Seville.

S. CONSPICILLATA

For which there is no English name. This beautiful species had not I believe been previously observed on the continent of Europe, but since my return, I have been informed by the prince of Musignano, to whom I imparted the fact of their living in Spain, that about the same time he had observed them near Civita Vecchia. They are stationary in Andalusia, frequenting in low and moist situations, and I suspect not much extended in their habitats. I found them in the marshy plain above Seville where they live with the cinerea and may easily be mistaken for them.

S. PROVINCIALIS.

Dartford warbler. Extremely abundant all through the south. In the arid deserts of the Tierra Caliente

the instant water is found in the barrancos, the oleander appears, and the sprightly form of this tiny species, gives a little life to the scene.

S. RUBECULA.

Red breast. In vast numbers through the whole of Spain.

S. TITHYS.

Black redstart. In great numbers in the southern region, where they are stationary. They chiefly inhabit the gravelly beds of torrents, and have the habits of saxicola. They are very numerous about Granada and Almeria. They seem, like some other species, to be sedentary only in Spain. In the supplement to the "specchio" of the prince Musignano, they are said not to remain at Rome in the winter.

S. PHENICURUS.

Not so common as the other species. It emigrates. I have seen it in Andalusia in the spring, and in old Castile. It is no doubt, more abundant in the northern region.

S. HIPPOLAIS.

Common in most parts where they find shelter.

S. CISTICOLA.

This species, which was discovered in Portugal, I sought in vain in Andalusia, never having seen a single

specimen, although I have passed vast tracts suited to it. The name is unfortunate, for at Rome, where they are abundant, they inhabit the marshes of Ostia, or the spots of broom of the campagna, where there are no cisti.

S. TROGLODYTES.

The *s. troglodytes* is very common.

SAXICOLA STONECHAT.

The vast stony wastes, which occupy so large a portion of the territory of Spain, are suited to the habits of these birds, and they abound in every part.

S. CACHINNANS.

Black stonechat, one of the European species the least common, is in very great numbers in the southern district, especially in Murcia and Granada. They are numerous on the sea coast, and to the limits of the great southern secondary range. I never saw them in the Sierra Morena, or beyond the line of Jaen and Cuenca. Their habits are entirely of *Saxicola*. They seem to prefer the dryest parts of the white limestone. They are in the habit of entering fissures of the rocks in search of shelter or food, and often dart to them when wounded, like rabbits. I lost three, which were wounded by a single shot, near Vera, in this manner. The only part of Europe they are known to inhabit besides, is the maritime Alps, where they are exceedingly wild. In Spain they are quite the contrary, coming almost into the houses, and may be seen in the Moorish citadels

at Malaga, Jaen, Almeria, etc. Their dark plumage, with their lively and constant motion, give life to many dreary districts. They are certainly more abundant on the limestone, but are not by any means confined to it.

S. OENANTHE

Common throughout the whole range of Spain.

S. STAPAZINA.

Common in new Castile, and in the higher parts of the Sierra Morena.

S. AURITA.

In new Castile, between Madrid and Tarancon*.

S. RUBETRA OR RUBICOLA.

In great numbers all through Spain. I believe both species are stationary.

ACCENTOR.

A. ALPINUS.

In great numbers in the Pyrennees, and they are seen on the coast near Alicante.

* If the idea of the Italian ornithologists be correct, that the aurita is the young of the stapasina, the rule of numbers is inversely to the usual proportion, for the aurita are by far the more rare, in Spain at least.

A. MODULARIS.

Hedge sparrow. Common where there is shelter.

MOTACILLA, WAGTAIL.

M. ALBA.

Common wagtail. Extremely numerous in the central region. Like some other species in this country, its habits appear to be modified by local situation. It is abundant in the driest and most arid parts of Castile, and in places the most opposite to its usual habitats.

I have sought in vain, as in Italy where I have examined many thousands, for the *M. lugubris* of Temminck.

M. FLAVA AND BOARULA.

Not uncommon throughout the country, but much less so than the preceding species.

ANTHUS, PIPIT.

A. RICARDI.

Near Vittoria.

A. ARBOREUS.

Tree pipit? The last bird seen in ascending the Sierra Nevada, as in the high moors of Northumberland.

ALAUDA, LARK.

A. CALANDRA.

Calander. Abundant in Castile and Estremadura. They are kept in cages, and are said to imitate the notes of other birds.

A. CRISTATA.

Crested lark. When the traveller issues from the passes of Guipuscoa, and enters the arid parched plains of Castile, he meets this bird, which never leaves him, save at the greater elevations, throughout the middle and southern regions. They are in vast numbers. No site is too dry or barren for them, and they abound in the Tierra Caliente, where no trace of verdure is to be seen, and where the saxicolæ alone are to be found besides. They seem to prefer the roads, and rise under the mules' feet, with a monotonous whistle, making a short rising flight, and perching on the rocks, or shrubs occasionally.

A. ARVENSIS.

Skylark. Common every where in the open country.

A. BRACHIDACTYLA.

Lesser calander. In spring, in the southern and middle regions. They probably emigrate.

PARUS, TITMOUSE.

This class is not common, but in the wooded and moister parts. As at Aranjuez, Valencia, and in the northern districts they are less rare.

P. BIARMICUS.

The bearded titmouse is found at Valencia and at Aranjuez.

At the latter place, is the caudatus.

The ceruleus is thinly spread throughout the country.

EMBERIZA, BUNTING.

E. MELANOCEPHALA.

Near Ronda?

E. CITRINELLA.

Common yellow hammer. In the north and middle regions.

E. MILIARIA.

Very common, quite throughout to the extreme south.

E. SCHOENICLUS.

In Aragon.