ORPHEUS WARBLER.

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Curruca Orphea, Mihi.
Bec-fin Orphée.

Although the present species differs in a trifling degree from the more typical examples of the genus *Curruca*, especially in having a stouter form of beak, which is more deep than wide, we do not feel ourselves at liberty to separate it on such slender grounds, as its general habits and form overbalance the minutiæ alluded to.

The Orpheus Warbler is an inhabitant of the southern provinces of Europe, and we have more than once received it in collections from India. According to M. Temminck, it is very abundant in Italy, particularly in Piedmont and Lombardy, and the southern departments of France. It is accidentally met with in Switzerland and the adjacent districts, but never occurs in more northern latitudes. On referring to the valuable little work of Professor Savi on the Ornithology of Tuscany, we learn that it is there a migratory bird, and much resembles in habits and manners the Common Whitethroat (Curruca cinerea, Bechst.). Its food consists of insects and berries, and it builds in bushes often in company with others of the same species. M. Temminck states, that in addition to bushes it also selects holes in ruins, old walls, or under the eaves of isolated buildings, as a site for incubation. The eggs are four or five in number, nearly white, irregularly marked with yellowish blotches and small brown dots.

The male has the top of the head and ear-coverts brownish black; the whole of the upper surface is of a cinereous brown, with a tinge of olive, the quills and tail being rather darker; the outer feathers on each side of the latter are white, tinged with reddish brown, which prevails more decidedly on the flanks and under tail coverts.

under tail-coverts.

The female resembles the male, except that the head is of the same colour as the rest of the plumage.

Our Plate represents a male and female of the natural size.