MOUNTAIN ACCENTOR.

Accentor montanellus, Temm.

L'Accenteur montagnard.

The most singular circumstance connected with the history of this little bird is, that the specimen from which our figure was taken is the only example we have ever seen, after having visited nearly all the continental collections.

On the authority of M. Temminck we give as its habitat the eastern portions of the middle of Europe, and the same latitudes in Asia. He adds that it was found by Pallas in eastern Siberia and in the Crimea, and that it is somewhat common in the Neapolitan States, in Dalmatia, and in the middle of Hungary.

The specimen above alluded to forms a part of the fine collection of the Imperial Cabinet of Natural History at Vienna, and was killed near the river Krems in Austria, by the late Rev. M. Kratki, curate of Mausling, in the year 1790. Before we had an opportunity of examining this "rara avis," we were inclined to believe it might be a variety of the common species (Accentor modularis), but we are now fully satisfied that our suspicion was groundless, and we can safely add our testimony to its specific value: it is moreover a typical example of the genus, and in affinity closely resembles the common Hedge Sparrow, from which it may be readily distinguished by the conspicuous stripe of buff over the eye, and by the general tawny hue of its under surface.

We cannot close our account of this interesting bird, without expressing our warmest thanks to the Directors of the Imperial Cabinet of Vienna, who, solely for the promotion of science, have encountered the risk of forwarding this valuable specimen from Vienna to London, for the purpose of enabling us to include a figure of it in "The Birds of Europe."

Crown of the head, and a broad stripe commencing at the base of the bill and running towards the back of the head deep brownish black; over each eye a broad and conspicuous stripe of buff; back and scapularies reddish ash with large longitudinal dashes of reddish brown; wings brownish ash bordered with reddish, the tips of the greater and lesser coverts yellowish, forming a double band across the wing; tail brown; all the under surface dull buff, varied on the breast by small dashes of brown, and on the flanks with longitudinal spots of reddish ash; bill yellow at the base and brown at the tip; feet brownish yellow.

Our figure is of the natural size.