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THE

BIRDS OF EUROPE.

BY

JOHN GOULD, F.L.S., &c.

IN FIVE VOLUMES.

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PREFACE.

IT has been frequently remarked that the productions of distant countries have received a much larger share of attention than those objects by which we are more immediately surrounded; and it is certainly true, that while numerous and costly illustrations have made us acquainted with the Ornithology of most other parts of the world, the Birds of Europe, in which we are, or ought to be, most interested, have not received that degree of attention which they naturally demand. The present work has been undertaken to supply this deficiency, and I cannot but feel highly gratified that a number of concurring circumstances have enabled me to carry my intentions into effect with comparative facility, and I hope to the entire satisfaction of the whole of the subscribers; this I am induced to believe is the case from the patronage with which the work has been honoured since its commencement.

My reasons for undertaking a work comprising the Ornithology of the whole of Europe are sufficiently obvious: in the first place, no publication of a similar kind had been completed, although several had been commenced; and secondly, a work exclusively confined to the British Fauna would never be perfect for any length of time, owing to the frequent accession of other species from various European localities; besides which I was desirous of rendering my work interesting to the continental ornithologist as well as to those of our own country. I have used my best exertions to render it as perfect as possible up to the present time, for which purpose I have visited nearly all the continental collections with the view of examining personally every bird before figuring it; but should additional species reward the zeal and ardour with which natural history is now cultivated (which I doubt not will be the case), I propose to publish them from time to time in the form of a Supplement, and by this means keep the work as nearly complete as possible. I have omitted a few of the species enumerated in the lists of continental authors, in consequence either of my never having met with specimens of the

birds, or because I am doubtful as to the propriety of their being separated from other known species*.

In my arrangement of the species I have followed with some very slight modifications the views of Mr. Vigors, which are now so generally adopted in this country. In the subdivision of the genera I have perhaps gone further than most other ornithologists, but at the same time I feel convinced that these subdivisions are naturally indicated; that they tend to facilitate the studies of the naturalist; and that some of the groups might have been still further divided with propriety. In a few instances the characters of some of the minor subgenera have been inadvertently omitted; but this omission will not be found of any material consequence. The generic characters accompanying *Totanus hypoleucus* should be cancelled, as they have been previously given with *Totanus fuscus*. I am also aware that some other trifling errors have occurred, but I trust they will be looked upon with leniency when it is taken into consideration that the work has been commenced and completed in the short space of five years amidst numerous other avocations.

It would argue a want of gratitude in me were I to omit acknowledging the facilities which the Council of the Zoological Society have afforded me in this undertaking, and their kindness in permitting me to dedicate the work to them. I also conceive that I am considerably indebted for the success of my publication to the more general diffusion of a taste for natural history, towards which that admirable Society has so largely and successfully contributed, and to which in a great measure must be attributed the favourable reception which works of Natural History now so universally meet with; and I am also deeply indebted to the Council for the liberality with which I have at all times been allowed to avail myself of the treasures contained in the Society's Museum. To the national establishment, the British Museum,

* *Viz.*—Corvus leucophæus, a variety of Corvus corax.
——— spermologus, a variety of Corvus monedula?
Alauda Dupontii (Certhilauda bifasciata?).
——— Kollyii.
Emberiza provincialis.
Fringilla incerta.
——— borealis.
Hemipodius lunatus, synonymous with Hem. tachydromus; and
Larus capistratus.

I am similarly indebted, and would here beg to express my thanks to its officers for the many attentions I have received from them. From most of the public Museums of the Continent I have received much assistance. To M. Temminck, Director of the Royal Museum at Leyden, so well known for his valuable works on Natural History, I beg to offer my most grateful acknowledgments for the assistance he has afforded me, without which my work would necessarily have been long delayed, and in fact could never have been brought to that complete state in which I am happy to say it now stands: so great indeed has been the liberality of this eminent naturalist, that he has even confided new species to my care, and allowed me to figure and describe them in my work before including them in his own; and his liberality will, I doubt not, be duly appreciated by the scientific public. In Professor Lichtenstein of Berlin I have met with another kind and liberal friend, to whom I am indebted for the use of several of the rarer European Birds, among which were some of the original specimens collected by the celebrated Pallas. To M. Schreibers and MM. Natterer of Vienna I am also under great obligations, as well as to the gentlemen connected with the collections of Paris and Frankfort, who readily afforded me every assistance I required. To the collection of the Baron Feldegg of Frankfort I have had free access, and to this gentleman I am indebted for the use of many rarities, and of some species entirely new to science. To William Yarrell, Esq., I shall ever feel deeply grateful, for the judicious and kind assistance which he has at all times rendered me, and for the use of many valuable specimens from his excellent collection. My ever lamented friend, E. T. Bennett, Esq., was at all times much interested in my publications; I am therefore proud to add my grateful testimony to his varied talents and kind and amiable conduct upon every occasion; and of the numerous individuals honoured by his friendship there is none who more sincerely deplores his untimely decease than myself. To the Earl of Derby, the Honourable W. T. T. Fiennes, Sir William Jardine, Bart, N. A. Vigors, Esq., W. H. Rudston Read, Esq., T. B. L. Baker, Esq., J. J. Audubon, Esq., Captain S. E. Cook, A. Waterhouse, Esq., of Liverpool, Dr. De Jersey, E. H. Reynard, Esq., and to several other gentlemen my thanks are likewise due, for the warm interest which they have at all times taken in the present work. Neither must the valuable assistance afforded me by Mr. Martin of the Zoological Society be forgotten. In conclusion I would beg leave to return my grateful thanks to the whole of the subscribers for the support with which they have been pleased to favour me.

Perhaps I may be allowed to add, that not only by far the greater number of the Plates of this work, but all those of my "Century of Birds," of the "Monograph of the Trogons," and at least three-fourths of the "Monograph of the Toucans" have been drawn and lithographed by Mrs. Gould, from sketches and designs by myself always taken from nature. The remainder of the drawings have been made by Mr. Lear, whose abilities as an artist are so generally acknowledged that any comments of my own are unnecessary. With the opportunities still in my power I should consider myself to blame were I not to continue in the course I have hitherto pursued in the study and illustration of subjects in ornithology; and it is my intention, so long as permitted, steadily to use my humble efforts to advance this delightful branch of natural science. My thanks are due to Mr. Bayfield, under whose direction the whole of the Plates have been carefully and accurately coloured, and in fact too much praise cannot be accorded to the unceasing attention with which he has at all times afforded his assistance. The plates have been printed by Mr. Hullmandel, and the letter-press by Mr. R. Taylor; and these portions of the work have I trust been satisfactorily executed.

JOHN GOULD.

August 1, 1837.

INTRODUCTION.

IF we examine the geographical situation of the British Islands in relation to continental Europe, we cannot but perceive the advantages offered, as a point of observation to the naturalist, wherein to study, among other interesting facts connected with the habits of the feathered race indigenous in our portion of the globe, the periodical migrations undertaken by so many species, the time of their arrival and retreat from our shores, together with the ends to be answered both by their visit and departure. As regards temperature, no less than relative situation, are these islands favourable for a series of such observations: we need scarcely say that, placed to the westward of Europe, they occupy a medium station between the extremes of heat and cold: no portion indeed of the European continent advances within the line of the intertropics; still, however, the southern shores of Spain, Italy, and Turkey in Europe, together with the minor islands of the Grecian Archipelago, participate so nearly in the temperature of the hotter portions of the globe as to present us with many natural productions whose congenial habitat is exclusively beneath a sultry sky. But the summer heat of England never rises above a moderate degree of temperature, and the severities of winter are mild in proportion; on the other hand, if we visit the extreme north of the European continent, we there find a climate, the severities of which in winter are extreme, while the summer, though hot while it lasts, endures but for a short period.

We will not attempt to discuss the subject of the universal law of migration further than to observe that its immediate intention is the well-being of such species as would be deprived of their natural food were they to remain stationary in any given locality; in addition to which it is essential in another point of view, inasmuch as by its operation there is secured both a

temperature congenial to the young, and an abundant supply of food suitable for their nourishment; we here allude more particularly to our summer visitants which have left the climate of Africa, too hot to be borne in summer, but well adapted for their winter retreat. A reverse of these circumstances takes place among our winter visitors; the high polar latitudes are their summer residence; but on the setting in of the cold in those regions the supply of food necessarily fails them, and this, with the extreme rigour of the climate, forces them to sojourn for a while in more temperate latitudes; hence while the Swallow, the Cuckoo, the Nightingale, many species of soft-billed Warblers, and numerous others visit us in spring from the south, for the purpose of nidification, and leave us on the approach of winter; the Fieldfare, the Redwing, the Woodcock, and various aquatic birds find a winter asylum with us, and depart again in spring to make room for a new succession of visitors. Independently, however, of the numerous migratory birds which are only temporary residents, a large number of species permanently remain in our latitudes; yet strange to say, of many of these the number is greatly augmented, especially during winter, by accessions from the north, among which latter are some of the smallest and most delicate of their race; we may mention the Golden-crested Wren as an example in point. Instances are not wanting of the arrival of multitudes of this species on our shores, but in such a state of exhaustion as to be almost powerless. In the case of the Lark and the Thrush, which also visit us in great numbers, the performance of a flight across the German Ocean does not much surprise us; but when we examine this little bird, which is by no means adapted for long-sustained aërial progression, we are at a loss to conceive how such a migration could have been performed. It is, however, only one amongst the many wonders of nature which are continually forced upon the attention of the naturalist.

So much has already been written on the structural adaptation of birds to their respective habits, and on their periodical changes of plumage, that we may be readily excused if we omit any detail connected with these points, more especially as they rather belong to the physiology of the feathered race, than to the natural history of the species of one quarter of the globe.

While the strictly tropical climates of the world abound with species infinitely diversified in form, and often adorned with the richest hues, the Birds of Europe are not only far

less specifically numerous, but with the exception of a very few, arrayed also in the most sombre livery, an inferiority however amply compensated by their superiority of song.

At the present time the Fauna of Europe may be fairly stated to contain four hundred and sixty-two species, of which three hundred and ten may be regarded as British; of the latter number about one hundred and seventy are permanent residents in our islands; eighty-five are summer birds of passage, visiting us from the south; and forty-five from the north make our shores their winter residence.

In our arrangement we have classed and subdivided the groups (as nearly as may be) after the plan proposed by Mr. Vigors. They form five volumes, the first of which comprises the whole of the birds of the Raptorial Order, an order containing, as implied by the name, the sanguinary and ferocious of the feathered race, among which are included not only the large tyrants of the air, the Eagles, the Falcons, the Owls, &c., which make living animals their prey; but also the Vultures, which gorge upon any loathsome carrion that chance throws in their way.

Our second and third volumes comprise the species contained in the second order, termed Insessores, or perching birds; an extensive order, in which are included birds varying in their powers of flight and in their habits no less than in their food; some, like the Swallow, taking their insect prey on the wing, others pursuing it among the branches of trees and thickets; others feed indifferently upon insects, their larvæ, and upon grain; and others, eminently arboreal, (such as the Woodpeckers) search for their food among the crevices of the bark of trees, for which purpose they are expressly and beautifully organized.

To these succeed the Rasorial and Grallatorial Orders, both of which are included in our fourth volume. The Pigeons, at the head of the Rasores, as their perching habits indicate, naturally lead from the last order to the more typical of the Gallinaceæ, which are well represented by the Pheasant, Partridge, and Grouse, whose food and habits it is unnecessary to describe; and from thence to the Grallatores, represented by the Cranes, Herons, Storks, Sandpipers and Gallinules. The first of these, the Cranes, which are more granivorous in their habits,

may be regarded as exhibiting some degree of affinity to the previous order, while at the same time they distinctly lead through a succession of forms, such as the Spoonbills, Storks, Herons, and Gallinules, to the true water birds, to which in their aquatic habits the Gallinules very beautifully approximate.

Our fifth volume contains the birds of the Natatorial Order, or swimming birds, which are represented by the Ducks, Grebes, Divers, Auks, Pelicans and Gulls; the aerial representative of one of these latter groups, viz. the *Tachypetes*, or Frigate Bird, among the Pelicans, exhibits several traits of resemblance to the Raptores, or birds of prey.

GENERAL LIST OF PLATES.

Note.—As the arrangement of the Plates during the course of publication was found to be impracticable, the Numbers here given will refer to the Plates when arranged, and the work may be quoted by them.

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GRIFFON VULTURE.

Vulture fulvus. *(Linn.)*

Drawn from Life & on Stone by J. & E. Gould. *Printed by C. Hullmandel.*



CINEREUS VULTURE.

Vulture cinereus; *(Linn.)*.

Drawn from Nature & on Stone by J & E. Gould.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



EGYPTIAN NEOPHRON.

Neophron Percnopterus; (*Savig.*).

E. Lear del et lithog.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



BEARDED VULTURE OR LŒMMER GEYER.

Gypaëtus barbatus; *(Storr)*

Drawn from Life & on Stone by J & E. Gould.

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IMPERIAL EAGLE.

Aquila Imperialis.

Drawn from Nature & on Stone by J. & E. Gould.

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GOLDEN EAGLE.

Aquila chrysaëta. *(Brifs.)*

E. Lear del. et lithog.

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BONELLI'S EAGLE.

Aquila Bonelli.
Falco---------- *(Temm.)*

Drawn from Nature & on stone by J & E. Gould.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



SPOTTED EAGLE.

Aquila nævia; *(Meyer).*

E. Lear del.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



BOOTED EAGLE.

Aquila pennata; (Steph.)

Drawn from Nature & on Stone by J. & E. Gould.

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SEA EAGLE.

Haliætus albicilla; *(Selby).*

E. Lear del et lithog.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



WHITE HEADED EAGLE.

Haliætus leucocephalus; *(Savigny).*

E. Lear del. et lithog. *Printed by C. Hullmandel.*



OSPREY.

Pandion haliætus; *(Savig.)*

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SHORT-TOED EAGLE.

Circaëtus brachydactylus; *(Vieill.)*

E. Lear del et lith.

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COMMON BUZZARD.

Buteo vulgaris; *(Bechst).*

E. Lear del. et lithog.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD.

Buteo Lagopus; *(Flem.)*

E. Lear del et lith.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



HONEY BUZZARD.

Pernis apivorus; *(Cuv.)*

Drawn from Nature & on stone by J. & E. Gould. *Printed by C. Hullmandel.*



GOSHAWK.

Astur Palumbarius, *(Bechst)*

Drawn from Nature & on Stone by J. & E. Gould.

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SPARROW HAWK.

Accipiter fringillarius, *(Ray).*

Falco nisus; *(Linn.)*

Drawn from Life & on Stone by J. & E. Gould.

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JER FALCON.

Falco Islandicus, *(Lath).*

Drawn from Life & on Stone by J. & E. Gould.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



LANNER FALCON.

Falco lanarius, *(Linn.)*

E. Lear del et lith.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



PEREGRINE FALCON.

Falco peregrinus. *(Linn.)*

E Lear del. Printed by C Hullmandel.



HOBBY.

Falco subbuteo: *(Linn.)*

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RED FOOTED FALCON.

Falco rufipes. *(Bechst)*

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MERLIN.

Falco æsalon: *(Temm.)*

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LEAD-COLOURED FALCON.

Falco concolor; *(Temm.)*

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KESTREL.

Falco tinnunculus; *(Linn.)*

Drawn on Stone by E. Lear.

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LESSER KESTRIL.

Falco tinnunculoides. *(Natter).*

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KITE.

Milvus vulgaris (*Flem.*)

E. Learder & Wing.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



BLACK KITE.
Milvus ater

E Lear del

Printed by C. Ehlmann & Co



SWALLOW TAILED KITE.

Nauclerus furcatus. *(Vig.)*

Drawn from Nature & on Stone by J. & E. Gould.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



BLACK-WINGED KITE.

Elanus melanopterus *(Steph.)*

Drawn from Nature & on Stone by J. & E. Gould.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.

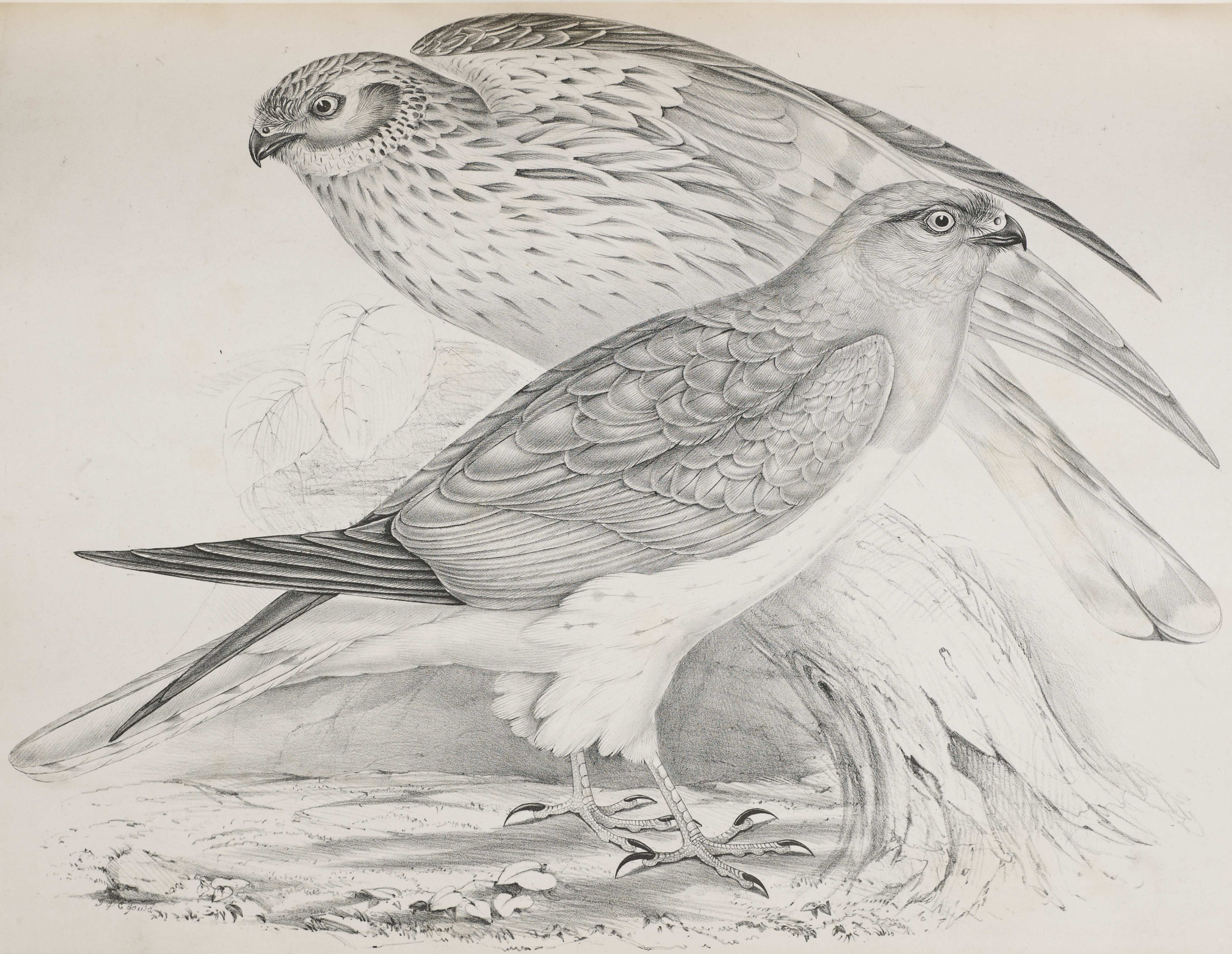


MARSH HARRIER.

Circus rufus (Briss.)

E. Lear del et lith.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



HEN HARRIER.

Circus cyaneus. *Flem.*

Drawn from Nature & on stone by J. & E. Gould.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



PALLID HARRIER.
Circus pallidus; (Sykes.)

Drawn from Nature by W. Stone Esq.r & E. Gould.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



ASH-COLOURED HARRIER.

Circus cineraceus, (*Meyer*).

Drawn from Nature & on Stone by J. & E. Gould. Printed by C. Hullmandel.



E. Lear. del.

BARN OWL.

Strix flammea; *(Linn.)*.

Drawn from Life & on Stone for J. & E. Gould.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



EAGLE OWL.

Bubo maximus *(Sibbald)*.

Drawn on Stone by E. Lear.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



EASTERN GREAT HORNED OWL.

Bubo Ascalaphus.

E. Lear del. et lith.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



LONG EARED OWL.

Strix otus. *(Linn.)*

Otus vulgaris. *(Flem.)*

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SHORT-EARED OWL.

Strix Brachyotos; *(Linn.)*
Otus Brachyotos; *(Cuv.)*

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SCOPS-EARED OWL.

Scops Aldrovandi; *(Will and Ray.)*

Drawn from Nature & on Stone by J & E. Gould.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



GREAT CINEREOUS OWL.

Strix Lapponica, *(Retz.)*
——— cinerea; *(Gmel.)*
Surnia cinerea.

E Lear del.

Printed by C Hullmandel.

E. Lear. del.

E. Lear. del et lith.

SNOWY OWL.

Strix Nyctea, *(Linn.)*
Surnia Nyctea, *(Dum.)*

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



URAL OWL.

Surnia Uralensis.

Drawn from Nature & on Stone by J. & E. Gould.

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HAWK OWL.

Surnia funerea; *(Dumeril.*
Strix funerea; *(Gmel:).*

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BARRED OWL.
Surix nebulosa, (Linn.)
Ulula _____ . (Cuv.)

E. Lear del et lith.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



TAWNY OR WOOD OWL.

Strix aluco *(Linn.)*
Surnia ——— *(Dum.)*

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LITTLE OWL.

Strix nudipes. *(Nilsson).*

Noctua nudipes. *(Mihi).*

E. Lear del. et lith.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



TENGMALM'S OWL.

Strix Tengmalmi, *(Gmel.)*
Noctua Tengmalmi, *(Selb.)*

E. Lear del. et lith.

Printed by C. Hullmandel.



SPARROW OWL.

Strix passerina, *(Linn.)*

Noctua _____ *(Mihi).*

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