

INTRODUCTION.

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243. Poëphila acuticauda, <i>Gould</i>	Vol. III. Pl. 90.
244. Poëphila personata, <i>Gould</i>	Vol. III. Pl. 91.
245. Poëphila leucotis, <i>Gould</i>	Vol. III. Pl. 92.
246. Poëphila cincta, <i>Gould</i>	Vol. III. Pl. 93.

Genus DONACOLA, *Gould*.

Generic characters.

As in the genus *Amadina*, but with the *bill* much more developed and gibbose at the base, with the *culmen* elevated and the lower mandible retiring backward on the face; *wings* shorter and rounder; feet more adapted for clinging, and remarkable for the greater development of the hind-toe and nail; *tail*-feathers rigid.

247. Donacola castaneothorax, <i>Gould</i>	Vol. III. Pl. 94.
248. Donacola pectoralis, <i>Gould</i>	Vol. III. Pl. 95.
249. Donacola flaviprymna, <i>Gould</i>	Vol. III. Pl. 96.

Genus EMBLEMA, *Gould*.

Generic characters.

Bill nearly as long as the head, conical, and much resembling that of the genus *Ploceus*; *wings* moderately long as compared with the body; first quill rudimentary, the four next equal in length; *tertiaries* much lengthened; *tail* moderately long and nearly square, or slightly rounded; *feet* plantigrade; *toes* extremely slender, the middle toe much longer than the lateral ones, which are equal in length.

250. Emblema picta, <i>Gould</i>	Vol. III. Pl. 97.
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The single example of this beautiful bird, which was procured and presented to me by B. Bynoe, Esq., is I believe all that has ever been seen; I regret to say it no longer graces my collection, having been stolen therefrom, together with some other valuable birds, in the year 1846.

Family MERULIDÆ, *Vig*.

Genus PITTA, *Vieill*.

The members of this genus extend from tropical India throughout the islands of the Indian Archipelago to Australia; one or two species also occur in Africa. Of the three inhabiting Australia the *Pitta Iris* is figured for the first time in the present work, and is one of the very finest species of this lovely group of birds.

251. Pitta strepitans, <i>Temm</i> .	Vol. IV. Pl. 1.
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Since my account of this species was printed I have received its eggs, accompanied by the following notes from Mr. Strange of Sydney:—

“I never saw any bird whose actions are more graceful than those of the *Pitta strepitans*, when seen in its native brushes, where its presence is indicated by its singular call, resembling the words ‘*want a watch*,’ by imitating which you can call it close to the muzzle of your gun; no sooner, however, does it commence breeding than it becomes shy and retiring, keeping out of sight in the most artful manner, moving about from place to place, and occasionally uttering its cry until it has drawn you away from the nest. The nests I have seen were placed in the spur of a fig-tree near the ground, outwardly constructed of sticks and lined with moss, leaves and fine pieces of bark; the eggs are four in number,” of a pale creamy-white marked all over with irregularly-shaped blotches of brown and deep vinous grey, the latter appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell; they are one inch and a quarter in length by seven-eighths of an inch in breadth.