as well as peas and lupins. In order to obtain Alhagi seeds, I have seen this Pheasant frequenting the Saxaul woods (Holoxylon ammodendron) near the river Karakol. On the Syr (Jaxartes) all these haunts are frequented by Phasianus mongolicus; but this bird is also very commonly found in the dense reeds of summer-drying swamps, a kind of locality in which I never met with an Oxus Pheasant. The flocks of this last species, though often dispersed during the day, gather themselves together more closely at night, which they generally pass in the densest bushes, as in summer. I have also found them assembling for the night on the walls of abandoned and deserted farm-yards, which on the Oxus, as well as in Turkestan, are built of clay, in the form of small fortresses.

"In the autumn, and in all probability in the winter too, this Pheasant feeds the whole day long, and grows very fat, even before the moult is finished; whereas in summer, as we have seen, it feeds only in the morning and evening, resting during the heat of the day in the shade of the jungle. Its flesh is white and tender, rendering it a first-rate bird for the table. When flushed, it flies at first perpendicularly with a great noise about ten or twelve yards high in the air, then horizontally at the same height for about a hundred yards, and at last sinks obliquely into the jungle, where it is not easy to find again, even though the spot be correctly marked; its flight is very short and heavy, though rapid. In dense bushes it will run in front of the sportsman, until it decides on flight; in open spaces also it runs out of reach of shot; and winged birds can go at a great rate of speed. In some places, such for instance as the Karakol and near the Dankara Lake, they are plentiful enough to be hunted profitably without a dog; but this is not the case where they are scarcer, as near Petroalexandrowsk. A dog, however, is more useful to scent out where a Pheasant is hidden in the bush, as it is not much use trying to follow a dog in the jungle, especially as a Pheasant never makes a stand, but keeps on running continually before the dog, just as a Landrail does. I have never seen a dog bring one of these Pheasants to perch, as is related of P. colchicus in the Caucasus; and indeed P. chrysomelas is eminently a ground-bird, perching only exceptionally, although commencing to do so at an earlier season than P. mongolicus. This latter species I have only seen perch in the depth of winter, viz. on two occasions in January 1875, and never before, during many years of observation. Both the species mentioned were seen to perch only in Eleagnus trees.

"The female of *P. chrysomelas* is, both in proportions and general colouring, exceedingly like the female of *P. mongolicus*; on an average, however, the head is smaller, the bill and the feet more slender, and the toes somewhat shorter; but these characters vary with individuals of both species, as also do the details of coloration. The only difference that I found to be more constant is to be noticed in the black markings of the hind neck (cervix); the female of *P. chrysomelas* has each feather on this part marked with a single black horse-shoe of variable shape, while the female of *P. mongolicus* has two large transverse oval spots: but the three females of *P. chrysomelas* which I possess can scarcely be considered sufficient to fix these characters as constant."

In conclusion I may state that the figure in the plate is taken from one of Dr. Severtzoff's typical specimens, given by him to Mr. Osbert Salvin. From Mr. Salvin this fine bird passed to my own collection, which contains a complete series of this group of birds.

My readers will have no difficulty in perceiving the masterly hand of Mr. Wolf in the outline of both the drawings of Pheasants in the present part.

The principal figure on the accompanying Plate is about one tenth less than the natural size.