HÆMATORTYX SANGUINICEPS, *Sharpe.*

Crimson-vented Partridge.

Hæmatortyx sanguiniceps, Sharpe, Ibis, 1879, p. 266.

But a few years have elapsed since the name of the Lawas river in North-western Borneo was impressed upon the minds of ornithologists by the discovery of the fine new Pheasant which was described as *Lobiophasis bulweri* by Mr. Sharpe, and figured by me in the present work. I have now the pleasure of introducing to my readers another game-bird from the same locality, which, although not so showy as the Bulwer's Pheasant, is almost as interesting a novelty as that bird. The present species has been described by Mr. Bowdler Sharpe, and has been by him very rightly made the type of a new genus. The bird bears a certain resemblance to the Crested Partridges of Malacca and Borneo belonging to the genus *Rollulus*; and Mr. Treacher, the discoverer of the new species, says that it is known to the natives by the name of *Serookan*, which is the same name that they apply to the *Rollulus*. The genus *Hæmatortyx* differs from *Rollulus* in having a larger nail to the hind toe, but more especially by the form of the crest,—very feebly developed in the former genus, which likewise entirely wants the long hairs of the forehead that form such a distinguishing feature in *Rollulus*.

Only one single specimen was obtained by Mr. Treacher; and this typical bird is now in the Oxford Museum along with the rest of that gentleman's collection. Unfortunately no particulars were sent with the bird; so that not only are we ignorant of its habits, but even the sex of the specimen itself was not declared; hence it is impossible to hazard even a conjecture as to whether the bird is a male or a female. To settle this point one ought to look for the spur on the leg: there is none, however, and yet the bird has all the appearance of being a male.

The following description is taken from Mr. Sharpe's paper in 'The Ibis:'—

"*Adult.* General colour above dark sepia-brown; the wings like the back; tail-feathers blackish; crown of head, which is slightly crested, deep crimson, the nape also of this colour, with blackish tips to the feathers, all the plumes of the crown with narrow buff shaft-lines; sides of face dull crimson; the ear-coverts, cheeks, and throat light fawn-colour, with a slight wash of crimson on the chin; lower throat, fore neck, and chest deep chestnut; remainder of under surface of body dark sepia-brown, with paler edges to most of the feathers; under wing-coverts like the breast; under tail-coverts black, the longer ones bright crimson. Total length 12·5 inches, culmen 0·85, wing 5·85, tail 2·8, tarsus 1·85."

The Plate represents two figures drawn from the typical specimen, of about the size of life. I am indebted to Professor Rolleston for permission to draw the unique specimen in the Oxford Museum.