

## YUNX INDICA, Gould.

### Indian Wryneck.

*Yunx Indica*, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., November 13, 1849.

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It is a remarkable fact, that while the researches of modern naturalists have rendered it necessary to restrict or to subdivide nearly all the genera proposed by the earlier writers, the genus *Yunx* has not only remained unchanged, but without a synonym, which is doubtless to be attributed to the circumstance of only one species of the form, the *Yunx torquilla* of Europe, having been known for nearly one hundred years after the period (1748) when the genus was established by the celebrated Linnæus: in 1831 Mr. Vigors described a second species, from Southern Africa, under the name of *Y. pectoralis*; in 1845 Dr. Rüppell described and figured a third, from Abyssinia, as *Y. Æquatorialis*; and I now have the gratification of characterizing a fourth species of this limited group as the *Y. Indica*; it is from the western portion of India, the fauna of which country comprises additional species of so many of the rarer European genera, such as *Nucifraga*, *Strobilophaga*, &c., that it would have been remarkable indeed if no addition to this form had been found there.

The Indian Wryneck is most nearly allied to the *Y. pectoralis*, but differs from that species in being of a larger size; in the lighter hue of the centre of the abdomen; in the striæ down the centre of the abdominal feathers being less strongly defined; in the under tail-coverts being pale buff instead of rufous; and in the tarsi and feet being, apparently, yellowish flesh-colour instead of brown: it is more distantly allied to the *Y. Æquatorialis*, but that bird is at once rendered conspicuously different by the red colouring of the throat descending to the breast and upper part of the abdomen, and by the ferruginous hue of its under tail-coverts.

I regret to say that the only information I have to communicate respecting this new species is, that I obtained it, together with a few other rare and new birds, which I believe had been collected in Afghanistan and Thibet; a belief, which is strengthened by Lord Arthur Hay having informed me that some of the same species had been shot by him in those countries; Mr. Bartlett also informs me that he has seen a second example in a collection of Indian birds, the precise locality of which was unknown to him. Its habits, manners and general economy are doubtless very similar to those of the other members of the genus.

Upper surface pale brown, finely freckled with grey, and blotched, particularly down the back of the neck, on the centre of the back, and on the wing-coverts, with brownish black; primaries brown, crossed on their outer webs with regular bands of deep buff, and toothed on their inner webs with the same hue; remainder of the wing-feathers like the upper surface, but crossed by broad irregular bands of brown; tail like the upper surface, but crossed by narrow irregular bands of brownish black; sides of the throat and neck crossed by numerous narrow bars of blackish brown; the cheeks the same, but somewhat paler; on the centre of the throat a spatulate mark of chestnut-red; centre of the abdomen and under tail-coverts pale buffy white, with a fine stripe of brownish black down the centre of each feather; flanks crossed by irregular bars of brownish black; bill pale horn-colour, deeper at the tip; legs apparently yellowish flesh-colour.

The figures are of the natural size.