HEMICERCUS CONCRETUS.

(Javan Heart-spotted Woodpecker.)

Picus concretus, Temm. Pl. Col. iv. pl. 90. figs. 1, 2 (1824).—Steph. Gen. Zool. xiv. p. 160 (1826).—Wagl. Syst. Av. *Picus*, sp. 70, Addit. sp. 4 (1827).—Less. Traité, p. 221 (1831).—Sundev. Consp. Av. Picin. p. 11 (1866).

Hemicircus concretus, Swains. Classif. B. ii. p. 306 (1836).—Gray, List Gen. B. 1840, p. 54.—Id. Cat. *Picidæ* B. M. p. 70 (1868).

Hemicercus concretus, Gray, List Gen. B. 1841, p. 70.—Id. Gen. B. ii. p. 437 (1845).—Bp. Consp. i. p. 129 (1850). —Reich. Handb. Picin. p. 401, pl. dclvi. figs. 4361-62 (1854).—Bp. Consp. Vol. Zygod. p. 9 (1854).—Blyth, J. A. S. B. 1855, p. 272.—Cab. & Heine, Mus. Hein. Th. iv. p. 178 (1863).—Scl. P. Z. S. 1863, p. 211.—Salvad. Ucc. Born. p. 47 (1874).

Micropicus concretus, Malh. Mém. Acad. Metz, 1849, p. 331.—Id. Monogr. Picid. i. p. 187, pl. 41. figs. 1, 2, 3.

It is principally with a view to the more correct understanding of these difficult little Woodpeckers that I have been induced to figure this species and its allies in the present number of the 'Birds of Asia.' Of their habits and economy we know next to nothing; indeed the actual number of species to be recognized is a question as yet unsettled among ornithologists; but after a careful examination of a good series of skins in my collection, I have come to the conclusion that the birds here figured by me are specifically distinct.

Writing in 1863, Dr. Sclater recognized three species of this group of the genus *Hemicercus*, viz. *H. concretus* (Temm.) from Java, *H. sordidus* (Eyton) from Malacca, and *H. coccometopus*, Reich., of Sumatra and Borneo. In his well-known work on the avifauna of Borneo, Count Salvadori recognizes four species, of all of which he gives the diagnostic characters; and he admits Malherbe's *H. hartlaubi* as a good species in addition to those mentioned by Dr. Sclater, while *H. coccometopus* he declares to be the true *H. sordidus* of Mr. Eyton; and, finally, he describes a fourth species, *H. brookeanus* (of which the *H. sordidus* of Dr. Sclater's paper is a synonym). I have not at present specimens of the latter or of *P. sordidus*, but have seen both in the British Museum, and consider them quite distinct. I may add that the bird here figured is the best-characterized of all, being distinguished at a glance by its buffy-coloured forehead. It is only found in Java and Borneo.

Adult male.—Above black, all the feathers banded and edged with white, the whole of the back being marked in this manner; rump creamy white; upper tail-coverts black, tipped with whitish; tail black; wing-coverts coloured exactly like the back; quills black, whitish towards the base of the inner web; the secondaries externally spotted with creamy white, the innermost banded across with white, and thus resembling the back; crown of head pale fawn-buff, ending in a long occipital crest of pale scarlet; hind neck creamy buff, tinged with fawn-colour near the nape; down the sides of the neck a streak of creamy buff; sides of face, sides of neck, and under surface of body dull leaden grey, blacker on the lower surface; the vent, under tail-coverts, and lower flanks broadly edged with buffy white; under wing-coverts creamy buff. Total length 5 inches, culmen 0·7, wing 3·25, tail 1·3, tarsus 0·6.

Adult female.—Differs from the male in having the head leaden grey all over, without the buff-coloured forehead and the scarlet crest. Total length 4·8 inches, culmen 0·8, wing 3·3, tail 1·4, tarsus 0·6.

The above descriptions, as well as the life-sized figures in the Plate, are taken from a Javan pair of birds in my collection.