## RHODOPECHYS SANGUINEA.

## Crimson-winged Finch.

Fringilla sanguinea, Gould, P. Z. S. 1837, p. 127.

Erythrospiza phænicoptera, Bp. Consp. Gen. Av. i. p. 535 (1850).—Bp. & Schl. Monogr. Loxiens, pt. 2, pls. 30, 31.

Fringilla rhodoptera, Licht. Mus. Lugd. fide Bp. ut suprà (1850).

Carpodacus rhodopterus, Licht. Nomencl. Av. p. 48 (1854).

Rhodopechys phænicoptera, Bp. Cat. Parzud. p. 4 (1856).

Fringilla coccothraustes phænicoptera, Bree, B. of Eur. iii. p. 95 (1867).

Carpodacus phænicopterus (Bp.), Tristram, Ibis, 1868, p. 208.

Erythrospiza sanguinea, Dresser, Birds of Europe, pt. li. (1876)

As the colours of the wings and tail would indicate, this handsome Finch is an inhabitant of the great desert plains of Central Asia. It was first described by me as long ago as 1837, from a single specimen of the male, which had been killed in Persia; it has been figured in Bonaparte and Schlegel's 'Loxiens,' Bree's 'Birds of Europe,' and other publications; but by far the most voluminous account is that published by Mr. Dresser in his work on the Birds of Europe. Now, as I never have had the good fortune to see this fine bird alive, although I had that of describing it, I trust I shall not be deteriorating from the fine works just quoted if I make an extensive extract from the book of Mr. Dresser, which I do with full acknowledgment. He says:—"This rare and beautiful bird seems to be met with only in the south-eastern portion of the region of the ornithology of which I am treating, being found in the Caucasus and Palestine, ranging eastward into Turkestan. It is, however, somewhat remarkable that Loche records its occurrence in Algeria, and states that it is only met with in the northern portions of the province. He says that he has seen one from the frontier of Tunis, obtained through Dr. Buvry, and another, in very bad condition, from near Zaatcha. I may, however, here remark that none of the later travellers met with it in North-west Africa; and it seems possible that there may be some mistake as regards the true localities whence the specimens recorded by Loche were obtained. It was first described by Gould (l. c.) from a specimen obtained at Erzeroom, and has since been met with by Canon Tristram and Mr. Cochrane on Mount Lebanon. The former of these gentlemen writes ('Ibis,' 1868, p. 208) as follows:—'On the north side of Hermon occurs also Carpodacus phænicopterus, Bp. It is not only local but very scarce, yet unquestionably sedentary, concealing itself after the manner of our Bullfinch. We never could detect its nest, and very rarely caught a glimpse of it. It does not appear to descend as low as the villages of Lebanon, excepting in winter.' Von Heuglin says that there is a specimen in the Mergentheim collection which is stated to have come from Arabia; and Mr. Blanford informs me that he only once met with it on his last expedition to Persia. A flock was sitting on some steep rocks by the side of the road in a high valley of the Elburz, and he had the good fortune to bag three. Dr. Severtzoff, who met with it in Turkestan, says it is resident in that country, but is rather sporadic in its distribution. Beyond the above data, I find no information on record respecting its range; and, indeed, it appears to be nowhere common. Canon Tristram, who was fortunate enough to see this bird alive, gives me the following note:—'I never met with Erythrospiza sanguinea but twice in the Lebanon. On the first occasion I had a good view of a brilliantly plumaged male (I presumed), towards the end of May. It was flitting restlessly from tree to tree in an open space on the mountainside, where the trees were sparse and isolated. There being no cover, I was unable to secure it. A few days afterwards I shot a specimen among scrub and dwarf cedars, a female, but saw no others with it. There were many Emberiza cia, with whom it was on social terms. Mr. Cochrane shot a bird from the nest the same week, and brought the nest to camp, containing one egg. He kindly gave me the bird shot from the nest, which I have in my collection. He told me that he found the nest in a tree. My impression is that the nest was an ordinary Finch-nest, of the character of that of the Greenfinch. The bird appears to affect the open spaces with scrub and a tree here and there, and to avoid the thickest forest.' The egg above referred to by Canon Tristram is in my collection, and is, I believe, the only authentic specimen known; I received it from Mr. Cochrane, who informs me that he found the nest, which contained but one egg, near the celebrated grove of cedars on Lebanon, on the 24th May 1864, and he succeeded in shooting the parent bird, which he gave to Canon Tristram. Unfortunately he did not keep the nest, and has supplied me with no further data respecting its structure or, indeed, respecting the nidification of this rare bird. The egg

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