CARDUELIS ORIENTALIS, *Vigors.*

Eastern Goldfinch.

Passer carduelis, var., Pallas, Zoogr. Rosso-Asiat. ii. p. 16 (1811).
Fringilla orientalis, Eversmann, Addenda ad Pallas, Zoogr. Rosso-Asiat. fasc. ii. p. 9 (1841).—Gray, Hand-list of Birds, ii. p. 80 (1870).
Carduelis orientalis, Severtz. Turkest. Jevotnie, pp. 64, 116.—Dresser, Ibis, 1875, pp. 242, 387.

The birds which I have figured in the Plate are from Central Asia, and are evidently the true *orientalis* of Eversmann. I notice that Mr. Dresser and Dr. Severtzoff unite this species unhesitatingly to the Himalayan Goldfinch, *Carduelis caniceps*; but they seem to me to constitute, if not two species, at least two easily recognizable races, and I have refrained, therefore, from adding the extensive synonymy of *C. caniceps* to that of the present bird. *C. orientalis* is a larger and more powerful bird than *C. caniceps*, with a longer bill, and it is not so ruddy in colour, being of a more ashen and desert-like hue. I have beautiful full-plumaged specimens of each bird, and after comparing them carefully I think they may fairly be considered distinct, as, in addition to the smaller size of *C. caniceps*, the colour of its scarlet face is brighter and more vivid.

There can be little doubt that this is the bird considered by Pallas to be a variety of the common Goldfinch, and it was found by him in summer on the shores of the Yenisei River.

Of this Dr. Severtzoff very truly observes:—"This bird is not merely a climatic variety of the European Goldfinch, from which it differs in lacking the black markings on the head, the yellowish brown on the back and on the breast being replaced by grey. Both species inhabit the same localities in the Thian-Shan mountains; and the distinctive characters were constant in all of the hundreds of specimens I examined. The differences between *Passer salicarius* and *Passer domesticus* are also constant, although these two Sparrows frequently inhabit the same localities, and are found in the same flock; and they hold good not only in the autumn dress, but also in the full breeding-plumage."

Although specimens were contained in Captain T. Biddulph's Yarkand collections, it is not mentioned by Dr. Scully, our latest authority on the avifauna of this part of the world, nor was it procured by Dr. Henderson during his journey from Lahore to Yarkand.

Adult. General colour above ash-brown, rather mealy in appearance, the scapulars and least wing-coverts uniform with the back; primary and greater coverts jet-black, the latter bright golden yellow towards the tips of the latter; quills black, golden yellow for half of the outer webs, the innermost secondaries white on the outer web, decreasing gradually into a white spot on those nearer the middle of the wing; rump and upper tail-coverts pure white; tail black, with a large terminal spot of white, the two outer feathers nearly all white on the inner web, black only at base and at tip; forehead and fore part of cheeks and chin scarlet, the feathers in front of the eye blackish; ear-coverts and under surface of body light ashy brown, with a greyish shade on the chest; the throat, abdomen, and under tail-coverts whitish; under wing-coverts, axillaries, and inner lining of quills white, the small coverts near the edge of the wing dusky, tipped with dull whitish and slightly washed with yellow. Total length $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches, wing $3\frac{3}{8}$, tail $3\frac{3}{8}$.

The figures in the Plate are of the natural size, and are drawn from a pair of Turkestan birds in my own collection.