EMBERIZA RUSTICA, Pall.

Rustic Bunting.

Emberiza rustica, Pall. Itin., tom. iii. App. no. 21.—Id. Zoog. Ross.-Asiat., tom. ii. p. 43.—Lath. Ind. Orn., vol. i. p. 413.—Shaw, Gen. Zool., vol. ix. p. 390.—Temm. Man. d'Orn., tom. iii. p. 229.—Gould, Birds of Eur., vol. iii. pl. 177.—Schleg. Rev. Crit. des Ois. d'Eur., p. lxxi.—Sieb. Temm. et Schleg. Faun. Jap., p. 97, tab. lviii.—Gray, Gen. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 377, Emberiza, sp. 6.—Kittl. Kupf. Nat. Vög., tab. 22. fig. 2.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., tom. i. p. 466, Emberiza, sp. 21.—Swinh. Proc. of Zool. Soc., 1863, pp. 301, 337.—Id. Ibis, 1861, p. 255.—Blak. Ibis, 1862, p. 328.—Whitely, Ibis, 1867, p. 202.

—— lesbia, Gmel. edit. Linn. Syst. Nat., tom. i. p. 871.—Temm. Man. d'Orn., tom. i. p. 317.—Savi, Orn. Tosc., tom. iii. p. 223.

——— Durazzi, Bonap. Faun. Ital., tom. i. pl. 35. fig. 1?

Rustic Bunting, Lath. Gen. Syn. Supp., vol. ii. p. 201.—Id. Gen. Hist., vol. v. p. 325.

Le Mitilène de Provence, Buff. Hist. Nat. des Ois., tom. ix. p. 322.—Id. Pl. Enl., 656. fig. 2.

Hypocentor rustica, Cab. Mus. Hein., Theil i. p. 131, note.

The principal habitats of this Bunting are North China, Amoorland, and Japan, from all of which countries I have seen specimens. During the last few years solitary individuals have, like many other eastern birds, wandered from their natural homes, and been observed and captured in other countries, among them Heligoland, and one in this country. In my opinion, it is quite impossible for the most astute ornithologist to account for this distant wandering, instances of which may have before occurred; but we have no record of its having been found in England, nor any mounted specimens in our preserved collections to testify that such has been the case, until the year 1867, when a fine female was captured near Brighton, on the 23rd of October, and is now in the possession of T. J. Monk, Esq., of Mountfield House, Lewes. This occurrence of the bird in Sussex was made known to us by George Dawson Rowley, Esq., of Brighton, a gentleman than whom no one has a greater love for natural history, and whose judgment is unsurpassed in discriminating any new comer that may arrive among us. It will be in the recollection of ornithologists that Mr. Rowley was the first to call their attention to the occurrence of the Emberiza pusilla in the neighbourhood of Brighton, the specimen there taken being exhibited at the meeting of the Zoological Society on the 8th of November, 1864, and that he also made us aware of three instances of Anthus campestris having been captured in the same favoured locality. It is very pleasing to have a gentleman among us so ardently interested in the productions of nature, and, with the zeal of a true naturalist, paying equal attention to a living Bunting and the eggs of the extinct Dinornis, of which the most perfect example yet discovered graces his fine collection.

The facts connected with the capture of the *Emberiza rustica* in Sussex, as furnished to me by Mr. Rowley, are briefly these:—"On the afternoon of October 23rd, 1867, Mr. Swaysland, of Queen's Road, sent me a bird alive, just caught near Brighton. I examined it then, and next morning at his house, and I pointed out to him that it was a specimen of the *Emberiza rustica* of Pallas. Mr. Monk subsequently purchased the bird."

Latham states that this species inhabits the willow-beds of Dauuria, and is there most frequently met with in March; Gatke informs us that it occasionally visits Heligoland; and Mr. Swinhoe, in his 'Notes on the Birds observed about Talien Bay, in North China, from June 21 to July 25, 1860,' says, "I frequently met with this Bunting, which appeared to be the only species. Its choice habitats were the grass-covered sides of hills, where several together might be seen searching about on the ground for small seeds and insects. Occasionally flitting on the top of a rock, a male would continue to pour out a flow of rich notes, wild in their strain, but sweet and melodious. Its twittering call-note is not unlike that of the Robin. I have not yet met with the bird in Southern China."

Mr. Henry Whitely, who shot specimens at Hakodadi, in Japan, in the month of October, informs us that the bill is reddish brown, the irides dark hazel, and the legs and toes brownish flesh-colour.

The male has the lores, sides of the head, and ear-coverts blackish brown; posterior to the ear-coverts, within the black, a spot of dull greyish white; above the eye, from the bill to the nape, a broad streak of white in some specimens, and buffy white in others; above this a stripe nearly black, leaving the centre of the crown brown; throat white, with a moustache-like mark from the angle of the lower mandible, formed of dark brown feathers, bordered with buffy white; nape and gorget across the breast rich chestnut-red, each feather with a paler margin; feathers of the centre of the back brownish black, margined with tawny;

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