

## ANTHUS CERVINUS.

### Red-throated Pipit.

*Motacilla cervina*, Pall. Zoog. Ross.-Asiat., tom. i. p. 511.

*Alauda Cecili*, Aud. Hist. de l'Égypte, Ois. tab. v. fig. 6.

*Anthus rufogularis*, Brehm, Lehrb., vol. ii. p. 963.—Id. Vög. Deutschl., p. 320.

—— *Cecili*, Blyth, Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 324.

—— *cervinus*, Keys. et Blas. Wirb. Eur., p. 172.—Midd. Sib. Reise, vol. ii. p. 165, pl. xiv. figs. 1-3.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., tom. i. p. 248, *Anthus*, sp. 4.—Cab. Mus. Hein., Theil i. p. 14.—Swinh. Proc. of Zool. Soc., 1863, pp. 273, 334.—Id. Ibis, 1863, p. 311.—Sperl. Ibis, 1864, p. 279.—Trist. Proc. of Zool. Soc., 1864, p. 435.—Id. Ibis, 1866, p. 290.—Bree, Hist. of Eur. Birds not obs. in Brit. Isl., vol. ii. p. 155, and fig.

—— *pratensis rufigularis*, Schleg. Rev. Crit. des Ois. d'Eur., p. xxxvi.

CONSIDERABLE confusion exists respecting the synonymy, the correct specific appellation, and the specific value of this pretty Pipit, some ornithologists believing it to be merely a variety of *Anthus pratensis*.

With regard to the synonymy, Professor Newton, in a letter to me, says, "The right name to be used for this species is a point on which I cannot exactly satisfy myself. Brehm's *rufogularis* appeared in his 'Lehrbuch' (vol. ii. p. 963) in 1824, while Pallas's *cervina* was only published in 1831 (Zoogr. Ross.-Asiat., vol. i. p. 511), though it had been in type since 1811. But I suspect the *Anthus Cecili* of Audouin to be the same species; and if so, I imagine that name will have unquestionable priority. I have not, however, been able to refer to the letterpress of the 'Description de l'Égypte' to see if the bird is therein properly described."

Professor Newton, however, in his interesting account of his discovery of the breeding bird, published in Dr. Bree's 'History of the Birds of Europe not found in the British Isles' (vol. ii. p. 155), uses Pallas's name of *cervina*; and so also do Bonaparte, Dr. Blasius, Dr. Bree, Mr. G. R. Gray, and Dr. Cabanis; while Dr. Schlegel and others either regard the bird as identical with *A. pratensis*, as a variety of that species, or adopt Pastor Brehm's name of *rufogularis*. With regard to its specific distinctness, I have no more doubt than, from the paragraph hereafter quoted, will be found to exist in the mind of Professor Newton.

I cannot agree with Dr. Bree that it "belongs to the Rock-Pipit branch of the family, its claws being much curved," and that "there has been much confusion about the bird in consequence of this fact being overlooked;" in point of fact, it is as slender in form, and as delicate in the structure of its legs and hind toe as our own Titlark, and, moreover, has the hinder claw of the same lengthened and slender form as in that bird.

With regard to the parts of the Old World inhabited by this species, the testimony of those who have observed it in a state of nature gives Eastern Europe in winter, and Lapland, Finmark, Northern Russia, and Siberia as the countries frequented by it in summer, in all of which it probably breeds. That it also frequents the Crimea at the same season is certain, since the specimens from which my figures were taken were obtained there at that period of the year. Dr. Jerdon considers the Indian bird of this form, to which Mr. Hodgson assigned the specific term *rosaceus*, to be identical with *A. cervinus*; but I have never seen an individual of the latter from any part of India, and have no doubt that Mr. Hodgson was correct in characterizing the Indian bird as distinct.

The recorded information respecting the history of this species is but scanty, little having been written on the subject except by Professor Newton; I shall therefore take the liberty of extracting the greater part of his notes from Dr. Bree's work above quoted.

Dr. Bree, after remarking that the bird is found plentifully in Egypt, Nubia, Greece, Turkey, and Barbary during the winter, says, "I have been favoured with the following interesting account of its discovery in East Finmark by Alfred Newton, Esq.":—"On the 22nd of June, 1855, a few days after our arrival at Wadsö, Mr. W. H. Simpson and I, in the course of a bird's-nesting walk to the north-east of the town, to the distance perhaps of a couple of English miles, came upon a bog, the appearance of which held out greater promise to our ornithological appetites than we had hitherto met with in Norway. We had crossed the meadows near the houses, where Temminck's Stint and the Shore-Lark were trilling out their glad notes, and were traversing a low ridge of barren moor, when the solicitude of a pair of Golden Plovers plainly told us that their eggs or young were near us. . . . A little while after, as I was cautiously picking my way over the treacherous ground, I saw a Pipit dart out from beneath my feet, and alight again close by, in a manner that I was sure could only be that of a sitting hen. I had but to step off the grass-grown hillock on which I was standing, to see the nest ensconced in a little nook, half covered by herbage. But the appearance of the eggs took me by surprise; for they were unlike any I knew—of a brown colour, indeed, but of a brown so warm that I could only liken it to that of old mahogany-wood, and compare them, in my mind, with those of the Lapland Bunting. However, to that of old mahogany-wood, and compare them, in my mind, with those of the Lapland Bunting. However, there was the bird, running about so close to me that, with my glass, I could see her almost as well as if she had