

BUDYTES CITREOLOIDES, *Hodgs.*

Yellow-headed Wagtail.

Budytes citreoloides, Hodgs. in Gray's Zool. Misc., 1844, p. 83.

——— *calcaratus*, Hodgs. Asiat. Res., vol. xix. p. 190?—Gray, Cat. of Spec. and Draw. of Mamm. and Birds presented to Brit. Mus. by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., p. 76?

——— *citreola*, Jerd. Madras Journ. of Lit. and Sci., vol. xi. p. 9.—Sykes in Proc. of Comm. of Sci. and Corr. of Zool. Soc., part ii. p. 90.—Blyth, Journ. of Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xvi. p. 429.—Id. Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 138.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 280, *Budytes*, sp. 6.—Horsf. and Moore, Cat. of Birds in Mus. East-Ind. Comp. vol. ii. p. 352.—Jerd. Birds of India, vol. ii. pt. i. p. 225, and vol. ii. pt. ii. p. 873.—Adams in Proc. of Zool. Soc., pt. xxvi. 1858, p. 486.

Motacilla citreola, Gould, Birds of Europe, vol. ii. pl. 144.

Zurcha, Cabul (Blyth).

DR. VON MIDDENDORF has ventured an opinion that the bird I have figured on the 144th Plate of my 'Birds of Europe' as the female of *Budytes citreola* is different from that described by Pallas under the name of *Motacilla citreola*. I regret to say that, as there are no Russian specimens in this country, I am unable to institute a comparison and determine whether this be really the case or not. Mr. Jerdon, in his recently published 'Birds of India,' has treated the Indian bird as identical with the Siberian, but, in a note at the end of the concluding volume, says, the former, "writes Mr. Blyth, is distinct from *Budytes citreola vera*, and will stand as *B. citreoloides*, Hodgs." If this be the true state of the case, I was in error in employing the specific term *citreola* for the birds represented in the 'Birds of Europe,' my figures having been taken from Indian examples.

The Plate which I now publish contains a correct representation of two fully adult birds, in summer plumage, which were killed on the peninsula of India, and for which I have retained Mr. Hodgson's name of *B. citreoloides*. I may remark that all the specimens from India with bright yellow heads do not at the same time possess such jet-black backs as shown in the lower figure in my Plate: this latter hue seems to be seasonal, and is doubtless characteristic of the male in the nuptial dress; for I have specimens with rich-yellow heads in which the back is grey, while in others it is partly grey and partly black. Little has been recorded respecting the habits and economy of this beautiful bird. Col. Sykes informs us that it has the habits, manners, aspect, and size of *B. melanocephala*, and that, like that species, it is solitary, and only found in the vicinity of rivers; but he never saw the two birds in company. Larvæ of insects and greenish mud were found in the stomachs of those he examined. He believes that this species, together with *B. melanocephala* and *B. Beema*, all possessing the long hind claw, do not habitually perch, but, like other birds furnished with a similar claw, nocturnate on the ground.

"This migratory species," says Mr. Jerdon, "which is remarkable for the great length of its hind claw, is found over all parts of India, during the cold weather. It is not very abundant, and is never found in dry places, like the *Budytes viridis*, but on the banks of rivers and lakes, and more particularly in swampy ground or in inundated rice-fields, apparently affecting concealment more than the other species of this group. It has been seen in its breeding-plumage at Mussooree, and is then a very beautiful bird."

Dr. Leith Adams observes that this bird is common in the Deccan, Punjab, and Scinde, and is equally numerous in marshes and wet situations in the Valley of Cashmere, and in all similar places in Ladakh.

In the full breeding-plumage, the head, neck, breast, and under surface is rich yellow, with a wash of olivaceous on the flanks; back jet-black; wings dull black; the primaries edged with grey, and the tertiaries margined with white; wing-coverts black, broadly tipped with white, forming two bands across the wing; under tail-coverts yellowish white; tail black, with the outermost feathers on each side white, excepting a portion of their inner web and the extreme base of the outer; bill and feet black; irides brown.

The female has the head, and those parts which are black in the male, of a dark grey hue, a stripe of yellow over the eye, and the white margins to the wing-feathers less defined.

Young birds have the upper surface brownish grey; under surface dingy white, with a tinge of yellow in some specimens, and a gorget of dusky spots; less white on the wing; and a streak above the eye, forehead, chin, and ear-coverts yellow.

The Plate represents the two sexes, of the size of life.