

## ACCENTOR NIPALENSIS, *Hodgs.*

### Nepaul Accentor.

- Accentor Nipalensis*, Hodgs. Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xii. p. 958.—Ib. in Proc. of Zool. Soc., part xiii. p. 34.—  
Gray, Cat. of Spec. and Draw. of Birds presented to Brit. Mus. by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., p. 71.—  
Moore in Proc. of Zool. Soc. 1854, p. —Horsf. Cat. of Birds in Mus. East Ind. Comp., vol. i.  
p. 361.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 187, *Accentor*, sp. 3.—Blyth, Cat. of Birds in Mus.  
Asiat. Soc. of Calcutta, p. 130.  
——— *Cacharensis*, Hodgs. in Proc. of Zool. Soc., part xiii. p. 34.  
——— *nepalensis*, Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 305.
- 

THE great Himalayan range is evidently the head-quarters of the Accentors, a tribe of birds represented in Europe by the *A. alpinus* of the continent, and *A. modularis*, the well-known Hedge Accentor of England.

The members of this group have been subjected to three subgeneric divisions; the term *Accentor* being retained for the *A. alpinus*, with long wings and a short tail, and which appears to be confined to rocky and alpine districts; while for the British *A. modularis*, with shorter wings, a longer tail, a more graceful form and more uniform plumage, and which frequents underwood, hedge-rows and humid situations, the term *Tharrhaleus*, and for the eastern European species, *A. montanellus*, (a form intermediate between the others,) that of *Spermolegus*, have been proposed by Dr. Kaup; but although species of each of these forms are found in the Himalayas, and there seem to be some good reasons for their separation, I prefer retaining them all in the genus *Accentor*.

The species here figured, which is a native of Nepaul, is the largest and finest species of the genus yet discovered, and at present is extremely rare in the collections of Europe.

When speaking of the Indian Accentors generally, Mr. Hodgson states that they are found in the central and northern regions of the hills only, and chiefly in the northern; that they avoid houses and cultivation; that they breed on the ground, where they construct a well-compacted saucer-shaped nest of moss; and that they pass much of their time on the ground, and have an ambulatory structure of the legs and feet.

The male has the head, nape, sides of the neck and breast olive-brown; down the centre of the throat a series of white feathers with a black spot at the tip of each, giving it a barred appearance; upper surface reddish-olive, with a broad streak of black down the centre of each feather, very conspicuous on the centre of the back, but less apparent on the rump; upper tail-coverts blackish-brown, broadly margined with reddish-olive, fading into greyish on the extreme edge; wing-coverts and spurious wing black, with a small triangular mark of white at the tip of each feather; primaries and secondaries blackish-brown, narrowly edged with rufous; tertiaries similar, but more broadly edged and tipped with rufous; tail brown, with a large mark at the tip of each feather, which on the three outer ones is white, slightly tinted with buff at the base, and entirely buff on the centre ones; a small mark of buff is also observable on the tip of the external web; flanks rich chestnut, some of the feathers slightly margined with greyish-white; under tail-coverts dark reddish-brown, margined at the base with chestnut, and at the tip with white; upper mandible black, with a narrow mark of pale yellow at the base of the tomia; tip of the under mandible pale yellow; sides and base pale yellow; legs dull flesh-colour.

In another state, which may be that of the female, the head, sides of the neck, breast and upper surface are olive-brown, with a streak of dark brown down the centre of each feather, showing most conspicuously on the centre of the back; the lores and ear-coverts are minutely speckled with greyish-white; the throat-mark is similar to that of the male, but is not so strongly defined; the wings and tail are also similar, but the colours are not so bright, blend more into each other, and the chestnut edgings are nearly absent; and the abdomen is reddish-chestnut.

The figures are of the natural size.