IANTHOCINCLA LUNULATA, J. Verr.

Lunulated Ianthocincla.

Janthocincla lunulata, J. Verr. Nouv. Archiv. du Mus., tom. vi., Bulletin, p. 36, pl. 33. fig. 2, et tom. vii., Bull. p. 41. Yantocincla lunulata, David, ib., tom. vii., Bull. p. 6.

One of the most pleasing traits connected with *Ianthocincla* and the allied genera is the great diversity which is displayed in their colouring and markings. Hitherto no species had been found exhibiting characters similar to those which exist in the present one; hence its acquisition must have given great pleasure to its discoverer when the first specimen fell to his gun; nor could the gratification of being its first describer have been less pleasing to M. Jules Verreaux, the veteran and excellent ornithologist of Paris.

The knowledge of the existence of this fine species affords additional evidence of the richness of the Chinese avifauna; and, judging from what we have seen during the short period that great country has been thrown open to travellers and naturalists, a still richer harvest in the field of natural history may be reasonably expected to be gleaned therein. That the Abbé David and our own excellent Consul, Mr. Swinhoe, may long be spared and blessed with health and energy for the prosecution of their researches, must be the ardent wish of every lover of natural science.

The following is M. Verreaux's description of the *Ianthocincla lunulata*, and the notes of the habits of the bird furnished him by M. Armand David:—

"Head and upper part of the neck dark olive-brown; the remainder of the upper surface of a light olive, each feather having at the tip a black crescent bordered with yellowish white, not so conspicuous on the rump, where the feathers are long and very tufted. Wings black, the primaries edged with light grey, the secondaries with olive, and both tipped with white; the lateral tail-feathers are light grey on the outer web from the base, then black, and white at their extremities, less extensive upon the middle feathers. Face pure white, mixed with light brown on the parotic region. Throat, front of the neck, and chest of the same light brown, relieved on the latter by white edges; abdomen also light brown; flanks, vent, and under tail-coverts olive-brown, with transverse bands of black. Bill light brown, yellowish at the base of the lower mandible, irides yellow.

"The male above described was killed in western Sse-tchuan on the 23rd of February, 1869, by M. Armand David, who tells us that he subsequently found this species abundant and sedentary in the woods of Moupin and eastern Kokonoor. According to our explorer, this bird resembles closely Janthocincla Arthemisiæ and J. maxima in its voice and habits; but it does not remain so much secluded in the centre of the forests in winter, and descends lower into the valleys. It is also a sedentary species, and lives upon the berries of the bay and insects, which it seeks by scratching up the dry leaves on the ground in the same way as fowls and the other Janthocinclas. Although naturally wild and timid in the woods, it may easily be tamed and brought up in a cage; but although its voice is loud and beautiful, its song is too short and monotonous to render it desirable as a cage-bird. M. Armand David says there is a very slight difference in the sexes, the female merely being a trifle lighter in colour."

The figures are of the natural size.