## POMATORHINUS ERYTHROCNEMIS, Gould.

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Red-kneed Pomatorhinus.

Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc. 1862, p. 281.—Swinh. in Ibis, 1863, p. 286.

Although the members of the genus *Pomatorhinus* extend from the Himalayas and China, through the Indian Islands, to Australia, India is the country in which the greatest number of species has been discovered. All those inhabiting Australia I observed to be somewhat gregarious in their habits, moving about in little troops of from six to sixteen in number. They are noisy, active, and inquisitive birds, and display many curious actions when among the branches of the trees. I believe there is little or no marked difference in the colouring of the sexes of any of the species known. The new member of the genus discovered by Mr. Swinhoe, and to which I have given the name of *erythrocnemis* from the red colouring of its knees, is a mountain bird, and is confined to the primeval forests of the Island of Formosa. But I had better give Mr. Swinhoe's own remarks on the subject.

"This species replaces in the central mountain forests the *Pomatorhinus musicus* of the lower country. It rarely, if ever, descends to the ranges below an altitude of 2000 feet, and certainly never leaves the gloom of the virgin forest for the partially wooded level of the plains. It enters upon its nidificatory duties much earlier than its congener; for in April I procured a couple of full-fledged young birds. I have never taken its nest, but had the good fortune to procure an egg which a female dropped as it fell wounded to the ground. This egg is white, and quite in character with those I possess of the other species, but larger, measuring 1·2 in. by ·81. From its inaccessible haunts, I have not had many opportunities of watching the habits of this bird; but, as far as I can gather, they resemble those of its ally. Its notes are, however, harsher and less musical. Both species are entirely insectivorous, having no partiality, so far as I could ascertain, for fruit or berries."

A narrow bar across the forehead, knees, and under tail-coverts rusty red; lores and ear-coverts grey; crown of the head and back of the neck brownish grey, passing into the deep rusty chestnut of the back, shoulders, and external margins of the wing-feathers; inner margins of the wing-feathers blackish brown; tail blackish brown, with rusty margins; a streak of black, commencing at the base of the under mandible, passes downward to the chest, which is conspicuously spotted or rather blotched with black; throat and centre of the abdomen white; flanks and upper part of the thighs rusty olive-brown; bill much curved, and of a blackish grey, with pale edges; legs leaden-grey; claws brownish; irides light reddish brown.

"In the young bird the bill is much shorter and less curved, the head is browner, and the back and upper parts more rufous; but the under parts are dingier, and the colours generally not so bright as in the adult." (Swinhoe.)

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The figures are of the natural size. The plant is the Plocostemma lasianthum.