PHYLLORNIS HODGSONI.

Hodgson's Phyllornis.

Hurruwa Bee-eater, Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. iv. p. 125. pl. 68.
——— *Malabaricus*, Jard. and Selby, Ill. Orn., vol. i. Syn. Spec. *Chloropsis*, sp. 2, and pl. 5.
——— *aurifrons*, Jard. and Selby, Ill. Orn., vol. ii. Syn. Spec. *Chloropsis*, in text to pl. 100, sp. 3.—Jerd. Madras Journ. Lit. and Sci., vol. xiii. part ii. p. 123.
Phyllornis aurifrons, Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xi. p. 458, vol. xii. p. 956, vol. xiv. p. 566.—Ib. Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 212.—Gray, Cat. of Spec. and Draw. of Mamm. and Birds presented to Brit. Mus. by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., p. 61.—Horsf. and Moore, Cat. of Birds in Mus. East Ind. Comp., vol. i. p. 258.
Merops Hurryba, Dr. F. B. Hamilton, MS. i. p. 66.
Hurryba (various voices), Hamilton.
Sulz Hariwa of the Nepaulese, Hodgson.
Nget-tsin of the Aracanese, Blyth.

Mr. G. R. Gray is inclined to believe that the present bird, which is a native of Upper India, is quite distinct from that figured by Temminck in his 'Planches Coloriées' under the name of *Phyllornis aurifrons*, and which he states is a native of Pallambang, in the island of Sumatra. Now, although I have not had an opportunity of examining the original of M. Temminck's figure and description, I am inclined to coincide with Mr. Gray's opinion, and have therefore adopted the specific name of *Hodgsoni* suggested by him.

Should our joint opinion prove to be correct, then three of the finest members of the genus *Phyllornis*, inhabiting the continent of India, will be respectively named after three persons who have paid particular attention to the investigation of the ornithology of that interesting region, namely, Hardwicke, Hodgson, and Jerdon. I have already spoken of two of these gentlemen when writing on the species bearing their names, and now for a word respecting Mr. Hodgson, to whom the present beautiful species is dedicated. For him no eulogy from me is necessary, since his fame is amply secured by his numerous valuable papers on the natural history of India, and by the vast collections, both of specimens and drawings, he has so liberally presented to that great national repository, the British Museum. These invaluable stores form abundant materials for the illustration of the fauna of one of our greatest and richest possessions. The term *Hodgsoni*, then, is in this instance especially appropriate, and I trust that the bird here represented will always be recognized by it by every ornithologist. The bird itself has long been familiarly known to us as the *Hurruwa Bee eater* of Latham whose figure of the male, in the fourth volume of his 'General History of Birds,' must always leave a lasting impression upon the mind of every young ornithologist.

The native habitat of the *Phyllornis Hodgsoni* is Northern India, the Himalayas, Sylhet, and Aracan. Latham says "it is the Hurrial or Hurryba of the Hindostanese, pronounced *Hurruwa*; it is said to sing very prettily, from whence the name *Hurry*, various, and *Ba*, voice."

Mr. Blyth tells us that "it is no despicable songster, and lives and sings well in confinement."

I cannot close my remarks on this species without offering my thanks to Edward Vernon Harcourt, Esq., for the specimens from which my figures were taken. This gentleman has devoted much time and attention to natural history, and I have much pleasure in recording my obligations to him, not only for examples of this, but for other species of birds inhabiting the great Himalaya range of mountains.

The usual difference occurs in the colouring of the sexes, the female, as will be seen on reference to the opposite Plate, being destitute of the black throat.

Forehead rich reddish orange, lores and throat-gorget deep velvety black, bordered externally with yellow; chin deep blue; plumage of the body, wings, and tail grass-green, lighter beneath; inner webs of the primaries and secondaries blackish brown, on each shoulder a patch of verditer blue; bill black; irides yellowish hazel; legs olive-grey.

The figures are of the natural size. The plant is the *Hexacentris Mysorensis*.