PTERUTHIUS ERYTHROPTERUS.

Himalayan Pteruthius.

Lanius erythropterus, Vigors in Proc. of Comm. of Sci. and Corr. of Zool. Soc. part i. p. 22.—Gould, Century of Birds, pl. 11.

Pteruthius erythropterus, Swains. Faun. Bor. Amer. App. p. 491.—Ib. Class. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 249.—Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng. vol. xi. pp. 106 and 183.—Ib. Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 99.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 270, *Pteruthius*, sp. 1.—Gray, List of Spec. and Draw. of Mamm. and Birds presented to Brit. Mus. by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., p. 95.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av. p. 362, *Pteruthius*, sp. 1.—Horsf. Cat. of Birds in Mus. East Ind. Comp. vol. i. p. 172.

Since the first introduction of this bird into Europe in 1830, so many examples have been transmitted in collections from the Himalayas, that I presume there are few museums of natural history in which one or more are not to be seen. The long interval, however, which has elapsed between our first knowledge of the species and the present time has not, I regret to say, produced any account of its habits and economy, which is the more to be regretted, inasmuch as its structure would lead us to believe that they are somewhat peculiar. That its food is partly insectivorous and partly frugivorous may be fairly inferred from the formation of the bill; in all probability berries and the softer kinds of insects constitute its principal subsistence.

The *Pteruthius erythropterus* appears to enjoy an extensive range over the southern slopes of the great Himalayan range, as it is from thence that I have received numerous examples; and I observe that the Honourable East India Company's Museum contains specimens from Bootan, Kumaon, and Assam.

The male has the head black, with a lengthened patch of white posterior to the eye; back and upper surface grey; wing-coverts, primaries and secondaries black; the primaries tipped with white; tertiaries fine chestnut-red; tail black; all the under surface greyish white with a vinaceous tinge, especially on the flanks and the lower part of the abdomen; under tail-coverts white; upper mandible black; lower mandible leaden grey; legs and feet flesh-colour.

The female has the head dark grey, gradually blending with the olive-brown of the upper surface of the body; lores and ear-coverts brown; all the under surface dull white, with a brownish tinge on the flanks; lesser wing-coverts black, fringed with grey; greater coverts olive-yellow on their outer webs, black on the inner; primaries and secondaries black, margined externally for nearly their entire length with olive-yellow, and the former tipped with white; tertiaries chestnut-red; tail olive-yellow, deepening into black, and the lateral feathers largely tipped with yellow; bill and feet as in the male.

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