

## GYPHUS NAEVUS.

Law-bill.

In all probability, the serrations with which the apical portion of the cutting edges of both mandibles of this bird are furnished, are expressly provided to enable it to capture with facility some peculiar kind of insect food, perhaps spiders and small coleoptera.

The nest sent to me by Mr. Reeves is precisely similar in form, structure and situation to those constructed by the members of the genus *Phaethornis*, being of a lengthened, pointed form, composed of fine vegetable fibres and mosses, intermingled with which, especially on the lower part, are portions of dead leaves and pieces of lichen; and attached to the extremities of the leaves of apparently a species of Palm.

Forehead, lores and ear-coverts dark brown; all the upper surface, wing- and tail-coverts greenish bronze, each feather narrowly edged with brown, giving it a scale-like appearance; wings purple-brown; two central tail-feathers bronze deepening into dark brown at the tip; the next on each side the same, but slightly tipped with buff; the three lateral feathers purplish brown, washed with bronze at the base, and largely tipped with buff, the two colours meeting in an oblique direction across the feather, and the buff being most extensive on the outer feather, less so on the next, and still less so on the third; over the eye a streak of buff; sides of the throat deep reddish buff; feathers of the chin and down the centre of the throat brownish black edged with pale buff; feathers of the under surface blackish brown, edged on the breast and upper part of the flanks with greyish white, and on the lower part of the flanks and vent with buff, giving the whole a streaked appearance; under tail-coverts buff, with a streak of brown down the centre; bill black, except the basal two-thirds of the lower mandible, which are yellow; feet yellow.

The Plate represents two males, a female, and a nest and eggs, all of the natural size.