REGULOÏDES SUPERCILIOSUS.

Yellow-browed Warbler.

Motacilla superciliosa, Gmel. edit. Linn. Syst. Nat., tom. i. p. 975.
Sylvia superciliosa, Lath. Ind. Orn., vol. ii. p. 526.
Phyllopneuste reguloïdes, Hodgs. in Gray's Zool. Misc., p. 44.
Reguloïdes superciliosus, Blyth, Zool., 1863, p. 8329.
Phyllobasileus superciliosus, Cab. Journ. für Orn., 1853, p. 81.
Regulus superciliosus, G. R. Gray, Cat. of Birds in Coll. Brit. Mus., p. 54.
Reguloïdes proregulus, Jerd. Birds of India, vol. ii. part i. p. 197.
Regulus modestus, Hanc. in Annals of Natural History, 1838, vol. ii. p. 310.

Much confusion has arisen respecting the pretty species figured on the accompanying Plate, in consequence of its having been regarded by many authors as identical with the bird obligingly sent to me by the late Baron de Feldegg, of Frankfort, and figured in my 'Birds of Europe' as *Regulus modestus*, under the impression that it was a newly discovered species.

The true home of the *Reguloïdes superciliosus* (the Yellow-browed Warbler of Latham) is in Asia; but it is not confined to that quarter of the globe. Mr. Swinhoe has killed it in China; nearly every collection from India contains examples; it has been repeatedly obtained in many parts of the continent of Europe; according to the review of Drs. Blasius and Baldamus's continuation of Naumann's 'Vögel Deutschlands,' in 'The Ibis' for 1862, once or twice near Berlin, and nearly a dozen times in Heligoland; and we now know that it has occurred twice in England: hence it becomes necessary to give it a place in the 'Birds of Great Britain.' I have carefully compared the English specimens with others from the various localities above mentioned, and I am quite unable to detect any differences between them, either in size, colour, or markings.

The first occurrence of the bird in Britain was recorded in the 'Annals of Natural History,' vol. ii., by Mr. John Hancock, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, who shot it on the banks near Hartley, on the coast of Northumberland, on the 26th of September, 1838, and who says:—"Its manners, so far as I had an opportunity of observing them, were so like those of the Golden-crested Wren that I at first mistook it for that species. It was continually in motion, flitting from place to place in search of insects, on umbelliferous plants and such other herbage as the bleak banks of the Northumberland coast afford; such a situation could not be at all suited to the habits of this species, and there can be little doubt it had arrived at the coast previous to, or immediately after, its autumnal migration." Referring to this specimen in a communication to 'The Ibis,' dated Newcastle-on-Tyne, March 14th, 1867, Mr. Hancock says:—"In 1838 I sent to the 'Annals of Natural History' a notice of a small Wren, which I had shot at Hartley in the September of that year, and which I then identified with the *Regulus modestus* of Mr. Gould's 'Birds of Europe;' but I now find my bird to be distinct from the species there described and figured. The Rev. H. B. Tristram has kindly favoured me with a view of a series of specimens of both species. The one is distinguishable from the other by a broad belt of pale yellow across the rump; and that gentleman informs me that the species so characterized was described by Pallas under the name of *Motacilla proregulus*. The other is given by Gmelin under the denomination of *M. superciliosa*. Now my specimen has no such belt across the rump, while that figured by Mr. Gould possesses this character. My bird, therefore, must stand as *Reguloïdes superciliosus*."

In a note to this communication, the editor of 'The Ibis' (Professor Newton) remarks, "Mr. Swinhoe had already shown, in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1863, the distinctness of *R. superciliosus* and *R. proregulus*, which had been thought to be synonymous; but he was not aware that the *Regulus modestus* of Mr. Hancock's former notice and the *Regulus modestus* of Mr. Gould were specifically different. He rightly identified Mr. Hancock's specimen with *R. superciliosus*, but quoted "*Regulus modestus*, Gould," as a synonym, under the impression, which, we believe, has hitherto generally prevailed, that the bird shot in Northumberland and that obtained in Dalmatia were specifically identical."

For a knowledge of the occurrence of a second example in England I am indebted to the Rev. T. W. Huthwaite, a subscriber to the present work, who in a letter to me, dated "Brockworth Vicarage, Gloucester, Nov. 5th, 1867," says:—"Mr. T. White, the birdstuffer of Cheltenham, has a *Regulus* which, I presume, you would wish to see and figure; and I am sure he will readily let you have a sight of it." I immediately wrote to Mr. White, who at once forwarded it for my inspection, and at the same time informed me that it had been shot by his son, Mr. J. T. White, within a mile of Cheltenham, on the 11th of October previous, and