## CICHLOSELYS SIBIRICUS.

## Siberian Thrush.

Turdus sibiricus, Gmel. edit. Linn. Syst. Nat., tom. i. p. 815.

——— leucocillus, Pall. Faun. Ross., tom. i. p. 450.

—— auroreus, Pall. Faun. Ross., tom. i. p. 448.

—— atrocyaneus, Homeyer.

Merula sibirica, Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., tom. i. p. 274.

Oreocincla sibirica, Jaub. Rich. Orn., p. 202.

Cichloselys sibiricus, Bonap. in Parz. Cat. des Ois. d'Europe.

Geocichla, new. sp., Swinh. in Ibis, 1861, p. 37.

Whether the earlier British ornithologists were less observant than those of the present day is a question not easily solved. In all probability they were, and many strange birds visited these islands then as now, and, after a brief sojourn, departed again to the countries whence they came; yet we do not find any notices of such occurrences in the works of the earlier writers on our avifauna. However, this may be, certain it is that very many species have visited us of late years both from the east and the west which do not appear to have been known in the times of Gilbert White, Montagu, and Bewick. With regard at least to the eastern birds which have occurred here during the last twenty years, I suspect that very many of them have been induced by some unwonted cause to wander westward, and that such species as Oreocincla aurea, Merula atrogularis, Erythrosterna parva, Carpodacus erythrinus, Euspiza melanocephala, Emberiza pusilla, E. rustica, and Syrrhaptes paradoxus have seldom, if ever before, paid occasional visits to the British Islands. Unable at this moment to refer to the page, I believe I have somewhere stated in my 'Birds of Europe,' published more than thirty years ago, that a work on the "birds of Great Britain could scarcely be considered complete unless the whole of the European species were figured therein, inasmuch as one or other of them would certainly occur in our islands at some time or other; and that the idea was not fallacious is evident by the occurrence of the species mentioned above, and several others, to which I have now to add the Siberian Thrush, of which a very fine example, now in the possession of F. Bond, Esq., was shot by a Mr. Drewett at St. Catherine's Hill, near Guildford, in Surrey, in the beginning of February 1855, during the Crimean war. This individual, apparently a female, is faithfully represented in the upper figure of the accompanying plate, the male being figured from an eastern specimen. After a moment's reflection, such a visit need not excite surprise, but might be naturally expected, since there are many instances of the bird's occurrence in the western parts of the European continent, as will be seen from the following extract from Dr. Bree's valuable 'Birds of Europe not found in the British Islands:'-

"This bird is, as its name implies, an inhabitant of Siberia; but it has occurred a sufficient number of times in Europe to merit a place in its avifauna.

"We have the authority of Pallas for its occurrence in Southern Russia, of Professor Blasius for its appearance in Germany; and M. Jaubert, in his 'Richesses Ornithologiques,' mentions two instances of its having been captured in France. Homeyer has described it as *T. atrocyaneus* upon the authority of a fine specimen killed in the north of Germany.

"In Dr. Sclater's excellent paper on the geographical distribution of the genus *Turdus* ('Ibis,' 1861, p. 278) we find *T. sibiricus* in the Palæarctic Region, appearing in Siberia, Amoor Land, Japan, and China; and we have its occurrence in these countries verified by Mr. Swinhoe and other writers. Dr. Schrenck does not, however, mention it in his 'Reisen in Amur-Lande.'

"Of its habits and nidification I am unable to say any thing."

In Mr. Swinhoe's catalogue of the birds of China, published in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London' for 1863, he describes a male in complete plumage which was shot at Amoy on the 19th of April, 1861, and remarks:—"this is said to be a common bird in Siberia. In Japan it probably breeds, as Captain Blakiston brought young birds from Hakodadi. In the south of China it is rare, occurring occasionally during its migrations. It is said to have been procured as far south as Java."

I have great pleasure in adopting the late Prince Charles Bonaparte's generic name of Cichloselys for this bird, since it will not range with either Merula, Turdus, or Oreocincla, to which latter form, however, it is most nearly affined.

The figures are of the natural size.