My friend Dr. Bree having collected all the information known respecting this species, I cannot do better than quote the account he has given in his 'History of the Birds of Europe not observed in the British Isles':—

"The Red, or, as I prefer calling it, the Russet-necked Nightjar, is a native of Africa, but is occasionally found in various parts of Europe. The south of Spain, and in France, Provence, Marseilles, Nismes, and Montpellier are recorded as its European localities. To these, through the kindness of Dr. Leith Adams, I am able to add Malta, where a specimen was obtained by Charles Augustus Wright, Esq., from whose notes I copy the following:—

"'In the spring of 1861 a native bird-stuffer sent me word that a curious Goatsucker had been shot in the middle of May at Emtalitep, a valley situate on the southern coast of this island. When I saw it, the bird had been set up; but the skin was quite fresh, and there was no doubt of its being a fine specimen of *Caprimulgus ruficollis*. In addition to the localities given by Degland, it is included in an unpublished list of Egyptian birds in my possession compiled from various sources by Mr. W. C. Medlycott. As far as my information extends, it has never been known to visit Sicily, or any part of Italy, except Nice, where it has been occasionally met with. There appears to be no previous record of its capture in Malta. I am glad to say the subject of this notice passed into my possession and now occupies a conspicuous position among my Birds of Malta. *C. ruficollis* may easily be distinguished from *C. europæus* by its larger size, general rufous colouring, the difference in the proportionate length of the primaries, by two large white spots on the throat, and the reddish collar from which it derives its name. *C. europæus* is a very common bird in Malta during the vernal and autumnal migrations; but, before the capture of the specimen above mentioned, *C. ruficollis* was unknown as a Maltese visitor.'

"*C. ruficollis* is apparently a rare and local bird in Europe, except in Spain. . . . In Mr. Tristram's Notes from Eastern Algeria (Ibis, vol. ii. p. 374), I find the following:—'As evening drew near, the Red-necked Goatsucker (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*) flitted about the glades; and it is also mentioned by Captain Loche as inhabiting the three provinces of Algeria.'

"Dr. D. Antonio Machado, in his 'Catalogo de las Aves observadas en algunas provincias de Andalucia' (Sevilla, 1851), says of this bird, 'It inhabits the woody flat ground of the mountains; it appears in spring and leaves again in October: very common. It makes no nest, but places its eggs in hollows in the ground, or under the shelter of a shrub. It frequents the roads where there is much horse- or mule-traffic; and the vulgar notion is that it feeds upon the dung which it finds there; but it is much more probable that it is in search of the beetles which live among it, and which are its principal food.'

"I have no account to offer of the nourishment, habits, and nesting of this bird; but they are not likely, I think, to differ much from those of its European and closely allied congener. There is the same wide mouth with its array of bristles, and the same comb to clean them with on the claw of its middle toe. What a beautiful adaptive provision is this comb! Looked at through a lens its teeth are seen to be placed with perfect regularity, and are admirably adapted to their evident use—to *clean* the bristles, an act which Dr. Maclean tells me he has actually seen performed by our Goatsucker. The bristles are required as a fence for the large mouth, out of which otherwise many an insect would slip away. But the bristles get clogged up; and the God who made this bird has provided it with as perfect a comb to clean them with as is to be found on the table of any lady in Europe."

The only additional information I find recorded respecting this species is comprised in the following brief notes from 'The Ibis' for 1865, 1866, and 1867:—

In Mr. C. A. Wright's second appendix to his List of Birds observed in Malta and Gozo, he says:—"*Caprimulgus ruficollis*. A male specimen (the second I have met with of this fine Nightjar) was shot here on the 12th of May, 1865. It flew up against the balcony, and thus brought about its own destruction; for the inmate, being a sportsman, immediately went out with a gun and killed it. It was in beautiful condition, and had scarcely a feather injured by the shot."

In the Rev. H. B. Tristram's Notes on the Ornithology of Palestine, he writes, "A skin of *C. ruficollis* was offered to me for sale by a Greek at Jerusalem, who assured me he had bought it in the flesh in the market there; and as all his other birds were unquestionably natives, I had no reason to doubt his statement; but his price was prohibitory."

Lastly, Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, in his Notes on the Birds of Tangier and Eastern Morocco, states that this species is known to breed at Ceuta.

The Plate represents both sexes, of the size of life.