# CAPRIMULGUS RUFICOLLIS, *Temm.*

## Red-necked Goatsucker.

*Caprimulgus ruficollis*, Temm. Man. d'Orn., 2nd edit., p. 438.
——— *rufitorquis*, Bonn. et Vieill. Ency. Méth., Orn., part 11. p. 546.
——— *rufitorquatus*, Vieill. Faun. Franç., tom. i. p. 142.
——— *torquatus*, Brehm.

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An undoubted specimen of this fine Nightjar having been killed in England, it becomes necessary to give it a place among the Birds of Great Britain. With reference to its occurrence in this country I cannot, perhaps, do better than quote the brief account of it published by Mr. John Hancock in 'The Ibis' for 1862, p. 39:—"So far back as the 6th of October, 1856, I obtained a fresh-killed specimen of this rare European Goatsucker, of Mr. Pape, a game-dealer of this town, It had been shot the previous day at Killingworth, near Newcastle. I was unable to determine the sex from dissection; but I think it is most probably a male, as the first primaries have each a spot upon their inner webs, and the first two spots are white. I have delayed until now making this announcement; for I found on comparison that the bird differed slightly from an Hungarian specimen in my collection, and I was consequently anxious to see others before doing so. I have now had an opportunity of referring to a specimen in the British Museum, and find that it quite agrees with my bird. I have therefore no longer any hesitation in stating that it is the *C. ruficollis* of authors, and I have much pleasure in adding this fine species to the British list of occasional visitors; though I am far from believing that this is really its first occurrence in our island. It very closely resembles the *C. europæus*, and is almost sure to be confounded with that species by the casual observer. Newcastle-on-Tyne, 12th Sept. 1861."

I concur in Mr. Hancock's belief, that the specimen he has recorded is not the only example that has occurred in this country, but that others have probably been overlooked from their near resemblance to the common species.

Had this species of *Caprimulgus* been a native of America (where it is never found) instead of Europe and Africa, I should have hesitated about including it in the present work; and on this point I may quote some remarks in a note to myself by Mr. Alfred Newton, who is preparing a new edition of the late Mr. Yarrell's 'History of British Birds':—"I have been thinking about including the *Caprimulgus ruficollis*, but at present have not fully satisfied myself whether its normal range is sufficiently far to the northward to justify the step. This I must ascertain by consulting various Continental authorities. It certainly occurs in Hungary and in the South of France, but I should like to get information of its being met with further north before I can feel quite easy on the subject." One thing is quite certain—namely, that since John Natterer killed the species in the South of Spain, and presented specimens to the Museum at Vienna, as recorded by Temminck in his 'Manual,' and by myself in the 'Birds of Europe,' individuals in greater or lesser numbers have been met with in the same country by many of the rising generation of British ornithologists, particularly by Lord Lilford, Mr. Howard Saunders, Mr. Hume, and others.

The figure of this bird in my 'Birds of Europe' was taken from one of the original specimens presented to the Museum of Vienna, which was kindly lent to me for the purpose by the Directors. It was accompanied by the following notes respecting it by my valued friend Natterer:—

"*Caprimulgus ruficollis*, male. Shot the 14th of July, 1817, some miles distant from Algeziras, in the oak woods, by daylight. Iris dark brown, legs reddish grey, nostrils oval, with their borders much elevated. Length 12 inches 8 lines, extent of the wings 22½ inches, the tail exceeding the wings by 1½ inch.

"Another male was shot on the 20th of July, in the valley of the Rio del Miel, near Algeziras, flying very low, an hour after sunset. Length 13 inches 3 lines, extent of the wings 23¼ inches, the tail exceeding the wings by 1 inch 8 lines.

"The female I shot, while flying near the same spot, on the 21st of July. Length 12 inches 8 lines, extent of the wings 22½ inches, the tail exceeding the wings by 2 inches. The female closely resembles the male, differing only in having less white on the throat; the white tips of the two outer tail-feathers only 8 lines long, and tinged with brown on the outer web; the white spots on the first three primary quills smaller, and tinged with ochre, and without any corresponding mark on the outer web, as in the male; the remainder of the plumage is exactly the same as that of the male.

"The name of the bird in the part of Spain where it was killed is *Samala*. It seems to be very rare; for I passed several nights in the adjacent woods without discovering any more examples."

Gould & H C Richter del et lith. CAPRIMULGUS RUFICOLLIS, Temm. Walter Imp.