

197. *NUCIFRAGA CARYOCATACTES* . . . . . Vol. III. Pl. LXV.

NUTCRACKER.

198. *NUCIFRAGA CARYOCATACTES* . . . . . Vol. III. Pl. LXVI.

NUTCRACKER (young).

Indigenous in most of the mountainous and woody countries of Europe: breeds abundantly in Switzerland. In England it can only be considered an accidental visitor. Mr. Harting, in his 'Handbook of British Birds,' enumerates about twenty instances of its occurrence here from the date Pennant wrote, 1753, to within a few years of the present time, 1872; still these visits can only be regarded as accidental.

#### Family CUCULIDÆ.

The members of this great family of birds are rendered especially remarkable and interesting from the circumstance of the greater number of them having parasitic habits. The entire family comprises about two hundred species, which are subdivided into several subfamilies and many genera. They are universall dispersed over the temperate portions of the globe; but not more than a fourth part of the whole number are found in America.

#### Genus CUCULUS.

The members of this genus, restricted to the true Cuckoos, are tolerably numerous. One species inhabits Europe; and there are others in India, China, Java, Sumatra, the islands of the Indian archipelago, and Australia; they are also well represented in Africa.

199. *CUCULUS CANORUS* . . . . . Vol. III. Pl. LXVII.

COMMON CUCKOO.

200. *CUCULUS CANORUS* . . . . . Vol. III. Pl. LXVIII.

COMMON CUCKOO (young)

The Common Cuckoo is a true migrant, coming to us from the south in May, and departing again in September, the young being frequently left behind to a later period of the year.

I now find that the opinion ventured in my account of this species as to the impossibility of the young Cuckoo ejecting the young of its foster-parents at the early age of three or four days is erroneous; for a lady of undoubted veracity and considerable ability as an observer of nature and as an artist has actually seen the act performed, and has illustrated her statement of the fact by a sketch taken at the time, a tracing of which has been kindly sent to me by the Duke of Argyll, and I have considered it of sufficient interest to