## Family UPUPIDÆ.

Varied indeed are the opinions entertained by ornithologists respecting the situation this family of birds should occupy in our systems. For my own part, I have always considered its proper place to be near to, if not associated with, the Hornbills (Bucerotidæ); hence this is perhaps not the situation in which it would appear in an arrangement of the birds of the world; but it is the best I can assign to it in a limited fauna like that of the British Islands.

## Genus Upupa.

About five species of this very singular form are known; they inhabit Europe, Asia, Africa, and Madagascar.

An accidental visitor to England, where it generally arrives in May; and its doom is sealed as soon as it makes its appearance: so attractive a creature immediately arresting attention, it soon falls a victim to the gunner; and its mounted skin is found in the houses of the men of Kent and other southern counties.

## Family LANIIDÆ.

The Shrikes, comprising many species, are very generally distributed over the surface of the globe, particularly in the Old World. Some of the typical members inhabit Britain and North America, and are also found in Asia and Africa, but not in the islands of the Eastern archipelago, nor in Australia. They are all, to a certain extent, destroyers of other birds; but their chief food consists of insects, their larvæ, and mollusks. In disposition they are cruel, spitting their victims on thorns or between the interstices of the branches of trees; for what precise purpose is not well understood.

## Genus Lanius.

An accidental visitor, which may occasionally, but does not usually, breed in this country. Its proper home is the continent of Europe, beyond the boundary of which it becomes more and more scarce.

62. Lanius minor

Nol. II. Pl. XIV.

Rose-breasted Shrike.

A native of Spain, Turkey, and Greece, which has been killed two or three times in England.