the time will come when the generic appellation bestowed upon each distinct form will be more generally adopted.

The Merlin of the British Islands is by no means the only representative of the genus Æsalon; for there are several very distinct species in other countries, the names of which would be given were I writing a work on general ornithology instead of one on the birds of a limited area.

The F. æsalon is a resident species, and very generally dispersed over the three kingdoms.

Genus Erythropus.

At least two species of this elegant form are known. Of these, one, *E. vespertinus*, is a native of South and South-eastern Europe, but occasionally wanders into Britain; the other, *E. amurensis*, is found on the Amur, in Nepaul, and over the greater part of South-eastern Africa. In disposition these birds are less sanguinary than the true Falcons; and their food consists principally of insects and their larvæ.

24. Erythropus vespertinus Vol. I, Pl. XX

ORANGE-LEGGED HOBBY.

Although truly but an accidental visitor, at least thirty specimens have from time to time been killed in the British Islands, the greater number in England—Ireland and Scotland contributing only one each.

Genus Tinnunculus.

The birds trivially termed Kestrels comprise many species which are very generally dispersed over the Old World, Australia not excepted. In the New they are less numerous; and those that are there found have been formed by Professor Kaup into a distinct genus, that of *Pæcilornis*.

KESTREL.

The "Windhover," as this bird is also termed, is so well known to every one who visits the country and "has eyes to see, and a mind to observe," that any special comment respecting it is unnecessary. The whole of Britain, the continent of Europe, Africa, India, and China are also frequented by it. Its food is much varied; for it eats insects, mollusks, fish occasionally, and the young of most of the field-loving birds which nest on the ground, and, when opportunity offers, does not object to the young of the Partridge and

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