21. Falco peregrinus. . . . . Vol. I. Pl. XVII.

Peregrine Falcon.

Besides Great Britain, the Peregrine frequents Greenland, Iceland, the whole of Europe, North Africa, India, and China.

The following note, illustrative of one of the habits of this bird, kindly communicated to me by the Duke of Argyll, will prove of interest. It is dated from Inverary, June 4, 1868. "I find we are rich this year in nests of the *Falconidæ*:—two of the Peregrine; two of the Hen-Harrier, and a third, the spot not yet discovered; and one of the Merlin. One of my keepers, who is, I think, a reliable man, tells me that the day before yesterday, when he was watching one of the Peregrines' nests, he saw the male come from across Loch Fyne with a bird in his talons. When he cried, the hen bird came out of the precipice and joined him in the air, and took from the male the bird he was carrying. This must have been a pretty sight."

22. Falco subbuteo . . . . . Vol. I. Pl. XVIII.

Hobby.

A summer bird in our islands, where it breeds in woods, either in the forsaken nest of a Crow or in one which it builds for itself. I have received Hobbies from other countries besides Britain and the continent of Europe, viz. India, China, and Africa, but not from America, where, indeed, it is not found. This bird and some others of the same form have been deemed sufficiently distinct from the other Falcons to constitute it the type of a separate genus; by those authors, therefore, who adopt minute divisions of genera, it is termed *Hypotriorchis subbuteo*, instead of *Falco subbuteo*. It is less bold and sanguinary than the Peregrine or the Merlin, feeds on insects to a considerable extent, particularly Chafers, and consequently is somewhat crepuscular in its habits, such large insects being principally obtainable as they flit round the tops of great trees after sunset.

23. Falco æsalon . . . . . Vol. I. Pl. XIX.

Merlin.

This bird has also been removed by Professor Kaup from the genus *Falco* into that of *Æsalon*, a division which, being a very natural one, the scientific ornithologist wil not repudiate; but in a work on our native birds these minute divisions are scarcely admissible, since the finding of so many of their old friends under new appellations could scarcely be otherwise than distasteful to my readers. In many instances where I have departed from the practice of the older naturalists, I have been not lightly censured for the innovation; but