

handsome specimen of this Goshawk in the hands of a bird-stuffer there, who had obtained it a short time previously from a keeper in Perthshire, along with a number of Snow-Buntings and other birds shot by him on the flanks of Schiehallion, and all recently skinned."

The following notes respecting the second example were published by Sir Victor A. Brooke in 'The Ibis' for 1870. "I have the pleasure of informing you of the occurrence in Ireland of *Astur atricapillus*, an example of which was shot in the Galtee Mountains in February last, and was at first believed to be a common Goshawk (*A. palumbarius*); but having since had the opportunity of examining some specimens of that species in Lord Lilford's collection, I immediately detected the difference between them and the Galtee bird. Upon returning to Ireland, with the kind permission of Dr. Carte I compared it with a specimen of *A. atricapillus* in the Dublin Society's collection, and cleared up any doubt that remained on my mind, the closely set transverse bars, the longitudinal streaks (stronger and bolder than in the European species), the general dusky appearance of the breast, and the dark slate-blue head removing all question on the subject. The bird was a mature female, and weighed 3lb. 7oz.; the ovary was somewhat enlarged; and the stomach contained the remains of a rabbit." Of the third example, all that has been recorded is that it was shot shortly after the above, near Parsonstown, King's County, and was also a female.

A certain amount of interest attaches to the occurrence of these Goshawks, inasmuch as it tends to show how frequently American birds cross the Atlantic to our shores; but if all such visitants were to be figured, how greatly extended would be the 'Birds of Great Britain.'

Subfamily ACCIPITRINÆ.

Genus ACCIPITER.

Of this genus only one species frequents the British Islands; but several others are found in Africa, India, China, North and South America. The whole of them are active, dashing birds, often flying near the ground and suddenly surprising the smaller insessorial species, upon which they principally prey. The sexes differ considerably in size, the males being much smaller than the females. A character by which they are at once distinguished from the *Asturinae* consists in the great length of their middle toes.

14. ACCIPITER NISUS. Vol. I. Pl. X.

SPARROW-HAWK.

A common, stationary species, breeding in all our counties.