June 10, 1851.

John Gould, Esq., F.R.S., in the Chair.

The following papers were read :—

I. ON TWO NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS OF THE GENUS *TENIOPTERA*.
By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, B.A., F.Z.S. ETC.

(Aves, Pl. XLI. XLII.)

TENIOPTERA ERYTHROPYGIA, Sclater. *T. nigrescens*; *vertice fronte gulâque canescente-griseis*; *maculâ secundariorum albd*; *uropygio, abdomine toto crissoque, cum tectricibus caudâ superioribus et alarum inferioribus levitè brunneo-rufis*; *rectricibus brunneo-rufis nigro terminatis*; *rostro pedibusque nigris*.

Long. tot. 9 unc. 5 lin.; alæ, 5 unc. 7 lin.; caudæ, 4 unc. 4 lin.; rostri à rictû, 1 unc.; à fronte, 6 lin.

Hab. in republicâ Equatorianâ.

Wings and interscapulars black, growing lighter towards the crown, and greyish white on front and throat; breast darkish grey; outer web of the last four or five secondaries broadly edged with white, forming a white mark on the wing; lower back and tail-coverts and whole body beneath below the breast, as also under wing-coverts, light brownish rufous; tail-feathers the same, but broadly tipped with black. For the loan of this and the following species I have to thank Mr. Edward Wilson, who received them from M. Verreaux of Paris. I was at first inclined to refer both species to the genus *Agriornis* of Mr. Gould, but having had through Mr. G. Gray's kindness an opportunity of examining the type of that form, *Agriornis lividus** (Kittlitz), I now consider them better placed in the present genus *Tenioptera*, with which they agree in all their distinctive characters.

TENIOPTERA STRIATICOLLIS, Sclater. *T. suprâ saturatè fumoso-brunnea*; *uropygio paululùm rufescente tincto*; *superciliis rufescente-albidis*; *pennis caudâque nigris*; *secundariis tertiariisque levitè brunnescente marginatis*; *infra levitè brunneo-rufa*; *gutturè toto colloque albis nigro striatis*; *rectricibus remigibusque brunneo-rufis nigro terminatis*; *rostro pedibusque nigris*.

Long. tot. 9 unc. 5 lin.; alæ, 5 unc. 3 lin.; caudæ, 4 unc.; rostri à rictu, 1 unc. $\frac{1}{2}$ lin.; à fronte, $7\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Hab. in republicâ Equatorianâ.

Above dark smoke-brown; an obscure whitish line from the bill to the top of the eye; quill-feathers brown-rufous, outer margins and ends black; secondaries, tertials, and wing-coverts nearly black, margined with light brown; beneath brown-rufous; chin, throat and neck white, with longitudinal striæ of black; tail-feathers brown-rufous, the two outer broadly tipped with black; the rest have also the outer web black, except the two medial, which are wholly black.

* *Tyrannus gutturalis*, Voy. de la Favorite, Ois. t. 11.

This species is of the same form as the former, from which it may be distinguished by its shorter and weaker beak, and the want of the rufous colouring on the rump and upper tail-coverts, as also by the conspicuous striæ on the neck and throat.

2. NOTES ON AN UNDESCRIBED SPECIES OF TAILOR-BIRD. BY DR. NICHOLSON.

It may appear irregular to use what has been meant and applied as a specific name, as a generic one, but then that name appears to me to include, and to be indiscriminately applied to, two or three distinct birds, as we may gather by looking at the accompanying sketch, by the examination of the species described by Colonel Sykes as inhabiting the Dukhun, and by reading the following description, taken from Forbes, 'Oriental Memoirs,' p. 34. vol. i., under the name of *Motacilla sutoria* :—"The Tailor-bird resembles some of the humming-birds at the Brazils in shape and colour; the hen is clothed in brown, but the plumage of the cock displays the varied tints of azure-purple, green and gold, so common in those American beauties." Often have I watched the progress of an industrious pair of Tailor-birds, in my garden, from their first choice of a plant, until the completion of the nest, and the enlargement of their young.

Now, it is evident either that Mr. Forbes alludes to a distinct and an uncommon species, which I have never met with, or else he must have mistaken the common *Cinnyris* or Sun-bird representing the Humming-birds, and both sexes of which he has generally described above. But then the *Cinnyris* builds a common-shaped nest in the fork of a branch, in fashion resembling that of the humming-birds.

This is a resident bird, not very conspicuous, as it keeps hopping about among the brushwood and plants. It has a loud, short, and not unmelodious song; its general cry is 'wheet, wheet, wheet,' often repeated; but its alarm-cry is like 'cheertah, cheertah, cheertah.'

I have found its singular sewn nest containing eggs or young at all seasons of the year, in May and in November; and this may be owing to the vegetation of gardens being always kept up by means of artificial irrigation; for cultivated spots seem its favourite, if not exclusive resort at least in the north of India. Though no doubt it haunts suitable jungles, I never observed it there, nor ever discovered its nest so situated; but I have found many nests in my gardens, both at Surat and at Raghote, as well as in Cutch. It seems to prefer the leaf of the Bringal (*Solanum esculentum*), or that of the *Cucurbita octangularis*, for the purposes of nidification; and it lays four small white eggs, marked with faint dark spots at the larger end. After selecting a fitting leaf, it proceeds by means of its feet and beak to draw the edges together, perforating holes therein, and securing their proximity by threads of cotton, with bunches at the end to prevent their giving way. Then the nest is constructed inside the leaf, now forming a sort of corve, with cotton; the entrance is at the top, and the nest seems small in proportion to the bird. If this