XXI. *Description of a New Species of Warbler, called the Wood Wren, observed in May 1792. By Mr. Thomas Lamb, A. L. S.*

Read Nov. 6, 1792.

THE length is five inches and a half; bill horn-colour; upper mandible bent at the tip, and rather longer than the under; irides hazel; nostrils beset with bristles; top of the head, neck, back and tail coverts olive-green; throat and cheeks yellow, paler on the breast; belly and vent of a most beautiful silvery white; through the eye passes a yellow line; wings and coverts brown, edged with green; the tail consists of twelve feathers, rather forked, and of a brown colour, edged with green on the exterior webs, and with white on the interior, the first feather wanting the green edge; under part of the shoulder bright yellow; legs rather more than an inch long, of a horn-colour; claws paler.

This is undoubtedly a new species in England, and I believe a non-descript: it inhabits woods, and comes with the rest of the summer warblers, and in manners is much the same, running up and down trees in search of insects.

I heard it first, early in May, in Whitenight's Park, near Reading; it was there hopping about on the upper branch of a very high pine, and having a very singular and single note, it attracted my attention, being very much like that of the *Emberiza Miliaria* (Linn.), but so astonishingly shrill that I heard it at more than a hundred yards distance: this it repeated once in three or four minutes.

I never

I never heard these birds before last spring, and nevertheless I have heard nine in the course of a month; four in Whitenight's Park, and five in my tour to the Isle of Wight, viz. one in a wood at Stratfield Sea, one at East-Stratton Park, two in the New Forest, and one in a wood near Highclere: I have not heard it since June 6. Colonel Montague informed me he had met with it in Wiltshire, and had called it the Wood Wren; it has also been heard near Uxbridge.

It differs from the *Motacilla Hippolais* (Linn.), in being much larger, of a finer green colour on the upper parts, and more beautiful white beneath; also in the yellow streak passing through the eye, which in the *Hippolais* passes above and below the eye. It differs also from the *Motacilla Trochilus* (Linn.), in being larger, and white on the under parts, which are yellow in the *Trochilus*. The three which I opened were all males: I shall still continue my researches for the female with the nest and eggs; and if I should at any time meet with them, I shall with pleasure submit my observations to the Linnean Society.

TAB. 24. exhibits the Wood Wren of its natural size.

Wood Wren