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VIII.—Notes on Birds

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sign, by which it would seem that, in pursuit of aquatic insects, on which they subsist, along the surface of waters, they become the better marks for Kingfishers, Skimmers, Terns, and other birds which are destined to keep the number of fishes in check, especially in deep waters beyond the reach of the Waders*.

[To be continued.]

VIII.—*Notes on Birds*. By T. C. EYTON, Esq., F.L.S.

No. IV.

Psophodes Crepitans, Vig. and Horsf.

TONGUE nearly the same as in *Menura Lyra*. Trachea largest at the upper extremity, but gradually contracted towards the inferior larynx; the tube bound firmly down in the angle made by the rami of the os furcatum. The inferior larynx furnished with five pairs of muscles of voice, as among the Crows and Warblers; the sterno-tracheales weak, the other pairs of muscles connected with the trachea moderately developed. Oesophagus of moderate size, largest at the upper extremity, narrowed near the middle, and again slightly swelling above the proventriculus, which is of moderate size. Gizzard filled with the remains of insects, muscular, and of moderate size. Intestinal canal of large diameter in proportion to the size of the bird, largest a little below the duodenum; rectum short, about equal in diameter to the duodenum; cæca rudimentary; cloaca rather large.

Length of intestinal canal from stomach to cloaca $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Length of rectum $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Sternum rather elongated, and straight on the posterior margin between the fissures, which are two in number, one situated near each lateral margin, nearly closed posteriorly, deep, oval, and large. Keel shallow, nearly straight on its inferior edge, traversed by raised bony ridges as in *Menura*; the anterior edge of the keel and the manubrial process also resemble in shape those portions in the above-named genus.

Os furcatum long, without any process at the point where it joins the sternum; the rami rounded, and bending slightly inwards, so as to approach each other near the middle; coracoids, pelvis, ribs, scapula, and caudal vertebræ also as in *Menura*. The numbering of the vertebræ is

Cer. 11; Dor. 7; Sac. 11; Caud. 6; Ribs 8, 5 true, 3 false.

REMARKS.—In the structure of the soft parts and tongue *Psophodes* comes very near to *Menura*; the trachea however differs in not having the muscles of voice so strong, and in their being disposed as among the Warblers and Thrushes. *Menura* and *Psophodes* also agree in the form and length of the coracoids, scapula, and ribs, showing in these parts an affinity to Scansores, though not so strongly marked as in *Me-*

* See remarks on *P. perseus* in a subsequent part of this paper.

nura and *Pteroptochos*. The bones forming the pelvis approach very nearly in form and disposition to those of *Menura*, differing in no particular except in their smaller size. The sternum is broader in proportion to its length than in that genus, and agrees in the form of its posterior margin with the Thrushes and Shrikes, generally not having the portion between the lateral fissures produced as in *Menura*. The os furcatum agrees with the last-named genus in having the rami rounded, and in being destitute of a process at the extremity approaching the sternum; but in having the rami bent laterally inwards near the middle, so as to approach each other, it agrees with the Shrikes and Thrushes.

Not having been able to obtain a specimen of the South American genus *Thamnophilus* to dissect, it is of course merely conjecture, when I state that I believe the anatomy of that genus will be found to approach very nearly to that of *Psophodes*; referring to the external characters, although the bill differs much in form, the nature of the plumage and the form of the tail and wings are very similar.

Craticus Tibicen, Vieill.

Trachea, muscles of voice, tongue, and œsophagus as among the *Corvidæ* generally. Intestinal canal of moderate length; cæca scarcely more than rudimentary; cloaca large; gizzard of moderate size, oval, flattened, muscular, interior surface (epithelium) hardened, transversely rugose, filled with the remains of insects.

Length of œsophagus	4 inches.
Length of rectum	$\frac{3}{4}$ "
Length of intestine	20 "
Length of cæca	$\frac{1}{4}$ "

The skeleton of *Craticus Tibicen*, like the soft portions, does not differ materially from the general structure found among the *Corvidæ*; the scapula, however, is rather broader near the hinder extremity than in the middle, and the sternum proportionably larger than in any other *Corvidæ* with which I have had an opportunity of comparing it. The number of the vertebræ are

Cer. 12; Dor. 8; Sac. 12; Caud. 8; Ribs 8, 5 true, 3 false.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

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1841. Berlin.

WE have already apprised our readers of the intended continuation of this valuable journal, (established and so ably conducted by our friend the late Prof. A. Wiegmann of Berlin,) under the superintendence of Dr. Erichson, in conjunction with Dr. Grisebach in Göttingen,