

*Hab.* S. E. Himalaya ; Nepal. (No. 671, Hodgson's Catalogue.\*)

"Colour olive-grey above, tinged with green; beneath white, tinged on the flanks with ashy, and showing some yellow along the middle of the abdomen; a broad yellowish-white supercilium, and over this a black one; the coronal feathers margined with black, and the cheeks mingled black and white; orbital feathers subdued white; wings and tail without markings, the tertiaries edged with grey, and the secondaries with very faint dull yellowish. Bill yellowish-horny above, paler beneath, legs yellowish."

"Length  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches; of wing  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ; tail  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ; bill to gape nearly  $\frac{5}{8}$ ths; and tarse  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch."

Allied in form and size to *L. castaniceps*.

#### NOTES ON THE HABITS OF INDIAN BIRDS. PART IV.

BY LIEUT. BURGESS.

Family SYLVIADÆ.

Genus THAMNOBIA.

##### THAMNOBIA FULICATA. INDIAN ROBIN.

This bird is well known in the Deccan, and is found not only about villages, walls and outhouses, but is also common on low stony hills. Dr. Jerdon says that "its familiar habits have gained for it its name of Indian Robin." It breeds during the months of March, April and May, building its nests in holes of walls and rocks, as also in hollows under tussocks of grass. I subjoin some notes on the subject:—"May 9, 1850. When passing outside the wall of a town, an Indian Robin flew off the wall and hovered before me, uttering a sharp hissing cry. Knowing by her manner that she had a nest near, I searched in the wall and found the nest, composed of rotten grass and straw, and some threads of woollen cloth; the nest contained three young ones, quite unfledged; their skin was of a black-lead colour."—"March 19, 1851. Found in a hole in the rocks the nest of the Indian Robin, containing two eggs."—"March 27, 1851. Found the nest of the Robin, containing two eggs, built at the foot of a little tuft of grass, in a hole amongst the roots."

The egg of this bird is of a very pale dusky blue spotted all over with light brown, and a few purplish spots here and there; length rather more than  $\frac{1}{10}$ ths of an inch, by  $\frac{6}{10}$ ths in width.

Dr. Jerdon says: "I have twice seen the nest of this bird; once, built among a heap of large stones raised from a bourn, and the bird made its nest during the time the well was being blasted, and continued the process of incubation till the young ones were hatched, when it was accidentally destroyed. On the other occasion it had built its nest in a hole inside the wall of a house. It has four eggs, light dusky bluish colour, spotted with purplish brown."

\* No. 887 of Mr. Hodgson's Catalogue was attached to this bird, which number was previously used for *Loxia himalayana*; the above number being unoccupied, it is retained for the present species.

## Genus PRINIA.

## PRINIA INORNATA, Sykes. COMMON WREN WARBLER.

I believe that the nest and egg herewith forwarded, are the nest and egg of this little Warbler, though, not having shot the bird from her nest, I cannot say so positively. I think, however, that Dr. Jerdon's observation, though it differs in not mentioning the spots on the eggs, partly corroborates it. He says: "I once procured the nest of this species; it was open at the top, neatly enough made of grass well interwoven, without any lining, and fixed in a low bush very near the ground; it contained four blue eggs." The nest which I forward was found in the midst of some low jungle shrub, about a foot from the ground, during the monsoon. The egg is a little less than  $\frac{5}{16}$ ths of an inch in length, by rather more than  $\frac{4}{16}$ ths in width, of a rich blue ground, blotched and spotted with two shades of red-brown and pale purple.

## Tribe CONIROSTRES.

## Family CORVIDÆ. Subfamily CORVINÆ.

## Genus CORVUS.

## CORVUS SPLENDENS, Vieill. COMMON INDIAN CROW.

All the noise and impudence of the tribe appear to be concentrated in the Common Indian Crow. They abound, I believe, in every part of the Indian continent; and when to their number is added their thievish character, some idea may be formed of the nuisance they are. There is, however, a redeeming point in their character, viz. that they are very efficient scavengers. An officer of the Bombay army told me an anecdote illustrative of their sagacity, which he himself witnessed. Some crows had been sitting near a young dog, watching him whilst engaged with a bone. Having apparently concerted the plan, one of them alighted, stepped up and took a peck at the dog's tail; the dog, irritated, made a snap at the bully; on which a comrade, who appears to have been ready, made a dash and went off with the prize. He told me that he had seen another crow coolly walk off with a bit of bread, having actually taken it out of the hand of a child who was eating it. No one who has not been in India can form an idea of the noise which these crows make. In the morning, in Bombay, the tops of some of the bungalows are covered with them, squabbling and chattering, and it is reported that these black gentry are not proof against the seducing influence of the pots of toddy hanging up in the cocoa-nut trees. The juice of these trees is harmless before the sun is hot, but if taken after, has a decidedly inebriating effect. The common Crow begins to build at the end of April, forming its nest of sticks. It lays four eggs, of a dull greenish-blue, blotched and spotted with greenish-brown and grey,  $1\frac{4}{16}$ th in. in length by rather more than 1 inch in width. The eggs, however, differ in size and colour.