

P. 330. For *Charadrius mongolicus* read *Charadrius longipes*,—the true *Charadrius mongolicus* of Pallas being a *Hiaticula*—the same as *H. ruficollis*, Blyth, of India, according to Mr. Swinhoe.

P. 331. The Snipe included in my list has been compared with specimens of *Gallinago solitaria* of Hodgson, but it certainly is not of that species, being entirely devoid of the white patches on the back and wings, and of a generally lighter colour. It seems to agree with Mr. Gould's *G. australis*, the only differences being its slightly inferior size and more reddish hue. The sex of my specimen is doubtful; its length is 12·3 in., that of the wing 5·8 in. I may remark, that the figure in the 'Fauna Japonica' (pl. 68) looks like an imperfect copy of *G. solitaria*, and may (though it would not be fair to assume such as the case) have been taken from a specimen not killed in Japan.

P. 331. *Podiceps auritus* should stand as *Podiceps philippensis*, being identical with Chinese specimens of that species.

In conclusion, I must express my thanks to Dr. Sclater, Mr. J. H. Gurney, Mr. G. R. Gray, Mr. Gould, and Mr. Swinhoe, for the assistance they have so readily afforded me.

THOS. BLAKISTON.

London, Nov. 30, 1862.

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IX.—*Note on Corvus senex, Garn. & Less., and Corvus fuscicapillus, G. R. Gray.* By ALFRED R. WALLACE, F.Z.S.

ON looking over Schlegel's 'Notice sur le genre *Corvus*,' and comparing his figures and descriptions with my specimens from the Malay Archipelago, I was surprised to find that his *Corvus senex* was not Lesson's species, but a quite different bird, obtained by me at the Aru Islands, which Mr. G. R. Gray inserted in his list (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1858) as *C. orru*, but afterwards (on receiving the true *C. orru* from Dorey) named *C. fuscicapillus*. Schlegel's specimen appears to have been an immature female. It agrees exactly with mine in the high-arched bill, which is very much compressed, and in all the principal dimensions; but the adult birds have the plumage in both sexes purple-black, glossy above, except the head and neck, which are of a deep sooty brown. The face is thickly plumed; but in a young specimen which I

possess, the feathers are, as Schlegel describes it, “très-clair semées.” The bill, in the male, is entirely black; in the female and young birds, reddish white, with a black tip. The feet, in both sexes, are black.

The true *Corvus senex* is a very different bird. The bill and feet are yellowish white in both sexes, and a large space round the eye quite bare and of a white colour. The bill resembles in form that of *C. ossifragus*, figured by Schlegel, but is more elongated, and the upper mandible extends a quarter of an inch beyond the lower one; the base of the lower mandible is wider than in the much longer bill of *C. fuscicapillus*. The hairy plumes which cover the nostrils spread upwards, so as to rise and almost meet above the culmen at more than half an inch from its base, whereas in most other species of *Corvus* (and in *C. fuscicapillus* in particular) they are depressed over the nostrils only, leaving the culmen, except at its base, perfectly free. But the most characteristic feature of *C. senex* is its long graduated tail, which differs from that of every other Crow: Lesson gives it as from nine to ten inches in length, which exactly agrees with my specimens. In the colour of *C. senex* there is much individual variation, and though most frequently the head is of a dull dirty white, and the rest of the body dusky, yet I have one specimen in which the wings and tail show purple glosses, and I should not be surprised if others had the full corvine hues.

In the following comparative dimensions of the two birds, it will be seen that those of Schlegel's specimens, allowing for the French inches ( $\frac{1}{12}$ th more than English), exactly agree with my own.

	Total length.	Wings.	Tail.	Bill, from base of culmen.	Height of do.
<i>C. senex</i> , Less. . .	23 in.	13 in.	9-10 in.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.	1 in.
<i>C. fuscicapillus</i> . .	21-23	13-13 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	2 $\frac{9}{10}$	1 $\frac{1}{8}$
( <i>C. senex</i> , Schlegel)	20	12 $\frac{7}{12}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{2}{3}$	1

The synonyms and references to *C. fuscicapillus* will therefore stand thus:—

**CORVUS FUSCICAPILLUS.**

*Corvus orru*, G. R. Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1858, p. 180.

*Corvus senex*, Schlegel, 'Notice sur le genre *Corvus*,' 1860, p. 10 (♀ juv.).

*Corvus fuscicapillus*, G. R. Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1861, in Table of New Guinea Birds.

*Hab.* Aru Islands and Waigiou.

British Museum, Coll. Wallace, and Mus. Leyden.

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X.—*Recent Ornithological Publications.*

1. ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS.

THE appearance of the two first parts of Mr. Gould's 'Birds of Great Britain'\* is certainly the most remarkable event that has taken place in the ornithological world since we last addressed our readers. Our brother-naturalists are, no doubt, well acquainted with the previously issued volumes of Mr. Gould's magnificent series. They must be aware, therefore, that there is at present no series of illustrations of the birds of our native country which at all equals in merit those which Mr. Gould has given to the world of the Humming-Birds, the Toucans, the Birds of Australia, and the Birds of Asia. It is true that Mr. Gould has already some years ago published a work on the Birds of Europe, the plates of which form the usual standard of reference by English naturalists when treating of the European Avi-fauna. But, in the first place, the 'Birds of Europe' is long since out of print, and copies of it can only be obtained second-hand and at irregular intervals. And, secondly, the science of ornithology has made such rapid advances of late years, as, were the 'Birds of Europe' still accessible, would nevertheless necessitate the reissue of the work. We think, however, that Mr. Gould has acted wisely in confining himself on this occasion to the feathered tribes of our native islands. By so doing he keeps his work within narrower limits, and is enabled to issue it in a shorter period of time and at a less cost. And, besides this, he renders it more attractive to the many field-naturalists that are scattered over the broad surface of our fair mother-land, who will gladly welcome a series of pictures of the familiar favourites of

\* The Birds of Great Britain. By J. Gould, F.R.S., &c. Parts I. and II., fol. London, October 1, 1862.