

ON BIRDS REPRESENTED IN THE BRITISH
ISLES BY PECULIAR FORMS.

BY

ERNST HARTERT, PH.D.

As late as 1892, A. R. Wallace accepted only three birds as peculiar to the British Isles (*Island Life*, second ed., p. 340); the same number was admitted by Howard Saunders in 1899 (*Ill. Manual of Brit. Birds*, second ed.). The former author quoted "*Parus ater*, *sub.sp. britannicus*," "*Acredula caudata*, *sub.sp. rosea*," and "*Lagopus scoticus*," while Mr. Saunders only distinguished by special names "*Motacilla lugubris*, *Motacilla raii*, *Lagopus scoticus*," not even separating the Long-tailed Titmouse.

Mr. Dresser, in his "*Manual of Palæarctic Birds*," 1902, added to the three allowed by Mr. Saunders, "*Acredula rosea*" (though he partially united it with the continental *europæa*—*cf.* "*Vög. pal. Fauna*," I., p. 384—and consequently gave it too wide a range) and "*Parus britannicus*." This was undoubtedly a step forward, but recent investigations have shown that over twenty British breeding birds are separable from their continental allies.

In the following article I have given short notes on twenty-one forms more or less strictly peculiar to the British Islands. It may be that the characters of one or two of these will not be found constant enough to recognize them as different, but all the others are easily separable, and must undoubtedly be considered as geographical representatives of continental forms. There can hardly be any doubt that one or two more will be found to differ, when carefully compared, so that the

number of birds peculiar to the British Isles cannot fall short of twenty.

Looking at this small list the following facts are noticeable:—

1. All, with the exception of three, belong to the “Passeres.”

2. Only three can be called migrants, and even those (*i.e.* the two Wagtails and the Robin) are partly resident, especially the Robin.

3. There is a tendency for these British races to be duller or darker in colour, and smaller than their continental representatives.

1.—*GARRULUS GLANDARIUS RUFITERGUM* Hart.

British Jay.

Garrulus glandarius rufitergum Hartert, “Vög. pal. Fauna,” I., p. 30 (1903—Great Britain and Ireland; typical loc. : Tring).

British specimens of the Jay differ from continental ones—especially from a series of more eastern examples—by their more uniform vinous upper side, there being no, or hardly any, greyish or slaty wash on the back. The difference is “slight” and can only be seen when a series is compared.

[The continental *G. glandarius glandarius* seems to visit the British Isles only sporadically.]

2.—*LOXIA CURVIROSTRA ANGLICA* Hart.

English Crossbill.

Loxia curvirostra anglica Hartert, “Vög. pal. Fauna,” I., p. 119 (1904).

When I separated the English Crossbill, in 1904, I had examined large numbers and found them to differ from

continental Crossbills in having a duller coloration in both sexes, while the bill was, as a rule, less elongated and less pointed, and often slightly higher. It has been pointed out to me since that so few Crossbills breed regularly in England that it is not likely that they form a special race; moreover, I must admit that I have hardly seen British examples shot near the nest. On the other hand, the differences which I have pointed out are obvious when comparing our series in the Tring Museum, and they are evidently not due to stages of plumage. Crossbills are essentially nomadic, but I do not think they are true migrants anywhere, and I must hold that the flocks of Crossbills observed in England are hatched in England or Scotland, and not for a moment do I believe that they are migrants from Scandinavia or Central Europe. I have, however, received Crossbills from Scotland, which are not *L. c. scotica*, but *L. c. anglica*. Therefore it is quite possible that both these races breed in Scotland. It is to be hoped that our Scottish ornithologists will make observations and clear up these questions as to whether both forms breed in Scotland, whether side by side or in different districts, in the lowlands or the highlands, etc. I shall be pleased to examine series from various places. At present we must admit in Europe and the Mediterranean countries:—

Loxia pityopsittacus : Northern Europe.

Loxia curvirostra curvirostra : North and Central Europe generally; Northern Asia.

Loxia curvirostra hispana : Spain; nothing exact is known about the distribution.

Loxia curvirostra balearica : Balearic Islands.

Loxia curvirostra anglica : England (and Scotland).

Loxia curvirostra scotica : Scotland.

Loxia curvirostra guillemardi : Cyprus; a very distinct form.

Loxia curvirostra poliogyna : Tunis and Algiers.

Loxia leucoptera bifasciata and, exceptionally, *L. leucoptera leucoptera* (Vög. pal. Fauna, I., p. 123).

3.—*LOXIA CURVIROSTRA SCOTICA* Hart.

Scottish Mountain Crossbill.

Loxia curvirostra scotica Hartert, "Vög. pal. Fauna," I.,
p. 120 (1904).

In Scotland occurs a form of Crossbill which stands between the Parrot-Crossbill, *L. pityopsittacus*, and the Common Crossbill, *L. curvirostra*. Its bill is huge, but not as high as that of the Parrot-Crossbill; the wings of the males measure 100-104 mm. Such birds I have seen in the collections of Col. Feilden and Messrs. Harvie-Brown (type East Ross-shire, 26, XII, 1870), and Millais, and in the Edinburgh Museum. They are very striking, and are a most interesting form, which appears to be rare. I hope that Scottish ornithologists will collect more material, which I want badly. I have elsewhere explained my reasons for looking upon this form as a subspecies of *L. curvirostra* (*Vög. pal. Fauna*, I., pp. 116, 117).

4.—*CARDUELIS CARDUELIS BRITANNICUS* (Hart.).

British Goldfinch.

Acanthis carduelis britannicus Hartert, "Vög. pal. Fauna" I.,
p. 68 (1903—Great Britain; typical locality: Sussex).

Differs from the continental form by its darker, more olive-brown upper surface, while the white nuchal patch is not well developed, the ear-coverts, rump, and upper tail-coverts are more or less tinged with brown, and the sides of the body are darker and more uniform brown. The red of the head is generally very bright.

There is little wonder that the Goldfinch, which forms so many local races, should be represented by a special subspecies in the British Isles.

5.—MOTACILLA FLAVA RAYI (Bp.).

Yellow Wagtail.

Budytes Rayi Bonaparte, "Geogr. and Comp. List of B. Europe and N. Amer.," p. 18 (1838—based on Gould's *B. Europe*, II., Pl. 145—*British Islands*).

As every ornithologist knows, the Yellow Wagtail which commonly breeds in England is easily distinguished from the forms of continental Europe by its greenish crown, yellow forehead and superciliary line. Outside the British Isles this form evidently breeds in small numbers in the coast-regions of Western France. The alleged breeding in Portugal requires, I should say, confirmation.

[It is well known that *M. flava flava* has been found breeding in England, but these occurrences are apparently rare and irregular. As recorded by Mr. Butterfield in the "Zoologist," 1902, p. 232, a *M. flava beema* was shot on April 20th, 1898, near Rottingdean, in Sussex, but there is no reason whatever to imagine that the birds which have bred in England belong to this form which inhabits Western Siberia!]

6.—MOTACILLA ALBA LUGUBRIS Temm.

Pied Wagtail.

Motacilla lugubris Temminck, "Man. d'Orn.," I., p. 253 (1820—ex Pallas MS. The description suits our British bird well, but it seems that Temminck mixed up with it some Asiatic form sent to him by Pallas).

The entirely black upper surface, as everyone knows, distinguishes this form from the White Wagtail, *M. alba alba*. Outside the British Isles the Pied Wagtail breeds, according to Collett, sometimes in Norway near Stavanger and Bergen, and on the western coast of Holland, Belgium and France.

[*M. alba alba* breeds here and there in Great Britain and,

maybe, Ireland, but I do not know on whose authority Stejneger states (*Smiths. Misc. Coll.*, 48, p. 480) that it is "the breeding bird of Ireland," a statement which is certainly quite wrong.]

The TITMICE are the most interesting British birds for students of geographical distribution, because all the forms of this family differ from their continental representatives, with the exception of the Bearded Tit, *Panurus biarmicus*.

7.—*PARUS MAJOR NEWTONI* Prazák.

British Great Titmouse.

Parus major newtoni Prazák, "Orn. Jahrb.," V., p. 239 (1894—England).

Easily distinguishable from *Parus major major* of continental Europe (typical in Scandinavia, Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, etc.) by its stout, powerful bill. The alleged differences in colour are not constant.

8.—*PARUS CAERULEUS OBSCURUS* Prazák.

British Blue Titmouse.

Parus caeruleus obscurus Prazák, "Orn. Jahrb.," V., p. 246 (1894—England).

Differs from *P. caeruleus caeruleus* of continental Europe in being darker and more greenish—less bright and less yellowish—on the back; size generally smaller, bill comparatively thicker; the white tips to the inner secondaries are as a rule narrower and are cut off in a straight line.

9.—*PARUS ATER BRITANNICUS* Sharpe & Dress.

British Coal-Titmouse.

Parus britannicus Sharpe and Dresser, "Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.," ser. 4, VIII., p. 437 (1871—England).

Differs from *P. ater ater* in having the back greyish

olive-brown, instead of bluish-grey. It is never difficult to distinguish the British Coal-Tit if compared with the true North European *P. ater ater*. On the other hand *P. ater vieirae* Nicholson (*Manch. Mem. L.*, No. 13, p. 16) is not so easy to distinguish, but its back is lighter, its flanks are brighter. *P. ater vieirae* was based on a single example from Portugal, but it is probably spread over Spain; apparently the flanks of the type of *vieirae* are abnormally rufous, for I have seen such aberrations from various countries. *P. ater sardus* from Sardinia is also more like *britannicus*, but its colours are not so dull. I hope soon to be able to discuss the south European Coal-Tits more exhaustively.

10.—*PARUS PALUSTRIS DRESSERI* Stejn.

British Marsh-Titmouſe.

Parus palustris dresseri Stejneger, "Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.," IX., p. 200 (1886—England).

The nearest ally of the British Marsh-Tit is not the light-coloured Scandinavian *P. palustris palustris*, but *P. palustris longirostris* from the Rhine, Belgium, Holland and France. The British form, however, differs from the latter in its smaller ſize (wing ♂ 62—65 mm., very rarely 66, againſt 65—68 mm. in *longirostris*), darker and more olivaceous-brown upper ſurface.

11.—*PARUS ATRICAPILLUS KLEINSCHMIDTI* Hellm.

British Willow-Titmouſe.

Parus montanus kleinschmidti Hellmayr, "Orn. Jahrb.," 1900, p. 212 (England, near Finchley).

See alſo Kleinschmidt, "Orn. Monatsber.," VI., p. 34 (1898); Hartert, "Zoologiſt," 1898, p. 116; Hartert, "Bull. B.O.C.," XIV., p. 79; Rothschild, *anteà*, p. 44.

The British form of the Willow-Tits, or Marsh-Tits

with dull black crowns, differs very conspicuously from the Scandinavian *Parus atricapillus borealis*, as well as from the Alpine *P. a. montanus*, but it is closely allied to *P. atricapillus rhenanus*, from which it only differs in its smaller size and more brownish, darker upper surface. As Mr. Rothschild has fully explained the differences of *P. a. kleinschmidti* and *P. palustris dresseri* (*antea*, p. 44), I need not repeat them here. This bird is evidently stationary all the year round, and it is to be hoped that British ornithologists will pay more attention to it. Nest and eggs, with parent birds, have been taken near Tunbridge Wells and St. Leonards.

12.—*PARUS CRISTATUS SCOTICA* (Prazák).*

Scottish Crested Titmouse.

Lophophanes cristatus scotica Prazák, "Journ. f. Orn.,"
1897, p. 347 (Scotland).

Differs from *Parus cristatus cristatus* of north and east Europe, and from *P. cristatus mitratus* from Central Europe, by its much darker, more olive-brownish upper surface.

* In a footnote to his article on the "supposed new British Tit" (*antea*, p. 23), Dr. Sclater says: "Dr. Hartert writes the subspecific name (of the Scottish Crested Tit) as "*scotica*," but I cannot agree to use false concords. Latin having been universally adopted as the language of science, we are bound . . . to follow the ordinary rules of its grammar." To those who have followed the apparently endless controversies on nomenclature of the last twenty years this note is perfectly clear, but to uninitiated readers it will not be so. I must, in their interest, explain that *I did not choose to write the name as "scotica,"* but that its author spelt it thus. It is true that it has been the custom to bring the gender of specific and subspecific names into concord with the generic name, even if the gender of the latter was originally different. From this rule I have so far deviated that *I have preserved the original spelling of every name*, no matter whether the gender of names with adjectival endings agreed with that of the genus into which they are now placed or not. The aim of all recent efforts in nomenclature is *stability*, and stability in nomenclature can only be effected if we allow no alterations in the spelling of names. If we agree to alter

The wings are shorter—those of the few specimens I have been able to measure being only 60-63 mm. Flanks very brown.

This is the Scottish form, which breeds in Strathspey. The few examples which have been observed in south and east England were apparently stragglers from the Continent.

the gender of adjectival names, we have to alter it again and again, and different spellings are thus inevitable. As a rule, the knowledge of a schoolboy is sufficient to know the gender of generic names, but nevertheless ornithologists do not always agree. Every scholar will know that "*Nucifraga*" (meaning the Nutcracker) is masculine, yet ornithologists have always treated it as feminine. *Halcyon* is undoubtedly feminine (Halcyone was the faithful wife of Ceyx, and was transformed into a Kingfisher), yet in the "Catalogue of Birds" it has become masculine, and so it has been treated since in most writings. The Greek word "*Ammomanes*" is masculine, yet among ornithologists it is feminine. I maintain that there is altogether little sense in considering a specific name as an adjective of the generic name. "A name is only a name, and need not necessarily have any meaning." Stability in names is of greater importance than grammatical exactness. The custom of "correcting" names leads to inconsistency and oscillation. (Cf. *Novitates Zoologicae*, 1907, p. 338.) If we never alter the spelling of specific names we make a wide step towards stability. Nor am I the only person or the first author who refused to alter the gender of names. Dyar, in his great work on American Lepidoptera, has not altered it; Staudinger, in his "Catalogue," has not always done it; Rothschild and Jordan, in their monographic works on lepidoptera, have never done it; and in many single instances authors have forgotten to do it!

Dr. Sclater says that "Latin has been universally adopted as the language of science." But surely nowadays hardly anybody writes in Latin; and it is for scientific persons of far greater importance to understand German, French, and English than Latin. The only relic from the times when Latin was the language of science is that some authors still publish a Latin diagnosis when "describing" a new species. I myself have mostly done so, and given long Latin diagnoses, until the editor of a periodical altered my correct Latin into incorrect Latin. Many prolific species-mongers have never written a Latin diagnosis in their lives. There is a danger in Latin diagnoses. Many writers are so little accustomed to that language, and know so few words, that they give short and insufficient diagnoses. In

13.—*AEGITHALOS CAUDATUS ROSEA* (Blyth).

British Long-tailed Titmouse.

Mecistura rosea Blyth, in White's "Selborne," p. 111
(1836—England).

The British Long-tailed Tit differs at a glance from *A. caudatus caudatus* of N. and E. Europe in having a broad black band on the sides of the head, in having shorter body-feathers, etc. It is, however, closely allied to *A. caudatus europaea* of southern and western Middle-Europe, of which it may be called an extreme form, differing only in having a shorter wing and invariably a wide black stripe on the sides of the head, while *A. c. europaea* varies from a pure white head to a black-striped variety.

A. c. rosea is the only form breeding in Great Britain and Ireland, but it is probably not quite restricted to the British Isles, as specimens from the Pyrenees seem to me absolutely indistinguishable. The true *A. caudatus caudatus* straggles occasionally into Great Britain, but very rarely.

such cases it would be far better if they wrote in the English, German, or French—languages, which are and must be understood as well as Latin by anyone who claims to be a scientific ornithologist. Our nomenclature even is not Latin any longer. Can one say that ugly hybrid names like *rufigaster*, *leucocapillus*, etc., or the many dedication names in use (for example, *hansi*, *möbiusi*, *mohammed-ben-abdullah*, *grum-grzmailoi*, *tschitscherini*), or names like *timneh*, *urubitinga*, *chimachima*, *chiriri*, *chiripepe*, *curucui*, *chi*, *jacutinga*, *jacupeba*, *zabelé*, *boraquira*, *guira-yacu*, *irupero*, *jacquacai*, *quirayacu*, *loreto-yacuensis*, *jale*, *fanny*, and so on, or the many awful names of P. L. S. Müller, or the nonsense-names of some coleopterists and lepidopterists, are Latin? We are not nowadays following any pedantic rules imposed on natural science by philologists; but we study Nature itself, unfettered by philology, and use "nomenclature" only as a means to have names for our objects. It is very regrettable that so many of these names have been made without knowledge of, or without regard to, grammar and classical feeling; but we must not alter them, and have to adopt them, even if they shock our classical nerves, and they must remain as mementoes of the recklessness or stupidity of their creators.

14.—*REGULUS REGULUS ANGLORUM* Hart.

British Goldcrest.

Regulus regulus anglorum Hartert, "Bull. B.O.C.," XVI.,
p. 11 (1905).

Differs from *R. regulus regulus* of continental Europe as follows: the upper surface is darker, more olivaceous, the under surface is slightly duller, the size, as a rule, less. Wing mostly from 51.5 to 54, exceptionally 55 and even 57 mm.

[The north European form frequently crosses over to Great Britain in flocks in autumn and winter.]

15.—*SITTA EUROPAEA BRITANNICA* Hart.

British Nuthatch.

Sitta europaea britannica Hartert, "Nov. Zool.," 1900,
p. 526 (England: type from Tring).

Differs from *S. europaea europaea* (*terra typica*: Sweden) in having the underside buff instead of white, from *S. europaea caesia* (*terra typica*: Germany) in having the chestnut colour on the flanks lighter, the breast and abdomen more or less paler, often strikingly pale, the bill generally more slender and more pointed, and the culmen mostly higher arched and more sharply ridged.

16.—*CERTHIA FAMILIARIS BRITANNICA* Ridgw.

British Tree-Creeper.

Certhia britannica (!) Ridgway "Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.," V.,
p. 113 (1882—England).

Differs strikingly from *C. familiaris familiaris* (*terra typica*: Sweden) in its rufescent-brown upper surface, and from *C. familiaris macrodactyla* (*terra typica*: Middle Germany) in having the rump more rufous, and, in freshly moulted specimens, the whole upper surface more rufescent; the bill is as a rule visibly longer.

[It is remarkable that only this form occurs, at least during the breeding season, in the British Isles, and that *Certhia brachydactyla* is unknown. On the Continent most countries are inhabited by two different creepers: a form of *C. familiaris* and a form of *C. brachydactyla*.]

17.—*ERITHACUS RUBECULA MELOPHILUS* Hart.

British Robin.

Erithacus rubecula melophilus Hartert, "Nov. Zool.," 1901, p. 317.

Differs from *E. rubecula rubecula* (of Scandinavia, Germany, etc.) in having a much deeper brownish-red throat, and a darker, more rufous upper surface; the sides of the body are darker, and the brown colouring more extended. The British Robin is easily distinguished from the "typical" north European Robin, but the form from Teneriffe and Gran Canaria (*Erithacus rubecula superbus*) is somewhat nearer, and so are others, which I hope to discuss fully before long. The deep red throat of the British Robin is so striking that even ladies without any ornithological knowledge whatever, have noticed the difference between British and continental Robins.

When I first described this form I attached much importance to its domestic and garden-loving habits, nesting-sites, and song. My knowledge of Robins on the continent had been mostly derived from the eastern parts of Germany, where they are almost essentially forest-birds; but it now seems to me that such habits vary locally much more than I had supposed, and that in this case, as in others, the habits have been altered on account of the different surroundings. Vaster forests and less population in the east, more gardens, houses, and much thicker population in the west, account for these differences in habits; and in this as well as in other cases, such differences cannot serve to strengthen the systematic value of a subspecies.

[Continental Robins not infrequently, and perhaps regularly, pass through Great Britain on migration.]

18.—*TROGLODYTES TROGLODYTES HIRTENSIS* Seeb.

St. Kilda Wren.

Troglodytes hirtensis and *Troglodytes parvulus hirtensis* Seebohm, "Zoologist," 1884, p. 333 (St. Kilda).

While Wrens from Great Britain and Ireland are,

apparently, not separable from those of Central Europe and Northern Europe in general—I have not been able to study *Troglodytes bergensis*—those from St. Kilda have been separated, as above. There is no doubt that St. Kilda Wrens are larger than those from Great Britain, the wing being longer (about 55 mm.), and the feet a little stronger. The difficulty is, however, how to separate it from *Troglodytes troglodytes borealis* of the Faroe Islands. Unfortunately I have only been able to compare a very few specimens from St. Kilda, and, moreover, I suspect that all, with the exception of the type in the British Museum, have been for a time in spirits, and are therefore faded. If this is not the case the St. Kilda Wren is evidently paler on the under surface than *T. t. borealis*, while the dimensions are about the same, and probably the barring on the back and abdomen is stronger in *T. t. hirtensis*, but as these characteristics vary a great deal, it is desirable to examine a better series from St. Kilda. Even *T. t. borealis* from the Faroe Islands is most closely allied to *T. t. troglodytes*, and there is a specimen from Fair Isle, collected by Messrs. W. Eagle Clarke and Kinneair, which has the wing fully as long as the birds from the Faroe Islands, while other specimens from Fair Isle are not at all larger than those from Great Britain.

The Iceland Wren is still larger than *T. t. borealis*, and I have recently separated it as *T. t. islandicus*.

I may add that I see no necessity for the separation of the genera *Troglodytes* and *Nannus*, but if this separation is made the latter must be called *Nannus* Billberg, 1828.

19.—CINCLUS CINCLUS BRITANNICUS Tsch.

British Dipper.

Cinclus cinclus britannicus Tschusi, "Orn. Jahrb.," XIII., p. 69 (1902—Beaufort Castle, Scotland, etc.).

The British Dipper differs from *Cinclus cinclus aquaticus* of Germany at a glance by its deep, predominantly blackish upper surface and dark crown, from *Cinclus*

cinclus cinclus of Scandinavia in the conspicuously rufous breast-band, which it shares with *C. c. aquaticus*. *Cinclus cinclus aquaticus* is nearest to *C. c. pyrenaicus*, but the latter appears to be smaller, and will shortly be discussed by me more fully. Evidently *C. c. britannicus* is the only form of Dipper breeding in the British Isles. It is quite possible that the Scandinavian form visits our islands occasionally in winter, but many of the alleged occurrences of the latter appear to be based on erroneous identification.

20.—*DENDROCOPUS MAJOR ANGLICUS* Hart.

British Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Dendrocopus major anglicus Hartert, "Nov. Zool.," 1900, p. 528 (type: Horsham).

When compared with *D. major major* from Scandinavia, the British Great Spotted Woodpecker differs very strikingly by its smaller size, much slenderer, less powerful bill, shorter wing, and generally more brownish under surface. Since I described *D. m. anglicus* I have seen examples from western Germany which come very close to the English form, and I am not yet sure if the latter is actually restricted to the British Isles; should this not be the case it would not alter the fact, that it can never accurately, but only in a broad sense, be called "*Dendrocopus major*," as it differs so considerably from the northern form.

21.—*DENDROCOPUS MINOR COMMINUTUS* subsp. nov.

British Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

Formae *D. minor minor* dictae similis, sed alis caudaque brevioribus haud difficile distinguendus. Gastraeo fulvescentiore.

The British Lesser Spotted Woodpecker differs strikingly from the Scandinavian *D. minor minor* by its much shorter wings and tail. The under surface is always buffish,

mostly rather dark, but its shades vary very much, and it is often soiled. It is strange that nobody has as yet emphasized the strikingly small size of this bird, as compared with typical *minor*. Wings of ♂ 85.5 to 88.5 mm., of ♀ 86 to 90 mm. (eighteen males and a few females measured). Swedish *D. m. minor* wings of ♂ 92 to 96.5 mm., ♀ equal but apparently often slightly larger. Type of *D. m. comminutus*: ♂ ad. Wingrave, Bucks., 22, iv, 1902. I hope to discuss some continental specimens which come near to *D. m. comminutus* on a future occasion.

[Probably some will be tempted to fall into the error of using Macgillivray's name, "*Picus striolatus*," for this bird, but this is not correct. Macgillivray may possibly have described a British specimen; he did, however, not name the British Lesser Spotted Woodpecker "*Picus striolatus*," but re-named the *Picus minor* of Linnaeus, because the latter was "by no means the smallest of even the Pied Woodpeckers" (*Hist. Brit. B.*, III., p. 90), and gave as its distribution Europe, especially the northern parts, France, Germany, and some parts of England.]

22.—LAGOPUS LAGOPUS SCOTICUS (Lath.).

Red Grouse.

Tetrao scoticus Latham, "Gen. Syn.," Suppl. I., p. 290 (1787).

The Red Grouse, indigenous only to the British Isles, is the representative of the Willow-Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus lagopus*) of northern Europe. As everybody knows, it differs from its continental ally in lacking the white primaries and other white portions in the summer plumage, and in having no entirely white winter plumage, the latter being not remarkably different from the summer plumage.