Top of head and crest bright rufous. Front and throat brilliant green; elongated feathers on the side of the neck white, with small round spots of brilliant green. Back bright grass-green. Rump dark red crossed by a white bar. Tail rufous red, outer edges of the feathers dark green. Underparts dark gray, greenish on the flanks. Bill red.

Lophornis stictolophus.

Lophornis reginæ, Gould, P. Z. S. 1847, p. 95; id. Mon. Troch. vol. iii. pl. 122; id. Intr. Troch. p. 84.

Hab. Columbia.

Top of head and crest bright red, the latter having several rows of small round black spots. Throat and upper parts of breast brilliant metallic green. Back dark green. Rump dark red crossed by a white bar. Two central feathers glittering green, outer ones dark rufous edged with dark green. Underparts dark green. Under tail-coverts dark rufous. Bill red.

XXXIII.—*Additional List of and Notes on Birds obtained in the Republic of Trans-Vaal.* By Thomas Ayres. (Communicated by John Henry Gurney.)

[Continued from 'The Ibis,' 1871, p. 270.]

[In communicating the following notes from the pen of my friend Mr. Ayres, I am desirous of correcting an error for which I am responsible, and which occurred in Mr. Ayres's first paper on Trans-Vaal birds, on page 292 of 'The Ibis' for 1869. The Zosterops there mentioned as *Z. capensis* should have been given as *Z. sundevalli*, Hartl., and not as *Z. capensis*.—J. H. G.]

158. Erythropus amurensis, Radde. Eastern Red-footed Hobby.

In December 1870 my brother and I rode over to a lagoon on Loup-spruit, some six miles from Potchefstroom, duck-shooting, and there we found a lot of these pretty Falcons hunting with much assiduity; they were coursing backwards

and forwards over the driest end of the swamp with an exceedingly rapid flight, and were taking insects on the wing. Though the birds were plentiful, they would seldom come within range, and we only secured the specimen sent (an adult male). This is the only time I have noticed them in this part of the country.

159. Milvus forskahli (Gmel.). Yellow-billed Kite.

160. Circaëtus pectoralis, Smith. Black-breasted Harrier Eagle.

161. Aquila nævioides, Cuv. Tawny Eagle.

162. Haliaëtus vocifer (Daud.). African Sea-Eagle.

163. Serpentarius secretarius (Scop.). Secretary bird.

164. Hirundo albigularis, Strickl. Southern White-throated Swallow.

These Swallows breed sparsely in this part of the country.

165. Hirundo cucullata, Bodd. Rousseline Swallow.

A pair of these Swallows are now (30th December) breeding in my bedroom. They have fixed their nest within a few feet of my head; and I hear them frequently talking to one another in the middle of the night; and in the early morning it is pleasant to listen to their short but cheery song. The little white-rumped Swifts (*Cypselus caffer*) tried several times to turn them out when the nest was about half built; and they certainly would have done so, had not I prevented the robbery. There is no fighting over the matter; the Swifts simply frighten the Swallows away by constantly flying close past, making harsh cries; and then, entering the nest, they take possession.

166. Cotyle cincta (Bodd.). Brown-collared Martin.

167. Alcedo semitorquata, Swains. Half-collared Kingfisher.

168. Corythornis cristata (Linn.). Malachite-crested Kingfisher.

169. Sylvietta rufescens (Vieill.). South-African Crombec.

170. Budytes rayi, Bonap. Ray's Wagtail.

[The specimen sent (a male in full plumage) is the only South-African example of this species which I have yet seen. Mr. Ayres sent with it two specimens of *B. flava*, which he says has been "exceedingly scarce for the last two seasons." —J. H. G.]

171. Macronyx capensis (Linn.). Sentinel Pipit.

172. Pycnonotus nigricans (Vieill.). Brunoir Bulbul.

173. Laniarius quadricolor, Cass. Four-banded Shrike.

174. Hyphantornis subaureus, Smith. Algoa-Bay Weaverbird.

175. Estrelda astrild (Linn.). Waxbill Finch.

176. Habropyga subflava (Vieill.). Sanguineous Finch.

177. Ortygospiza polyzona (Temm.). Little Barred-breasted Finch.

178. Streptopelia capicola (Sund.). Cape Turtle Dove. Tolerably common in Potchefstroom.

[The specimen sent appears to agree with two in my possession, obtained by the late Mr. Andersson, one at the river Cunené and the other near the river Obavango, and may therefore be considered referable to *S. damarensis* (Finsch & Hartl.), if the latter be admissible as specifically distinct from *S. capicola*, which I greatly doubt.—J. H. G.]

179. Francolinus gariepensis, Smith. Orange-River Francolin.

[The eggs sent to the Rev. Canon Tristram, and referred to in 'The Ibis,' 1871, p. 262, were subsequently proved, by an examination of the skin of the parent bird, to belong to this species, and not, as at first supposed, to *F. levaillanti*; both species, however, are natives of Trans-Vaal. Mr. Ayres remarks, as to *F. levaillanti* and two of its congeners, "*F. afer* and *F. levaillanti* appear to me to be generally distributed all over the country where the localities are suitable to their habits; *F. pileatus* I have only found in the

bush-country, frequenting the open glades, and I think it is a much scarcer bird."—J. H. G.]

180. Ardea goliath, Temm. Goliath Heron.

Whilst out fishing I shot a fine specimen of this Heron; he had just caught and gorged whole a cat-fish (here callel barbel) of at least two pounds weight, and with a head as broad as one's hand; he had dexterously speared it right through the body behind the head, with one mandible, and had evidently clasped it with the other.

181. Ardea comata, Pall. Squacco Heron.

This Heron is plentiful in the swamps in the neighbourhood of Potchefstroom.

182. Lobivanellus lateralis (Smith). South-African Wattled Plover.

A few of these Plovers occasionally find their way to Potchefstroom and the neighbourhood; they are, however, very rare visitants.

The specimen sent (a female) was one of three which were observed outside the town of Potchefstroom in the month of April.

The iris was ashy brown; the bill yellow, but black at the tip; the bare part of the thighs, the tarsi and feet greenish yellow; the basal part of the wattles red; the remaining portion and the eyelids yellow.

[Mr. E. C. Buxton informs me that he obtained this species in the neighbourhood of the Labomba mountains, beyond the northern boundary of the colony of Natal.—J. H. G.]

183. Philomachus pugnax (Linn.). Ruff.

[A female specimen in winter plumage.—J. H. G.]

184. Totanus glareola (Linn.). Wood-Sandpiper.

185. Gallinago major (Gmel.). Solitary Snipe.

These Snipes were more plentiful than usual in the neighbourhood of Potchefstroom about the end of 1871.

186. Rallus cærulescens, Gmel. Caffre Rail.

187. Ortygometra pygmæa, Naum. Baillon's Crake.

The following observations relate to species already recorded as occurring in Trans-Vaal:—

108. Hyphantornis mariquensis (Smith). Mariqua Weaver bird.

In the beginning of August 1871 I noticed that a pair of these birds had commenced building, hanging their nest on the pendulous twigs of a weeping-willow right over one of the secluded back streets of the town of Potchefstroom, at a height of perhaps twenty feet from the ground, the tree being large and one of a row. At this period the cock bird had not assumed the yellow plumage, or the slightest symptom of it that I could see, but was in appearance similar to the female. The building of the nest proceeded very slowly, and by the beginning of September it was not more than one fourth completed, the pair of birds still remaining in the same plumage; but at this stage the nest was pulled down by some boys, and of course the birds left the place.

At the same date (the beginning of September) I explored the reeds at the river and found many nests of this species in various early stages, and saw several cock birds in full yellow plumage.

About the middle of September I again went to the river and found a good many nests among the reeds, but none finished or containing eggs; the nests are almost always hung between two reeds, sometimes where the water is knee-deep, at others where it is waist-deep, and sometimes where they can be only reached by swimming; for the river, though narrow, is very deep, and the reeds either shoot up from the bottom, or form a sort of overhanging bank not easy of approach.

On 20th October I again visited the spot, but of the nests which I then examined I only found one containing eggs; I saw several cock birds in full plumage, and it is noticeable that the cock birds are more often to be seen at the nests than the hens.

On 1st November I obtained three nests, with eggs, from the same locality, but could not get the birds belonging to them;

and though, as far as I could judge, the males were in full plumage, I was never certain which birds belonged to the nests which I took.

I think, however, that Mr. Layard's correspondents are right in considering "that many of these birds do not assume the yellow plumage in summer, and that they breed, or at all events commence building, before assuming the breeding-dress."

[The following are particulars of the plumage of five males of this species obtained by Mr. Ayres:—

One shot in July, with no marks of breeding-plumage except a little black on the cheeks, throat, and chin, especially the latter, and a very slight tinge of yellow on the underparts.

One shot in September in full breeding-dress.

One shot 26th November, also in full breeding-plumage.

Two shot 29th November, both in winter dress, except a slight tinge of yellow on the under surface.

Of four nests obtained by Mr. Ayres, one contained three eggs of a light pink ground-colour sprinkled with spots of a dark pink over the whole surface, some of these spots being minute and others much larger.

A second nest contained a single egg with similar spots on a pale blue ground.

In another nest there were three eggs with pinkish spots of a fainter hue than the preceding ones, more thickly clustered, and on a dull green ground.

In the fourth nest were two eggs with spots similarly clustered, but of a brighter and more rufous tint and on a pale ground.—J. H. G.]

38. Megalophonus rufipileus (Vieill.). Fasciolated Lark (*vide* Ibis, 1871, p. 268).

This Lark has precisely the peculiar habits of *M. apiatus*, mentioned in Mr. Layard's Catalogue, p. 206.

One of the birds sent (a male) had evidently, from the appearance of the skin on the breast and belly, taken his share in incubation; it was shot about the end of March.

124. Megalophonus nævius, Strickl. Dark-streaked Lark.

This species is fond of perching on the tops of bushes; it has a short but pleasing song; its food consists of insects.

125. Megalophonus chenianus (Smith). Latakoo Lark.

This Lark somewhat resembles in its habits the English Skylark, rising in the air in the early morning, with the same fluttering flight and singing sweetly all the time. I observed this in the middle of February, towards the end of our summer; and the birds were then in pairs.

The food of this species consists of small insects.

146. Balearica regulorum (Licht.). Southern Crowned Crane (*vide* Ibis, 1868, pp. 255, 256, 1869, p. 376, and 1871, p. 264).

I have been fortunate enough to get two more eggs of this Crane; they are precisely similar to those mentioned in 'The Ibis' for 1868, p. 256, except that those now obtained were quite fresh, whereas the previous ones were much incubated, and in consequence had a dirty, glossy, and worn appearance.

These last eggs have changed but little in colour since they were blown, but were perhaps scarcely so white before they were emptied of their contents, and then showed more of the pale green lining of the shell through the outer coating.

One of these eggs measured $3\frac{7}{16}$ inches by $2\frac{3}{16}$, the other $3\frac{9}{16}$ by $2\frac{4}{16}$.

They were taken from the nest on 22nd December, 1871, by my friend Mr. J. C. Bodenstein, on whose statements I can implicitly rely, and who also shot one of the old birds, the skin of which I now have.

The nest was found in an extensive swamp on the banks of the Movi river, about twenty miles from Potchefstroom, and was composed of rushes pulled and placed in a conical form on the rank long grass, which falls over from its own weight and forms a thick carpet of vegetation, often more than a foot thick; the nest was built where the water was about ankle-deep, and contained two eggs only.