

African Zoology:
PART II.

BIRDS.

ORDER RAPTORES. *Vigors.*

BILL stout, covered with a cere at its base, its tip bent down; less strong, short or of moderate length; tarsi naked or more or less covered with feathers or down; toes four, three before and one behind; claws strong, moveable, arcuated, acute or blunt.

FAM. GYPOGERANIDÆ.*

Bill robust, strongly curved at the point; legs very long, slender, feathered to, or nearly to the tarsi, the latter scutulated or reticulated; the middle and outer toes united by a small membrane at their base; wings moderate.

Genus GYPOGERANUS. *Illiger.*

Bill robust, shorter than the head, straight at its base, curved towards its extremity; sides compressed; nostrils lateral, oblong, oblique, open, and situated in the cere; tongue fleshy and pointed; space round eyes naked; eyebrows prominent; tarsi scutulated; wings armed with three obtuse spurs; the first five quills of equal length; tail feathers twelve.

Gypoggeranus Africanus. Cere, and naked space round eyes, yellow or orange; bill blackish towards base, light bluish white towards tip; eyes light brown; top of head, hinder part of neck, back and shoulders blue-grey; sides of neck, throat, and breast pale grey; belly white; vent and thighs black, most of the feathers narrowly tipped with white. Hindhead with a long crest of narrow black feathers that increase in width towards their points which are generally white; greater wing coverts and quills black. Tail rounded, the two middle feathers nearly double the length of the others, hoary grey, each with a broad black band towards point, the point itself white; the lateral

* Accipitres Gallinacées, Lesson, *Traite d' Ornithologie*, p. 14.

feathers white towards base, ashy towards points, and crossed by two black bands, the first narrow, irregular, and separating the white and grey colours; the last broad, and near to the extremity; tips of all the feathers white. Legs and toes yellowish brown; claws black. Length from bill to point of centre tail-feathers three feet five inches.

Inhabits Africa,—common in South Africa.

Falco serpentarius, Lin. *Vultur serpentarius*, Lath. *pl.* 2. *Ophiotheres cristatus*, Vieill. *Gal. pl.* 260. *Le Mangeur de Serpents*, Levaill. *pl.* 25. Secretary Bird of the Cape Colonists.

FAM. VULTURIDÆ.

Head, and more or less of neck, divested of feathers; the former covered with down, hair, or fleshy membranes; cere bald or hairy; tarsi robust and reticulated; claws weak; quills longer than the tail, the first quill the shortest; the fourth the longest.

Genus VULTUR. Illiger.

Bill thick and rather short, deeper than broad, its base covered by a cere; upper mandible straight, bent towards the point; under mandible straight, rounded, and inclined at the point; head naked or covered with short down; nostrils naked, lateral, opening diagonally towards the edge of the cere; legs strong, furnished with slightly-bent claws; the middle toe longest, and united with the exterior one at the base; the third and fourth quill feathers longest.

Vultur arrianus, Picot La Peyr. Colour brown, inclining to black and sometimes to fulvous; bill brown-black; cere violet; eyes dark brown; head and nape bare; skin bluish; the rest of neck covered with a fulvous down; lower part of neck with a collar of long narrow delicate feathers; tarsi partly feathered; the bare portion, and the toes, greyish; claws black. Length three feet six inches.

Young.—The entire of the neck covered with down, and all the feathers of the upper parts terminated by a colour of a lighter tint.

Inhabits Egypt, India, and Europe.

Le Vautour noir d'Egypt, Savig. *Syst. des Ois. d'Egypte*, *p.* 14. *L'Arrian*, Gerard. *Tab. elem. d'Orn. vol. i. p.* 11. Cinereous, Ash-coloured, and Bengal Vulture, Latham, *Ind. Orn.*

Vultur fulvus, Gmel. (Fulvous Vulture.) Head and nape covered with dirty short whitish hairs, or bristles; lower part of cervix bare, and of a bluish colour; lower part of

throat, and middle of breast, covered with short, bristly, grey-brown feathers; rest of throat, sides of neck, and upper part of cervix, with fine whitish down, and bristles resembling those of the head. Skin, as seen through these coverings, between livid blue and purple; lower part of neck behind with a frizzy ruff of short white feathers; plumage of upper and under parts white, or a pale blossom colour; primary quill feathers black; secondaries greyish, shaded with black towards their shafts; tail rounded, and composed of fourteen black feathers, tinted with grey. Bill, legs, and toes, livid blue, with shades of dirty green; claws black; eyes light yellowish red. Length from three feet to three feet six inches; breadth from tip to tip of wings, about eight feet. Young specimens are more or less variegated with dull brown.

Vultur Kolbii, Lath. *Ind. Ornith. Supp. vol. i. pl. 10.* Le Chassefiente, Le Vaill. *Ois. d' Afriq. pl. 10.* (young.) White Ass-vogel of the Cape Colonists.

Vultur auricularis. Bill strong; tip of upper mandible yellow; rest of that, and the lower greenish yellow or horn-colour; cere bluish; eyes dark brown; skin of head, and unfeathered portion of neck, vermilion or livid purple, with white variegations; the head thinly covered with a brownish white down and some black hairs; the neck bare, or with a still more scanty covering of the like materials; and on each side thereof a thin fold of loose skin, extending downwards and forwards several inches below the ears, usually about one inch in breadth, and similar in colour to the head. Throat, and middle of breast, covered with fine short black feathers; back of neck with a ruff of long narrow coarse brownish feathers, many of which are turned forwards; lower part of cervix, back, and shoulders, dark brown; many of the feathers margined with a lighter tint; quills and tail black, the latter consisting of twelve feathers. Under parts brownish black, the feathers long, narrow, somewhat curved, broadly edged with white towards their bases, narrowly with dirty light brown elsewhere; thighs with a few brownish feathers on their outer sides, but their principal covering is a fine reddish brown down; legs and toes pale bluish, with a tinge of green; claws dark horn-coloured, inclined to black. Length about three feet four or six inches; expanse of wings ten feet.

Inhabits Africa.

Vultur auricularis, Shaw, *Zool. vol. i. p. 24.* L'Oricou, Le Vaill. *Ois. d' Afriq. i. pl. 1.* Black Ass-vogel of the Cape Colonists.

Vultur Galerikulatus. Temm. Brown-black; wing coverts varied according to the age with brown, yellow, and whitish;

the back scapulars and belly pure white; cere blue; head and neck naked, of a rosy-violet colour; bill yellow; tarsi flesh-coloured. Total length two feet five inches.

Inhabits Western and Northern Africa.

Vultur monachus, Gmel. Head surmounted by a tuft of brown down; cheeks and throat covered with a black down; circle round eyes white. Feathers of the collar long and slender; all the naked part of the neck between the collar and the black down, dull white. The lower part of neck naked, the skin bluish and plaited; tarsi and toes whitish: the entire of the plumage an uniform brown. Length from bill to extremity of tail about three feet.

Inhabits Africa.

Voutour chincou, *Levaill. Afrig. pl. 12.* Temm. *pl. col. 426.*

Vultur niger, Gmel. (Black Vulture.) Skin of head and part of neck blue, and covered with down; the neck with a collar of long, narrow, bristly feathers; bill black; cere, tarsi, and toes bluish. The body, the wings, and the tail, black; the eyelids grey-white. Total length three feet and a half. In birds of the first, second, and third years, the plumage is more or less mixed with brown.

Inhabits Europe and Africa.

Egyptus Niger, Savigny, *Oiseau d' Egypt et de Syrie*,

Vultur occipitalis, Burchell. (Tufted Vulture.) Bill and feet flesh-coloured; bare space round the eyes white; eyes of the colour of burnt umber; top of the head covered with a white feathery wool, which, at the back part, is longer and stands in a reversed position. Colour above blackish brown; the thighs and under-parts of body and neck white; quill feathers and tail black, the secondaries white towards their extremities. The part of the neck which is bare, together with the base of the beak, white. Total length two feet; expanse of wings seven feet.

Inhabits Africa.

GENUS NEOPHRON. *Savigny.*

Bill slender, long and rounded, swelled towards the point, and hooked; lower mandible shorter than the upper and truncated; nostrils oval and open; cere broad; cheeks and throat naked; tarsi naked, slender, and reticulated; third quill feather the longest. Tail composed of fourteen feathers.

Neophron Egyptianus, Savig. Bill horn-coloured; cere, forehead, space round the eyes, cheeks, ears, chin, and part of the throat, bare, and of a yellow or saffron colour; eyes light reddish brown; plumage white, usually tinted with yellow; feathers of nape narrow, elongated, and pointed; primary quill feathers black; secondaries greyish black, with the outer vanes more or less broadly margined with white; tail fan-shaped, and pure white; legs and toes dirty greenish white, sometimes inclined to reddish yellow; claws dark horn-coloured. Length from one foot ten inches to two feet two inches; expanse of wings about five feet.

Female.—A little larger than the male, but of the same colour.

Young.—Black or brownish black, streaked or spotted with dull white or tawny.

Inhabits Africa.

Vultur Perenopterus, Gm. L' Ourigourap, Le Vaill. *Ois d'Afric. pl.* 14. Le Perenoptere, Cuv. *Reg. Animal.* White Crow of the Cape Colonists.

Neophron niger, Lesson. Plumage brown, variegated with fulvous on the thighs; tarsi black; the top of the head, the cheeks, and the front of the neck, entirely bare; the lower part of neck and the posterior portion almost to the hind-head, covered with a close greyish down. Size of the last.

Inhabits Senegal.

Cathartes monachus, Temm. *pl. col.* 222.

Neophron carunculatus, Smith. Bill greenish black towards base, dark horn-coloured at tip; eyes dark brown; front, crown, sides of head, and upper part of throat bare, and of a purple colour, with eight or ten small white transverse caruncles on the latter. Nape, upper part of neck, and lower part of throat, covered with a light reddish brown down, and between the latter and the caruncles already mentioned, an oval patch of black feathers; lower part of cervix, interscapulars, and back, deep brown; the feathers all edged and tipped with a lighter tint; shoulders nearly the same. Primary wing feathers blackish, with a greyish tinge towards quills; secondaries blackish brown, with the colour of the tips and edges lighter than that of the centres; thighs covered with a white down in addition to some long brown feathers on the outer sides; legs and toes pale greenish blue; claws black. Length two feet two inches; breadth from tip to tip of wing five feet six inches.

Inhabits Cafferland and the country about Natal.

Ois. This may perhaps be identified with the preceding.

Genus GYPAETUS.

Bill large, robust, compressed on the sides, rounded above and hooked towards the point; lower mandible short, straight, and obtuse; cere basal, covered with strong hairs directed forwards; nostrils oblique, oval, concealed by the down on the base of bill; top of head covered with down; tarsi short, thick, feathered; claws robust, sharp, the inner and hinder ones much curved; the third quill feather the longest; tail composed of twelve feathers.

Gypaetus barbatus, Cuvier. Bill black; head and cervix dirty sallow white; circle round the eyes, and space between them, and bill, covered with a deep-black hair, as well as each side of lower mandible, at base, also some similar hair under the bill, which is in the form of a large tuft pointing forwards; irides of two colours, viz.: yellow towards pupil, and fine red towards circumference. Front and part of sides of head behind eyes, as well as base of lower mandible, covered with a dense white down; rest of head and cervix dusky white, faintly tinged with rufous; back and shoulders dusky, inclining to black, the centres of the feathers being more or less distinctly, an obscure cinereous black, and the edges clear black, the shafts white. Primary and secondary quill feathers, together with the tail, more or less greyish; throat, breast, belly, and thighs, clear or dull rufous; toes somewhat granulated, and dusky black. Length about three feet.

Inhabits Africa and Europe.

Vultur barbatus et barbarus, Lath. *Index Orn.* *Vultur aureus*, Briss. *Orn.* Arend of the Cape Colonists.

FAM. FALCONIDÆ.

Head entirely, or in a great measure, covered with feathers; bill strong, hooked, and furnished with a cere; border of upper mandible even, or toothed; claws stout, very acute, much curved, and retractile.

Genus AQUILA.

Bill very strong, straight near base and curved towards the point; cere hairy; nostril elliptical and transverse; the third, fourth and fifth quill feathers the longest; tarsi covered with downy feathers to the toes; tail composed of twelve feathers.

Aquila nœvia, Linn. Body, head, wings and tail, shining brown of different tints, lighter towards the rump and thighs; the feathers of the tarsi and under tail coverts are light brown; tail tip with light rufous; bill black; eyes, cere, and toes, yellow. Length twenty-two inches.

Young.—Colour deep shining brown; wing coverts towards points with large oval greyish white spots; under tail coverts and secondary quill feathers terminated by large spots of the same colour, and the flanks and thighs are sprinkled with others of a smaller size.

Inhabits Africa and Europe,—common in Egypt.

Le petite Aigle, Buff. L'Aigle tachete, Cuv. *Reg. Animal*.

Aquila heliaca, Savig. Top of head and occiput rufous; the feathers edged with a brighter tint; body above, shining brown; beneath, black-brown, with the exception of the belly which is rufous-yellow; part of the upper wing coverts white. Tail grey-ash with irregular black bands, each feather with a very broad black band towards its point, and tip with yellowish. Eyes whitish yellow; nostrils linear, with the upper edge notched. Length about two feet and a half; female three feet.

Young.—Head and neck straw-coloured and whitish; upper parts of neck and back brown, lightest along the middle of the feathers; the under parts straw-coloured and striped longitudinally with brown-black.

Inhabits Egypt and Europe.

Aigle de Thebes, Savig. *Ois. d' Egypt*. *Falco Imperialis*, Nam. *Aquila mogilnik*, Gmel.

Aquila Vulturina, Shaw. Bill blackish blue, verging here and there to a light horn-colour; cere deep yellow; eyes reddish brown; space between them and bill pretty thickly set with black bristles; back and tail coverts white; plumage elsewhere deep black; tail more rounded than in the foregoing species; toes deep yellow; claws black. Length from bill to base of tail seventeen inches; length of latter twelve inches; expanse of wings about seven feet.

Young.—Head, back, and sides of neck, clear reddish tawny, inclined to a pale chesnut, the interscapular and shoulder feathers dirty brown, edged, and strongly tipped with tawny; the back a mixture of chesnut, brownish black, and dirty reddish white. Below reddish brown of various tints, with the centres of feathers blackish or blackish brown; legs light tawny.

Inhabits South Africa.

Falco Vulturinus, Shaw, *Zool. vol. vii. p. 58*. Le Caffre, Le Vaill. Dassie-vanger and Berghaan of the Cape Colonists.

Aquila rapax. Bill livid blue towards base, dark horn-coloured at tip; cere yellow; eyes reddish brown; front, crown, neck, interscapulars, and back, pale tawny, with here and there brownish variegations; tail coverts tawny or dirty white; shoulders varied tawny and dark brown; scapulars blackish brown, more or less distinctly tipped with reddish white. Primary

quill feathers blackish brown, some of them edged on outer vanes with tawny, all tipped with reddish white; secondaries dark dirty brown, narrowly edged and tipped with reddish white; primary quill feathers black; secondaries blackish brown on the outer vanes, on the inner greyish, variegated by many transverse dark bands; tips reddish tawny. Tail rounded, brownish grey, and much mottled by partial indistinct transverse narrow dusky black bands; tips of feathers all tawny; under parts tawny with brown variegations, particularly numerous on the flanks and anterior part of the belly; thighs dark ferruginous; toes yellow; claws dark horn-coloured. Length about two feet four inches.

Young.—Prevailing colour chesnut, without the brown variegations of the older bird; feathers of the head and back of neck tipped with light tawny. Tail dirty brownish grey, tipped with reddish white; cere and toes dull yellow; claws black; eyes yellow.

Inhabits South Africa,—common.

Falco rapax, Temm. *pl.* 455. *Falco nævioides?* Cuv. *Aquila choka*, Smith. *South African Quarterly Journal*, vol. i. p. 114. *Chok of the Cape Colonists*.

Aquila Bellicosa, Daudin. Bill bluish at the base, black elsewhere; eyes fine brown; space between them and bill thinly covered with black bristles; plumage of hindhead a little elongated, so as to form a very slight crest. Feathers of head, and of back and sides of neck, variegated blackish brown and white; interscapulars, back, tail coverts, and shoulders, more or less deep brown; with the tips of all the feathers, but particularly of those of the latter, dusky white; throat, breast, belly, and legs, pure white. Primary wing feathers black, tipped with white; secondaries alternately banded with dusky blackish brown and dull hoary grey, all broadly tipped with white. Tail slightly rounded, with each feather banded more or less directly across by black and hoary grey, the latter usually passing to white towards the inner margins of the inner vanes, all distinctly tipped with white. Tarsi and toes a light livid green, inclining sometimes to yellowish green; claws deep black and much curved. Length from bill to base of tail twenty inches; length of latter twelve inches; expanse of wings about eight feet and a half.

Young.—Above blackish brown; throat and breast nearly black; belly and legs dull white with black blotches.

Inhabits South Africa.

Falco Armiger, Shaw. vii. 57. Le Griffard, Le Vaill.

(To be continued.)