

to learn that I went to Fatchgarh again this year, on April 4th, and obtained eggs of the following species:—

- 2 Skimmer. *Rhynchops albigollis*.
- 6 Large River Tern. *Sterna seena*.
- 3 Black-bellied Tern. *Sterna melanogaster*.
- 3 Little Swallow Plover. *Glareola lactea*.
- 27 Spur-winged Plover. *Hoplopterus ventralis*.
- 3 Lesser Ringed Plover. *Ægialitis dubia*.
- 2 Great Indian Stone-Plover. *Esacus recurvirostris*.

All the few eggs were fresh, except one clutch (3!) of *Hoplopterus ventralis* and the clutch of *Esacus recurvirostris*. The Ganges had shifted its course nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, and I only found one island. In consequence the birds bred on the peninsulas.

On the one island mentioned I found a nest of *Hoplopterus ventralis* with 5 fresh eggs. While drifting down the stream I saw a pair of Indian Coursers (*Cursorius coromandelicus*) running along the edge of the water. I shot one (♀), so that I am sure of the identity of the bird. Is this not rather a curious locality for a Courser?

Yours &c.,

WILLIAM JESSE.

La Martinière College, Lucknow, India,
May 1st, 1899.

SIRS,—On the 23rd of last month (April 1899) a fine female specimen of *Caprimulgus ægyptius* (Licht.) was brought to me, in the flesh, by a friend of mine who had shot it himself that morning near Palermo.

This is apparently the second undoubted instance of the occurrence of this species in Sicily and the Italian Kingdom, the first being that of an example obtained at Modica, near Syracuse, in December 1879, which specimen is now in the Royal Zoological Museum at Florence (Giglioli, Avif. Italica, 1886, p. 197).

Prof. Doderlein (Avif. Mod. e Sicil. p. 344) also alludes to a bird, which may have been of this species, as having been obtained near Girgenti; but no proper identification

of this specimen seems to have been made, nor do we even know whether the skin was preserved.

In Malta the Egyptian Nightjar has apparently occurred occasionally, Prof. Giglioli (*op. cit.*) having noticed three examples of the species in the Valletta University Museum, said to have been obtained in the island in 1876.

In England the species has been recorded as having occurred once (Whitaker, 'Zoologist,' 1883, p. 374).

From Heligoland it has also been recorded once (Seeböhm, 'Ibis,' 1877, p. 163).

Out of Europe *C. ægyptius* is apparently common in Egypt and Nubia (Shelley, B. Egypt, p. 175; Heuglin, Orn. N.O.-Afr. i. p. 128), and also in Turkestan (Severtzoff, 'Ibis,' 1875, p. 491; Dresser, B. Eur. iv. p. 629).

In Algeria and Tunisia the species occurs, and in some of the more southern districts may be considered as fairly common (Koenig, Reis. u. Forsch. in Algerien, p. 66; Whit. 'Ibis,' 1895, p. 102).

I have no knowledge of its occurrence in Morocco.

In conclusion, I may observe that the Sicilian example of *C. ægyptius*, which is the subject of this letter, is of the very pale isabelline form, and is identical in colour with a specimen I have from South Tunis.

Yours &c.,

JOSEPH I. S. WHITAKER.

Palermo, 23rd May, 1899.

Note on Coccyzus euleri.—*Coccyzus euleri* Cab. (J. f. O. 1873, p. 73) is referred to *C. americanus* in the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds' (vol. xix. p. 309), but is really quite distinct and easily recognized by its smaller size and the absence of rufous on the remiges. The bird was renamed by Dr. J. A. Allen as *C. lindeni* (Bull. Essex Institute, viii. 1876, p. 78), the identity of the two having been pointed out by Chapman ('Auk,' viii. p. 159). The latter also recorded an additional specimen in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, from Matto Grosso, Brazil.