

**THE GAME BIRDS AND WILD FOWL OF
INDIA; BEING DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL THE
SPECIES OF GAME
BIRDS, SNIPE, AND DUCK IN INDIA, WITH
AN ACCOUNT OF THEIR HABITS AND
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649590841

The Game Birds and Wild Fowl of India; Being Descriptions of All the Species of Game Birds, Snipe, and Duck in India, with an Account of Their Habits and Geographical Distribution by T. C. Jerdon

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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T. C. JERDON

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BY T. C. JERDON, ✓

SURGEON MAJOR, MADRAS ARMY.

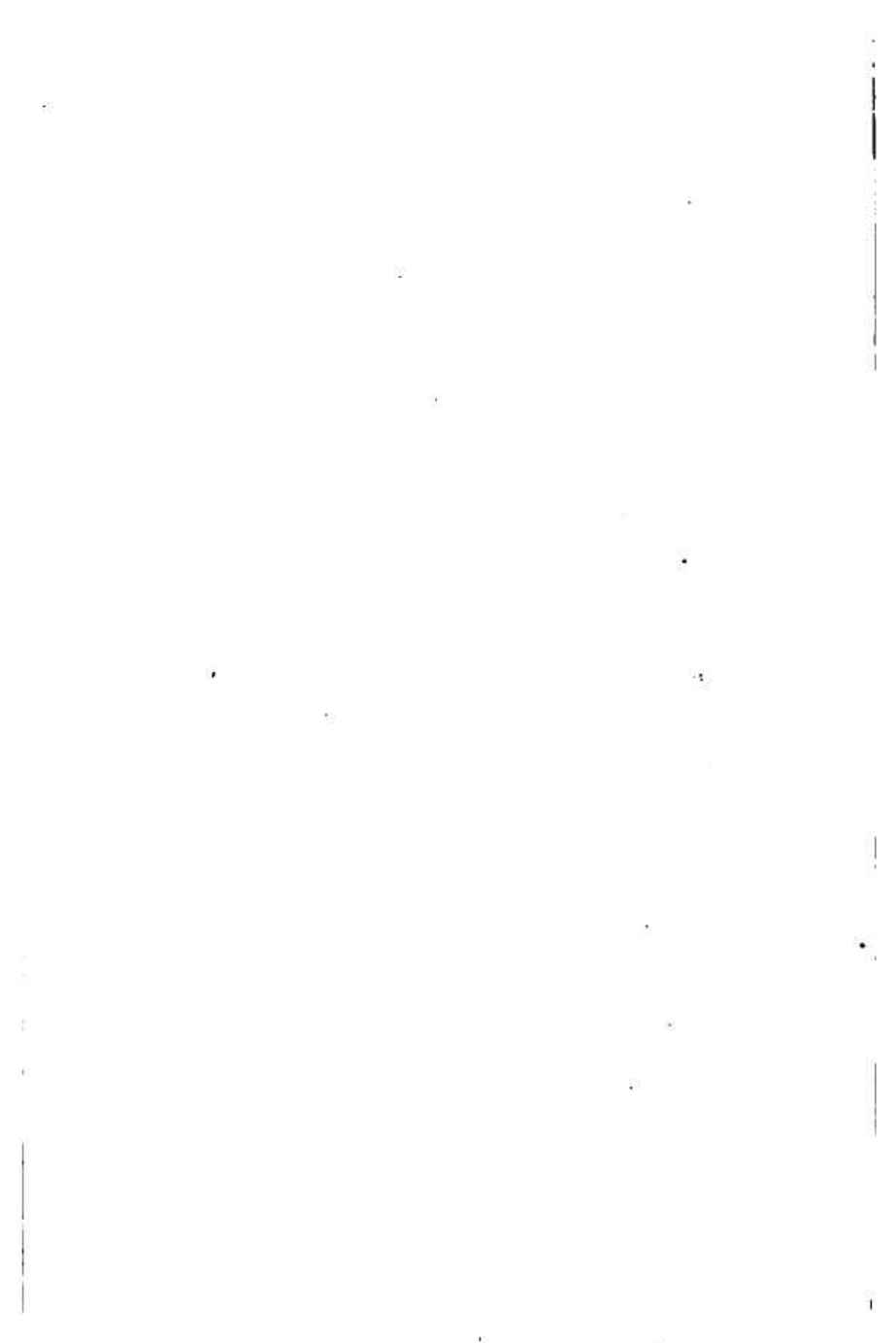
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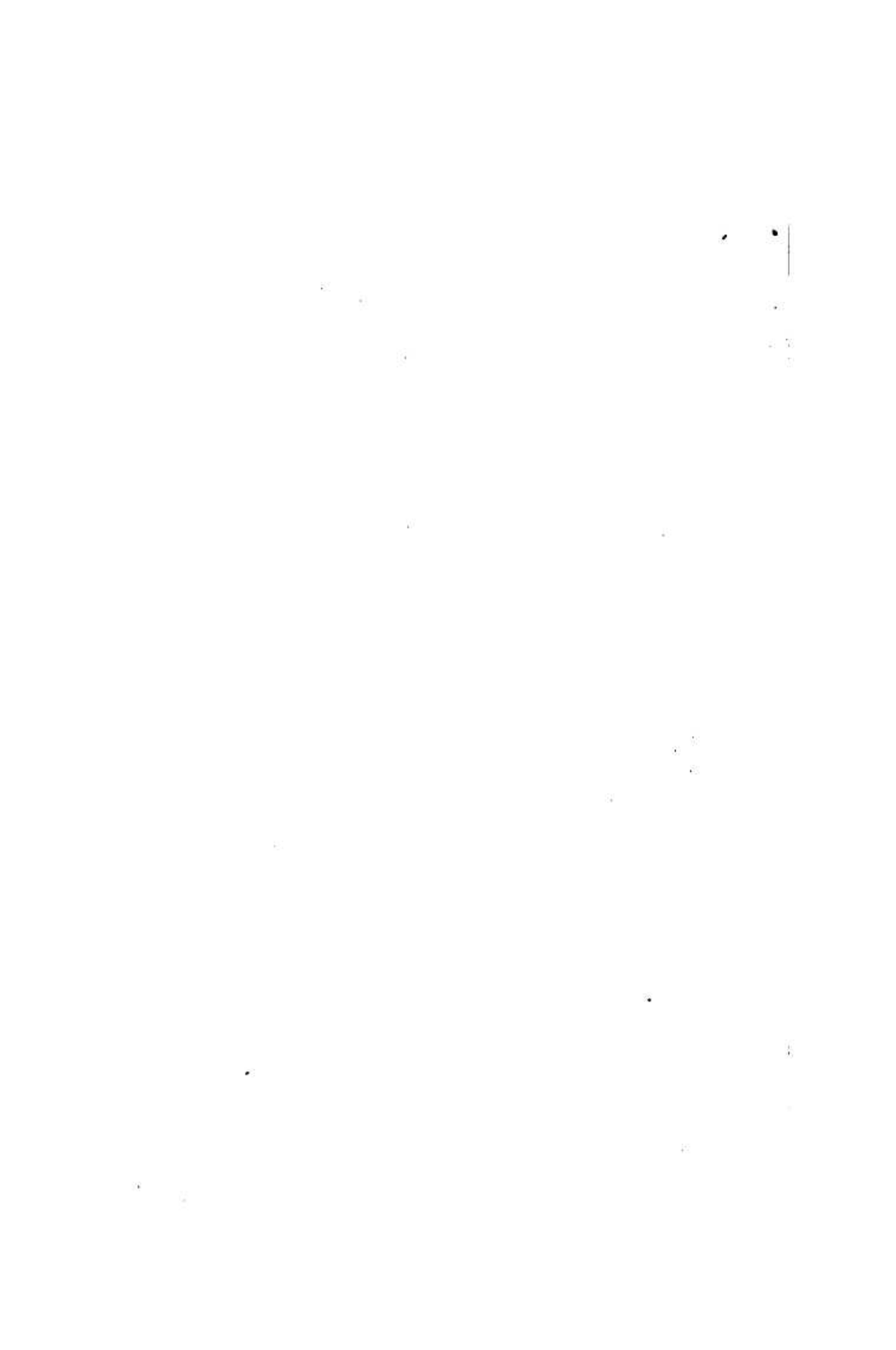
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR AT THE MILITARY ORPHAN PRESS,
6, BANKSHALL STREET.

1864.



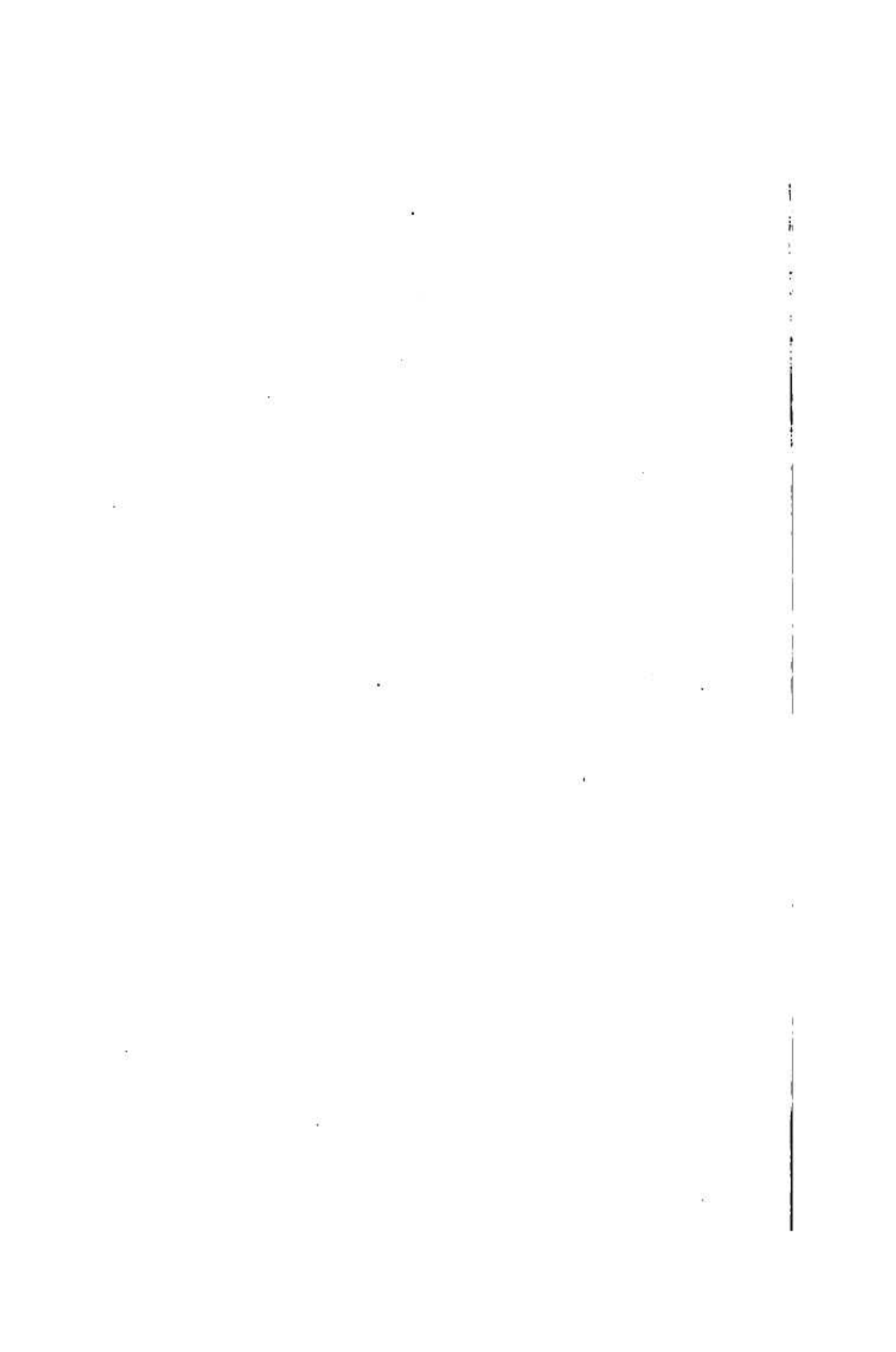
PREFACE.

The following pages are a verbatim transcript from the Author's 'Birds of India,' relating to the Game birds and Wild-fowl of India, and are put in a separate form to meet the views of such sportsmen as do not care to possess a general work on the Ornithology of India. The only birds omitted, which might perhaps have been introduced, are the European Crane, *Grus cinerea*, and the Demoiselle Crane, *Anthropoides virgo*, both occasionally called *Koolung* by sportsmen, though the name is properly restricted to the former bird; and these will be found described in the Birds of India, Vol. II, p. 664 *et seq.*



CONTENTS.

	<i>Page.</i>
Sand-grouse or Rock Pigeon	7
Peafowl	19
Pheasants	22
Monaul	23
Argus-pheasants	29
Blood-pheasant	35
Pukras or Kokias	37
Cheer	40
Kalij	45
Jungle-fowl	49
Spur-fowl	54
Snow-pheasants	61
Snow-partridge	68
Partridges	70
Black-Partridge	71
Painted Do.	74
Chukor Do.	77
Seeseo Do.	80
Grey Do.	82
Kyah Do.	85
Hill Do.	90
Bush-quails	93
Quails	98
Bustard-quail	108
Bustards	117
Houbara	122
Florikin	126
Woodcock	138
Saipe	140
Flamingo	150
Geese	154
Spur-winged Goose	160
Cotton Teal	182
Whistling-teal	165
Braminy Duck	167
Shieldrake	170
Shoveller	172
Wild duck	174
Gadwall	178
Pintail	179
Wigeon	181
Teal	182
Pochards	187
Mergansers	192



GAME BIRDS OF INDIA.

ORD. RASORES.

Syn. *Gallinæ*, Linn.—*Gallinacæ*, Vieillot—*Pulveratrices* of some—Gallinaceous birds—Game birds.

Bill short, vaulted, more or less bent down at the tip; nostrils pierced in a membrane covering the base of the bill, and protected by a cartilaginous scale; wings usually short and rounded, but ample; tail very variable, both in length and form, of from twelve to eighteen feathers; legs and feet strong, feathered to the tarsus, which is frequently spurred in the male; three toes before and one behind, the posterior one typically short, and articulated above the plane of the anterior toes, wanting in a few; nails strong, blunt, and but slightly curved.

The Gallinaceous birds, of which the domestic fowl may be taken as the type, comprise the most important and useful members of the whole class. The name of the order which I have adopted, as being in conformity with those of the other orders, and, moreover, in general use by English Ornithologists, is taken from their habit of scraping in the ground to procure their food. Unlike the order *Gemitores*, it contains a considerable variety of distinct types.

Taking them generally, they may be said to be birds of moderate or rather large size, heavy form, with a strong, short, and arched bill; very stout legs and feet, with the hind toe usually small and raised, and the shank furnished, in many, with a spur. In two of the families, however, the hind toe is on the same plane as the anterior ones, and in one family often absent entirely. The front toes are usually joined at their base by a short connecting web. In all cases, they seek their food on the ground; and this consists of grain, seeds, roots, buds, and insects. Many are polygamous, and in these, the male bird is larger, and adorned with much richer plumage than the female; and many are furnished with crests of various forms. The hen is usually more