

we found the Rosy-winged Bulfinch (*Erythrospiza sanguinea*) frequenting stony ground in pairs and flocks; and on the prairie country towards Kir-shehir were plenty of Sand-Grouse (*Pterocles arenarius*) and Plovers (*Charadrius geoffroyi*), the latter being on the point of laying. Kir-shehir is a small carpet-making town; but the collapse of the paper currency had closed the shops of this and many other places. From it the road passes through long orchards, where, for the first time, we saw Tree-Sparrows (*Passer montanus*), a species common at Angora. At Keuprikeui, where we halted for a day, *Saxicola erythræa* was building among the loose granite rocks; and the body of an Imperial Eagle's nest, from which we took two richly-marked eggs, contained the habitations of a pair of Kestrels and a number of both Common and Spanish Sparrows. Here the Kizil Irmak is again crossed by a very curious bridge; and the next feature of note on the way to Angora are the lakes of Emir-geul and Mohan-geul, about four hours distant from that town. On these sheets of water, which are partly fringed with reeds, most of the ordinary waterfowl were observed, except Ruddy Sheldrakes, who preferred to sit, like so many Eagles, on the jagged rocks at some distance from the water.

Angora, where we made a short stay, is an important place, built on two hills divided by a deep valley, through which runs an insignificant stream. Though one of the richest cities of Anatolia, it shows few signs of prosperity, and its bazaars are miserable; but it is a significant fact, that hardly any conscripts were drawn from this district, the heavy smart money being generally forthcoming.

Our best acquisition here was the common Grey Partridge (*Perdix cinerea*), a bird for which we had long been looking. It also goes by the name of Tchil keklik, and frequents the cultivated hill-sides to the south, and though by no means so abundant as *Caccabis chukar*, is still not scarce. We had also the rare opportunity of closely observing a large flock of Cranes (*Grus leucogeranus*). While on an excursion down the river, a large flock of birds was seen wheeling about in a very unsettled way: we at first took them for Storks; but

they presently came close enough to show their very distinctive markings, and further down the stream a flock was met with feeding on a field of sprouting corn. There must have been about a hundred, moving slowly and regularly in a compact body. One of our party made a careful stalk to within a hundred and fifty yards; but the ball from the smooth-bore struck the ground just in advance of them, and so a fine chance was lost; nor did we encounter them again.

After leaving Angora it is prairie-land again, and there are Larks in legion (*Alauda calandra*, *A. bimaculata*, *A. cristata*, *A. arvensis*, *Calandrella minor*); but the smaller of the *Calandra* is the most numerous. This is evidently the great breeding-ground of *A. bimaculata*; but though numbers were seen carrying building-materials, dissection showed that their eggs would not be laid for some time.

At the first halting-place, Baluk kujundje, there is a little rocky gorge, where Egyptian Vultures were repairing their nests, and an Eagle-Owl was left in peace to hatch her eggs. A solitary Purple Heron and about a dozen Night-Herons frequented the few willows that grew beside the stream, where we also found *Saxicola melanoleuca* and *Sylvia luscinia*. Next day the hot south wind, which usually gets up about midday and falls towards sunset, blew very strong as we travelled over a grassy country broken up by hills more or less isolated, but of less rounded character than those lately passed, and here and there limestone rocks veined with quartz; and on the wayside and the northern slopes a good deal of white efflorescence indicated the vicinity of the salt desert. This saline exudation was particularly strong on certain plains, which appear to have been once the beds of a chain of lakes, but are now mere grassy levels traversed by narrow reedy streams.

Great and Little Bustards, Sand-Grouse, and a solitary Egret (*Ardea garzetta*) were here met with; and every herd of goats and sheep had a following of Wagtails (*Motacilla melanocephala*). Like so many big buttercups they looked, as the green of their upper plumage exactly matched the surrounding herbage, leaving only their yellow breasts visible.