Some confusion exists regarding this bird, owing to its being subject to some variation in Costa Rica, two (and even three) species having been stated to be found in that country. The amount of yellow on the belly varies considerably in different individuals; those in which the white of the underparts is most restricted have been called *C. flaviventris*, and considered the same as the Mexican bird. Those with more white beneath are *C. subflavescens*, whilst those in which the white extends to the chest have been considered inseparable from *C. flavipectus*, the species of Colombia, Venezuela, &c. Finding all these forms in Costa Rica, we do not see how any separation can be made; we therefore call them by Mr. Sclater’s name, it being the oldest. The differences of size and colour alluded to by Prof. Cabanis in his original description, and commented upon by Prof. Baird, we do not see confirmed in the series before us. It must be noted, however, that the true *C. flaviventris* does not occur in Costa Rica, as all specimens from that country have the lower belly white.

*C. flavipectus*, though not uncommon in Costa Rica, does not appear to be found in the State of Panama, except in the neighbourhood of Chiriquí. Absent from the isthmus itself, it reappears at Santa Marta and near Bogota, in Colombia, and again in Venezuela and Trinidad, whence Mr. Sclater’s types of the species were obtained ¹.

**Fam. Laniidae**

**Lanius.**


The genus *Lanius* is far more strongly developed in the Old World than in the New, where only two well defined species occur in the Nearctic Region, one of them extending its range over the whole of Mexico. In the Old World the range of *Lanius* and its close allies includes the Palæarctic, Indian, and Ethiopian Regions, the Australian alone being outside its limits.

The strong raptorial bill of *Lanius* distinguishes it from most of the Passerine birds. This is used for the capture and destruction of small birds and the larger kinds of insects, and is strongly notched near the curved and pointed end of the mandible. The feet, though strong, are like those of ordinary Passerines; the tarsus is longer than the middle toe, the lateral toes being nearly equal.

1. *Lanius ludovicianus.*


* See anteâ, p. 185.