

F A L C O N.

SPE. VII. HONEY BUZZARD. No. 7.

Falco apivorus. *Lin. Syst.* I. p. 130.

La Bondrée. *Bris. Orn.* I. p. 410.

This is a longer and more slender bird than the wood buzzard: it weighs about two pounds: the bill is a dark horn colour: eyes bright yellow: head partly grey: upper parts of the body deep brown: throat and part of the neck yellowish white, streaked with narrow lines of brown: lower part of the neck reddish brown: breast and belly crossed with alternate bars of red, brown, and white: tail dull brown, marked with a bar of dull black near the end, and a second of the same about the middle: legs short, stout, and of a dull yellow.

This species is not very common in England. It is said to feed on lizards, mice, frogs, &c. and to run on the ground, like a hen, in quest of food; also to be destructive to the combs of wasps and bees, for the sake of the honey. Mr. Willughby says, that this bird builds its nest with small twigs, which it covers with wool, seldom laying more than two eggs: and as he found the combs of wasps and bees in the nest, he gave this species the name of honey buzzard.

For the figure of the egg, see Pl. II. No. 2.