PHASIANUS VARIUS.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Rostrum breve, robustum.

Genæ cute nuda lævigata.

Pedes (plerisque) calcarati.

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 737.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

PHASIANUS niger, fronte rubra, collo dorsoque viridi-nitentibus, cauda compressa adscendente, tectricibus utrinque dependentibus.

Nunc primum in publicum prodit pictura formosæ hujus speciei, quæ avibus non antea descriptis videtur annumeranda. Magnitudine paulo cedit gallo communi seu gallinaceo, corpus tamen habens pro mole gracilius. Pars nuda rubra et carunculata in fronte oculos quoque amplectitur, et excurrit superius quasi in cristam planam, inferius in paleam quasi obscure bifidam. Disponuntur adeo pennæ colli dorsoque anterioris, ut totidem squamas seu conchas quodammodo referant. Alarum tectrices minores lanceolatæ sunt (ut loquuntur phyfici) nigræ, flavo-aurantio marginatæ. Lanceolatæ quoque sunt

B

caudæ

caudæ tectrices utrinque dependentes, nigræ, marginibus ochraceis. Rostrum pedesque subflavent.

Quanam in patria generatur venusta hæc avis, non pro certo cognitum est; conjicimus tamen esse Indicam.

THE VARIEGATED PHEASANT.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill short and stout.

Cheeks covered by a smooth naked skin.

Legs in most species furnished with spurs.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Black PHEASANT, with red front, glossy-green neck and back, and compressed-ascending tail with the coverts hanging down on each side.

This beautiful bird seems to be a non-descript, of which the present figure is the first that has been presented to the public. Its natural size is somewhat inferior to that of a common Cock, and the habit or shape of the body is more slender in proportion. The carunculated or red part in front takes in the eyes, and is continued upwards into a kind of plain comb or crest, and downwards into an obscurely-divided wattle or flap. The feathers of the neck and upper part of the back are so shaped and disposed as to resemble a kind of scales or shells:

the smaller wing-coverts are black, lanceolate, and deeply edged with bright orange-yellow: the tail-coverts hang down on each side, and are also of a long, narrow, and sharpened form, and are black with ochre-coloured edges: the bill and legs are yellowish. The native country of this species is perhaps not clearly ascertained, but is probably an Indian bird.

Shaw, George. 1798. "The Variegated Pheasant, Phasianus varius [Pl. 353]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 10(CX), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304535>.

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