OTIS NIGRICEPS.

Is. Nat. Soc.

TAB. LXXII.

OTIS NIGRICEPS.

Ot. corpore supra pallidè badio, rufo-brunneo graciliter undulato; collo, maculis parcis alarum, abdomineque albis; capite cristato, tectricibus alarum exterioribus, remigibus, notâque grandi pectorali nigris.

Longitudo corporis ab apice rostri ad apicem caudæ, ped. 4; latitudo, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

THIS magnificent bird is one of the largest and finest of its genus, of which it is a typical example, possessing the general habits and manners of its race. Though the specimen from which the figure in this Plate is taken was brought from the high lands of the Himalaya, it is by no means confined to that locality, as Lieut. Col. Sykes noticed it abundantly in the country of the Mahrattas, where it is accounted one of the greatest delicacies of the table. According to the accounts furnished by this diligent and accomplished observer, the species lives in flocks consisting of numerous individuals, inhabiting the wide and open country. The male possesses the gular pouch common to the *Otis tarda*. It appears to incubate on the naked earth, the egg being oval, of an olive brown with obscure spots of darker brown olive. The female resembles the male in plumage, but is nearly one third less.

The top of the head and crest are jet black; the neck white; the upper surface and tail are of a rich brown colour barred with small zigzag lines of black; the outer wing-coverts are black with a few white spots; the under surface white, except a large black band across the chest, passing from shoulder to shoulder; the bill and tarsi are yellowish.

The figure is one third of the natural size.

Gould, John. 1831. "Otis nigriceps [Tab. LXXII]." *A century of birds from the Himalaya Mountains* –. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.323605>.

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