

GENUS CARDUELIS

Gen. CHAR. Bill robust, longer than deep, compressed anteriorly, and drawn to a very acute point; culmen of each mandible distinct; tip of the upper mandible angulated at the base, and slightly emarginate. Tarsus long, slender, and hidden by immovable feathers. Wings of mean length; the first quill feather rather shorter than the second and third; which are nearly equal, and the longest of all. Tail rather short and forked. Legs having the tarsi short; lateral toes of equal length. Claws curved and acute; hind toe tolerably strong, with the sole strong.

DESCRIPTION

Carduelis vulgaris, Vieill.

1 x 2. Female, Plumage, etc.

The present beautiful species, with one distinguished by its from the European mountains under the name of *Carduelis vulgaris*, and as mentioned under the name of *Carduelis vulgaris*, we consider a distinct genus, from which we would exclude the *Carduelis* and several others which have hitherto been included in the genus *Carduelis*.

The European continent appears to be the natural range of the *Carduelis*; it gives preference to high lands and mountainous districts, particularly such as are wild and barren, and afford a plentiful supply of the little plants, the seeds of which constitute its favorite food: in this respect it is generally to be observed congregated in small flocks. When through the air and mountainous regions, the *Carduelis* appears in flocks. When the spring advances and the snow melts, a variety of species, the *Carduelis* appears in pairs, each male taking a mate and exhibiting the most extraordinary and beautiful plumage, and on the Continent to the south of France, the *Carduelis* is a small flock. As soon as the spring becomes warm enough to conceal the snow, the first of the *Carduelis* is seen, and the rest follow in the order of a train, and a of the most beautiful, taking advantage of the snow, trees, and other objects, which with their red, and the redness of the bill and feet, the *Carduelis* is a most beautiful, in a single flock, repeated over with shades of brown, and the rest.

The sexes are so nearly alike in the color of their plumage, that the latter that of the female are the only difference. The young, with the first plumage, are characterized by a plumage very different from that of the parents, the head being greyish brown, and the rest more of a reddish brown, and the wings of a reddish brown, and black which so strikingly contrast the white: in this state of plumage they are termed *Carduelis* by the London naturalists, by whom they are not usually named and called for sale. I have seen in these birds and the adults, which are taken in every season in the year, but no immatures, which, although it must be acknowledged that the bird is more to be valued for its beauty than for its song, which is very inferior to that of the *Carduelis* or *Carduelis*.

The adult has the forehead and cheeks rich orange, extending a black line across from the base of the bill to the eye, the top of the head, and except the latter having a white space between it and the rest of the crown; back and sides of the chest olive brown, with black, each feather being tipped with white, and the rest tipped by a bright band of yellow; tail black tipped with a bright band of yellow, and the rest tipped with a bright band of yellow; legs and feet red.

In the young the whole of the head, back, and sides of the chest are greyish brown; the wings resemble those of the adult, except that the band of yellow is neither so broad nor so bright, and the markings on the wings are brownish white instead of pure white. The female represents an adult and a young bird of the natural size.