

## PINE BUNTING.

*Emberiza pithyornus*, *Pall.*

Le Bruant à couronne lactée.

IN size this rare Bunting rather exceeds the Yellow-hammer (*Emberiza citrinella*, Linn.), which so frequently attracts the notice of the passing traveller through the British Islands. Its true habitat would appear to be the northern parts of Russia and Siberia, though, according to M. Temminck, it is frequently found as far south as the centre of Turkey, and the shores of the Caspian Sea, Hungary, Bohemia, and Austria are among the places of its resort. Dr. Latham states that it frequents the pine-forests of Siberia, and has the note of the Reed Bunting. Although it has not the brilliant yellow colouring which pervades the plumage of many of its tribe, the *Emberiza pithyornus* is very pleasing to the eye, from the harmonious arrangements of its rich but somewhat sober tints, in which respect, and in fact in its whole contour, it assimilates exceedingly to the Bunting-like Finches of the New World, such as the *Emberiza leucophrys*, Gm., (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*, Sw.); and in all probability, when the vast countries of Siberia, Kamtschatka, &c. have been more thoroughly investigated, that species, intermediate in form, will be found to complete this chain of affinities.

The sexes of the Pine Bunting may be distinguished from each other by the more obscure colouring of the female, and the total absence of the gorget and superciliary stripe of chestnut with which the male is adorned.

The plumage of the male is as follows :

A stripe of white passes along the top of the head to the occiput ; on each side of this white stripe is another of black, and this is again succeeded by one of chestnut immediately over the eye ; ear-coverts white ; throat rich chestnut ; below this is a half band of white succeeded by a broad band of dusky greyish chestnut across the chest ; whole of the back, wings, and flanks rich brown, each feather being darkest in the centre ; rump and upper tail-coverts pale chestnut ; tail brown, each feather edged with reddish brown, and the two outer ones largely blotched with white ; centre of the breast, belly, and under tail-coverts white ; legs and bill yellowish brown.

The female is more obscure in all her markings ; the ear-coverts are brown with a band of white beneath them ; superciliary mark yellow white ; throat white surrounded with small dark spots.

The Plate represents a male and female of the natural size.