

NUMENIUS MINUTUS, *Gould.*

Little Whimbrel.

Numenius minutus, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part VIII. p. 176.

I KILLED a pair of this species out of a flock of about twenty in number which was flying over the race-course at Maitland in New South Wales, on the 4th of April 1839. The flock was constantly rising and flying round, sometimes to the distance of a mile, returning again, alighting, and running quickly over the ground much after the manner of the Plovers. The above was the only instance in which the bird came under my observation during my stay in the country, consequently I am unable to state anything respecting its habits or the extent of its range, but I may mention that I possess a specimen procured at Port Essington.

Forehead dark brown mottled with buff; lores and line behind the eye buff; back, sides and front of the neck buff, with a fine line of brown down the centre of each feather; all the upper surface blackish brown, with a series of triangular spots round the margins of the feathers of a sandy buff; shoulders, primaries and secondaries blackish brown, the latter with white shafts; rump and tail-coverts dark brown spotted with white on the margins; tail greyish brown barred with black; chin white; under surface light buff; flanks and under surface of the wing deep buff, regularly barred with arrow-shaped marks of brown; irides black; bill fleshy at the base, olive-brown at the tip; feet bluish flesh-colour.

The Plate represents the two sexes of the natural size.