

NUMENIUS UROPYGIALIS, *Gould.*

Australian Whimbrel.

Numenius uropygialis, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part VIII. p. 175.

Mañ-do-weidt, Aborigines of Port Essington.

THIS species is somewhat smaller than the *Numenius Phæopus* of Europe, and moreover differs in having the rump barred and mottled instead of a pure white as in that bird ; in other respects they are so similar that a description of one would apply with nearly equal accuracy to the other ; the Australian bird is however of a paler brown than its European ally.

It is distributed over the whole of Australia as well as Van Diemen's Land, wherever localities occur suitable to its habits, which are so precisely similar to those of the *Numenius Phæopus*, that a description of them is quite unnecessary.

It is generally met with in large flocks in swampy districts on the banks of rivers and all similar situations ; I killed several specimens on the Hunter in New South Wales, but could never succeed in discovering its eggs, whence I infer that for the purposes of incubation it betakes itself to the interior of the country.

The sexes are so precisely alike, that by dissection alone can we distinguish the one from the other.

Crown of the head brown, with a narrow irregular stripe of buffy white down the centre ; lores and line behind the eye brown ; line over the eye, neck and breast buffy white, with a brown line down the centre of each feather, the brown colour predominating ; centre of the back and scapulary feathers dark olive, spotted on their margins with light buff ; wing-coverts the same, but lighter, and presenting a mottled appearance ; primaries blackish brown with light shafts ; rump and upper tail-coverts barred with brown and white ; tail pale brown, barred with dark brown ; chin, lower part of the abdomen and under tail-coverts white ; bill blackish horn-colour, fleshy at the base ; feet greyish black.

The Plate represents the two sexes of the natural size.