The following is Mr. Elliot's description of the bird:—

"The male has the back part of the head covered with short black feathers, the shafts white, widening at the ends into a kind of spatule. The hackles are very long, covering the entire neck, black, covered at regular intervals with white spots, and tipped with a yellowish spot, the end of the feather being formed of a singularly brittle substance, resembling a fine shaving in texture. The upper parts are blackish brown, edges of the feathers grey, and the shafts white. The upper tail-coverts like the back, the feathers long and lanceolate in shape, spotted with buff near the end, and margined with chestnut near the tip. Underparts black, shafts of feathers white, and the centres and margins greyish white; some of the flank-feathers have the terminal margins chestnut. Primaries dark brown, as are also the secondaries; a large patch upon the wing, the feathers of which have their centres white, terminating in red, and formed of the same brittle substance as the ends of the hackles, making a very conspicuous and ornamental spot. The comb is small, serrated at the edge, and, together with the naked skin of the face and throat and also the wattles, is red. Upper tail-coverts and tail blue, with green reflections, the two central tail-feathers being very long and curving downwards. The feet and tarsi are flesh-colour; bill horn-colour.

"The female has the top of the head light brown; neck light brown, shafts white, and margins black. Rest of upper surface rufous brown, mottled with black; shafts white. Breast and flanks white, margins of the feathers black. Abdomen white; tail dark brown, mottled near the edges with rufous brown. Small extent of bare skin around the eyes red. Bill yellowish; feet and tarsi flesh-colour."

The figures are rather under the natural size.