MONTIFRINGILLA BRUNNEINUCHA.

Brown-naped Mountain Finch.

Passer arctous, var. B. 2, Pall. Zoog., tom. ii. p. 22.

Fringilla (Linaria) brunnionucha, Brandt, Bull. de l'Acad. Sci. de St. Pétersb. Nov. 26, 1841, p. 35.

Montifringilla brunneinucha, Bonap. et Schlegel, Mon. des Loxiens, p. 36. pl. 42.

Leucosticte brunneinucha, Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av. p. 536, Leucosticte, sp. 2.

Fringilla brunneonucha, Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 372, Fringilla, sp. 65.

Eastern Asia appears to be the head-quarters of the members of the genus Montifringilla, for it is there that the greater number of them are found. The species here represented is conspicuous, like its allies, for the beauty of its colouring and the elegance of its form; it is one of those with which Pallas made us acquainted, and it is from the duplicates of the great collection at St. Petersburg that the more southern museums have been supplied with specimens. The Directors of the Museum at Bremen, and T. B. Wilson, Esq., have both favoured me with specimens to figure from; and I trust that the accompanying Plate will be found a faithful representation of a bird drest in the most harmonious and beautiful combination of colours that can be imagined, and which render it one of the finest species of the genus to which it belongs. Kamtschatka, the Kurile Islands, and the neighbouring portion of Asia are its natural habitat.

The Plate represents two individuals killed at different periods of the year; the black-billed bird exhibiting the plumage of summer, and the other that of the opposite season.

Crown of the head grey, the feathers margined with brown; chin, cheeks and ear-coverts grey; plumes of the throat blackish brown, bordered with rosy grey; feathers of the remainder of the under surface blackish brown at the base and of a rosy hue for the remainder of their length, the rosy tint being pale on the breast and becoming gradually deeper on the abdomen; lesser wing-coverts, rump and upper tail-coverts of a blackish brown, largely tipped with rosy red; greater wing-coverts, quills and tail deep black, bordered with a much paler tint, and washed with rose-colour on the outer edges of the primaries and the bases of the tail-feathers; at the back of the neck a broad crescent of pale reddish brown; back and scapularies deep brown, bordered with brownish red; bill black at some seasons and yellow at others; feet dark brown.

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The figures are of the natural size. The plant is the Serratula dissecta of botanists.