

## NUMIDA VULTURINA, Hardw.

*Num. capite, gulâ colloque superiore plumis egentibus, pilis attamèn nigris adpersis ad collum longioribus; muchâ plumis lanuginosis fuscis crebrè vestitâ; collo inferiore plumis elongatis lanceolatisque ornato, singulis strigam albam centralem ostendentibus; hanc lineâ sordidè nigrâ et albo irroratâ, cingente, margineque exteriore cæruleo; plumis dorsi superioris has simulantibus, latioribus attamèn, strigâ albâ centrali angustiore, guttisque parvulis albis in lineam nigram obliquè currentibus; alarum tectricibus, dorso, uropygio, caudâ, tectricibus caudæ, crissoque, cum femoribus, nigrescenti-fuscis, guttis rotundatis crebrè ornatis singulis nigro circumdati, intervallis guttis parvulis sordidè albis irroratis; primariis fuscis, pogoniis externis apicibusque guttis sordidè albis ornatis; secundariis nigrescenti-fuscis, pogoniis externis lineis albis imperfectis tribus longitudinalitèr notatis; pogoniis internis seriem triplicem guttarum albarum ostendentibus; pectore lateribusque abdominis metallicè cæruleis; abdomine medio nigro; lateribus sordidè rosaceis guttis albis nigro-cinctis crebrè notatis; rostro sordidè rubro; pedibus fuscis.*

Long. tot. 18 unc. ; rostri, 2; alæ, 11; caudæ,  $5\frac{3}{4}$ ; tarsi,  $3\frac{3}{4}$ .

Head, throat, and upper part of the throat destitute of feathers but besprinkled with hairs of a black colour, which are longest on the neck; nape thickly clothed with short velvet-like brown feathers; lower part of the neck ornamented with long lanceolate and flowing feathers, which have a broad stripe of white down the centre, to which on each side succeeds a line of dull black, finely dotted with white, and margined with fine blue; feathers of the anterior part of the back of a similar form, but broader and with a narrower line of white down the centre, and with the minute white dots disposed in irregular and obliquely transverse lines; wing-coverts, back, rump, tail, upper and under tail-coverts and thighs blackish brown, ornamented with numerous round and irregular spots of white surrounded with circles of black, the intermediate spaces filled with very minute dots of dull white; primaries brown with light shafts and spots of brownish white on the outer web, and the tips of the inner; secondaries brownish black, with three imperfect lines of white disposed lengthwise on the outer web, and three rows of irregular spots of white on the inner web; breast and sides of the abdomen beautiful metallic blue; centre of the abdomen black; flanks dull pink with numerous spots of white surrounded with circles of black; bill brownish red; feet brown.

*Numida vulturina*, Hardw., in Proc. of Zool. Soc. Part II. 1834. p. 52.

THE Guinea Fowls, as they are familiarly termed, constitute one of the most isolated groups among the *Gallinaceæ*; five or six species are now known, all of which are from Africa.

Independently of the chaste and delicately spotted markings which adorn the whole of this tribe, the neck of the present species is ornamented by a ruff of lanceolate flowing plumes, which new feature, as well as the head being entirely devoid of fleshy appendages, render it conspicuously different from all its congeners. We are not able to furnish any account of its history, further than that our figure is taken from an example, in all probability unique, forming a part of the collection of the United Service Museum, to which it was presented by Captain Probyn. It is certainly one of the most noble birds that has been discovered for some years, and we indulge in the hope that the period may not be far distant when we shall become better acquainted with the species, and that living individuals may even become denizens of our menageries and farmyards, where it would doubtless thrive equally as well as its allied congener, which is so familiar to all and whose original stock is still found in a wild state in the part of Africa which the present lovely species is supposed to inhabit.

Habitat Western Africa.

The figure is of the natural size.