Tabb. LXXIII., LXXIV., et LXXV.

OTIS HIMALAYANUS.

Ot. niger; alis albis; dorso medio scapularibusque pallido-rufo brunneoque variegatis; dorso imo pallido-rufo undulatim sparso; cristæ collique plumis anterioribus et posterioribus confertis, elongatis.

Longitudo *corporis*, 21 unc.; *rostri*, 2; *alæ*, 13; *tarsi*, $5\frac{3}{4}$.

Of all the Bustards, the *Otis Himalayanus* is perhaps the most interesting, on account of the differences in plumage between the adult males and females, and the young, all of which might pass for separate and distinct species. Nor is this difference in plumage limited merely to the sexes or young, for we have every reason to believe that the adult males, which are distinguished during summer by long flowing feathers from the occiput and chest, lose these graceful ornaments when the season for breeding has passed. The Plates exhibiting the adult male and female, and the young male, fully illustrate the differences alluded to. Though far from common, this remarkable species seems spread as well over the plains as the hilly districts; specimens of the young having been received from the neighbourhood of Calcutta, while the specimen from which the figure in Tab. LXXIII. was taken, and which is now deposited in the rich Museum of the Zoological Society, was received from the Himalayan mountains. This last is the only example of the adult male in full plumage which we have ever seen. Like the rest of the more typical of their race, they frequent the wild and open country, and are equally valued for the table with the *Otis nigriceps*. Of the nidification and eggs nothing has been ascertained.

The adult male has the occiput and sides of the chest ornamented with long plumes; the colour of the head, neck, and under parts is of a uniform deep black; back and wing-coverts are pale rufous variegated and blotched with brown; the wings are white; the quills dark brown; the tail black tipped with white; the beak is dark brown; the tarsi brown.

In the young male, the back of the head is only slightly crested, and the chest wants the flowing feathers; the under part alone is black, the head and neck being light rufous with zigzag marks of brown; the tail is black tipped with white.

The adult female resembles the young male in plumage, except that the black of the under surface is exchanged for a pale fawn colour; her general colour is in fact light rufous beautifully variegated with brown markings, which are large and conspicuous on the wings, but small and indistinct on the neck and chest, and lost on the abdomen.

The figures represent the respective birds in the proportion of three fourths of their natural size.