RED-CRESTED DUCK.

Anas rufina, *Pall.*

Fuligula rufina, *Steph.*

Le Canard siffleur huppé.

The very fine Duck which we have illustrated in the accompanying Plate is as yet but little known as having claim to a place in the Fauna of Great Britain; but the frequent occurrence of both sexes in various parts of the British Islands sufficiently establishes it as a native species, or at least as much so as many others that occasionally migrate to this country.

English examples of this beautiful species form a part of the collections of the Hon. W. T. T. Fiennes and Mr. Yarrell. The former gentleman possesses a fine female, killed out of a flock of eighteen, on the Thames, near his own estate at Erith in Kent, and to whose kindness we are indebted for the loan of the specimen from which our figure was taken.

The *Anas rufina* is confined to the old continent, where its range is very extensive, as is proved by our having received it in collections from the Himalaya mountains, and observed it in the collection of Col. Sykes from the Dukhun, in which localities it is a bird of no rarity; and it also occurs nearly as plentifully in the eastern portions of Europe, particularly throughout Hungary, Austria, and Turkey. M. Temminck states that it is a periodical visitor to the shores of the Caspian Sea, but at the same time observes that it never visits the open ocean: from these countries it is more or less distributed throughout the whole of the central portions of Europe. Little is known of the habits of this very interesting species: its form, however, shows it to belong to the true diving Ducks; hence we may reasonably conclude that its food consists principally of small shell fish and molluscous animals, with vegetables and the fry of fishes.

An attentive examination of this bird will lead, we think, to the conviction, that it offers many points of affinity to the species of the genus *Mergus*. We need only instance the narrow and compressed form of the bill towards its extremity, with deeply serrated edges, the disposition of some of its markings, and the silky texture of the feathers of the head, in corroboration of this fact. The trachea of the male, also, according to M. Temminck's description, is not unlike that of the *Mergus merganser*, being large immediately below the upper larynx, becoming suddenly very narrow, and then a second enlargement of the tube, terminating in very narrow rings. The inferior larynx is formed of two dilatations: that on the left, which is the largest and most elevated, is formed of osseous ramifications covered by a fine membrane.

The male has the head ornamented with a crest of silky feathers, which, with the rest of the head and the front of the upper part of the neck, is of a delicate chestnut tinged with vinous; the back and lower part of the neck, the chest, and under surface, are brownish black; the back is pale cinereous brown, with a large spot of white above the origin of each wing; the shoulders, the speculum, the base of the quills, and the flanks, are white; the rump and upper tail-coverts black with green reflections; beak red; nail white; tarsi and toes red with black interdigital membranes.

The female wants the fine crest of the male; the top of the head and occiput are dark brown; cheeks, throat, and sides of the neck, cinereous; the whole of the upper surface cinereous brown, with the exception of the shoulders, which are white, and the operculum, which is dull white terminating in brown; breast and flanks yellowish brown; under surface cinereous; beak, tarsi and toes, reddish brown.

We have figured a male and female three fourths of the natural size.