

Genus CHENALOPEX, *Antiq.*

GEN. CHAR. *Beak* as long as the head, slender, straight, its tip rounded, the margin laminated; the upper mandible curved, its tip hooked; the lower mandible flat. *Nostrils* placed at the basal portion of the beak. *Wings* armed with spurs. *Legs* placed in the equilibrium of the body, four-toed; the anterior toes entirely webbed, the hinder one simple; *tarsi* somewhat elongated.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE.

Chenalopex Egyptiaca, Steph.

L'Oie d'Egypte.

ON comparing the present species with the other members of its family, it will be found to differ in form from every one of them, on which account it has been formed by Mr. Stephens into a distinct genus, to which he has been induced to give the above generic title, in consequence of this bird being in the opinion of M. Geoffroy St. Hilaire the *Chenalopex* or *Vulpanser* of the ancients.

In figuring this fine species of Goose as a member of the European Fauna, we are not instigated by the occurrence of numerous half-reclaimed individuals which are yearly shot in our island, but from the circumstance of its occasionally visiting the southern parts of the Continent from its native country Africa. M. Temminck particularly mentions the island of Sicily as one of the places frequented by it. This is the species which would appear to have been held in great veneration by the ancient Egyptians, as we frequently find a figure of it among the stupendous works of that celebrated people. It is abundant on the banks of the Nile, and is distributed over the whole of the vast continent of Africa.

It readily breeds in confinement, and forms a beautiful and interesting addition to the menagerie.

The sexes are alike in plumage, but the female is somewhat smaller in size, and has the whole of the markings less decided than in the male.

Feathers immediately behind the base of the bill, a narrow line running from the upper angle of the gape to the eye, and a large patch surrounding the eye, rich chestnut; sides of the face, crown of the head, and the fore part of the neck buffy white, gradually passing on the back of the neck into rufous brown; this reddish tinge also predominates on the lower part of the neck, and forms a faint collar; upper part of the back light chestnut brown, transversely rayed with very minute and irregular lines of blackish brown; centre of the back and upper part of the scapularies dark reddish brown, minutely rayed with irregular transverse lines of blackish brown and grey; lower part of the scapularies and tertaries rich reddish chestnut; lesser wing-coverts pure white with the exception of the posterior row of feathers, which are crossed with a strongly defined mark of black near their extremities, forming a narrow band across the wing; primaries, lower part of the back, rump, and tail black; secondaries rich glossy green, with purple reflections; on the centre of the breast a large irregular patch of deep rich chestnut; all the remainder of the under surface from the collar to the thighs pale buff, transversely rayed with very minute and irregular lines of blackish brown; vent and under tail-coverts rich buff; upper mandible margined all round with brown, the centre being reddish flesh colour; legs and feet reddish flesh colour; irides orange.

We have figured an adult male about one third less than the natural size.