

serve to distinguish it. Its beak is grey, with the exception of the point, which is black. All the body is black: the quill feathers of the wings are brown, as well as the legs. The skin on the head is wrinkled, and of a rose colour.

The jota acquires its black colour only from age and by degrees. When young it is almost white, and it is not till after it has quitted the nest that it changes its colour. The first black spot appears upon its back; and it extends itself gradually over the whole of the body.

This bird appears to be more cowardly and more indolent than the rest of the species. It may be seen sometimes for hours together basking in the sun, on the rocks or the roofs of the houses, immoveable, and with the wings extended. It is never heard to utter any cry: it is only when tormented that it sends forth a dolorous note, something like that of a rat, and which is generally accompanied with a throwing up of all that he had swallowed.

The jota exhales a fetid and disagreeable odour: disgusting and indolent, he seems to surpass all other vultures in cowardice and in bad qualities. Its natural indolence is conspicuous