

and consternation among the timid beings who only shew courage when free from danger. The choucouhou utters, in flying, a plaintive cry, and also produces a cracking of the beak, which is very singular, but which is also found in many others of the same species.

The size of this bird equals that of the small horned owl: the beak is almost hidden in the feathers which surround it. Its iris is of a topaz yellow colour; on the throat may be seen a kind of circle of white feathers. The general colour of the plumage is brown, varied with white, less deep on the under parts of the body, than on the upper; on the breast there is a stripe festooned at its edges; the belly and the legs are of a lighter and more gay colour; the wings reach over the greater part of the tail, which has deep brown stripes, and a reddish white underneath, being of a pure white and a light brown on the upper; it is long and slanting; the legs, which are very large, are covered as well as the toes, with silky feathers of a greyish colour; the talons and the beak are of a blackish brown; the female is a little larger than the male, and has less white in its plumage.