

were striped with black and white, and covered underneath at the part where they attach to the body, with a red shining colour.

“ The covert feathers of the tail are long and floating, of a deep violet colour, and reflecting the rays of light like polished steel.

“ Lastly, the tail is composed of fourteen feathers separated into two portions, inclining one towards the other, and forming an acute angle. The two middle feathers, longer than the others, form an arch, the convexity of which is turned from the side of the bird.

“ The wild hen is one third less than the cock: and this difference of size prevails proportionably in all the different species of the cock and hen.

“ The wild hen, as well as the male, has all the characteristics which strictly belong to this genus, one only excepted, viz. the crest and the membranous appendages under the beak. This difference, I must confess, appears a very great one, but it is sufficient to establish a real distinction? I believe no one will be inclined to think so, when it is remembered that there are the most astonishing varieties in this respect in all species, and even between individuals of the same species. In fact, there are races of cocks and hens, such