Sparrman has described under the name of the red-haired yellow-hammer, without however designating either the country in which it lives, or what are its habits. Latham thinks that it ought to be classed with the sparrow genus (which nomenclators have already rendered too numerous), and he accordingly places it at the conclusion of chaffinches. 
Lut Sonnini is of opinion that there is no more reason for considering it as a sparrow than there is to regard it as a yellowhammer, and he therefore very properly presents it to the reader as a particular species having qualities that approximate it to both; and in order to avoid all compounded and generic terms, he has simply denominated it the red-head, in which particular we have thought ourselves justified in following him.

The bird has, in fact, on the top and behind the head, a sort of head-dress or covering, which is of a brilliant red colour, bordered with black in the front and on the sides; a whitish stripe, with black spots, covers the forehead and the cheeks; the body on the top is black, and ash-coloured underneath, but the colour is deeper on the breast; the throat is of an iron grey colour; the tail is of a blackish