

tion of its natal spot. Merrem*, who was the first that spoke of it, says, that it is a bird of North America; but whether it be a sparrow or a chaffinch, it is a very large species, for it is equal to the starling in size. Its tail is quadangularly formed, and its total length is about six inches and a half. A mixture of ash-colour and olive is spread over all the upper parts of the body, each feather of which is terminated by brown; the rump alone has a reddish tinge, as well as the tail, the under part of which is grey; the cheeks are white, the quill feathers of the wings brown, and edged with red; the under parts of the body are entirely white, with the exception of the breast, which has on it some brownish grey stripes. The beak and the feet are yellow.

In reading this description it is impossible to prevent a suspicion from arising of some mistake on the part of naturalists who have represented this bird as of the sparrow species.

* *Fringilla iliaca*. Merrem. Icon. avi. p. 37 tab. 10.