

the northern kind. In conclusion, I may observe that the *Struthio rhea* inhabits the country of La Plata as far as a little south of the Rio Negro, in lat. 41°, and that the *Struthio Darwinii* takes its place in southern Patagonia; the part about the Rio Negro being neutral territory. M. A. d'Orbigny,¹ when at the Rio Negro, made great exertions to procure this bird, but never had the good fortune to succeed. Dobrizhoffer² long ago was aware of there being two kinds of ostriches; he says, "You must know, moreover, that *Emus* differ in size and habits in different tracts of land; for those that inhabit the plains of Buenos Ayres and Tucuman are larger, and have black, white, and gray feathers; those near to the Strait of Magellan are smaller and more beautiful, for their white feathers are tipped with black at the extremity, and their black ones in like manner terminate in white."

A very singular little bird, *Tinochorus rumicivorus*, is here common: in its habits and general appearance it nearly equally partakes of the characters, different as they are, of the quail and snipe. The *Tinochorus* is found in the whole of southern South America, wherever there are sterile plains or open dry pasture land. It frequents in pairs or small flocks the most desolate places, where scarcely another living creature can exist. Upon being approached they squat close, and then are very difficult to be distinguished from the ground. When feeding they walk rather slowly, with their legs wide apart. They dust themselves in roads and sandy places, and frequent particular spots, where they may be found day after day: like partridges, they take wing in a flock. In all these respects, in the muscular gizzard adapted for vegetable food, in the arched beak and fleshy nostrils, short legs and form of foot, the *Tinochorus* has a close affinity with quails. But as soon as the bird is seen flying its whole

¹ When at the Rio Negro, we heard much of the indefatigable labors of this naturalist. M. Alcide d'Orbigny, during the years 1825 to 1833, traversed several large portions of South America, and has made a collection, and is now publishing the results on a scale of magnificence which at once places himself in the list of American travellers second only to Humboldt.

² Account of the Abipones, A.D. 1749, vol. i. (English translation) p. 314.