

Head and back of a uniform dark sepia-brown; tail of the same colour, having six very narrow, pale tawny bars; feathers of the crown and nape, light cinereous at the base, which gradually runs into the dark sepia of the surface; brow ferruginous; auriculars brown, the lower feathers edged with ferruginous; throat pale buff, nearly white; breast and belly striped, and spotted with brown on a reddish-buff ground; vent buff, striped with brown; thighs and under tail coverts ferruginous; the centre of each feather shaded with a dark sepia line along the shaft; primaries and tail beneath plumbeous, barred with white, and having the shafts white beneath, and black on the upper surface; third quill longest; first and fifth equal; small under coverts buff-colour, with brown centres; tail rounded, composed of twelve feathers, the shafts of which are dark-brown above, dusky-white beneath; the light bars broadest and most conspicuous near the body, and becoming less conspicuous towards the extremity of the tail; cere and feet pale-blue; irides brown.

Total length, $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, from the flexure or carpal joint, 9 inches; tail, 6 inches; bill, $\frac{8}{10}$ inch; tarsi, $2\frac{1}{10}$ inches.

At the Bay of Islands, New Zealand, we found several interesting birds, amongst them this graceful falcon, which we believe to be an adult male. It flew with great vigour, and appeared to create great terror in all the little birds of the neighbourhood. When alighting on the branch of a tree, it had the habit of jutting its tail like the Sparrow Hawk of North America, (*F. sparverius*.)

ASTER RUFITORQUES.—(NOB.)

PLATE XIX.

Collection Exp. Exp.

A. capite, dorso, alis caudâque cœrulescenti-cinereis: gutture cum crisso, albo: torque cervicis, pectore, ventre, femoribusque pallidè rufescentibus: alis subtùs atque plumarum omnium basi, albis: alis rotundatis: remige quartâ longissimâ, primam longitudine duplo superante; rachibus nigris: caudâ modicè rotundatâ, quam duodecim constituunt