

bird. It visits the north after the termination of the breeding season in the United States. Captain James Ross saw a single pigeon of this species as high as latitude $73\frac{1}{2}$ in Baffin's Bay : it flew on board the Victory during a storm, and must have strayed from a great distance. The wind, as we find by a reference to Sir John Ross's narrative, blew from the north-east at the beginning of the gale, shifting afterwards to the eastward. As the Victory was to the northward of the island of Disco at the time, if the bird came in either of these directions, it must have taken flight from the northern part of Greenland, but it is not likely to have found food on that barren coast.

THE PIPING PLOVER. (*Charadrius melodus* BONAP.)

A specimen of this pretty plover was obtained by Mr. King on Lake Winipeg, and that piece of water is probably its northern limit, as it was not observed on the former expeditions through the higher latitudes. It is consequently a more southern bird than the *Charadrius semipalmatus*, which was seen in abundance by Sir John Franklin's party during the whole route, and by Captain James Ross in the peninsula of Boothia, where it passes the summer in the marshes. The piping plover was described at first by Wilson as a variety of the common ringed plover, but in afterwards figuring the semipalmated plover under the same name, he intimated his suspicion of its being a distinct species. Subsequent authors have pointed out its peculiar characters, and the two species, together with a third named *Charadrius Wilsonii*, and very nearly resembling them, are well described and figured in Mr. Audubon's splendid work. The piping plover breeds as far to the southward as the Keys of Florida, and though it exhibits every where nearly the same plumage, we shall here subjoin a description of Mr. King's specimen, as it is the only one that has been brought from the fur countries.

COLOUR.—Bill, black towards the point, orange at its tip. Upper plumage, light brownish-gray ; that is, of a pale tint, intermediate between the yellowish-gray and light broccoli-brown of Werner. Forehead, cheeks, throat, the whole under-plumage and sides of the rump, white ; the white being continued round the neck, so as to form a narrow ring behind the nape. A narrow black band extends between the anterior angles of the orbits, behind the white of the forehead ; and there is a black patch on each shoulder, with a narrow connecting line crossing the breast ; but in this specimen, the black does not cross the neck above, as it occasionally does, on the tips of a single row of feathers, having probably been worn off. The quills, greater coverts, and middle tail feathers, are blackish-brown ; but the middle of the shafts and part of the inner webs of the former are white ; that colour spreading on the fourth and succeeding primaries to their outer webs ; the tips of the wing coverts also exhibit various degrees of white. Tertiaries mostly like the hack ; but their tips are darker, and their extreme edges soiled white. Outer tail feathers entirely white ; the next pair white at both extremities, the other showing successively less white, and the central ones, as has been mentioned, entirely brown.

FORM.—Outer web of the feet notched, including only the first joint of the outer toe ; and merely two-thirds of the corresponding phalanx of the middle toe. Inner web scarcely perceptible.

	Inch.	lin.		Inch.	lin.
Length from tip of bill to end of tail	6	7	Length of middle toe and nail	0	8½
Length of tail	2	3	Length of bill above	0	6
— folded wing	4	8½	— bill to rectus	0	7½
— tarsus	0	10½			

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