

and tibiae; under tail coverts white; bill dark bluish horn-color; cere and tarsi yellow; iris reddish-yellow.

Total length of female, twelve to fourteen inches; wing, seven and a half to eight; tail, six and a half to seven inches. Male, ten to eleven inches; wing, six to six and a half; tail, five to five and a half inches.

This well-known little species is a general and common summer inhabitant of all the New-England States: it makes its appearance with the arrival of the earliest flight of the smaller migratory birds in spring, and remains until the latter part of autumn; and, in the southern portions of these States, even throughout the winter. The habits of the bird are so well described by Audubon, that I cannot do better than include the description here. He says:—

“While in search of prey, the Sharp-shinned Hawk passes over the country, now at a moderate height, now close over the land, in so swift a manner, that, although your eye has marked it, you feel surprised that the very next moment it has dashed off, and is far away. In fact, it is usually seen when least expected, and almost always but for a few moments, unless when it has procured some prey, and is engaged in feeding upon it. The kind of vacillation or wavering with which it moves through the air appears perfectly adapted to its wants; for it undoubtedly enables this little warrior to watch and to see at a single quick glance of its keen eyes every object, whether to the right or to the left, as it pursues its course. It advances by sudden dashes, as if impetuosity of movement were essential to its nature, and pounces upon and strikes such objects as best suit its appetite, but so very suddenly that it appears quite hopeless for any of them to try to escape. Many have been the times, reader, when watching this vigilant, active, and industrious bird, I have seen it plunge headlong among the briery patches of one of our old fields, in defiance of all thorny obstacles; and, passing through, emerge on the other side, bearing off with exultation in its sharp claws a sparrow or finch, which it had surprised when at rest. At other times, I have seen two or three of these hawks, acting in concert, fly at a Golden-winged Woodpecker while alighted against the bark of a tree, where it thought itself secure, but was suddenly clutched by one of the hawks throwing, as it were, its long legs with the quickness of