

dark brown ; crown, from the forepart of the eye backwards, black, crossed by three narrow bands of brownish white ; cheeks, marked, with a bar of black, variegated with light brown ; edges of the back, and of the scapulars, pale bluish white ; back and scapulars, deep black, each feather tipped or marbled with light brown and bright ferruginous, with numerous fine zigzag lines of black crossing the lighter parts ; quills, plain dusky brown ; tail, black, each feather marked along the outer edge with small spots of pale brown and ending in narrow tips, of a pale drab color above, and silvery white below ; lining of the wing, bright rust ; legs and feet, a pale reddish flesh color ; eye, very full and black, seated high and very far back in the head ; weight, five ounces and a-half, sometimes six.

The female is twelve inches long, and eighteen in extent, weighs eight ounces, and differs also in having the bill very near three inches in length ; the black on the back is not quite so intense ; and the sides under the wings are slightly barred with dusky.

The young Woodcocks of a week or ten days old are covered with down of a brownish white color, and are marked from the bill along the crown to the hind head, with a broad stripe of deep brown ; another line of the same passes through the eyes to the hind head, curving under the eye ; from the back to the rudiments of the tail, runs another of the same tint, and also on the sides under the wings ; the throat and breast are considerably tinged with rufous ; and the quills at this age are just bursting from their light blue sheaths, and appear marbled, as in the old birds ; the legs and bill are of a pale purplish ash colour, the latter about an inch long. When taken, they utter a long, clear, but feeble *peep*, not louder than that of a mouse. They are far inferior to young Partridges in running and skulking ; and, should the female unfortunately be killed, may easily be taken on the spot."

Audubon says that when the Woodcocks are travelling from the south towards all parts of the United States, on their way to their breeding places, they migrate singly, and follow each other with such rapidity that they might be said to arrive in flocks, the one coming directly in the wake of the other. This is particularly observable by a person standing on the eastern banks of the Mississippi or the Ohio, in the evening at dusk, from the middle of March to that of April, when almost every instant there whizzes past him a Woodcock with a velocity equalling that of our swiftest birds. He states also that he has seen them in New Brunswick returning southward in equal numbers late in the evening, and in