

reddish white; every feather with a longitudinal line of brownish-black; tibiae light ferruginous, with lines of black; quills black, tipped with ashy white; tail light-bluish ashy, tipped with white and with a wide subterminal band of black, and with several other transverse narrower bands of black; inner webs nearly white; cere and legs yellow; bill blue.

*Younger.* — Entire upper plumage dusky-brown, quite light in some specimens, and with a tinge of ashy; head above, with narrow stripes of dark brown and ferruginous, and in some specimens many irregular spots and edgings of the latter color on the other upper parts; forehead and entire under parts dull-white, the latter with longitudinal stripes of light-brown; sides and flanks light-brown, with pairs of circular spots of white; tibiae dull white, with dashes of brown; tail pale-brown, with about six transverse bands of white; cere and legs greenish-yellow.

*Young.* — Upper plumage brownish-black, white of the forehead and under parts more deeply tinged with reddish-yellow; dark stripes wider than the preceding; sides and flanks with wide transverse bands of brownish-black, and with circular spots of yellowish-white; quills black; tail brownish-black, tipped with white, and with about four bands of white; cere and feet greenish-yellow; iris dark-hazel.

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

This species is a pretty common spring and fall visitor in all the New-England States, and is sometimes a resident in the southern sections of these States through the winter; specimens being occasionally taken as late as January, in mild seasons. This bird is one of the most destructive of our rapacia: he kills all the smaller birds, robins, black-birds, sparrows in great numbers, and even attacks the wild pigeon and dove, which he is almost always able to overtake and capture, as he is possessed of very great rapidity of flight. I have seen one of these hawks make a pounce at a sparrow that was singing on a low bush; and the bird happily eluding his clutch, as quick as a flash of light, he turned, and pursued and captured a robin that had taken flight at his first appearance, and was already quite a considerable distance off: as the robin is well known to have great speed of flight, this circumstance well illustrates the velocity of this hawk.

The flight of the bird consists of a series of flaps of the wings, with but a very few intervals of soaring: in pursuing the wild pigeon, the strokes of the wings of the two birds are nearly simultaneous. As he strikes his prey, he almost