

would never have published an opinion which, in this quarter of the globe, would subject one, even from the vulgar, to the imputation of ignorance.*]

PINTAIL DUCK. (*Anas acuta*.)

PLATE LXVIII.—FIG. 3.

Le Canard à langue queue, *Briss.* vi. p. 369, 16, pl. 34, fig. 1, 2.—*Buff.* ix. p. 199, pl. 13; *Pl. enl.* 954.—*Arct. Zool.* No. 500.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 526.—*Peale's Museum*, No. 2806.

DAFILA ACUTA.—LEACH.†

Dafila caudacuta, *Shaw's Zool. Steph. Cont.* xii. p. 127.—Canard à longue queue au pillet, *Temm. Man. d'Ornith.* ii. 838.—Pintail, *Mont. Bew.*—*Sclly's Illust.* pl. 42, m.—*Anas acuta*, *Cracker.*—*Flem. Br. Anim.* p. 124.—*Bonap. Synop.* p. 383.—*Anas (Dafila) caudacuta*, *North. Zool.* ii. p. 441.

THE pintail, or, as it is sometimes called, the sprigtail, is a common and well-known duck in our markets, much esteemed for the excellence of its flesh, and is generally in good order. It is a shy and cautious bird, feeds in the mud flats and shallow fresh-water marshes, but rarely resides on the sea-coast. It seldom dives, is very noisy, and has a kind of chattering note. When wounded, they will sometimes dive, and coming up, conceal themselves under the bow of the boat, moving round as it moves. Are vigilant in giving the alarm on the approach of the gunner, who often curses the watchfulness of

* The concluding paragraph, marked off with brackets, is an addition by Mr Ord.

† In this beautiful species we have the type of the subgenus *Dafila*. In it the marginal laminae begin to disappear, and the bill to assume what may be called a more regular outline, approaching to that of *A. boschas*, our wild and domestic breed. Another peculiarity is the development of the tail, which becomes much lengthened, whence the name of *sea-pheasant*. In this country they are not very common, which may arise from their being more difficult to procure, by their frequenting the sea rather than any inland water; they are frequently taken, however, in decoys, and I once shot two feeding in the evening on a wet marshy field in company with the common wild duck.—Ed.