

## BLACK-AND-YELLOW-CROWNED FINCH.

†FRINGILLA ATRICAPILLA, *Gmel.*

## PLATE CXCHIII.—MALE.

The only account which I have received of this handsome Finch, long since known to the ornithologist, is from Mr. NUTTALL:—"We first observed the young of this species on the central table-land of the Rocky Mountains, in the prairies, and mostly running on the ground. We heard no note from them. We afterwards saw a few stragglers, in the early part of winter, in the thickets of the forests of the Columbia river, near Fort Vancouver, accompanying the *Fringilla leucophrys*. It is probable that they come there to pass the cold season. They are equally seen at this time, and until late in the spring, in the woods and thickets of Upper California.

Male, 8, wing  $3\frac{5}{12}$ .

Rocky Mountains and Columbia river. Rare. Migratory.

EMBERIZA ATRICAPILLA, *Gmel. Syst. Nat.*, vol. i. p. 875.

BLACK-AND-YELLOW-CROWNED FINCH, *Emberiza atricapilla*, *Aud. Orn. Biog.* vol. v. p. 47.

## Adult Male.

Bill short, stout, narrower than the head, conical, somewhat compressed toward the end, acute; upper mandible with its dorsal outline nearly straight, the ridge convex and obscure, the sides rounded, the edges somewhat inflected, with a very small notch at the end, the tip a little declinate; lower mandible with the angle short and rounded, the dorsal line slightly convex, the sides rounded, the edges involute, the point acute. The gap-line nearly straight, at the base a little declinate; the palate concave. Nostrils basal, roundish, open, partially concealed by the feathers.

Head rather large, ovate; neck short; body full. Legs of moderate length, rather stout; tarsus of moderate length, compressed, covered anteriorly with seven scutella; toes rather large, scutellate above, the first stronger, the lateral nearly equal, the third and fourth connected at the base. Claws rather long, moderately arched, slender, compressed, laterally grooved, acute.

Plumage full, soft, and blended. Wings of ordinary length; the first quill two and a half twelfths shorter than the second, which is longest, but scarcely exceeds the third, which in like manner is very slightly longer than





*Black-and-yellow-crowned Finch.*





the fourth, the other primaries moderately graduated; the outer secondaries slightly emarginate, the inner not elongated. Tail long, rounded.

Bill reddish-brown, dusky toward the point; feet flesh-coloured, claws dusky. The upper part of the head is black, with a longitudinal median band of yellow, changing behind to grey; upper parts yellowish-brown, tinged with grey, the feathers of the fore part of the back, scapulars, and wing-coverts with a central dusky spot; quills and larger coverts dark brown, bordered with reddish-brown, paler on the primaries; the tips of the first row of small coverts, and of the secondary coverts, white, forming two bands across the wing. Tail greyish-brown, the feathers edged with yellowish-grey. The sides of the head, throat, fore part and sides of the neck, sides of the body, and fore part of the breast, light grey, the sides tinged with yellow, the rest of the lower parts brownish-white.

Length to end of tail 8 inches; bill along the ridge  $\frac{5\frac{3}{4}}{12}$ ; wing from flexure  $3\frac{5}{12}$ ; tail  $3\frac{5}{12}$ ; tarsus  $\frac{11\frac{1}{2}}{12}$ ; hind toe  $\frac{4\frac{1}{2}}{12}$ , its claw  $\frac{4\frac{1}{2}}{12}$ ; middle toe  $\frac{8}{12}$ , its claw  $\frac{3\frac{1}{2}}{12}$ .

A young male, shot by Mr. TOWNSEND, on the Rocky Mountains, on the 12th of July, 1834, has all the upper parts dull yellowish-grey, streaked with dusky; the wings and tail dusky brown, the quills edged with reddish-brown, the two bands on the coverts light reddish-brown; the lower parts whitish, streaked with dusky, the throat white, with a band of dusky spots on each side from the lower mandible.

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#### GENUS X.—PIPILO, *Vieill.* GROUND-FINCH.

Bill short, stout, narrower than the head, conical, somewhat compressed, acute; upper mandible with the dorsal line slightly convex, the ridge narrow and distinct, the sides convex, the edges somewhat inflected, ascending for more than a third, then direct, with a slight festoon; notches very slight, tip declinate, narrow; lower mandible with the angle very short and broad, the dorsal line slightly convex, the sides rounded, the edges involute, the point acute. Nostrils basal, roundish, partially concealed by the feathers. Tarsus of moderate length, compressed, with seven scutella; toes rather large, scutellate above, the first stronger, the lateral nearly equal. Claws rather long, moderately arched, slender, compressed, laterally grooved, acute.



Small bristles at the base of the upper mandible. Plumage full, soft, and blended. Wings of ordinary length, much rounded, the fourth quill longest; tail long, rounded. Roof of upper mandible rather flat, with a narrow median and two broad lateral flattened ridges; tongue compressed, convex above, with a median groove, horny at the end, and pointed; œsophagus slightly dilated about the middle; stomach a strong muscular gizzard; intestine short; cœca small.

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## ARCTIC GROUND-FINCH.

†PIPILO ARCTICUS, *Swains.*

PLATE CXCIV.—MALE AND FEMALE.

This handsome species was first described by Mr. SWAINSON in the *Fauna Boreali-Americana*. Dr. RICHARDSON in the same work states, that it was observed only on the plains of the Saskatchewan, where he supposes it breeds, as one specimen was obtained late in July. It arrives there in the end of May, and frequents shady and moist clumps of wood, being generally seen on the ground. It feeds on grubs, and is solitary and retired. My friend Mr. NUTTALL has furnished me with the following account of it:—

“We found this familiar bird entirely confined to the western side of the Rocky Mountains. Like the common Towee, it is seen to frequent the forests amidst bushes and thickets, where, flitting along or scratching up the dead leaves, it seems intent on gaining a humble subsistence. It is much more shy than the common kind, when observed flying off or skulking in the thickest places, where it is with difficulty followed. In a few minutes, however, the male, always accompanying his mate, creeps out, and at first calls in a low whisper of recognition, when, if not immediately answered, he renews his plaintive *par par* or *pay payay*, until joined by her; when, if the nest be invaded, he comes out more boldly, and reiterates his complaint, while there remains around him the least cause of alarm. When undisturbed during the period of incubation, he frequently mounts a low bush in the morning, and utters at short intervals, for an hour at a time, his monotonous and quaint warble, which is very similar to the notes of the Towee; but this latter note (*towee*) so continually repeated by our humble and familiar





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Audubon, John James. 1841. "Black-and-Yellow-Crowned Finch, *Fringilla atricapilla*, Gmel [Pl. 193]." *The birds of America : from drawings made in the United States and their territories* 3, 162–164. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.319306>.

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