

HYBRID GROUSE?

Tetrao hybridus, *Sparrm.*

—— medius, *Meyer.*

Le Tetras Rakhelhan.

WE believe it is now the prevailing opinion among naturalists, that the bird figured in the accompanying Plate (the *Tetrao medius* of Meyer and Temminck,) is merely a hybrid between the Capercailzie and the Black Grouse, and as we ourselves are inclined to entertain the same opinion, our figure will therefore be of interest as an illustration of the singular appearance presented by the mixture of the two species. While in this country, Professor Nilsson of Stockholm, a competent judge, and in whose opinion we should consequently have no hesitation to confide, informed us that no doubt existed in his mind as to the hybridization of the two birds in question, and this we believe is also the opinion of the resident inhabitants of the countries where they are found. On a subject respecting which so much doubt exists, it will perhaps be preferable to consider it as a hybrid, until the discovery of a female or more information is acquired relative to its history. The countries in which this bird is found are of course only those inhabited by the two species in question, consequently Norway and Sweden are the places where it is most generally met with. Few springs pass without examples of this bird being sent to London in company with Capercailzies, Black Grouse, &c. Of the numerous individuals we have had opportunities of examining little difference was found to exist; neither, we believe, did the examples inspected by Mr. Yarrell differ from each other in their internal structure.

Head, the whole of the neck, and breast dark purple; the feathers of the head, and back of the neck very minutely freckled with whitish; the remainder of the upper surface dark brown, minutely freckled with lighter brown; the scapularies and secondaries terminated with whitish; quills dull brown margined with greyish white; on the shoulder a small patch of white; under surface dark brown minutely freckled with lighter brown; vent white; under tail-coverts black, largely tipped with white; tail black, some of the centre feathers slightly tipped with greyish white; feathers of the legs mingled with greyish white and brown; bill horn colour; feet black.

The figure is of the natural size.