

ODONTOPHORUS GUTTATUS, Gould.

Guttated Partridge.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Od. gulâ nigrâ, lineâ centrali albâ per plumas singulas ductâ; pectore et corpore subtùs spadiceo-fusco, spathâ albâ singulis plumis apicem versus guttatis.

Male.—Crown of the head and upper feathers of the crest blackish brown; under crest-feathers rich deep buff; over the eye extending to the occiput a broad band of pale brown, each feather tipped with black; beneath the eye, the ear-coverts and sides of the neck rich chestnut; throat jet-black, with a line of white down the centre and assuming a triangular form near the tip of each feather; back reddish brown freckled with black, each feather with a large patch of deep brown near the tip of the inner web, and with a line of buff down the centre; wing-feathers alternately banded with buff and deep brown, the former sprinkled with black; rump pale yellowish brown, obscurely spotted with black; tail yellowish brown, banded with black; breast and under surface chocolate-brown, with a pear-shaped spot of white, more or less encircled with black near the tip of each feather; bill black; feet lead-colour.

Female.—Differs in having the crest of a uniform brown, and in the black of the throat being less extensive.

Total length, 10 inches; *bill*, $\frac{3}{4}$; *wing*, $5\frac{3}{4}$; *tail*, 3; *tarsi*, $1\frac{5}{8}$.

Ortyx guttata, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part V. p. 79.

Odontophorus guttatus, List of Birds in Brit. Mus. Coll., Part III. p. 43.

SEVERAL years have now elapsed since I described this fine bird in the "Proceedings of the Zoological Society" from examples then living in their menagerie, all of which being females, I was not aware until lately that the male is distinguished from his mate by a beautiful tuft of orange-coloured feathers at the occiput; in other respects the sexes are nearly alike in plumage. That this interesting species would readily become domesticated, is proved by the fact of an example belonging to the Earl of Derby having laid its eggs and reared its young in his Lordship's magnificent aviary at Knowsley.

The native country of the *O. guttatus* is Honduras, where, according to Mr. Dyson, it inhabits the Cahoon palm ridges; a specimen this gentleman had alive for some time was procured on the Reondo River, on the borders of Yucatan.

The habits of those living examples that have come under my notice presented no peculiarity worth noting; like the rest of the genus, they readily perched not only on the trees, but also on any ledge or projection of the aviary in which they were confined. They presented the same plump form as the Common Partridge and the *Ortyx Virginianus*.

Specimens now form part of the collection at the British Museum, and of that belonging to the Zoological Society of London.

Habitat. Honduras.

The Plate represents a male and a female of the natural size.