

# ODONTOPHORUS DENTATUS.

Capueira Partridge.

## SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

*Od. corpore subtus fuscescenti-plumbeo; criso rufesceni-fusco, nigro guttato.*

Crown of the head and crest reddish brown, finely freckled with darker brown; forehead and a line over the eye to the occiput rusty red; orbits less denuded than in *O. Guianensis* and of a red colour; scapularies and tertaries very strongly marked with blotches of black, chestnut and greyish brown, with a longitudinal stripe of buffy white down the centre of each feather; primaries dark brown, crossed on their outer webs with a series of bands or spots of white; rump buff, freckled with brown, the centre of many of the feathers with a fine stripe of olive down the centre; tail dark brown freckled with buff; under surface uniform brownish lead-colour; under tail-coverts reddish brown spotted with black; bill dark brown; tarsi and feet deep lead-colour.

Total length, 11 inches; bill,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; wing,  $5\frac{3}{4}$ ; tail, ?; tarsi,  $1\frac{7}{8}$ ; middle toe and nail,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ .

*Perdix dentata*, Temm. Pig. et Gall., Part III. pp. 418 and 734.—Nieu Weid, Trav., vol. iv. p. 486, but not the synonyms.—Licht. Verz. der doub., p. 63.

*L'Uru*, Azara, Voy., tom. iv. p. 158.

*Perdix Capueira*, Spix, Av. Sp. Novæ, tom. ii. p. 59. tab. 76<sup>a</sup>.

*Ortyx capistratus*, Jard. and Selb. Ill. Orn., vol. i. pl. 38.

*Odontophorus Guianensis*, G. R. Gray, List of Gen. of Birds, 2nd Edit., p. 80.—List of Birds in Brit. Mus. Coll., Part III. p. 43.

*Capueira*, Oriental Brazilians. *Hatarat*, Botocudo Indians.

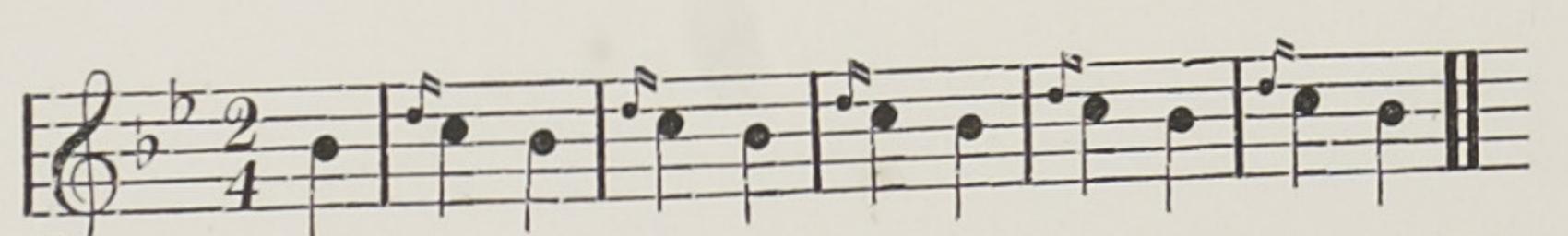
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THE present species, which is very common in all museum collections, has been frequently confounded with the *O. Guianensis*, which is nearly allied to it, but which on comparison will be found to present many specific differences.

Its range extends over most parts of Brazil from the River Plate to the Amazon; some localities being of course more especially adapted to its habits than others.

An interesting account of this bird having been kindly sent me by His Highness Maximilian Prince of Weid, I here transcribe it nearly in his own words. "This bird is called *Capueira* by the Brazilians. Its habits and mode of life are very similar to those of the Hazel Grouse or Gelinotte (*Bonasa sylvestris*). It never frequents the open country, but confines itself entirely to the thick woods. In the early part of the year the *Capueira* lives in pairs, and after the breeding-season the families remain in coveys of from ten to sixteen or more in number. They run very quickly, and procure their food among the dry leaves on the ground in the midst of the extensive woods; the stomachs of those I examined contained fruits, berries, insects, small stones and a little sand. The part of the country in which I met with this bird is the eastern portion of southern Brazil, from Rio de Janeiro to the thirteenth degree of south latitude; by Spix it appears to have been found still farther north. In the vast forests bordering the rivers Mucuri, Alcobaca, Belmonte and Ilheo's the *Capueira* was very common, and we frequently killed them for the sake of their flesh, which is excellent. Its loud and remarkable voice is only heard in the forests, where it reverberates to a great distance. Azara states that the cry is uttered by both sexes, but I believe it is emitted by the male bird only. Like the Domestic Cock in Europe it frequently aroused us at break of day, bidding us as it were to continue our researches among the grand but almost impenetrable forests of that magnificent country. It commenced calling before daybreak, thus affording us ample time for breakfasting, and enabling us to start by the dawn of the young day.

"Azara tells us that the voice of the *Capueira* consists of two notes; but on this point he is incorrect, as it comprises three or four notes which are frequently and very quickly repeated, and which may be thus explained:—



"During the morning and evening twilight the *Capueiras* perch on a branch in a line very near to each other, and at this time the male birds frequently give utterance to their cry, which Azara states to resemble