

DENDRORTYX MACROURUS.

Large-tailed Partridge.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Dend. fronte et gulâ nigris ; lineâ albâ super, atque infra plumas auriculares.

Head crested, the feathers inclining backwards ; forehead, throat, ear-coverts and crest black, the feathers of the latter with a spatulate spot of reddish brown at the extremity ; two lines, one above and the other below the ear-coverts, white ; upper part of the chest, back of the neck and mantle rich chestnut-red, the edges of the feathers being grey ; all the upper surface, wings and tail olive-brown, assuming the form of transverse bars on the wings and tail ; primaries uniform greyish brown ; under surface grey, each feather with a line of chestnut down the centre, and indistinct markings of greyish white on the margins of the webs ; under tail-coverts black edged with buff ; bill, feet and orbits red.

Total length, $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; *bill*, $\frac{3}{4}$; *wings*, $6\frac{1}{2}$; *tail*, $6\frac{1}{2}$; *tarsi*, $2\frac{1}{2}$; *middle toe and nail*, 2.

Ortyx macroura, Jard. and Selb. Ill. Orn., vol. i. pl. 49.—Nat. Lib. Orn., vol. iv. pl. 12.

THIS species, the largest of the family yet discovered, is a native of Mexico, and is so rare in the cabinets of this country, that the specimen in the collection of Sir William Jardine, Bart., is the only one I am acquainted with ; it was purchased at the sale of Bullock's London Museum. Another example, which has been kindly lent me to figure from, is contained in the collection of Prince Massena at Paris ; the colouring of these two specimens is precisely alike, and they appear to be adult males.

The late M. Natterer considered this bird to be identical with the *Tetrao nævius* of Gmelin ; but upon comparing the above-mentioned specimens with his description, I find so great a disparity between them, that though he may be correct in this opinion, still, as the details given are vague and indefinite, I should deem it hazardous to adopt Gmelin's specific name. He states, for instance, that the *T. nævius* is twenty-one inches long, whereas the present bird does not exceed sixteen inches ; and he mentions nothing respecting the black colouring of the head and throat ; I have therefore retained for it Messrs. Jardine and Selby's appropriate appellation of *macrourus*.

Of the habits and economy of this species I regret to say nothing whatever is known.

Habitat, Mexico.

The Plate represents an adult male of the natural size.