

CALLIPEPLA SQUAMATA.

Scaly Partridge.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Call. cristâ plenâ, ad basim cineresceni-fuscâ, ad apicem albâ; interscapulio, colli lateribus, et pectore cinereis, singulis plumis notâ triangulare in medio, et ad apicem lunulâ nigrâ.

Head and throat hoary, deepening into brown on the crest, the tip of which is white; mantle and chest delicate ash-grey, each feather with a crescent-shaped mark of black at the tip, and a triangular patch of brown in the centre; centre of the abdomen buff, crossed with bars of mingled chestnut and black; all the upper surface brownish grey; tertaries margined on their inner webs with buff; tail brownish grey; flanks brownish grey, with a broad stripe of buffy white down the centre; under tail-coverts sandy, with a line of brown down the centre of each; bill black.

Total length, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $4\frac{3}{4}$; tail, $3\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{4}$; middle toe and nail, $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Ortyx squamata, Vig. in Zool. Journ., vol. v. p. 275.—Less. Ill. de Zool., texte de pl. 52.

Callipepla strenua, Wagl. Isis 1832, p. 277.

— *squamata*, G. R. Gray, List of Gen. of Birds, 2nd Edit., p. 80.

MANY years have now elapsed since I first received this species from Mexico, where it is doubtless as plentiful as its near allies are known to be. In the absence of all information respecting its habits I can do no more than portray this rare bird in two different attitudes, trusting that the time is not far distant when we may hope to receive some account of its manners and economy.

The *Callipepla squamata*, although not so brilliantly marked as some other members of the genus, is nevertheless a very pretty species, and is rendered conspicuously different from them all by the lunated fasciae which entirely surround the body, and by the shortness of its crest, which is moreover of a soft and hair-like character.

Judging from the fact, that wherever a species is not remarkable in its colouring, the male and female differ but little in outward appearance, I am of opinion that the plumage of the sexes of the present bird is very similar, and that the accompanying figures are representations of both; at the same time this point is uncertain.

Specimens of this species are very rare in collections; there are two or three in that of the Zoological Society of London, and those from which my figures were taken will hereafter form part of the fine series of birds in the British Museum.

Habitat, Mexico.

The figures are of the natural size.