

450. Turnix pyrrhotorax.
 Hemipodius pyrrhotorax, *Gould* Vol. V. Pl. 86.
451. Turnix velox.
 Hemipodius velox, *Gould* Vol. V. Pl. 87.

Family TETRAONIDÆ, *Leach*.Genus COTURNIX, *Mæhr*.

One true Quail is all that has yet been described as inhabiting Australia; as might be expected, it is a denizen of the plains, as well as of all the open districts of any extent where grass-lands occur; it also resorts to the arable districts in great abundance. A difference exists in specimens from the western and eastern coasts, the former having a deep fawn or light rufous tint pervading the under surface; and it is possible that this difference of colouring may be characteristic of a second and distinct species.

452. Coturnix pectoralis, *Gould* Vol. V. Pl. 88.

Genus SYNOÏCUS, *Gould*.

Generic characters.

As in *Perdix*, but with no spur on the tarsi, and the tail almost obsolete.

The great paucity of the *Gallinaceæ* in Australia is very remarkable, the members of the present genus being almost the only representatives of that group of birds inhabiting the country. The similarity of the habits and economy of these birds to those of the true Partridges, particularly to our own well-known species the *Perdix cinerea*, allies them more nearly to those birds than to the Quails.

Grassy meads, the sides of rushy creeks, and districts clothed with dense herbage, are the favourite resorts of these birds, which move about in small coveys, and when flushed fly but a short distance before they again alight. As an article of food they are all that can be wished.

Every part of the country, from Port Essington on the north to Van Diemen's Land on the south, is inhabited by one or other species of the genus, which are, I doubt not, more numerous than I have represented, for I feel confident that the bird found at Port Essington is quite distinct from those of the south coast.

453. Synoïcus Australis Vol. V. Pl. 89.
454. Synoïcus Diemenensis, *Gould* Vol. V. Pl. 90.
455. Synoïcus sordidus, *Gould* Vol. V. Pl. 91.
456. Synoïcus? Chinensis Vol. V. Pl. 92.

Order GRALLATORES, *Ill*.Family STRUTHIONIDÆ, *Vig*.Genus DROMAIUS, *Vieill*.

I formerly entertained an opinion that there were two species of Emu inhabiting Australia, but I have not had sufficient proofs that such is the case. The small specimens in the possession of the Linnean Society of London and in the Jardin des Plantes at Paris, may only be stunted birds which had been kept in captivity, but as some doubt still remains in my mind the subject should be kept in view.

457. Dromaius Novæ-Hollandiæ Vol. VI. Pl. 1.