

CALLIPEPLA PICTA.

Plumed Partridge.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Call. capite, plumis duabus elongatis, et gracilibus cristam pendentem nigram efficientibus ornato; gulâ saturatè castaneâ, ad latera albo marginatâ, pectore cinereo; abdomine splendide castaneo fasciis nigris et fulvis transversim notato.

Head ornamented with two long slender arched black feathers, rising from the vertex and inclining towards the back; crown of the head, back of the neck and chest deep ash-grey; throat deep chestnut, bounded on the sides by a line of white, and immediately beneath the eye by a smaller streak of black; lores dull white; all the upper surface olive-brown; tail brown, freckled with a darker tint; primaries brown, margined with a lighter tint; sides and abdomen deep chestnut, the outer line of feathers above edged with white; on each side of the abdominal line the feathers are strongly and elegantly marked with alternate bands of black and white.

Total length, $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{3}{4}$; wing, $5\frac{1}{4}$; tail, $3\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $1\frac{3}{4}$; middle toe and nail, $1\frac{3}{4}$.

Ortyx picta, Doug. in Linn. Trans., vol. xvi. p. 167.—Vig. in Zool. Journ., vol. iv. p. 490.—

Less. Ill. de Zool., texte de pl. 52.—Jard. and Selb. Ill. Orn., vol. i. Gen. *Ortyx*.

Ortyx plumifera, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part V. p. 42.—Ib. in Icones Avium.

Perdix plumifera, Aud. Birds of Am., vol. iv. pl. 422. figs. 1 and 2.—Ib. Orn. Bio., vol. v. p. 226.

Plumed Partridge, Aud. Birds of Am., 8vo, vol. v. p. 69. pl. 291.

For the discovery of this highly ornamental species we are indebted to the researches of the late Mr. David Douglas, in whose baggage three specimens were found after his lamented and untimely death. It will be seen by the synonyms given above, that I some years since characterized this bird under the name of *Ortyx plumifera*, not being at the time aware that Mr. Douglas had previously described a bird of this genus (from the notes made during his first journey) in the sixteenth volume of the "Linnean Transactions" under the appellation of *Ortyx picta*, which in all probability is identical with the present species. Although his description does not accord in every particular with the birds characterized by me, and which are in the collection of the Zoological Society, little doubt remains on my mind that his description is intended for the present bird: I therefore retain his name of *picta*, and allow that of *plumifera* to sink into a synonym.

"From October until March," says Mr. Douglas, "these birds congregate in vast flocks, and seem to live in a state of almost perpetual warfare; dreadful conflicts ensue between the males, which not unfrequently end in the destruction of one or both combatants, if we may judge from the number of dead birds daily seen plucked, mutilated and covered with blood. When feeding they move in compact bodies, each individual endeavouring to outdo his neighbour in obtaining the prize. The voice is *Quick-quick-quick*, pronounced slowly, with a gentle suspension of the voice between each syllable. At such times, or when surprised, the crest is usually thrown forward over the beak, and the reverse when retreating, being brought backwards and laid quite close on the back. Their favourite haunts are dry upland or undulating gravelly or sandy soils in open woods, or coppice thickets of the interior; but during the severity of winter, when the ground is covered with snow, they migrate in large flocks to the more temperate places in the immediate vicinity of