

PHILORTYX FASCIATUS, *Gould.*

Fasciated Partridge.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Phil. cristæ plumis elongatis, nigris, apicibus fuscis; pectore et abdomine fasciis transversis nigris atque albis, conspicuè notatis; uropygio et caudâ cinereis fasciis interruptis nigris atque cinereo-albis transversim undulatis.

Forehead reddish brown; crest deep brownish black, tipped with reddish brown; chin greyish white; ear-coverts brown; sides and back of the head light brown, minutely freckled with darker brown and white; all the upper surface greyish brown, minutely freckled with darker brown and white, the coverts and scapularies passing into black towards the extremity of each feather, and crossed at the tip with a narrow band of buff; tail similarly marked, but browner than the upper surface and crossed by numerous freckled irregular double bars of dark brown and greyish white; primaries brown, with lighter edges; all the under surface brownish black, each feather crossed at the tip with a broad band of pure white, which, becoming gradually wider on the centre of the abdomen, leaves that part white; on the breast the white marks are very faint, and the feathers are tinged with rufous; thighs buff; under tail-coverts light buff, with two blackish brown spots down the centre of each feather; bill black; feet flesh-colour.

Total length, 8½ inches; bill, ½; wing, 4½; tail, 3; tarsi, 1½; middle toe and nail, 1½.

Ortyx fasciatus, Natt. MSS.—Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part XI. p. 133.

THIS is certainly one of the most interesting members of the group that has lately been discovered; being not only a very elegant and beautiful bird in itself, but rendered remarkably distinct from every other species of the family by the totally different style of its markings, and by the broad and truncated form of its feathers, which much resemble those of some of the Tree Grouse (genus *Bonasa*).

I am indebted to the kindness and liberality of His Highness The Prince Massena, of Paris, and of the Chevalier Du Bus of Brussels, for the loan of the beautiful examples from which my figures were taken. I learn from the last letter received from my lamented friend Mr. John Natterer, that a specimen had been purchased by him in Berlin, and now doubtless forms part of the Imperial Collection at Vienna.

Habitat. Mexico.

The figures are of the natural size.