AMMOPERDIX HEYI.

Hey's Sand Partridge.

Perdix Heyii, Temm. Pl. Col. 328, 329.—Jard. Nat. Lib. Orn., vol. iv. Game Birds, p. 91.
Perdix flavirostris, Ehrenb.
Caccabis Heyi, Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. iii. p. 508, *Caccabis*, sp. 6.

This beautiful little Partridge inhabits the extensive plains and rocky districts of Arabia, and doubtless extends its range to the confines of Persia, and there inosculates with the *Ammoperdix Bonhami*. The merit of its discovery is due to M. Hey, the companion of that intrepid traveller Dr. Rüppell; and that of first making it known to science to the veteran ornithologist M. Temminck, who assigned to it the specific name of *Heyi* as a just compliment to its discoverer, and who has published in his "Planches Coloriées" an excellent figure and description of it from specimens killed by M. Hey in the deserts of Acaba in Arabia. As is the case with the *Ammoperdix Bonhami*, the sexes differ considerably in colour, and both species, unlike the true Red-legged Partridges, are destitute of spurs.

Hitherto no living examples have been brought to this country, a circumstance which is to be regretted, since no member of its tribe would form a more interesting addition to our aviaries.

The male has the general plumage deep buff, washed with dark grey on the crown and cheeks; rump, upper tail-coverts and centre tail-feathers sandy buff, pencilled and barred with brown; lateral tail-feathers chestnut; primaries brown, blotched on their outer margins with buff; secondaries and tertiaries pencilled with black; lores and stripe behind the eye white, bordered above and below with a darker tint; breast deep buff; under surface chestnut and white, each feather margined with black; under tail-coverts reddish buff; bill orange; feet olive-yellow.

The female has the entire plumage greyish buff, mottled and pencilled with a lighter hue, and black, and with a wash of reddish buff on the shoulders and back.

The Plate represents the two sexes of the natural size, from fine specimens recently brought from Arabia by Lord Robert Clinton.