

EUPSYCHORTYX SONNINII.

Sonnini's Partridge.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Eups. cristâ recurvâtâ; hâc sic et plumis auricularibus cervinis; pectore vinaceo vel rubescenti-cinereo, fusco minutè adsperso.

Male.—Face buffy white; crest brownish buff; throat and stripe over the eye and down the sides of the neck rusty red; sides of the neck strongly marked with black and white; mantle finely freckled with reddish brown, buff and black; upper surface generally blotched and freckled with chestnut-black and grey, the feathers, especially the inner edge of the tertaries, margined with buff; tail brownish grey, minutely freckled and barred with zigzag lines of buff and blackish brown; primaries light brown; chest vinaceous or reddish grey, very minutely freckled with brown; the remainder of the under surface, flanks and under tail-coverts chestnut, each feather with six large spots of white, three on the margin of either web separated by black; bill black; irides dark brown; feet greyish white.

Female.—Crown of the head, ear-coverts and crest brown; throat and stripe over the eye deep grey, tinged with buff, each feather slightly margined with brown; feathers of the chest and flanks buff, the former crossed in the middle with a strongly defined arrow-head-shaped mark of black, the latter crossed by three somewhat triangular-shaped marks of the same colour, intermingled with buff; flank markings not so defined as in the male; upper surface as in that sex, but the ground colour paler and the black patches larger and of a deeper hue.

Total length, 8 inches; bill, $\frac{9}{16}$; wing, $4\frac{1}{4}$; tail, $2\frac{5}{8}$; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{4}$; middle toe and nail, $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Coturnix fronte sordida, Rozier, Journ. de Phys. 1772, tom. ii. part i. p. 217. pl. 2.

Perdix Sonnini, Temm. Pig. et Gall., pp. 451 and 737.—Ib. Pl. Col., 75.

La Caille de Cayenne, Sonn. Edit. Buff. Ois., tom. vii. p. 133.

Sonnini's Quail, Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. viii. p. 328.

Ortyx Sonnini, Steph. Cont. of Shaw's Gen. Zool., vol. xi. p. 383.—Jard. and Selb. Ill. Orn., vol. i. Gen. *Ortyx*.—Less. Traité d'Orn., p. 508.—Ib. Ill. de Zool., texte de pl. 52.—

Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. iii. p. 514, *Ortyx*, sp. 8.

Coturnix Sonnini, Vieill. 2nde Edit. du Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., tom. xxv. p. 248.—Ib. Ency. Méth. Orn. part i. p. 369.

THIS species appears to have been described and figured as long ago as 1772, by the Abbé Rozier in the "Journal de Physique," but to have escaped the notice of ornithologists generally, until M. Temminck characterized it in his "Pigeons et Gallinacées" under the name of *Perdix Sonnini*, the appellation assigned to it by the Abbé not being retainable according to the rules of modern nomenclature. It is of the same size as *Eupsychortyx cristatus*, but is distinguished from that species by the absence of spots on the chest, which part is of a uniform vinaceous or reddish grey.

Habitat. Guiana, Caraceas, and the southern provinces of Mexico, from all of which countries I have seen specimens. M. Natterer states that it is also to be found "in the bushes of the prairies on the banks of the Rio Branco in Brazil."

The figures represent the two sexes of the size of life.