

EUPSYCHORTYX CRISTATUS.

Crested Partridge.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Eup. lineâ superciliari nigrâ; gutture pallide fulvo, pectore albo guttato, guttis singulis posticè nigro marginatis.

Male.—Forehead, crest and throat buff; ear-coverts white; a broad black mark above and another below the ear-coverts; sides of the breast strongly marked with black and white; mantle finely freckled with reddish brown, buff and black; centre of the back and scapularies blotched and freckled with chestnut-grey and black; the feathers bordered, particularly the tertiaries, with buff; primaries light brown; tail grey, minutely freckled and barred with zigzag lines of buff and brown; chest spotted with white posteriorly, bounded with black, on a reddish chestnut ground; abdomen rusty orange-red; the lower part crossed with a few indistinct bars of red; flank-feathers white at the base, crossed by broad bars of black, tipped with buffy orange, and with a line of orange-red in the direction of the stem; bill black; irides brown; feet greyish white.

Female.—Forehead, crown, crest and ear-coverts brown; throat and line above the ear-coverts greyish white; tail strongly barred with zigzag lines of black; centre of the abdomen buffy white; the remainder of the plumage very similar to that of the male, but the markings not so well defined, and the flanks, which are dull light buff, destitute of spots.

Total length, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$; wing, 4; tail, $2\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{4}$; middle toe and nail, $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Tetrao cristatus, Linn. Syst. Nat., vol. i. p. 277.—Gmel. Syst. Nat., vol. i. p. 765.

Perdix cristata, Lath. Ind. Orn., vol. ii. p. 652.—Temm. Pig. et Gall., tom. iii. pp. 446 and 736.

Coturnix Mexicana cristata, Briss. Orn., tom. i. p. 260. tab. 25. fig. 2.—Id. 8vo, tom. i. p. 72.

—Gerin., tom. iii. pl. 246.

Coturnix Indica, Ray, Syn., p. 158.—Will. Orn., p. 304.

Zonecolin, Buff. Ois., tom. ii. p. 485.—Ib. Sonn. Edit., tom. vii. p. 118.

Caille huppée du Mexique, Buff. Pl. Enl., 126. fig. 1.

Crested Quail, Lath. Gen. Syn., vol. iv. p. 784.—Ib. Gen. Hist., vol. viii. p. 329.

Coturnix cristata, Bonn. et Vieill. Ency. Méth. Orn., Part I. p. 222. pl. 96. fig. 4.

Ortyx Temminckii, Steph. Cont. of Shaw's Gen. Zool., vol. xi. p. 381.

Ortyx cristata, Jard. and Selb. Ill. Orn., vol. i. Gen. *Ortyx*.—Less. Traité d'Orn., p. 508.—

Ib. Ill. de Zool., texte de pl. 52.

Ortyx neoxenus, Vig. in Proc. of Comm. of Sci. of Zool. Soc., Part I. p. 3.—Aud. Syn., p. 200.

Ib. Birds of Am., vol. iv. pl. 423. fig. 3. female.—Benn. Gard. and Menag. of Zool. Soc., vol. ii. p. 311.

Perdix neoxenus, Aud. Orn. Bio., vol. v. p. 228.

Welcome Partridge, Aud. Birds of Am., 8vo, vol. v. p. 71. pl. 292.

Ortyx cristatus, List of Birds in Brit. Mus. Coll., Part III. p. 44.

It will be seen from the long list of synonyms given above that this species has been included in the works of nearly every writer on ornithology; yet, strange to say, in no instance has any account been given of its habits and manners, and I regret that although it is one of the species most commonly met with, I cannot myself communicate any information on those points. Numerous living examples have from time to time adorned our menageries, and in all probability it might with suitable care be readily naturalized in Britain; at all events if our island should prove too cold for it, there can be no doubt that it would thrive in the warmer countries of Europe, such as Spain, the south of France and similar localities. It is one of the prettiest members of the genus, and is very sprightly and animated in all its actions.

The living examples from which Mr. Vigors took his description of *Ortyx neoxenus* proved on examination after death to be all females, and upon carefully comparing them with females of this species, received direct from Mexico, I have no doubt of their identity; hence I have placed his name among the synonyms of this bird.

Habitat. Mexico.

The Plate represents the two sexes of the natural size.