

ORTYX CASTANEUS, Gould.

Chestnut-coloured Partridge.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Ort. fronte gulâque nigris ; lineâ superciliari albâ obsoletâ usque ad occiput ; pectore et lateribus saturatè castaneis ; plumis abdominalibus albis, nigro undatim fasciatis lateralibus, guttis albis suprâ nigro cinctis, ornatis.

Forehead and throat black ; an indistinct line of white runs over the eye to the occiput, above this another indistinct line of black ; crown of the head, back of the neck, upper part of the back, shoulders, chest and flanks, deep rich chestnut ; the feathers on the sides of the neck with a black stripe down the centre and an oblong patch of white down the outer web ; the tertiaries and some of the scapularies margined with deep fawn-colour, bounded within by an indistinct line of black ; these feathers are also crossed with indistinct bars and freckles of black ; rump and upper tail-coverts rich chestnut, minutely freckled, barred and dotted with black ; feathers on the centre of the abdomen white, marked with strong zigzag bars of black, changing into spots of white, bounded above by black on the flanks, all these marks being very brilliant ; eyelash dark olive ; irides dark reddish hazel ; bill black ; legs yellowish white.

Total length, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; *bill*, $\frac{5}{16}$; *wing*, $4\frac{1}{2}$; *tail*, $2\frac{7}{8}$; *tarsi*, $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Ortyx castanea, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part X. p. 182.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. iii. p. 514, *Ortyx*, sp. 4.

THE only example of this species that has come under my notice, I obtained in a living state at the sale of the Collection of the late Zoological Gardens at Manchester. I must admit that I have always had a suspicion that the individual in question had assumed some unnatural style of colouring, and that it was merely a variety of *Ortyx Virginianus* or *O. Cubanensis* ; but the rich chestnut colouring of the body, the black colouring of the forehead and throat, and the conspicuous markings of the sides and abdomen, are characters so different from what are observable in those species, that I have no other alternative than to describe and figure it as distinct. In size, too, it somewhat exceeds both the birds above-mentioned.

Habitat ; at present unknown.

The figures are of the natural size.