

ORTYX CUBANENSIS, Gould.

Cuban Partridge.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Ort. loris, strigâ superciliari, et gulâ albis; pectore, et abdomine superiore nigro et castaneo variegatis; lateribus rufis, guttarum serie albarum ornatis, his guttis oblongis, albis, nigro circumdatis, et ad marginem plumarum positis.

Male.—Crown of the head, ear-coverts and chest black, the latter mottled with chestnut, and the black feathers on the sides of the neck having an oblong spot of white near the tip; lores, stripe over the eye and throat white; primaries grey; tail blue-grey, minutely freckled with buff; scapularies and greater wing-coverts margined with buff; the centres of the feathers very dark brown, freckled with chestnut-brown; back and upper tail-coverts very dark brown, freckled with chestnut-brown and grey; flanks rufous, with a row of white spots on the margin of each feather, separated from the rufous tint by marks of black, these black and white marks forming a series of irregular stripes down the sides; bill black; feet flesh-colour.

Female.—Lores, stripe over the eye and throat buff; the white marks on the sides of the neck in the male replaced by buff; crown of the head and ear-coverts brown; no black mark on the chest, the feathers being similar in colour to those of the abdomen, which differ from the same part in the male in being of a paler rufous, and in having transverse arrow-head-shaped markings of black and spots of buff; in other respects the plumage assimilates to that of the male, but is of a paler hue.

Total length, 8 inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $4\frac{3}{4}$; tail, $2\frac{3}{4}$; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{2}$; middle toe and nail, $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Ortyx Virginianus, D'Orb. in Ramon de la Sagra's Hist. Nat. de Cuba, p. 182.

—— *Cubanensis*, Gould, Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. iii. p. 514, *Ortyx*, sp. 2.

THAT this bird is not identical with *O. Virginianus*, as it appears to have been considered by M. D'Orbigny, is, I think, evident from the much smaller size of the bill, the more extensive black colouring of the head, neck and chest, and the totally different markings of the flanks and abdomen; it might be considered that the more southern climate of Cuba may have been the cause of a departure from the normal plumage of the United States bird, but such an opinion would be controverted by the fact, that specimens from Jamaica, an island lying still farther south, are precisely similar to the true *O. Virginianus*.

A very fine specimen of this bird graces the Museum at Leyden, and two others are in the collection of the Zoological Society, one of which is a *lusus natureæ*, having some of the back feathers and the greater portion of the primaries white: they were brought direct from Cuba, and presented to the Society by W. S. MacLeay, Esq.

Habitat. The island of Cuba.

The figures represent the two sexes of the natural size.