

fine dentations; *nostrils* basal, rather large, and covered with an operculum; *orbits* plumed; *wings* rather lengthened and concave; primaries very rigid, the fourth, fifth and sixth the longest; *tail* rather long, and composed of twelve rigid feathers; *tarsi* spurless, and as well as toes rather slender, the latter united at the base by a membrane; the inner toe the shortest.

Of this section six species are now known, and they are by far the most elegant members of the whole family: all of them exhibit a pleasingly contrasted style of plumage, and are ornamented with a graceful crest differing in character in every species; forming in *C. picta* an attenuated plume which reaches to the back; rising upwards and falling forwards over the bill in *C. Californica*, and concave and tufted in *C. squamata*: in the first-mentioned species, the ornament would seem to be carried to its maximum. All the species yet discovered inhabit Mexico; the range of one or two of them extends to the western parts of North America, and of most of them to California. They are characterized by a uniformity of tint on the upper surface which is generally olive. In size they are larger than the members of the genus *Eupsychortyx*; still the largest species is smaller than the Common Partridge of Europe.

The sexes differ considerably in colour, the females being unadorned with any bright markings, and having a less developed crest.

The following valuable notes respecting the members of this genus have been kindly transmitted to me by Dr. Gambel of Philadelphia:—

“Each species appears to inhabit quite a different region, however numerous they may be in their respective localities. Along the whole coast of Upper California, most of which I have traversed, I never met with any other than *C. Californica*, of which species I there met immense flocks;—I think I have seen as many as a thousand or more rise at once into the trees upon a sudden alarm. They form their nests on the ground under a bush or tree, and sometimes lay a great number of eggs.”

The species are:—

16. *Callipepla picta* Pl. XV.

“The *C. picta*,” says Dr. Gambel, “inhabits the mountains of the northern portions of Upper California bordering on Oregon.”

17. *Callipepla Californica* Pl. XVI.
Callipepla Californica, Gamb. in Journ. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil., vol. i. p. 218.

“This beautiful bird,” says Dr. Gambel, “is extremely abundant throughout California; in the winter season congregating in large flocks, sometimes of as many as a thousand or more, in those places where there