

generic terms are now generally adopted for two distinct sections of the group; for a third the appellation of *Callipepla* was proposed by Wagler, and *Lophortyx* by Bonaparte; the former term, having the priority, is the one retained. Considerable diversity of opinion exists with regard to the propriety of giving names to these subdivisions of families, but this is a point upon which I need not here enter: that such divisions do really exist, will, I think, be apparent to all who will carefully examine this or any other large group of birds; and my own observations lead me to believe, that wherever structural differences, however slight, are found to exist, a difference will also be found in habits and economy; and that the members of each of these sections will possess a character of plumage common to themselves, but not to the whole group. With certainly the most entire series of this tribe of birds that has ever been brought together, from which to draw my deductions, I may state, that the genera or subgenera must not be confined to three or four, but must extend to six or seven; for the first of which I propose to retain Mr. Stephens's name of

ORTYX,

WITH THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERS:—

Rostrum breve et robustum; culmine gradatim a basi descendente, tomiis acutis; mandibulâ inferiore rectâ, et apicem versùs denticulis duobus vel pluribus instructâ; *naribus* magnis, et operculo obtectis; *orbitis* vel plumosis, vel aliquanto denudatis; verticis plumis paulo elongatis; *alæ* concavæ, mediocriter elongatæ, primariis rigidis; quartâ, quintâ et sextâ longioribus; *cauda* brevis, et e plumis duodecim integris confecta; *tarsi*, cum digitis et unguibus, modicè elongati, digitis anticis membranâ basali conjunctis, digito interno cæteris brevior.

Bill short and stout; culmen gradually descending from the base; tomia sharp; lower mandible straight, and armed near the tip with two or three dentations; *nostrils* large, and covered with an operculum; *orbits* either plumed or very slightly denuded; feathers of the crown slightly elongated; *wings* concave and moderately long; primaries rigid, the fourth, fifth and sixth the longest; *tail* short, and composed of twelve well-developed feathers; *tarsi* spurless, and with the toes and nails moderately long; anterior toes united at the base by a membrane, the inner toe the shortest.

The section is strictly a northern one; one species inhabiting the United States and extending its range to Mexico and Jamaica, another Cuba and probably Mexico, and the three others are, I believe, confined to Mexico.

Most of the members of this group are about the size of the European Quail. They go in coveys,