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ORTYX PLUMIFERA, Gould.

Ort. capite, nuchâ, pectoreque intensè cinereis; plumis duabus gracilibus et subpendentibus e vertice nigris; gula intensè castaneâ ad latera lineâ albâ circumdatâ, infra oculos notâ nigrâ; loro sordidè albo; corpore superiore olivaceo-fusco; rectoribus caudæ fuscis nigro irroratis; alæ primariis brunneis, pogoniis externis, pallidioribus; abdominis lateribus intensè castaneis; suprâ lineâ albâ marginatis; infrâ fasciis nigris atque albis ornatis; abdomine medio crissoque castaneis; rostro nigro; pedibus pallidi-brunnescentibus.

Long. tot. $9\frac{3}{4}$ unc.; rostri, $\frac{3}{4}$; alæ $5\frac{1}{4}$; caudæ, $3\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $1\frac{3}{4}$.

Crown of the head, back of the neck, and chest deep ash grey; a plume consisting of two long slender arched feathers rising from the vertex of the head, black; throat deep chestnut, bounded on the sides by a line of white, and immediately under the eye by a small patch of black; space between the bill and the eye dirty white; all the upper surface olive brown; tail-feathers brown freckled with a darker tint; primaries brown margined with a lighter tint; sides and abdomen deep chestnut, the outer line of feathers above being edged with white; on each side of the abdominal line the feathers are strongly and elegantly marked with alternate bands of black and white.

The female or young male differs from the adult male in being less in size, in having the plumage less bright, and in having the plumes on the crown of the head considerably shorter.

Ortyx plumifera, Gould, in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part V. 1837.

HAVING been always particularly interested with this New World group, it was with almost inexpressible pleasure that I hailed the arrival of this lovely species of *Ortyx*, three specimens of which formed a part of the ornithological collection of the late Mr. David Douglas, which collection was forwarded to England shortly after his lamentable death and was finally consigned to the Museum of the Zoological Society of London; and it is to the Council of that Society that I am indebted for permission to figure this species in the present work.

Had the gentleman who procured this valuable addition to our ornithological stores been permitted to return to his native land, we should doubtless have been put in possession of some details respecting its history, which deficiency I am unable to supply; and in all probability a considerable period will elapse before another equally intrepid traveller and enthusiastic naturalist will, solely for the love of science, risk his life in pursuit of the unknown treasures of the little-explored regions of California, of which this bird is a native.

The plumed crests with which all the members of this group are ornamented is in no instance so much developed as in the present species, in which this peculiar character would appear to have reached its maximum; and if we may be allowed to conjecture, other species will yet be discovered in which the crest-feathers will not be so long nor assume so narrow and lanceolate a form.

In their habits, manners, and food the members of this group closely assimilate to the Quails and Partridges of the Old World, but differ from them in possessing the power of perching on trees, which they are constantly in the habit of doing.

Habitat California.

The figures are of the natural size.