INTRODUCTION.

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Ptarmigan (autumn plumage).

I have considered it desirable to give three Plates, illustrating three very distinct states of plumage, of this very variable bird.

Genus Syrrhaptes.

An Old-World genus of Sand-Grouse, comprising two species, the native haunts of which are the Steppes of Russia, China, and Thibet. A large number of individuals of the S. paradoxus made an extraordinary visit to various parts of the European continent and Britain in the years 1859 and 1860.

For particulars see the text of the Plate referred to.

Common Pheasant.

Family PHASIANIDÆ.

Genus Phasianus.

A genus of six or eight species, all of which are natives of the northern regions of the Old World, from Asia Minor to Japan. Although India, particularly its hilly portions, abounds in Gallinaceous birds, no true Pheasant is found there.

A former introduction, probably from Turkey or some part of the neighbourhood of the Black Sea.

Family PERDICIDÆ.

In this division of the Gallinaceæ is comprised a great number of varied forms, most of which are natives of the northern portions of the Old World. In England we have two which may be considered indigenous, the Grey- and the Red-legged Partridge; the migratory Quail also frequently spends the summer in these kingdoms.

Genus Perdix.

A genus of three species, namely:—Perdix cinerea, habitat Europe; P. barbatus, habitat China; and P. Hodgsoniæ, habitat Thibet.