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BUFF-BREADED QUAIL
(*Turnix olivii*)
Male Female

The Emu

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"Birds of a feather."

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[PART 1.

Buff-breasted Quail (*Turnix olivii*)

By A. J. CAMPBELL, C.M.B.O.U., F.A.O.U., Melbourne.

Near Cooktown (N.Q.) on 25/6/99, Mr. E. Olive, the well-known field naturalist, obtained a strange Quail, a female. The specimen was described as a new species by Mr. H. C. Robinson, was exhibited by the Hon. Walter Rothschild at a meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union, held in London, 21/2/1900, and subsequently figured in "Birds of Australia" (Mathews), vol. i., pl. 19.

Over twenty-one years afterwards (1/11/21) Mr. W. McLennan, collecting for Mr. H. L. White on the Cape York Peninsula, "bagged" a male Quail new to him, and a week or two later secured the female. The interesting "bag," which proved to be *Turnix olivii*, in due course reached Mr. White, who promptly and patriotically decided to figure the pair in *The Emu* for the benefit of R.A.O.U. members.

As usual in the genus *Turnix*, the female is considerably larger than the male. *T. olivii*, as Mr. Robertson has pointed out, is most nearly allied to *T. castanota*, Gould, but differs in its larger size, in having the head not conspicuously spotted with white, and in being without the whitish centres to the feathers of the dark olive-buff breast. The technical descriptions are as follow:—

Adult Male.—Forehead, lores and crown neutral grey, which color extends down nape; each side of crown and nape mottled black; ear-coverts mouse grey; hind-neck auburn; sides of neck feathers dull white, tipped black; mantle, scapulars and back auburn, some feathers with black bars and margined with white, or pale olive-grey; rump, upper tail-coverts and tail auburn; lesser wing-coverts grey mottled black; median and greater wing-coverts hazel feathers with irregular-sized marks of dull white on black line; primary-coverts black; secondaries and primaries chaetura black tipped and edged on outer web with dull white; chin, throat and malar region pale smoke grey; fore-neck and breast dark olive-buff faintly barred darker (deep olive); abdomen pallid neutral grey; under tail-coverts warm buff; tibia light neutral grey. "Bill brown, cutting-edge and lower mandible bluish white, irides and legs yellow" (W. McLennan).

Collector's measurement in flesh:—Length, 183 mm.; wing, 93; culmen, 15; tarsus, 22. (Plesiotype, "H. L. White Coll.," Nat. Mus., Melbourne.)

Adult Female.—Forehead and lores dusky neutral grey; crown deep neutral grey; sides of crown chestnut-brown mottled black; ear-coverts mouse grey; hind-neck auburn; sides of neck neutral grey; mantle and scapulars auburn, some feathers with black bars and edged with pale olive-grey; back, rump upper tail-coverts and tail auburn; lesser wing-coverts light mouse grey mottled black and brown; median and greater wing-coverts hazel, some feathers like mantle with several black bars and edged with pale olive-grey; primary-coverts, secondaries and primaries chaetura drab feathers tipped more or less with dull white, and primaries edged on outer web with pale smoke grey; chin and throat whitish or pale smoke grey; fore-neck and breast citrine-drab or greyish olive; abdomen pallid neutral grey; under tail-coverts warm buff; tibia neutral grey. "Bill pale dull olive, irides and legs yellow" (W. McLennan). Collector's measurements in flesh:—Length, 221 mm.; wing, 103; culmen, 17; tarsus, 30. (Plesiotype, "H. L. White Coll.," Nat. Mus., Melbourne.)
