

Sonnini says that he has seen these birds brought up in a cage with grains; but that they always preserved a certain degree of ferocity and wildness of character, and were uncommonly agitated when any one approached them.

This quail, which has much affinity with the Madagascar one in its colours, though it is smaller, has the beak nine lines in length, six in breadth, and four in thickness. The upper chap is convex, and covers the under one; it has a tuft six lines high on its head, the feathers of which are of a reddish colour, as well as those on the nape of the neck; the throat is fawn colour; the sides of the neck are grey and black; the back, the under part of the neck, as well as the covert feathers of the wings, are covered with grey feathers, with a red tinge, and undulated with black stripes more or less fine. Towards the rump the feathers are red and black; the wings are four inches in length, and their quill feathers are of a greyish tint, dashed with red; the tail is brown on the top, undulated with a reddish colour, and underneath it is of a light grey, slightly undulated; it extends beyond the wings when folded, about an inch; the feet are yellowish, and the claws black.