

The Committee on Mr. Cassin's Descriptions of new species of *Nyctale* and *Sycobius*, reported in favor of publication.

*Descriptions of New Species of the genera Nyctale, Brehm., and Sycobius, Vieill.; specimens of which are in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.*

By JOHN CASSIN.

Genus *NYCTALE*, *Brehm.* Handb. Nat. Vog. Deuts. p. 111.

*Nyctale Harrisii*, nobis.

Front, face, nuchal collar, and under surface of the body yellowish white, or buff color.

Spot between the eye and the bill, and a broad occipital band, black,—the latter covering the greater part of the hind head.

Feathers covering the ear, black.

Throat with a few black feathers, and many of the feathers of the ruff on the front neck conspicuously tipped with black.

Upper surface of the back and wings deep reddish-brown; wing coverts with conspicuous round spots of white; all the quill feathers also irregularly marked and spotted with white on the edges of both webs; scapulars largely edged with white and buff.

Upper tail coverts brown, spotted with white. Tail black, with about three pairs of rounded white spots on every feather. Tarsi thickly feathered to the toes, and with the whole under surface of the body buff color.

Total length of skin, from tip of bill to end of tail, about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in.; wing,  $5\frac{3}{4}$ ; tail,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Hab. South America?

The specimen now described was obtained from Mr. J. G. Bell, Taxidermist, of New York, who has no accurate recollection of its locality, but is of the opinion that it came from South America.

I have named this singular and beautiful little species in honor of Mr. Edward Harris, of Moorestown, N. J., Chairman of the Ornithological Committee of this Academy, and a distinguished naturalist.

Genus *SYCOBIUS*, *Vieillot.*

*Scobius scutatus*, nobis.

♂ Upper part of the head and neck, broad pectoral band and under tail coverts bright crimson; the crimson of the breast uniting on the sides of the neck with that of the head.

Throat and ears black,—which color forms a large gular patch extending to, but scarcely including the eyes.

All other parts of the body black.

♀ Broad pectoral band and under tail coverts crimson; all other parts, including the head, black.

Total length of skin from tip of bill to end of tail, about  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches; wing,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; tail,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Hab. Western Africa.