

scapulars, on the lesser and median coverts, and tertiaries. All the quills have four or five conspicuous white spots on the outer webs, and corresponding imperfect bars (not quite reaching to the shafts) on the inner webs, which bars are pale brown towards the tips, and higher up, pure white. The winglet which is almost blackish brown is similarly marked. The primary greater coverts similar, the rest of the greater, and some of the median, coverts, with very large conspicuous white spots near the tips on the outer webs. The lesser coverts, and most of the median unspotted; rump and upper tail coverts, uniform brown, rather darker than the interscapular region, some of them exhibiting, when lifted, a concealed white bar as in the scapulars. Tail hair brown, tipped white, and with three conspicuous transverse white bars, a fourth, a less perfect one, concealed by the upper tail coverts. The breast feathers are mostly white, but are broadly tipped with hair brown, which owing to the overlapping of the feathers is what is chiefly seen. The sides of the breast of this same color, but with traces of white bands well inside the tips, and not noticeable till the feathers are lifted. Centre of abdomen, tibial, and tarsal plumes, toe feathers, and lower tail coverts pure white; sides of abdomen, sides, and flanks, broadly banded with hair brown.

Athene pulchra, *Sp. Nov.*

Closely allied to A. brama, but much smaller, the color of the upper surface usually a darker, and purer brown, and the white markings, smaller.

I have had one specimen of this owl, sent me by Captain Fielden, by me now for some time, but having only a single specimen, I hesitated to characterize the Pegu owl as distinct. I have now four good specimens before me, two of them sent by Mr. Oates, and it appears to me certain that they must be separated. I do not suppose that these birds weigh much more than half what our Indian ones do. In length they vary from 7.25 to 7.8 against 8 to 9.5 in *brama*, while the wings vary from 5.3 to 5.8 against 6 to 6.65; and an expanse of 19 to 19.5 against 21 to 22.5 in the Indian bird. No doubt the general character of the plumage is the same as in *brama*; but the spotting of the head is smaller and neater. The general color of the upper surface is a darker and purer brown; the dark throat band is more strongly marked. The tail exhibits five, or six, narrow transverse bands, or traces of these, against four or five, far broader, and more distinctly marked bands in *brama*.