

In the form and size of the ear conch our two species just described exhibit two distinct links in the chain of passage from *Strix* and *Otus* to *Scops* and *Noctua*; so also in the medial length of their wings; though this latter character would seem to be, in the Strigine family, less important and influential than amongst the *Falconidæ*. Why else have *Strix* and *Otus* the true Falcon's wing in common, whilst the beaks of the two are diametrically opposite in character? In *Strix*, however, the wings considerably exceed the tail—in *Otus* are only equal, or scarcely superior to it in length. Is, then, *Strix* the representative of *Milvus*? and *Otus* of *Falco*? Or must not the long and feeble legs and toes of the former, added to its straight powerless beak and long wings, induce us rather to seek its analogue in the Buteonine genus *Circus*? Our *Huhna* and *Cultrunguis* are evidently representatives amongst the Strigidæ of the *Aquiline* branch of the diurnal Raptores; the latter being distinctly, the analogue of the fishing genera of this branch. To the same branch must be referred, analogically, the two species now described; and which, by the combined straightness and power of their beak would also appear to be types of new genera in their own family—*unless* there be something very unsound indeed, in the entire existing classification of the *Strigidæ*, which admits no straight-billed Owls but *Strix*—a genus as remarkable for the *feebleness*, as for the straightness, of its bill.

Genus BUBO. Species new. NIPALENSIS mihi.

This remarkable bird, the largest of the family yet discovered, is 28 to 30 inches long and 65 to 68 inches between the wings,* with muscular power in the legs far exceeding that of the Eagles, and with talons capable of giving that power the utmost effect in the destruction of life.

It has most of the influential characters of the Genus *Bubo*, but differs strikingly therefrom by the comparative length and straightness of the bill, and also, perhaps by the partial nudity of the toes, and by wings more nearly equal to the tail as well as differently gradated. Should these differences seem to warrant the establishment of a new Genus or Subgenus,

* The bill is $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; the tarsus, 3; the central toe, $2\frac{1}{4}$; inner talon (along the curve) $2\frac{1}{4}$.

I beg to propose for it the name *Huhua*, latinised from *Huhu*, which is the common appellative of all Strigine birds in Nepal. At present I mean to consider it as a species of *Bubo* and to name it specifically *Nipalensis*, it being found in all parts of the Kingdom.

It tenants the interior of umbrageous woods, and by reason of the feeble light penetrating them even at noon-day, it is enabled to quest subdiurnally in such situations. It preys on pheasants, hares, rats, snakes, and sometimes on the fawns of the *Ratwa* and *Ghoral*. The sexes nearly resemble each other; but the young every where, and the old too in the Northern region, are more blanched than in maturity. The bill is equal to the head, straightened beyond the cere, abruptly and largely hooked, very strong, and furnished with an accipitrine festoon; its lower mandible deeply notched and vertically truncated at the tip; the tomia, obtuse and free towards the gape—trenchant, deeply locked, and internally scarped, towards the point.

The nares are placed high up and near to the antea edge of the cere; their aperture a broad ellipse, simple, transverse, with an aspect obliquely to the front.

Wings $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches less than the tail; 5th quill longest; 4th nearly equal to it; the three first considerably and equally gradated; 1st, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 inches less the longest; the four first strongly emarginated on the inner web, and 2nd to 5th inclusive, on the outer web also, remotely from the tips; primaries two inches and more longer than the tertiaries: the last, as well as the scapulars, long and firm. Pecten complete on the 1st quill—clearly traceable on 2nd, 3rd and 4th, below the emargination. Tail medial bowed, square; the extreme laterals subgradate. Legs immensely stout, short, and plumed nearly to the talons: exterior fore toe antagonising with the others, but not reversile: outer four and central, subequal in length, but the former much the stouter: terminal third of all the toes, denuded of plumes and furnished with three or four heavy scales to each toe: remainder of the toes, hirsutely plumose. Talons, acute and large: inner fore

much the largest; next the central; then the outer fore and the hind, which are subequal; all flat beneath, and the process of the inner edge of central, entire. Tongue fleshy and entire. Intestines 30 to 44 inches long, very thick coated; considerably wider above and gradually diminishing in diameter downwards: at 6 to 9 inches from anal end two cœcæ of from 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, each of them. Stomach spheroidal; of considerable subequal thickness in the coats, which are two—an exterior thin one of muscular fibre, and a thicker one constituting the body of the stomach, of granular structure and gland like: the lining membrane, softish, sub-plicated, and easily separable. Head not small: facial disc, very small and incomplete: opening of the ears, very small, simple, elliptic; 4 to 5 eighths of an inch long. Egrets 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, composed of 15 to 20 plumes, rising from the postear and upper angle of the orbits, erigible, usually drooped.

The following description exhibits the external aspect of this bird. Above, saturate brown transversely barred and emarginated with rich rufous yellow; the bars and points of the greater feathers mottled with brown; a clear longitudinal line of rufous yellow down the lower or anteal edge of the scapulars; the disc hoary, more or less smeared with brown; great wing and tail plumes apertly quadrannulated. Below white, buff smeared on the breast, sometimes all over, and each plume cordated or barred heartwise with saturate brown; thighs lunated with the same. Bill and nude part of the toes full yellow; edge of the eyelid yellow, dappled with brown; talons horn yellow with dusky points, iris brown. I have in my note book provisionally characterised this bird, as the type of a new genus: thus—

Bill equal to the head, straightened beyond the cere, suddenly hooked, very strong, festooned; wings medial, sub-equal to the tail; 5th longest; 3 first considerably gradated; 1st pectinated. Legs, as in *Bubo*; but the toes more hirsute and denuded, and the outer fore antagonising, not reversile.

Talons very unequal, large, and acute. Egrets as in *Bubo*. Disc and ears smaller. Tail medial, square.