EXTINCT BIRDS.

An attempt to unite in one volume a short account of those Birds which have become extinct in historical times—that is, within the last six or seven hundred years. To which are added a few which still exist, but are on the verge of extinction.

BY

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCCHILD,
Ph. D., F.Z.S.

With 45 Coloured Plates, embracing 63 subjects, and other illustrations.

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MESSRS. NEWTON AND GADOW give the measurements of, and
describe a pair of metatarsi procured with the remains described as
Strix sauzieri, and state that they do not fit in with that species. For,
as they are fully adult bones, it is impossible to attribute their much smaller size
to youth. They then add a sentence of which this is the first part: "Unless we
assume, what is unlikely, that the Island of Mauritius possessed two different
species of Strix, we have to conclude that the short pair of metatarsals
belonged to a small individual of Strix sauzieri, ———." Evidently Messrs.
Gadow and Newton, when they wrote this, did not remember the fact that
throughout a very large portion of the range of Strix flammea, its various
geographical races are found side by side with another species of the group
of Strix, namely, S. candida and S. capensis, popularly called "Grass owls";
these in nearly every case have the legs considerably longer than in the true
"Barn Owls" (Strix flammea and its races).

Therefore I consider it not in the least unlikely that two species of
Strix inhabited Mauritius, and that Strix sauzieri was the Mauritian
representative of the "Grass Owls," while these two short metatarsals
belonged to the representative of the "Barn Owls." I therefore have much
pleasure in naming this form after the collector of these bones, the late
Sir Edward Newton.

Length of tarso-metatarsi, 56 mm.

Habitat: Mauritius.