

*Notices and Descriptions of various New or Little Known Species of Birds.* By ED. BLYTH, Curator of the Asiatic Society's Museum.

[Continued from p. 54, *ante*.]

In the intervals that elapse between the publication of successive portions of these notices, it regularly happens that further collections are received by the Society, and that some additional information is derived from them relative to groups that had already been treated of. In the present instance, we have been indebted to Dr. R. Templeton, of Colombo, for two collections of birds from Ceylon, in which some interesting novelties have been comprised, and much information gained respecting the ornithology of that island, which of late years has been very little investigated. Among the species sent is a little Owl, which appears to be the true *Strix castanoptera* of Horsfield; one of three nearly allied Indian species, as follow:—

1. *Athene castanopterus*, (Horsf.): *Strix spadicea*, Reinwardt. Entire mantle and wings uniform deep chesnut-rufous, more or less obscurely barred with subdued dusky: primaries weak dusky, faintly banded with rufous on the inner web, and with a series of spots of bright rufous on the outer web: tail dusky, with eight or nine narrow white or whitish bars, the last of them terminal: head and neck closely barred with light rufescent on a dusky ground, and contrasting strongly with the rufous of the back: breast nearly similar, but the colours deeper; the abdomen white, with longitudinal dusky streaks; and the vent and lower tail-coverts pure white: bill pale yellow. Length of wing about five inches. Three specimens received are essentially quite similar, and a fourth is mentioned in XIV, 185. Inhabits Ceylon.

2. *Ath. malabaricus*, nobis: *Ath. castanopterus* apud nos, doubtfully cited in XIV, 134, and of Jerdon, *Madr. Journ.* No. XXXI, 320. Size of the preceding, or a little shorter in the wing: the head, neck, and interscapularies, uniformly coloured, of a lightish rufous with narrow and close dusky rays; wings the same, but the colours deeper, and the dusky bands considerably broader: primaries deep rufous, the three first barred throughout with dusky, the rest mostly immaculate (or with comparatively obscure bars) for the basal half, and distinctly barred for the remainder; secondaries with broad distinct bands throughout, rufous and dusky; and tertiaries with the scapularies