

NOTES AND REFERENCES.

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5. *NINOX ALBARIA*, *sp. nov.* Specimens of a small *Ninox* from Lord Howe Island differ considerably from either of the continental forms *N. MACULATA* or *N. BOOBOOK*, and also from *N. NOVÆ-ZEALANDIÆ*, to which latter it is most closely allied; this species, which I propose to distinguish under the name of *NINOX ALBARIA*, may be briefly described:—The face, lores, forehead, chin, and upper part of the throat in some specimens, snow-white; the general colour of the plumage rich fawn or rusty-brown, deeper in tint on the sides of the chest and under surface and upper tail-coverts; each feather of the chest has two distinct roundish spots of white which elongate transversely and form two detached bars on the breast but become confluent on the flanks, the feathers of the under tail-coverts are white with a terminal bar and centre shaft-spot of rufous-brown; abdomen, legs and thighs rufous-brown, paler on the inner parts; no spots on the head, or hind neck; the mantle and interscapular region, without spots in some but sparingly spotted with white on the concealed parts of the feathers in other individuals. Scapulars with two broken bands of white which sometimes take the form of oval spots on either side of the shafts of the feathers. Wings with seven to eight dull ashy bands. Centre two tail feathers without any bands, the others with about ten oblique narrow ashy bands on the inner webs only, except the outer feathers on either side, where they are just distinguishable; a few spots of white on the concealed portions of the rump and upper tail-coverts. Bill black, feet dull yellowish-brown; bristles brown. Length 12 inches; wing, 8 inches; tail, 6 inches; tarsus, 1.7 inch; bill from forehead 1 inch. Some of the New Zealand specimens come very close to the Lord Howe Island birds, but lack the white face, lores, and chin. Should they eventually prove to be indetical, this will form an interesting link, connecting the avifauna of the two Islands. The Norfolk Island bird is said to be *NINOX BOOBOOK*, but it is more likely to prove to be *NINOX NOVÆ-ZEALANDIÆ*, or perhaps the present species.
7. *HALCYON NORFOLKIENSIS*, *Tristram*, *Ibis*, Vol. III., Fifth Series, p. 48, 1885 = *HALCYON VAGANS*, *Lesson*, *Buller's Birds of New Zealand*, p. 69. These birds are apparently identical, I can see no difference between the Norfolk Island specimens and those from Lord Howe Island, which latter are undoubtedly *HALCYON VAGANS* and similar to the New Zealand form of that species.