

vensoni or *A. virgatus*. We have a very similar one from Java ; but as both species are found there, I am not sure to which it belongs, but probably to *A. virgatus*, as I suspect that *A. stevensoni* is only a winter visitor to Java. Judging from the size of the tarsus and foot, I think the larger nestling, marked *c*, is a female though marked male, and that the smaller, marked *d*, is a male."

Having expressed to Mr. Gurney some doubts about the correctness of identifying example *b* with the female of *A. stevensoni*, that gentleman kindly favoured me with the following remarks:—

"Your rufous-breasted hawk from the Philippines, which I marked *b*, is certainly nearer to *A. stevensoni* than to any other species that I am acquainted with ; but since returning it to you I have felt some doubt as to whether it will not prove to belong to a distinct and undescribed species.

"Your bird differs in having the wing shorter than any of our females, and larger than any of our males. Our three males have but four transverse bars on the tail. Of our four females three have five bars, and the fourth (an immature bird from Java) four, like the males, whereas your specimen *b* has six, as mentioned in your letter.

"None of our females have any rufous on the breast ; and in all our males it is hardly more than a tinge of buff. Our type specimen (a male, figured in the 'Ibis' for 1863, pl. 11) is perhaps somewhat faded ; but our Curator is confident that it was never so rufous as is represented in the 'Ibis' plate ; and in this I believe he is right.

"Your bird is more like the male of *A. stevensoni* than it is to the female ; but as your collector has marked it ♀, it probably is so.

"Specimens of *A. stevensoni* are scarce, and we hardly know the limits of variation to which it is liable ; and on this account I should be glad if additional specimens like your skin *b* could be obtained, before venturing to publish it as a species distinct from *A. stevensoni* ; but at the same time, if it should ultimately prove distinct, it would by no means surprise me.

"I ought to add that as *A. stevensoni* has not yet been met with when paired, we have no positive proof that the bird which I suppose to be its female (the type being a male) is so, though I do not myself entertain any doubt of such being the case."

9. *SPILORNIS HOLOSPILUS* (16).

[Zamboanga, ♂ ♀, April and May.]

10. *ELANUS HYPOLEUCUS* (18).

[Zamboanga, ♂ juv., May : iris light yellow-brown ; bill black ; cere greenish yellow ; feet pale chrome ; claws black.]

11. *NINOX SPILOCEPHALA*, sp. n.

[Zamboanga, ♂, March : iris golden ; bill greenish leaden ; feet pale yellow. ♀, April : iris golden ; bill-greenish lead, tinged yellow on culmen and tip ; feet wax-yellow. ♀, April : iris light greenish-yellow.]

Were it not that the large series of examples sent by Mr. Everett (six males and thirteen females) all agree in having spotted heads, I should not have ventured to separate the Zamboanga species from *N. philippinensis* of Luzon. Every variety of markings and colorations is exhibited in this series, from dark brown to tawny-rufous brown above, and stripes and spots of the same colours below; but all the nineteen examples have the frontal and coronal feathers brown, spotted with rufous—in some bright rufous, in others pale tawny rufous. Some have the whole under plumage, from throat to vent, dark-centred; others have the breast almost uniform rich rufous, without pale margins, and with a subterminal brown transverse narrow band.

Every specimen has its sex noted on its label; and the length of the wing in the six birds marked ♂ is greater than in those marked ♀. The wing of the six males ranges in length from 6·50 to 7·0, of the thirteen females from 6·25 to 6·50. Two Luzon males have the wings 6·37 and 5·25. Mr. Sharpe (Cat. ii. p. 168) states 2 inches as the length of the tarsus of an example of *N. philippinensis* in the British Museum; none of these Zamboanga birds has the tarsus longer than 1·12.

12. NINOX LUGUBRIS.

Strix lugubris, Tickell, J. A. S. B. ii. p. 573.

[Zamboanga. *a.* ♀, March: iris golden; bill blackish; cere, culmen, and mandible greenish yellow; feet dark chrome-yellow; claws black. *b.* ♀, April: iris deep brown; bill greenish; feet chrome-yellow.]

Dimensions:—

	Wing. in.	Tarsus. in.	Culmen. in.	Tail. in.
<i>a</i>	8·30	1·12	0·62	4·75
<i>b</i>	8·14	1·12	imperfect.	4·82

Six caudal bands. First two primaries without bars. The wings of a ruddy hue. The outer webs of most of the primaries rusty-red.

The remarks Mr. Gurney has been good enough to favour me with about this Zamboanga race of *Ninox lugubris* are as follows:—"I think the outer webs of the primaries unusually rufous. We have only one similar specimen, which is from Formosa and is described in Sharpe's volume (Catalogue, ii. p. 161); and with this specimen the Zamboanga bird seems to me to agree generally. If *N. japonica* be admitted as distinct from *N. lugubris* (though I doubt whether it ought to be), the Zamboanga specimen, I think, ought to be referred to *N. japonica*."

Mr. Sharpe has suggested (*t. c.* p. 166) that the large Japanese and North-China form is migratory. These Zamboanga examples favour his hypothesis.

13. PSEUDOPTYNX GURNEYI, sp. n. (Plate LVIII.)

[Zamboanga, ♂, pairing, April: iris warm brown; bill greyish white; feet pale grey; claws white tipped with dark grey.]