

the quills are margined on the exterior web with rufous or rufous grey. The whole lower surface including the wing lining, is a very pale yellowish buff, much paler than in *Longicaudatus*, more uniform than in *Inornatus vera*, and purer than in *Rufescens*; the inner margins of the quills are the palest possible salmon color. The tibial plumes are pale fulvous.

I long confounded this species with *D. Sylvatica*. The dimensions and part of the description would agree well enough, but no one could possibly call the bird olive brown, nor is it possible to believe that when Jerdon speaks of a bird with a narrow sub-terminal dark band to the tail, the feather tipped with white, he refers to a bird in which there is no such dark band, and of which the major portion of the lateral tail feathers are pure white. I have this species only from Saugor, Mount Aboo, and Raipoor. The young of this species and of *Rufescens nobis* are so similar, that I was at one time inclined to believe that the two were only different phases of the same species; but the adults appear perfectly distinct and even the young are separable, by the somewhat larger size of the bill in this species and the color of the lower mandible which in the young *Rufescens* is horny white, in the young of this species almost entirely black.

Ninox Obscurus, Sp. Nov.

Of a nearly uniform, darkish, somewhat rufous, slightly chocolate brown. Abdomen, with a few imperfect yellowish white transverse bars. Wing, about 8.5 inches.

THIS species which appears, although quite distinct, to approach in general tint more nearly to the Bornean bird than any other *Ninox* yet described, has been found in the Nicobars near Camorta. I have as yet only seen a single specimen. Its crepuscular habits appear to be similar to those of its congeners. Nothing is known of its nidification.

Dimensions.—(From the dry skin.) Length, 12 inches; wing 8.5 inches; tail, about 5 inches; tarsus, 0.9 inch; bill from gape, 1.65 inches (sex not recorded.)

Description.—Lores and forehead, yellowish white. The tips of the bristles immediately in front of and below the eye, black, so as to produce the effect of an ill-defined narrow black semi-circle running round the front of the eye. The whole of the upper surface, a rich, somewhat rufous, slightly chocolate-tinted brown, darkest on the head and nape, and even then not very

dark, and a good deal paler, and losing its chocolate shade on the quills and tail. The tail exhibits on the central feathers four very narrow pale yellowish brown bars, and there are similar bars on the exterior webs of all the lateral tail feathers except the outermost ones. The throat is yellowish white, with a rufous brown patch. The whole of the rest of the lower parts including the wing lining are nearly similar in tint to the back, but somewhat more rufous; each of the feathers of the abdomen and flanks exhibits two or more pairs of small yellowish white spots or imperfect bars, which, even where best defined, are narrow, imperfect, widely separated, and by no means conspicuous, all but the one nearest the point being hidden by the over-lapping of the feather. The lower tail coverts are a paler and less rufous brown, and are more broadly and conspicuously barred with white.

Since writing the above, I have been favored by Mr. Ball, of the Geological Survey, with the sight of another specimen of the same species, procured, he informs me, in the Audamans. This bird is decidedly distinct from Col. Tytler's *Affinis*, of which species, or supposed species, Mr. Ball also sent me a specimen, obtained, as I understand him, from the Nicobars.

Mirafra Immaculata, Sp. Nov.

Size and shape of Mirafra Assamica, upper surface, dull earthy brown; striations, few and ill-defined. *Breast*, almost entirely spotless.

I HAVE now had by me for many years a large *Mirafra* procured on Deobund, a hill some 9,000 feet high, in the neighbourhood of Mussoorie. Never having been able to obtain a second specimen, I have hitherto hesitated to describe it, but it seems so very distinct from *Assamica*, the only species which at all closely approaches it, that in the hopes of other specimens turning up, I now venture to give it a "local habitation and a name."

I may premise that of our four *Mirafra*s three, viz., *Affinis*, *Erythroptera*, and *Cantillans* have the hind claw short, averaging perhaps 0·3 inch in length. *Assamica*, on the other hand, has a comparatively long claw, varying from 0·5 to 0·6 inch. The present species approaches *Assamica* in this respect, having the hind claws 0·6 inch in length.

From *Assamica*, however, it may be at once separated by the difference in the tint of the upper surface, which in this