

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

**A NEW RACE OF THE HAWK-OWL, *Ninox scutulata*,
FROM THE PHILIPPINES**

BY H. G. DEIGNAN*

The hawk-owl, *Ninox scutulata*, has hitherto been considered a mere winter visitor to the Philippine Islands, but study of specimens in the collections of the United States National Museum, the American Museum of Natural History, the Chicago Natural History Museum, the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, and the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University (to the authorities of all of which my thanks are hereby given), has shown that a very distinct race is resident at least in the southern portions of the Archipelago. The new form may be called

Ninox scutulata randi, subsp. nov.

Type.—U. S. National Museum No. 200,878, adult female, collected at Catagán (elev. 1,100 ft.), at the base of Mount Malindang, Misamis Province, Mindanao Island, on May 23, 1906, by Edgar A. Mearns (original number 14,196).

Diagnosis.—Nearest *Ninox* *sc. japonica* (Japanese Islands) in the dark reddish chocolate of its upper parts (with the pileum scarcely differentiated from the mantle), the rufescent-tinged bands on the rectrices, and the preponderance of chestnut over white on the under parts, but everywhere even darker and redder than *japonica*, and easily distinguished from this and all other known races by its much more robust bill and much larger toes and claws.

Remarks.—Specimens of *N. sc. randi* have been seen from the following localities: Mindoro, 1 unsexed, July 3; Cebú, 1 male, June 18; Mindanao, 2 females, May 23, June 17; Basilan, 2 males, April 10, no date.

Although I am in agreement with those recent authors who have allocated Raffles's name *scutulata* to the race resident in Sumatra and Malaya, I do not stand with them in considering the name *japonica* applicable to populations of Korea and China, which differ from true *japonica* in their rather paler upper parts, more gray-brown (less rufescent) tail bands, and the greater proportion of white to chestnut on the under parts. It is probable that Chinese birds must be called *Ninox scutulata florensis* (Wallace), from *Athene florensis* Wallace (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, for 1863, pt. 3, Feb. 1864, p. 488: Flores).

A form of the species is resident on some of the small islands between Formosa and Luzón. If distinct from *florensis*, they must perhaps be called *Ninox scutulata totogo* Momiyama (Amoeba, vol. 3, Nos. 1-2, p.

*Published with permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

42 *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*

68: Botel Tobago), but I have been unable to separate them satisfactorily from Chinese birds, which appear in winter on the same islands, as well as on the islands farther to the south.

The new race is named for Austin Loomis Rand, of the Chicago Natural History Museum, who has courteously turned over to me unstudied material from the Philippine collections in his charge.

13 MAY 1952