

skins appears to be that of an adult bird. I have an Indian skin in which the chestnut band on the rump is equally narrow.

The Asiatic species and subspecies of this subgenus may be diagnosed as under:—

- a. Colour of rump graduating from chestnut next the back to pale buff next the upper tail-coverts.
  - a'. Length of wing 5 to 4·8 inches . . . . . *rufula*.
  - b'. Length of wing 4·6 to 4·8 inches . . . . . *rufula* β. *scullii*.
- b. Colour of rump uniform chestnut.
  - c'. Striations of underparts nearly as fine as in the preceding species. Length of wing 4·4 to 4·2 inches . . . . . *erythropygia*.
  - d'. Striations of underparts coarser than in any of the preceding. Length of wing 4·5 or more.
- a<sup>2</sup>. Striations of underparts intermediate between the preceding and the following species, those of rump almost obsolete.
  - a<sup>3</sup>. Length of wing 5·2 to 4·9 inches . . . . *alpestris*.
  - b<sup>3</sup>. Length of wing 4·8 to 4·5 inches . . . . *alpestris* β. *nipalensis*.
- b<sup>2</sup>. Striations of underparts coarser than in any of the preceding, those of rump very distinct.
  - c<sup>3</sup>. Length of wing 5·5 inches . . . . . *striolata*.
  - d<sup>3</sup>. Length of wing 5 to 4·8 inches . . . . . *striolata* β. *substriolata*.
  - e<sup>3</sup>. Length of wing 4·6 to 4·4 inches . . . . *striolata* β. *japonica*.

XVIII.—On an Owl from South-east New Guinea, allied to *Ninox terricolor*, Ramsay, but apparently distinct and undescribed. By J. H. GURNEY.

THE Norwich Museum has recently obtained, through Mr. Whitely of Woolwich, three specimens of an Owl of the genus *Ninox*, collected by Mr. Goldie in South-eastern New Guinea, which much resembles the species described by Mr. E. P. Ramsay in the 'Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales,' vol. iv. p. 466, under the name of *Ninox terricolor*, but is of considerably larger dimensions than those given by Mr. Ramsay for that species.

I understand that Mr. Goldie fastens the legs of his male specimens with the right tarsus uppermost, and *vice versa* in the case of females; following this indication, I infer that the two birds which I shall call A and B are males, and that which I shall call C a female.

The following are the measurements of these specimens compared with those of *N. terricolor* as given by Mr. Ramsay :—

	Length of skin from point of bill to tip of tail.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Middle toe s. u.	Culmen with cere.	Culmen without cere.
A .....	11·7	8·95	4·85	1·20	1·25	1·00	0·70
B .....	11·2	8·87	4·90	1·25	1·20	1·15	0·75
C ....circa	11·0	8·89	imperf.	1·20	1·20	1·10	0·70
<i>N. terricolor</i> as given by Mr. Ramsay }	10·0	6·50	3·80	1·00	not given.	1·00	0·50

The following is a description of the three specimens above referred to as A, B, and C :—

The bill is yellowish horn-colour, suffused with dull olive about the eyes (and slightly also at the base of the upper mandible), and likewise tinged with dark olive about the point of the lower mandible; the bristly hairs which surround the bill are black and considerably developed; the upper surface of the head in all three specimens is a dark and somewhat greyish chocolate-brown, with a few feathers on the forehead, immediately adjoining the cere, edged with white; the mantle is chocolate-brown, darker in C than in A and B: In C a tinge of rufous is perceptible in the feathers on either side of the nape; in the other two specimens this tinge extends across the nape and on the median wing-coverts: the latter are variegated with small pure white spots, none of which are more than  $\cdot 2$  of an inch across (whilst most of them are less); and these spots in C extend to some of the external scapulars. In A the number of these spots, some of which are concealed, is about nine on the right side and twelve on the left side; in B only two spots are to be found on each side; in C there are about fifteen on

either side. The quill-feathers of the wing are alternately cross-barred with two shades of earthy brown, the external webs being tinged with fulvous at the interspaces between the dark bars, a character which is more conspicuous in A than in the other two specimens; at the bases of the feathers these interspaces are white towards the margin of the inner web, and most so on the tertials. The tail is a dark earth-brown; some of the lateral rectrices are cross-barred with a paler brown on the inner webs in A, but not in B and C. The cheeks are greyish brown; the under surface of the body from the throat to the crissum is a rufous-brown, mingled with white, the rufous tint being brighter in A and B than in C; in A the rufous-brown is crossed, here and there, with imperfect blackish-brown bars; these are less apparent in B and absent in C; the white portions of the feathers of the under surface are in the form of edgings, and occasionally also of cross bars and of spots, the latter, when they exist, being on the edge of the feathers. The tibiae are a fulvous brown, mottled with a darker brown; the under wing-coverts are coloured somewhat similarly to the tibiae, except the lowest row, which, with the axillaries, are dark brown, crossed with white.

Mr. Ramsay's *N. terricolor* appears, from his description, to bear a great resemblance in coloration to the present species, except as regards the tail, all the rectrices of which would seem, by his account, to be crossbarred, and not the lateral ones only, the interspaces being "white at the base," like those on the inner webs of the quill-feathers of the wing. At the same time, though the birds I have described differ from *N. terricolor* in these particulars, specimen A has a tail more approaching the description of the tail in that species than is the case in B. In C the tail is, unfortunately, very imperfect; but the remains of it appear to resemble the tail in B.

Should the birds now acquired for the Norwich Museum prove to be distinct from *N. terricolor*, I would propose that they should bear the specific or subspecific name of *goldii*, after their discoverer. The considerable difference in size, I

think, indicates that *N. terricolor* and *N. goldii* are at least distinct subspecies; and as both have been obtained in South-eastern New Guinea, they can probably hardly be considered merely two geographical races of *Ninox terricolor*.

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XIX.—*Notes on Woodpeckers*.—No. III. *Descriptions of two new Species of Woodpeckers*. By EDWARD HARGITT, F.Z.S.

OF the two new species which I propose describing in this paper, the first will, I think, possess great interest for all students of European ornithology, as the bird is a new form of our Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, *Picus minor*. Upon an examination of the series of this bird belonging to Mr. Henry Seebohm (to whom I am indebted for the loan of all the specimens of *Picidæ* in his magnificent Palæarctic collection) I observed a character in the Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers collected by Mr. Danford in Asia Minor which I consider merits for them a separate title; and in this Mr. Seebohm agrees with me. The types were obtained at Zebil and Gozna, Taurus, by Mr. Danford; and the leading feature distinguishing the bird (which I propose to call *Picus danfordi*) from *P. minor* is, that in the former the branch from the black moustachial stripe entirely encircles the face and joins the occiput, whilst in *P. minor* it does not proceed further than the upper line of the ear-coverts, and is separated from the occiput by a white stripe. I have examined a large series of the Asia-Minor bird in Mr. Seebohm's collection, and also specimens in that of Mr. Dresser; and the specific characters hold good throughout. *P. danfordi* ranges into Greece and Turkey, from both of which countries are specimens in the collection of Mr. Dresser. I therefore propose the following diagnosis for the Asia-Minor bird.

*PICUS DANFORDI*, sp. n.

*P. similis P. minori*, sed fascia genali nigra post regionem paroticam producta et cum occipite conjuncta distin-