

Length, 1 foot $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; bill from gape, 11 lines; wings $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tarsi $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Length of female, 1 foot $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill from gape, 15 lines; wings $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tarsi $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Forster's specimens were taken in Queen Charlotte's Sound and Dusky Bay: according to him, the young is called Kari-area. The native names of Kahu and Kauaua are also referred to this bird.

Great confusion has hitherto existed in regard to this species, owing to Latham having given a figure (with doubt) of the *Milvago leucurus*, or *Falco australis* of Gmelin, which has caused that bird to be considered the *Falco Novæ Zealandiæ*, but this is not the case. Latham took his description from the three figures of Forster referred to above. The sexes vary much in size, and the adult specimens of each sex lose the transverse interrupted bands on the back and wings; and become of an uniform dark chocolate black. The Expedition brought several specimens of this bird, both from New Zealand and Auckland Island, which enable me to identify the description and drawings. Mr. Percy Earl obtained specimens at Otago, South Island.

Subfamily 2. *Circine*.

CIRCUS ASSIMILIS.

Circus assimilis, *Jard. and Selby's Ill. Orn. pl.* 51. *Gould's B. of Austr. pl.*

Black brown, feathers of the head and back of neck broadly margined on the sides, and the tips of those of the back, rufous white; greater wing-coverts silvery grey barred with black; quills black, with the outer webs silvery grey barred with black; tail-coverts white, marked on each feather near the tip with a bar of rufous; tail silvery grey with six bars of brown black; under surface rufous white, marked down the middle of each feather with brown, especially on the breast.

Female. Brown, with pale edges; feathers of the head and back of neck margined with rufous; quills and tertials blackish brown, with the outer webs silvery brown; tail-coverts white with an irregular mark of rufous on each feather; tail silvery grey tinged with rufous, with six irregular bands of dark brown, margined above and below with rufous white, the silvery grey becoming rufous on the outer feathers; under surface rufous brown, margined on the sides of each feather with rufous white; under side of tail buff.

Young. Dark auburn brown, with pale edges; back of neck varied with white, slightly tinged with rufous; upper tail-coverts rufous: under surface paler than the upper; quills black.

Length, 1 foot 9 inches; bill from gape, 1 inch 2 lines; wings, 1 foot 4 inches; tarsi, 3 inches 5 lines.

Length of female, 1 foot 11 inches; bill from gape, 1 inch 7 lines; wings, 1 foot $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tarsi, 3 inches 9 lines.

The Expedition's collection contains three specimens of this bird, all marked as obtained in New Zealand.

The descriptions of the male and of the young were taken from specimens brought by Mr. Percy Earl. They were shot at Waikouaiti and Otago, and were considered rare birds; they are now deposited in the British Museum.

Family, STRIGIDÆ.

Subfamily 1. *Surninæ*.

ATHENE NOVÆ SEELANDIÆ.

Strix fulva, *Forst. Descr. Anim. p.* 71, *et Icon. ined.* 39.

New Zealand Owl, *Lath. Gen. Syn. Suppl.* 48.

S. novæ Seelandiæ, *Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 296: *Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. 65.

Noctua Zealandica, *Quoy et Gaim. Voy. de l'Astrol. Zool.* i. 168. *Ois. t.* 2, *f.* 1.

Brown, feathers of nape spotted with fulvous; wing-coverts, interscapulars spotted with white or pale fulvous; quills brown, spotted on the outer webs with white and banded on the inner with greyish brown; tail brown, banded and tipped with the greyish brown; under tail-coverts pale fulvous; forehead and eyebrows streaked with fulvous; round the bill white; throat and breast dark brown streaked with fulvous; side feathers banded with white.

Length, 11 inches; bill from gape, 10 lines; wings, 8 inches; tarsi, 1 inch 5 lines.

Forster gives Queen Charlotte's Sound as the habitat of this species, and the name of Herooroo. Quoy and Gaimard's specimen was taken in Tasman's Bay, and they record the native name as Eou Hou. Kou Kou, Kao Kao, and Ruru Ruru have been published as the names of these birds by other authors.

Specimens of this bird were procured by the Expedition during their stay at New Zealand.

ATHENE ALBIFACIES.

Plate 1.

Dark brown, each feather margined on the sides at the tip with fulvous; quills and tertials brown, spotted on the outer webs with white and marked on the inner with obsolete bands; tail dark brown, with five bands and the tip of each feather rufous white; forehead and cheeks white, with the shaft of each feather black; tarsi covered with white feathers slightly tinged with rufous; toes covered with scattered white hairs.

Length, 1 foot $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill from gape, 1 inch 4 lines; wings, 11 inches; tarsi, 2 inches 5 lines.

The specimen formed part of Mr. Percy Earl's collection; and is now deposited in the British Museum. It was obtained at Waikouaiti, South Island; where it was known to the natives by the name of Wekau. It is supposed, by Mr. P. Earl, not to exist in the North Island.

Family, ALCEDINIDÆ.

Subfamily 1. *Halcyoninæ*.

HALCYON VAGANS.

Plate 1*.

Alcedo cyanea, *Forst. Descr. Anim. p.* 76, *et Icon. ined.* 59.

Sacred Kingfisher, *Lath. Gen. Syn.* ii. 612.

A. sacra, *Gmel. Syst. Nat.* i. 453: *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 251.

Halcyon sanctus? *Vigors et Horsf. Linn. Trans.* xv. 206.

A. vagans, *Less. Voy. de la Coq. Zool.* i. 694: *Id. Man. d'Orn.* ii. 89.