

XLIV.—On a new Species of Owl from New Zealand.

By Sir WALTER L. BULLER, K.C.M.G., F.R.S.

As probably most of the readers of 'The Ibis' are aware, we possess in New Zealand a very remarkable form of Ground-Owl, *Sceloglaux albifacies*, which has long been extremely rare and is in fact on the verge of extinction. All the known examples of this bird have come from the South Island. I have now to record the existence of a closely allied species in the North Island, of which only one example is known, this having been killed in the Wairarapa district, near Wellington, in the summer of 1868-9. A coloured figure and a full account of this bird will appear in the "Supplement" to my 'Birds of New Zealand,' now in the press; and all I propose to do at present is to publish a brief synopsis of the distinguishing characters.

*SCELOGLAUX RUFIFACIES*, n. sp.

*Ad. ♀.* Similis *S. albifaciei*, sed valde minor, et supra rufescente suffusa; facie sordide rufescenti-brunnea, minime alba; pileo nuchaque nigricanti-brunneis; remigibus rufescenti-brunneo regulariter fasciatis et terminatis; rectricibus concoloribus fulvescenti-brunneis, pallidiore brunneo obscure fasciatis: rostro flavicante; pedibus sordide flavis.

*Adult female.*—Similar to *Sceloglaux albifacies*, but appreciably smaller; face dull rufous brown, instead of being white; crown and nape blackish brown; entire upper surface strongly suffused with rufous; quills marked with regular transverse bars and a terminal edging of rufous brown; tail-feathers uniform yellowish brown, obscurely barred with pale brown. Bill lemon-yellow; feet dull yellow.