

being spotless deep rufous. A Cingalese example, procured by H. R. H. Prince Waldemar of Prussia, had the entire back and wings deep rufous-bay; while the pale bars on the head were only a little more rufescent than in *Ath. radiatus*. *Ath. castanopterus*, from India as well as Java, is mentioned in Mr. Gray's list of British Museum *Raptores*; and it is also stated to occur in the Tenasserim Provinces.

5. *Ath. Sonnerati*, (Tem.) *Non. vidi\**.

6. *Ath. brama*, (Tem.): *Noctua indica*, Franklin; *N. tarayensis*, Hodgson; *Strix persica*, (?), *Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.*, vii., 26.† Very common in Lower Bengal, and in India generally.

A *Noctua auribarbis* is mentioned by Mr. Hodgson, *J. A. S.* vi., 369; and an *Ath. badia*, Hodgson, in Mr. G. R. Gray's list of the Raptorial birds in the British Museum. These remain to be described.

*Syrnium niviculum*, Hodgson, *n. s.* This so nearly resembles certain non-rufous specimens which I have seen of the European *S. aluco*, that I even suspected the identity of the Himalayan and the British birds, until a second specimen (presented to the Society by Mr. Jerdon) repeating the characters of the one which Mr. Hodgson took with him to England, inclines me now to the opinion that they are distinct; the present being also decidedly a larger bird. The length of Mr. Hodgson's specimen was about seventeen inches, of wing eleven and a half, and tail seven and a quarter; tarse two inches: and I took the following brief description of it. "Colour of the upper parts mingled brown and blackish; rather minutely mottled, producing a dark brown *ensemble*; head and neck tawny or fulvous-brown, with dark mottling at tips of feathers; a streak above each eye, ascending from the facial disk, and the mesial part of the crown, between these streaks, blackish. Under parts bright tawney-brown, mingled with dark brown and whitish: feathered tarsi and toes fulves-

\* "Inhabits India. Length eleven inches; all the upper-parts of the body are reddish-brown, the head being adorned with small white spots, and the wing-coverts with large spots of the same: the quills and tail-feathers are like the back; the space round the eyes is reddish-white, as well as the face and throat: all the under-parts are white, transversely but distantly barred with brown: the down on the tarsi and toes is red: the beak and claws are yellow."—*Stephens*.

† *Ath. brama* is common about the foot of the mountains near the town of Erzeroum. *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1839, p. 119.

cent, with deeper tawney spots; alars and tail banded, the latter with mottled light brown upon a dark ground." The second specimen (also Himalayan) has the wing twelve inches and a quarter long, and the tail seven and a half. It agrees generally with the foregoing description, but has less of the fulvous tinge, and is, I think, more obviously distinct from *S. aluco*. The minute mottling of the plumage is difficult to express in words: but the feathers of the under parts may be described as whitish, partially tinged with fulvescent, and having a dusky central streak, broader towards the tip of the feather, and three or four narrower transverse streaks of the same; and the like may be described as the basis of the markings of those above, modified so that the pale portion appears, more or less, as a series of pale spots on the two webs of each feather;—the well developed transverse markings of the feathers constituting a good distinction of this bird from the European *S. aluco*, independently of its deficiency of rufous colouring. The form is perfectly true to the generic type of *S. aluco*.

Of the species of *Strix*, as now limited, three pertain to the *Fauna Indica*.

1. *Str. javanica*, Gm., de Wurmb, apud Latham: *Str. candida*, Tickell, *J. A. S.* II. 572; *Str. longimembris*, Jerdon. Buchanan figured it; but Latham is wrong in stating that the claw of its middle toe is not serrated; and it has also four well defined blackish bars on the tail. Found chiefly in peninsular India. Whether it be truly de Wurmb's Javanese species, I have no immediate means of ascertaining\*.

2. *Str. flammea*, Lin.: *Str. javanica*, apud Horsfield (?), Sykes, and Jerdon. Very common, and differing in no respect from the British bird.

3. *Str. badia*, Horsfield. Mr. Hodgson obtained a single mutilated specimen of this bird in Nepal; and the Society has been favored with a very fine one by Captain Abbott, shot in the island of Ramree, Arracan. About Malacca and Singapore, it would seem to be not uncommon.

\* "Horsfield's *Strix javanica*," writes Mr. Strickland, "has the tarsi five-eighths of an inch longer than in a British *Str. flammea*. It comes near *longimembris*, Jerdon, but is mottled grey above, instead of blotched with brown." Dr. A. Smith has figured a species from South Africa, allied to true *javanica* (? v. *longimembris*), by the name *M. capensis*.