

No belt ties.

Asio butleri, Sp. Nov. ?

Like Asio accipitrinus, but smaller; wing more rounded; tarsi slenderer and longer; feet smaller and less feathered, exactly in this respect as in A. madagascarensis; colours of upper surface altogether different, more those of Bubo coromandus.

I class this somewhat aberrant new form, as *Asio*, though I cannot make out in my single indifferent specimen any very distinct ear tufts; nor can I say that the cere appears to me much longer than the culmen. As far as I can make out, they are precisely equal in length; but, taken as a whole, the bird is clearly, in my opinion, nearer *Asio* than any other recognised genus, though I should not be surprised if ornithologists hereafter should separate it as the type of a distinct genus or subgenus.

I have only one specimen of this species, a nearly flat skin, with the breast and head much injured, but the rest in good order. This skin I owe to my indefatigable and devoted coadjutor, Captain E. A. Butler, after whom I have named it, and to whom I must not neglect to express my many obligations. He procured it for me through one of his friends, Mr. Nash, I believe from Omara, on the Mekran Coast. It is certainly I think new; at any rate it is not amongst those included by Mr. Sharpe in the 2nd Volume of his valuable catalogue either in text or notes.

The following are the dimensions in the skin, but it is a good deal stretched, and the *real* length is probably somewhat less than I have given it.

Length, 14·0; wing, 9·95; tail, 6·0; tarsus, 2·05; bill from gape, 2·0; straight from margin of cere to point, 0·6; length of cere to frontal bone, 0·62; mid-toe claw straight from root to point, 0·55 against 0·8 in *accipitrinus*; tarsi much slenderer and longer than in that species; toes slenderer and less feathered; mid toe to root of claw, 1·1; wing rounded; 3rd quill longest; 4th 0·2, 2nd 0·7, 1st 2·1 shorter than 3rd; first about equal to seventh; first four quills distinctly notched on the inner webs; third and fourth distinctly emarginate on outer; second feebly so. There seems to be just as much of the disc above as below the eye.

The chin, cheeks and entire space inside the ruff white, tinged fawny below and behind the eye; some few of the loreal bristles dark-shafted towards their tips, but inconspicuous.

ously so ; the feathers of the ruff across the throat and as far as opposite the gape are grey brown, margined throughout their length pretty broadly, and tipped with cream color, more rufescent, and fawny towards the tips ; the rest of the feathers of the ruff from the gape round behind the eye are very peculiar ; when examined closely they are rather pale French grey on one surface, warm brown on the other surface, and obscurely tipped with rufescent fawn.

The forehead, crown, occiput and nape are a pale rufescent fawn, obscurely mottled with dusky brown ; when the feathers are closely examined, the basal portions are bluish dusky, the rest pale rufescent fawn or buff, with an obscure ill-defined dusky brown bar, some little distance from the tip, and another imperfect bar or spot of the same color near the tip.

The lesser wing-coverts from the carpal joint to the body are an uniform smoky brown, somewhat intermediate between a hair-brown and an earth-brown. The scapulars, back, median and greater wing-coverts are dull pale rufescent fawn, clouded and streaked with this same brown—most of the secondary, median and greater coverts having more or less pure white spots or blotches on the outer webs near the tips. The first primary is almost uniform brown, a shade darker perhaps than the lesser coverts, edged creamy white on the outer web, and a mottling of the same towards the middle of the inner web near the base. The rest of the quills are a lighter and perhaps greyer shade of this same brown, regularly barred with pale fawn color, which is duller and shaded with grey brown on the inner webs towards the tips, and becomes white away from the shaft, towards the bases. The tail is tipped with nearly pure white, and is exactly of the same character as the quills, but the bars in the two central-feathers are reduced to mere blotches on either side of the shaft. The breast and abdomen appear to have been creamy ; the feathers of the sides of the former, with a few very indistinct transverse dusky bands, and those of the latter with narrow brown shaft stripes.

The entire wing-lining (except the tips of the greater primary lower coverts, which are dusky brown,) the whole basal portions of the quills, the vent, lower tail-coverts and feathers of the legs and feet pure white.

The lower surface of the tail grey brown, barred with white. The terminal portions of the quills on their lower surface, and the whole of the first primary, grey brown ; the first with one patch, others with obscure bars of greyish or brownish albescent.

As far as I can judge this bird is fully adult ; indeed the lower mandible is a good deal worn, and it may be quite an old bird.

In the dry skin, the greater part of the bill and cere are blackish horny, but the culmen and the tips of both mandibles are pale yellowish horny. The bare portion of the feet appears to have been green. The claws, which are extremely small for the size of the bird, brown, paler and more fleshy at their bases.

Recently-described Species.

Republications.

Trichastoma leucoproctum, Tweed.

Female.—Above olivaceous ruddy brown, more rusty at the tips of the upper tail-coverts, greyish on head, a tinge of pale rufous on a narrow frontal band, passing to the pale lores. Two centre tail feathers umber brown. The three outer tail feathers edged pure white on the inner web, the extent of white edging increasing inwards, until the whole inner web of the antepenultimate feather is white, while the fourth is broadly edged white for nearly its whole length on the opposite or outer web; shoulder of wings rusty olive; the primaries dull rusty brown; blotch of white on the upper breast, which is dull pale olive brown, fading into the pure white of the under tail-coverts; wing rounded; first primary half the length of the second, which is quarter inch less than the third; fifth the longest; tarsus and feet moderately strong for this group.

Length about $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, 3.5; tail, 3.0; tarsus, 0.9; bill at front, 0.63.

Legs and feet grey; irides dark brown.

Hab.—Base of the Mooleyit range, Tenasserim. Obtained by Mr. Assian Limborg.—P Z. S., 1877, 366.

[Marvellous as it may seem that the Marquis of Tweeddale should fall into such an error, there can I think be little doubt that this supposed new species is merely the female of my *Muscitrea cyanea*, S. F., V., 101, June 1877, re-described as *Niltava leucura* by Lord Tweeddale, A. & M. N. H., August 1877, 95; (see also S. F., VI., 207). I have never seen the female *Muscitrea cyanea*, nor have I seen the supposed *T. leucoproctum*, but the dimensions, colour, arrangement of white