

8. *SYRNIUM DAVIDI*, sp. n.

*Ptynx fulvescens*, David, N. Arch. Mus. vii. Bull. p. 4.

*S. simile S. nivicolu* sed multo majus et saturatius: supra-caudalibus et caudâ basali immaculatis distinguendum. Long. tot. 20, alæ 14·6, caud. 10·4, tars. 2·1.

Soon after commencing my studies on Owls, Père David pointed out to me that he was convinced that he had shot two species of *Syrnium* at Moupin, one of which was the true *S. nivicolu*, and the other had been determined by M. Jules Verreaux as *Ptynx fulvescens*\*, and still bore this identification in his own handwriting. On comparing the Moupin example with a specimen of the latter, shot by Père David in Pekin, it was easily seen that the two species were distinct; for *S. rufescens* belongs to the groups of *S. uralense* and *S. nebulosum*, and has, like them, a light-coloured disk, finely irrorated with circular bars of darker brown. The Moupin Owl, on the contrary, has a dusky brown and mottled countenance, so that it comes much nearer to *S. nivicolu*. The uniform upper tail-coverts distinguish it as regards plumage; and its size is very much larger; there are also many other slight differences.

The specimen is a male; and I therefore give the dimensions of a pair of the true *S. nivicolu*, shot by Père David in Moupin:—♀, total length 15·5 inches, wing 12·8, tail 8·3, tarsus 2·0; ♂, total length 15, wing 11·6, tail 7·5.

It will thus be seen that the male of *S. davidi* is larger than the female of *S. nivicolu*. I am indebted to the courtesy of Professor Alphonse Milne-Edwards for permission to describe this new species, which forms part of the ornithological collection in the Paris Museum.

9. *NINOX FUSCA* (Vieill. N. Dict. vii. p. 22).

This little Owl, the type of which was known to be in the Paris Museum, has always puzzled ornithologists, and baffled

\* This species is described in the text of the 'Fauna Japonica' as *S. rufescens*, and as *S. fuscescens* on the plate. It ought therefore to be called *Syrnium rufescens*. It is the more necessary to determine the correct title of the species, because there is a *Syrnium fulvescens* of Sclater and Salvin, from Central America.