

its approach to their houses; but they also connect unclean animals with their ideas of sorcery and the healing art, hence large prices are often given for the bodies of Owls for the cure of various diseases. One common medicinal property attributed to Owls is that of curing pulmonary affections; and for this reason consumptive patients and old people troubled with rheum are often recommended by their medical advisers to indulge in owl-soup; but in most cases the young of *Bubo maximus* (a common bird in some parts of China) are preferred for this purpose.

12. *BUBO CALIGATUS*, Swinhoe, n. sp.

Native name, *Ham-hay* ("enduring vacancy").

The only specimen I received of this handsome species was, when it reached me, in fine condition, with horns an inch long; but, owing to an unfortunate accident, the skin has got much injured about the head, and the feathers have mostly fallen out. I sent my example to Mr. Gurney, who would scarcely believe it to have been a horned bird, so similar is it to *Syrnium indranee*. It is quite unlike any of the horned species of Owls; I have therefore no hesitation in considering it new.

Skin round the eye greyish brown; bill pale ochreous white, washed with bluish grey, which deepens on the base of the upper and on the greater part of the lower mandible; exposed portions of the toes brownish flesh-colour, bases light ochreous; claws blackish brown, whitish at their bases; face-disks deep brownish ochre, whitish near the bill, with black-tipped bristles; throat, line round disk, crown, and upper parts deep brown, with a fine purple gloss conspicuous in some lights; a large patch of white on the underneck; axillaries, under parts, and leg-feathers brownish ochre, closely barred with brown, some of the breast-feathers being splashed with the same; quills brown, broadly barred with a deeper shade, and tipped paler, some of the smaller tertiaries and scapulars being barred with white and pale ochreous; tail brown, tipped with white, the two central rectrices with partial bars of a lighter shade, the rest with more determined bars, the thin portions on the inner webs being white; horns about an inch long, of the same colour as the crown. Length 21 in.; wing $15\frac{1}{2}$; tail 10. The fifth quill the longest in

the wing, the first seven being deeply indented on the edge of the inner web, the second to the fifth indented on the outer web; the first six quills are more or less serrated on the outer web, the two first most strongly. The underwing is ochreous white to a great extent, barred in places with various shades of brown. Tail composed of twelve broad feathers, rather narrower at their ends and rounded, the outermost about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch shorter than the central, all somewhat graduated, giving a round form to the tail when expanded. Feet closely feathered to nearly the end of the toes.

This species is found in the dark caverns that abound in the mountains of the interior, wherein it lies securely at rest during day, issuing out at night in pursuit of partridges, hares, and young deer. Such is the account given of it by the natives. I only once met with it; and that was in the dusk of evening, when we were marching rather rapidly over a mountain defile, some 3000 feet above the sea-level. I was first attracted by hearing a loud deep hoot proceeding out of a hollow between two large rocks on a prominence over our heads. On looking in the direction whence the noise came, I observed a large Owl fly out. It was getting late, and we could not tarry; so that I was not able to procure the specimen. I had not at that time handled an example, and therefore set it down as the *Bubo maximus*, noting, however, that the bird seen was much smaller and had a different hoot. This took place in June 1857, when I was assisting the officers of H.M.S. 'Inflexible' in their search for certain Europeans supposed to be held captives at the sulphur-mines near Kelung. It was not till May 1862 that I first procured a specimen. This bird is not more uncommon than the majority of large *Raptores*, but, owing to its shyness and the inaccessibility of its retreats, is particularly difficult to procure.

[To be continued.]

XXII.—Recent Ornithological Publications.

1. ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS.

A SHORT time ago we had the pleasure of announcing to our readers the prospect of that great desideratum, a manual of the ornithology of India, being at length supplied for the use of