

April 12, 1859.

Professor Busk, F.R.S., in the Chair.

The following papers were read :—

1. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF OWL OF THE GENUS
CICCABA. BY PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER.

Mr. Gurney has invited my attention to the example of an Owl of the genus *Ciccaba*, which I now exhibit. It has already passed through my hands once, having been submitted to my examination by M. Verreaux, along with other birds from Southern Mexico, of which I gave some account in these 'Proceedings' for last year. As will be seen by referring to my remarks given on that occasion*, I then somewhat unwillingly referred it to *Ciccaba huhula*. Mr. Gurney, however, having acquired the specimen for the Norwich Museum, agrees with M. Jules Verreaux (whose opinion to that effect I have already recorded) in insisting on its distinctness. And having lately had an opportunity of examining a second specimen of this bird in the collection of the Jardin des Plantes at Paris, I am now quite prepared to coincide with their views, and to characterize this Mexican *Ciccaba* as an independent species, differing from, though closely allied to, the S. American *Ciccaba huhula*. It may be recognized at once by the more uniform colour above, there being hardly a trace of white transverse markings, except on the elongated feathers of the neck-collar; and by the ground-colour below being pure white, crossed by frequent narrow bands of black, each feather showing three or four of such cross-bands. I propose to call this bird

CICCABA NIGROLINEATA.

Schistacescenti-nigra, colli postici plumis elongatis et albo ter quaterve transfasciatis: maculis in regione superciliari et auriculari quibusdam albis: subtus alba, lineis nigris crebro transfasciata: mento nigro: subalaribus albis, nigro variegatis: cauda nigra, albo quinqueis transfasciata: rostro et pedibus flavissimis: tibiis nigris, albo sparsis.

Long. tota 15·0, alæ 10·5, caudæ 6·78, rostri a rectu 1·35, tarsi 2·1.

Hab. In Mexico Meridionali.

Mus. Norfolciense et Parisiense.

2. NOTE ON THE SPUR-WINGED GEESE (PLECTROPTERUS) NOW
LIVING IN THE SOCIETY'S GARDENS. BY PHILIP LUTLEY
SCLATER.

(Aves, Pl. CLIII.)

The Society have frequently possessed living examples of the Spur-winged Goose of Western Africa (*Plectropterus gambensis*); and we

* See P.Z.S. 1858, p. 96.