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Part 1.

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Council of the South African Literary and Scientific Institution, for 1833—34, read at the General Meeting on the 2nd of August.

ON account of the departure of Dr. SMITH, one of our Secretaries, close upon the period fixed by the Regulations for convening the Annual General Meeting of this Institution, and on account of the leisure and attention of many members of the Council being occupied in preparations of various kinds for that event, it has been found necessary to defer convoking the members till this day. The Council requesting the indulgence of the members for this deviation from its rules, would respectfully submit to them, as the Report of the Institution, the following review of the few transactions in which it has been engaged during the past year :

First, As to the business, generally, of the Institution, and its present condition and prospects :—The Council has to remark, that during the year now elapsed an attempt was again made to increase the attendance of members at the Monthly Meetings of the Institution, by changing the hour, but that no perceptible advantage has attended it.

The Institution has always contemplated a two-fold purpose, both capable of exerting extended influence on the condition and progress of society. The first of these is the gathering and spreading of information, and aiding or fostering the facilities by which it may be acquired and rendered useful. To this purpose, especially, is the system of public meetings at stated times applicable and subservient, either by attracting information from those of the surrounding community, who possess it, or by the increase or confirmation of individual knowledge, which arises from mutual communication. Its fulfilment depends evidently on the activity, zeal, and power, and the facility of research possessed by individuals, and must vary with the number of those who are thus equipped for unveiling the mysteries of science, or rising to the triumphs of literary success.

reddish white, above the white is more pure and the brown lighter. Bill and claws brown black; eyes deep topaz yellow; wings when folded extend over two-thirds of the tail. Length about twelve inches.

Inhabits South Africa,—Great Namaqualand.

Strix nisuellæ, Lath. Le Chou-cou-hou, Le Vaill. *Afriq.* pl. 39.

Obs. In the figure given by Le Vaillant, the facial disc is margined by two rows of brown spots.

Genus NOCTUA. Savigny.

Head without egrets, ear opening oval, moderate. Facial disc little developed, almost incomplete; toes feathered or covered with rigid hairs; tail short, equal.

Noctua hirsuta. Forehead and lores whitish with a few black hairs at the base of the beak; top of head and nape ashy brown; back wing coverts and quills an uniform brown; scapulars and inner secondaries spotted on inner webs with white; throat reddish; breast and belly whitish, varied with large reddish brown spots; tail feathers banded with four bars of brown and four of ash-colour, their tips white; toes marbled with red and brown, their edges with rough excrescences of a yellowish colour, and a regular series of strong bristles; bill black; the tail white.

Inhabits Madagascar, India, and Ceylon.

Strix hirsuta, Temm. pl. col. 289.

Noctua occipitalis. Forehead and upper part of head reddish, dotted with white; upper part of body brown and yellow, with white spots encircled with black; male with a whitish band on the occiput; female, a reddish one; on each side of this a band composed of a tuft of feathers spotted with black and white; all the lower parts of body dashed with clear red; quills regularly banded, alternately brown and reddish. Tail feathers brown or yellow, with five white spots on both webs, those on the outer ones smallest; legs and toes covered with a very short down; beak yellowish, with some white hairs on its sides as well as near the eyes. Length seven inches.

Inhabits Africa.

Strix occipitalis, Temm. pl. col. 34.

Noctua Woodfordii, Smith. Above brown, freely sprinkled with somewhat triangular, clear white spots, and the back, scapulars, and shoulders, marked besides with narrow transverse, obscure white, or dull tawny zig-zag lines; the outer-

most scapulars principally white, forming an irregular oblique band of that colour on each side; shoulders also with some large white spots. Primary quill feathers dull brown, the outer vanes barred with white, the inner ones with tawny; secondaries light brown. Facial disc white sprinkled with brown, but immediately around the eye pure black; eyebrows white, feathers crossed by narrow black bars; guttural collar white, crossed with black lines; sides of neck and breast tawny brown marked with brown and white transverse bars; belly irregularly banded black and white, and more or less clouded with pale rufous; legs rufous white with waved transverse brown lines. Tail brown with narrow bands of tawny white, which are generally edged by a darker brown; tips of feathers dull white. Bill and eyes yellow, the feathers about base of bill setaceous, white towards bases, black toward extremities; toes above covered with setaceous feathers, on the sides bare, reticulated and yellow; claws a dark horn-colour. Length about twelve inches.

Inhabits South Africa,—*rare*.

Large-eyed Owl, Latham. ? *History of Birds*, vol. i. p. 360

Noctua Capensis, Smith. The upper parts of the head, and the back and sides of the neck, brown, each feather towards tip crossed by a narrow white bar; interscapulars, back, rump and shoulders, black-brown, the feathers with two or more waved, narrow, rufous, transverse stripes, several of the outermost scapulars principally white, giving rise to a stripe of that colour on each side of the back; on shoulders also some large white blotches; edges of shoulders white. Quill feathers brown, crossed with narrow rufous or white bands. Throat brown mixed with white; breast brown, barred irregularly with white and tawny; belly pure white variegated with ferruginous-brown blotches; thighs tawny, mottled with black-brown. Tail dark black-brown, crossed by twelve very narrow rufous bars, and tipped with rufous. Bill greenish yellow; claws yellow at bases, blackish towards points. Length nine inches.

Inhabits South Africa,—*rare*.

Noctua perlata, Vieill. Upper parts of head and neck rufous-brown or simple brown, spotted freely with white; in front of interscapulars a more or less distinct light rufous collar; the rest of upper parts brown, sparingly spotted with white, each spot encircled by black-brown; several of the outermost scapulars half-white, forming a continuous line of that colour on each side of back; shoulders with a few white blotches intermingled with the white spots. Wings brown, imperfectly barred with white or pale rufous. Under parts either rufous variegated