

and seasonally, but in winter most birds have the plumelets extending down the toes almost to the base of the claws.

*Colours of soft parts.* Iris yellow; bill bright yellow; legs grey, soles yellow (*F. M. Bailey*).

*Measurements*:—4 ♂, 2 ♀. Wing 169 to 173 mm.; tail 88 to 96 mm.; tarsus 31 to 32 mm.; culmen 18 to 20 mm.

*Distribution.* Tibet. A bird from the Mishmi Hills is nearest to the present race, but is smaller (wing 164 mm.), and rather darker.

*Type* in British Museum. ♂. Dochen, Rhamtso Lake, Tibet, alt. 15,000 ft., 10.12.23. Collected by F. Ludlow, No. 40. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1926.11.11.1.

#### GLAUCIDIUM CUCULOIDES.

It appears to be imperative to divide this species into geographical races, for although individual variation is great yet there seem to be three dominant forms. One dark brown in the North-western Himalayas, a second rufous-brown from the Eastern Himalayas to the Shan States, and a third fulvous-brown from Tenasserim. We have therefore

#### GLAUCIDIUM CUCULOIDES CUCULOIDES.

*Noctua cuculoides* Vigors, P. Z. S. 1831, p. 8.

Simla-Almora Districts.

The general tone dark brown; the barring on the lower plumage very heavy and dark.

*Measurements*:—Wing 145 to 162 mm.; tail 79 to 90 mm.; tarsus about 24 to 26 mm.; culmen about 19 to 20 mm.

*Distribution.* Lower Ranges of the North-west Himalayas from Murree and Mussoorie, through the Simla States and Garhwal to Eastern Nepal.

#### *Glaucidium cuculoides rufescens*, subsp. nov.

A very much more richly coloured bird than the typical form, the prevailing tint being rufous-brown, the under parts showing this tint even more than than the upper.

*Measurements*:—Wing 141 to 162 mm.

*Distribution.* Bhutan Dooars, Assam to the east of the Dibong and south of the Brahmapootra River; Manipur; Tippera and Chittagong in Eastern Bengal; Northern Burma to Pegu; North and South Shan States.

Sikkim birds are pale and large, more fulvous, and not unlike the next race, and more material may show that these high-elevation birds must be divided as a fourth race. For the present I retain them here.

*Type* in British Museum. ♂. Noong-zai-ban, Manipur, 2nd Feb., 1881. Collected by A. O. Hume. Brit. Mus. Reg. 86.2.1.849.

***Glaucidium cuculoides fulvescens*, subsp. nov.**

Differs from the preceding two races in being paler and also in being more fulvous, especially on the lower plumage, in its general tone of coloration. The breast is nearly always less heavily barred, whilst the streaks on the abdomen are better defined and encroach on the breast.

*Measurements*:—Wing 134 to 150 mm., once 153 mm.

*Distribution.* Tenasserim.

*Type* in British Museum. ♀. Kolidoo, Tenasserim, 3rd Feb., 1874, ex Hume Coll. Brit. Mus. Reg. 86.2.1.858.

Large series examined.

***Ninox scutulata isolata*, subsp. nov.**

Similar to *Ninox scutulata affinis*, but much larger; wing, 185 to 205 mm. as against 167 to 169 in the Andaman bird, culmen 22 mm. in the present race against 20 in *N. s. affinis*.

*Distribution.* Nicobar, Trinkut, Camoorta Islands.

*Type* in British Museum. ♂. Car Nicobar, 19th Mar., 1873. Collected by V. Ball. Hume Coll., Brit. Mus. Reg. 86.2.1.621.

*Material examined.* ♂ 2, ♀ 4, unsexed 2.

NOTE.—The Nicobar birds seem to be a little browner with less ashy tint on the head and back, but the difference is slight and not of itself of subspecific value.