

identity of a bird shot and lost by Kloss on Katchal Island. At Campbell Bay one was noted with some hesitation on 2 April 1976, but another undoubtedly identified on 7 April 1977. It was feeding on caterpillars off the branches of low open trees by roadside. The tail had a very short fork, the bill was long, thin and slightly decurved and there was a white streak on the back of its head.

592 **Eudynamis scolopacea dolosa** Ripley (Barren I., Andamans) Koel.

1 ♂ 77/36.

Wing 224; bill 34.2; tarsus 33; tail 223.

Together with another male (wing 226, bill 34.4, tarsus 32, tail 216) obtained on an earlier trip (BNHS 22654) the wings and tails are appreciably longer than of the others from Narcondam, Andamans and Central Nicobars.

Males were calling *ku-ooo* and *koo-uk* all day and night but the *kik-kik-kik* of the female was heard only once, and none seen on either trip.

The testes of the male collected on 2 April 1977 were enlarged but there is no evidence to show what species is parasitised here.

618b* **Otus magicus** (?) subsp.

1 ♀ 77/40.

In the introduction to this paper, I have mentioned how the 162 mm. wing of an owlet obtained in 1966 led to a useful grant from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund for the first of these two trips.

The present specimen has an even larger (170 mm.) wing and Dr. Joe Marshall who has been studying this in detail is sure that it is an undescribed form but cannot decide of what species.

The stomach contained a mangled 4 inch gecko. Saha who collected the last specimen said the call was 'ooo-m'.

645* **Ninox scutulata obscura** Hume (Camorta, Nicobars) Brown Hawk-Owl.

The very distinct *coo-ook coo-ook* was heard near Campbell Bay at dusk on 4 April 1977. This species has not been recorded from Great Nicobar and the subspecies, at least, requires verification. Hume described *obscura* from a single bird obtained "near Camorta", Central Nicobars, and I have already drawn attention [JBNHS 69(1): 116] to subsequent specimens collected only from the Andamans which though currently accepted as *obscura*, do not agree with the original description in having their lores, forehead and throat as dark as the rest of the plumage and not yellowish/yellowish white as described.

647a **Ninox affinis** subsp. Brown Hawk-Owl.

7: 4 ♂♂ 3 ♀♀ Great Nicobar.

The 1976 trip obtained two specimens at Car Nicobar the type locality of *isolata* which together with two borrowed from Z.S.I. can be immediately separated from nominate *affinis* (Andamans) by their larger wings (♂ 205, 210, 211, ♀ 207 *contra* 3 ♀♀ 172, 177, 177), less heavily marked and whiter underparts.

The series from Great Nicobar can be distinguished from *isolata* by the characters given in table on p. 760.

The single specimen (♀ BNHS No. 24178 wing 208 mm) obtained by Dr. B. Maitra at Camorta on 16 October 1975 is not very well prepared and difficult to name.

Stuart Baker when describing *isolata*, from Car Nicobar (1927, *Bull. B.O.C.* 47 p. 60) referred to eight specimens from "Nicobars, Trinkut, Camorta Island" and said that "though the (Central? Nicobar—H.A.) birds seem a little browner with less ashy tint on the head and back, the difference is slight and not of itself of subspecific value". There is no

COMPARISON BETWEEN BROWN HAWK-OWL FROM GREAT NICOBAR AND THE RACE *Isolata*

<i>Great Nicobar</i>		<i>isolata</i>	
1) Head dark and almost concolorous with back, which has no trace of rufous.		Grey on head forming distinct cap; back with rufous brown tinge.	
2) Very distinct dark barring on upper surface of both webs of all primaries (except first).		Barring indistinct and barely visible.	
3) Inner secondaries prominently barred yellowish white on inner webs.		Barring on only a few innermost feathers.	
4) Smaller:	Wing ♂ 194, 201, 202. ♀ 194, 197, 198. Tail ♂ 115, 116, 121, 124 ♀ 115, 116 (2).	Larger:	Wing ♂ 210, 211. ♀ 205, o? 210 ♂ 124, 130 ♀ 122, 132
5) Rufous wash over white of underparts		More white visible	
	6) Though the feathers on the forehead of all the specimens are ruffled to some extent, those from Great Nicobar appear to show a larger patch of white on the forehead.		
	7) In series, the dark bars on the tail contrast more prominently against the rest of the background than in <i>isolata</i> .		

evidence that he had access to any from Great Nicobar. The differences noted above appear to be sufficient to separate those from Great Nicobar from *isolata* and I name them:

***Ninox affinis rexpimenti* subsp. nov.**

Type: Field No. GNB 77/452 ♂ collected by S. S. Saha at Magar Nulla, 8 km. from Campbell Bay, on East-West Road, on 5 April 1977. Testes enlarged.

Holotypes. ZSI 1 ♂ No. 33162 dated 31 March 1977, 2 ♀♀ 33165 and 33167 dated 31 March and 4 April 1977. BNHS 2 ♂♂ Nos. 24220/1 dated 7 April and 1 ♀ 24219 dated 6 April 1976.

The bird is named after Rex Pimento, Field Assistant, at the Bombay Natural History Society, who has twice accompanied me to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and worked assiduously in the field.

Two males obtained on 31 March and 4 April had their testes, 4.5 × 2.2 and 9 × 4 mm.

At dusk (31st March) one flew out of forest on to the bare horizontal branch of a high dead tree and hawked 20-30 feet away. Another (3rd April) was shot off a tree hawking

flying termites at dusk. This site was about a hundred yards away from the forest and the owl must have discovered it by seeing a Racket-tailed Drongo which was already operating. The owl was soon followed by bats.

As I have already indicated (*JBNHS* 69 p. 117) I think it would be better to treat *N. affinis* (and its races) as subspecies of *N. scutulata*, and *obscura* as a separate species.

686* ***Collocalia fuciphaga inexpectata*** Hume (Andaman Islands) Greyrumped Swiftlet.

3: 1 ♂ 1 o? Great Nicobar; 1 ♀ Katchal.

The pale rump was noted at Katchal but not visible among a hundred birds circling overhead in good daylight, at Campbell Bay. In the hand and upon comparison with the material available in Bombay, the underparts appear browner than grey, the pale rump less distinct and the over-all effect blacker than in Andaman birds.

On 9 April we were taken in a *catamaran* rowed by three people to a "hawabil" (presumably adaption of "ababil"—Arabic for swift) cave about 10 km. north of Laxman