

occurs in the Central and N. W. Provinces, the Punjab and Rajpootana, in suitable localities.

As for the present species, *E. Lettia*, although very probably it does, as Mr. Blyth remarks, occur throughout the Indo-Chinese sub-region, all the specimens that I have yet seen were procured in the Himalayahs, in Sikhim, Nepaul and Kumaon at heights of from 3,000 to 5,000 feet above the sea; it seems to affect the warmer and more wooded valleys and preys largely on beetles and insects, these being the only contents of the stomachs of three specimens that I myself examined.

## No. 75 BIS. *Ephialtes Plumipes*.\* (SPEC. NOV.)

### THE PLUME-FOOT SCOPS OWL.

Four eggs of this species, together with the female birds, were sent me from Kotegurh, where the latter had been captured on the eggs, in a hole in a tree. The eggs were taken on the 13th of May, and were partly incubated. They are intermediate in size between those of *Athene Brama* and *Athene Cuculoides*, but they are more spherical than either. They are of course pure white and slightly glossy. They do not appear to be quite as large as some of those of *E. Griseus* that I possess.

#### \* *E. PLUMIPES*.

**DIMENSIONS.** Length, 9.5 to 10. Expanse, 20. Wing, 6.7 to 7.3. The 4th Primary the longest; the 1st, 1.7 shorter; 2d, 0.8; and the 3rd, 0.2 shorter. Length of tail, 3; exterior tail feathers, 0.2 to 0.4 shorter than the interior feathers. Tarsus, 1.6 to 1.7. Mid toe to root of claw (feathered to base or middle of terminal joint) 1; its claw straight, 0.55; hind toe, 0.5; its claw, 0.5; inner toe, 0.8; its claw, 0.57. Bill straight, from edge of cere, 0.6; from gape, 0.92; width at gape, 0.92; height at front at margin of cere, 0.33; length of cere, 0.38; lower tail coverts fall short of end of tail, by 1.1 to 1.3.

**DESCRIPTION.** The full description given of *E. Lettia*, renders it unnecessary to describe this species at length. The toes fully feathered to the base of, or even half way down the terminal joint, alone suffice to separate it from all our other Indian Scops Owls, but I may remark that the general tint of colouring is darker, and as a rule less rufous or buffy, and the dark blotches on the head, back, ruff feathers, breast and abdomen, are larger and more conspicuous. The feathers of the throat and front of the ruff are also much more barred. I have never myself seen this bird alive, and therefore cannot give the colours of the irides and other parts which change in the dry specimens, nor can I, not having recorded them myself, vouch for the accuracy of those dimensions which cannot be checked from the dry skins, but I have no reason to doubt the correctness of those above recorded.

In size, they vary from 1.25 to 1.28 in length, and from 1.1 to 1.5 in breadth.

I have only seen four specimens of this species, one from near Murree, two from Kotegurh, and one from Gurhwal. I do not think, notwithstanding the marked and unmistakeable difference in their feet, (which in this species are feathered quite to the base of, and in some half way down, the terminal joints of the toes) that any one has hitherto discriminated this present species from *Letitia*, but now that the distinction has been pointed out, I hope that some of my co-adjutors will watch for it, and furnish further information about its habits and distribution.

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### No. 75 TRIS. *Ephialtes Griseus*.\* JERDON.

This species breeds in the spring, laying three or four very round white eggs, in holes of trees, commonly more or less

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#### \* EPHIALTES GRISEUS.

**DIMENSIONS.** (*The sexes do not appear to differ in size. I have recorded numerous measurements of both males and females, and though the majority of the females are slightly larger than the majority of the males, I have measured males quite as large as any females, and females as small as any males.*)

Length, 7.88 to 8.5. Expanse, 20.5 to 21.5. Weight, 4 oz. to 6.25 oz. Wing, 5.6 to 6.63; the fourth primary the longest; sometimes the fifth and rarely the third sub-equal; the first, 1.25 to 1.63 shorter; the second, 0.5 to 0.65 shorter; the third from sub-equal to 0.06 shorter. Tail of twelve feathers; length from vent, 2.5 to 3.37; exterior tail feathers about 0.35 shorter than central ones. Tarsus from 1.06 to 1.19. Foot, greatest length, 1.63 to 1.94; greatest width, 1.63 to 2.06; mid toe to root of claw, 0.69 to 0.81; its claw, straight, 0.36 to 0.44; hind toe, 0.38 to 0.46; its claw, 0.31 to 0.38. Bill, straight, from edge of cere, 0.56 to 0.63; from gape, 0.88 to 0.94; width at gape, 0.75 to 0.78; height at front at margin of cere, 0.31 to 0.38; length of cere, 0.3 to 0.4. Wings when closed reach to within 0.31 to 0.75 of end of tail; lower tail coverts reach to within 0.9 to 1 of end of tail.

**DESCRIPTION.** Toes and claws very pale greyish brown, the latter darker at the points and not much curved, soles creamy white, pads and papillæ much developed and soft, scutellation obscure, three or four transverse quasi scales at the end of each toe; interior ridge of mid claw slightly dilated. Irides, in some, brownish yellow, in others, dark brown; in one nearly pure yellow. (*All the specimens whose irides I have described are now before me; these belong unmistakably to one and the same species, and are quite distinct from any of our other five species of Scops Owls, specimens of all of which are also before me.*) Bill; upper mandible dark brown, lower mandible paler especially towards the chin. Cere, dusky greyish, swollen and with circular nares pierced at the edge of the swollen ridge. Tongue, moderate, rather thin, of