

## *Ephialtes Brucei*, the Striated Scops Owl, *Sp. Nov.*

*Tarsus, slender as in Pennatus. Head and aigrettes, small. Wing, 6.45 inches; general color, uniform pale earthy brown; each feather with a conspicuous, central, very narrow, dark-brown shaft stripe.*

THIS fine new species I owe to the kindness of the Revd. H. Bruce, and as I have been compelled to disallow the supposed *Alcippe Brucei* which is nothing but *A. Poicephala*, I think I cannot do better than dedicate to this gentleman what I believe to be an unquestionably new species procured by himself.

*E. Brucei* differs entirely in appearance from any of the other Indian species. The general color of the whole of the upper surface is a pale earthy brown, and each of the feathers of the forehead and top of the head, back and sides of the neck, back, rump, scapulars, and wing coverts, breast, abdomen, flanks, tibial and tarsal plumes, and lower tail coverts has a conspicuous central, very narrow dark brown shaft stripe. There are no white spots on any of the feathers; the tarsi are slender as in the *Pennatus* group. The head and aigrettes are very small, while the wing is as long as that of the largest *Griseus* that I have examined. Moreover, it is distinguished from all other Indian *Ephialtes* by having, like *Pennatus*, the 3rd quill equal to the 4th. This species, of which only a single specimen has yet been procured and that one near Rahuri, Ahmednuggur, is even to the most casual observer very distinct from any of the other six Indian species noted in my catalogue (see also Rough Notes, Part I, No. 2, page 386 *et seq.*) In some respects it approaches nearest to *Pennatus*, but the head is proportionally much smaller; the tone of colouring and the character of the markings are totally unlike those of any stage of that species; and the length of the bird in the flesh was 9 inches, while the wing measured 6.45 inches.

Nothing has yet been ascertained as to its habits, nidification, or distribution.

*Dimensions.*—Male; length, 9 inches; expanse, 22 inches; wing, 6.4 inches; tail, 3.25 inches; tarsus, 1.45 inches; foot greatest length, 1.87 inches; greatest width, 1.75 inches; mid toe to root of claw, 0.8 inch; its claw straight, 0.39 inch; hind toe, 0.35 inch; its claw straight, 0.28 inch; inner toe, 0.67 inch; its claw straight, 0.4 inch. Bill straight from forehead to point including cere, which is ill-defined, 0.7 inch; from gape, 0.73 inch; height at front, at margin of cere, 0.29 inch; wings when closed are even with the end of tail. Lower tail coverts reach to

within 0·9 inch of end of tail. The third and fourth primaries are the longest; the first is 0·75 inch, and the second is 0·08 shorter. The exterior tail feathers are 0·3 inch shorter than the central ones. Weight, 4 oz.

*Description*.—The legs and feet, including the base of the toes, densely feathered; terminal portions of toes with small transverse scutæ, slate colored; claws black, well curved, slender, and very sharp; toes very slender, but pads largely developed, so as to make a broad sole; exterior toe more or less versatile; irides bright yellow; bill dusky.

*Plumage*.—Cheeks and feathers under the eye, greyish white, excessively finely and indistinctly barred with brown. The lores and a stripe running up from them to the top of the eye, creamy white. The longer ones that meet over the base of the upper mandible, tinged brownish; a few tiny dark brown feathers on the eyelids. Chin and throat, creamy white, with very narrow central shaft stripes towards the tips and excessively finely vermicillated with brown. Feathers of the ruff which is inconspicuous, very pale buff, narrowly edged with dark brown. The whole of the forehead, crown, back of head, back and sides of neck, back scapulars, wing coverts, rump, and upper tail coverts, very pale buff or creamy white, so minutely and closely powdered with pale brown, that looked at from a little distance, the feathers appear to be a uniform pale earthy brown. Every feather has a narrow central dark-brown stripe; some of the outer scapulars have inconspicuous patches of buff on their outer webs, and the ground color of the feather on each side of the crown immediately above the eye is slightly paler; but beyond this the whole of the upper plumage above described is singularly uniform in tint and appearance, and is absolutely devoid of those white spots and blackish brown or buff dashes and streaks so characteristic of the other Indian species. The primaries are pale dingy buff, with broad transverse brown bars, which toward the tips are with the ground color mottled and freckled over, the ground color with brown, and the bars with dingy fulvous. Nearer the base of the feather, the light bars are on the exterior webs pure pale buff, while the dark bars continue freckled as already described. On the inner webs, the dark bars are nearly uniform and unmottled, while the light bars are pure and unmottled towards the edge of the webs, and suffused with brown towards the shafts. The tertiaries and the tips of the secondaries approximate closely to the plumage of the back and coverts. Of the breast and abdomen, the ground color is similar to that of the upper parts, but the brown powdering is coarser, so that more of the ground color is seen, and the dark brown central shaft stripes are somewhat broad-

er; towards the vent, on the flanks and lower tail coverts, the ground color becomes almost pure white and the brown powdering very sparse, while the shaft stripes are reduced as on the back and wing coverts to well marked dark lines. The short dense tibial and tarsal plumes are brownish white, each little feather with its dark central shaft stripes. The axillaries and wing lining are cream-colored, or yellowish white, entirely unstreaked and unmottled.

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### *Drymoipus Insignis*, Sp. Nov.

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*Upper surface, moderately dark earthy brown. Whole under-surface of tail, white. Length, 6.65 inches Wing, 2.5 inches.*

THIS species is very similar in many respects to *D. Rufescens*: *nobis*, (*Ibis*, 1872, page 100,) and also to what I fancy *D. Sylvaticus* (which I have never seen) must be; but the adults are distinguishable from all the other *Drymoipi*, with which I am acquainted, by the whole under-surface of the tail appearing white; the fact is that the tip and the whole inner web for about an inch to an inch and-a-half from this tip is white, both above and below, and though the outer webs of the lateral feathers are pale brown, on the lower surface these webs are albescent. There is no trace of any dark bar.

*Dimensions*.—Only three birds (out of 13 specimens) and these, unfortunately, all males, were measured in the flesh. These vary as follows: Length, 6 to 6.4 inches; expanse, 7 inches; tail from vent, 2 to 2.75 inches; bill, 0.5 to 0.55 inch; wing, 2.45 to 2.55 inch; tarsus, 0.95 to 1 inch.

*Description*.—Bill black, in some whitish on the gonys, (close to the arch.) The legs fleshy brown, browner on feet, and browner still on claws. Irides, brownish buff or yellow. A streak from the nostril over the eye, but almost obsolete above the eye, yellowish white. Whole upper surface, brown, neither very dark nor light, more earthy on the head and back, purer on the quills and tail, and greyer on the ear-coverts, sides of the neck, and tips of some of the lesser wing coverts: the central tail feathers are brown, of the same tint as the quills, but slightly paler, distinctly but obsoletely barred, and no white tips; the lateral tail feathers have the outer webs brown, paling rapidly as the feathers approach the exterior of the tail, and quite albescent on the two external feathers; the tips are white and the terminal inch to an inch and-a-half of the inner webs is white also