

may be recognized by its lengthened and strong bill, which is even stronger than that of *Peuceea Bachmanii*. In the general character of its form it approaches *E. Bairdii*, but is colored differently, is more robust and has the bill much larger.

3. *Spermestes nigriceps*, nobis.

*Form.* Small, with the bill rather large; wing with the second quill slightly longest; tail short, but wide and with the feathers broad.

*Dimensions.* Total length of skin from tip of bill to end of tail about 3½ inches, wing 1¾, tail 1½ inches.

*Colors.* ♂. Head entirely black, which color is extended to the breast and sides of the body, on the latter (the sides) the black plumage is tipped with white. Middle of the abdominal region and under tail coverts white.

Back and wing coverts bright reddish chestnut, primary quills black with regularly disposed minute spots of white on their outer webs, exposed portion of secondaries reddish chestnut, rump black with minute white spots, tail black.

Bill and feet light colored (in skin.)

♀, or ♂ juv. Entire plumage above brownish tinged with chestnut on the back, below soiled yellowish or pale whitish brown, with a few black feathers on the throat; primaries black edged with white; tail brownish black.

*Hab.* Zanzibar.

*Obs.* Three specimens of this pretty species belong to the Rivoli collection, and are marked as from Zanzibar. It is similar to no other species of *Spermestes* with which I am acquainted, but is marked with white spots on the wings like *S. poensis*, (Frazer).

4. *Spermestes fuscans*, nobis.

*Form.* Small but robust, and with the bill very strong, wing with the first, second and third quills nearly equal, tail rather long, with the central feathers longest.

*Dimensions.* Total length of skin from tip of bill to end of tail about 3¾ inches, wing 2, tail 2 inches.

*Colors.* Entire plumage dark chocolate brown, deeper on the throat and around the base of the bill. Inner webs of quills paler and nearly white. Bill horn color.

*Hab.* Borneo.

*Obs.* I have not succeeded in finding a description of this little bird, though specimens in the collection of the Academy have been labelled in Europe, "*F. nigerrima*," and others "*F. aterrima*." It is not nearly related to any species known to me, and may be distinguished from all others by its plain uniform plumage.

5. *Ephialtes elegans*, nobis.

*Form.* A typical species, bill rather small, wings with the third and fourth quills longest and nearly equal, tail rather short.

*Dimensions.* Total length of skin from tip of bill to end of tail about 8½ to 9 inches, wing 6¾, tail 3½ inches.

*Colors.* Feathers of the ear tufts bright yellowish rufous, every feather marked longitudinally and with irregular transverse bands, and minute points of black, which color is almost confined to the outer webs. Face whitish, every feather with irregular lines and points of brown.

Entire plumage above pale amber brown, every feather with an obscure longitudinal stripe of brownish black and with very numerous irregular narrow lines and points of the same color. Plumage of the neck behind with white spots obscurely indicating a collar.

Inferior surface of the body handsomely mottled with white, light fulvous and brownish black; the former being the ground color and every feather longitudinally striped, and with numerous narrow transverse lines and points of the latter, these stripes most strongly marked on the breast, and least distinct on the abdomen and inferior tail-coverts. Flanks light fulvous; tarsi reddish, with irregular lines and spots of brown. Wings and tail amber brown, the former with

square spots of reddish white on their outer webs, and the latter with numerous irregular lines, and narrow bands of reddish and brown.

*Hab.* Northern Asia, Japan? "En Mer, côtes du Japon, lat. 29° 47' N. long. 126° 13' 30" E."

*Obs.* This is one of the handsomest of the small species of owls, and bears some resemblance, rather remote, however, and on a small scale, to the large Horned Owls. It is somewhat like *E. semitorques*, (Temm.) but wants the white on the throat and breast, and is smaller and differently colored, and has the toes bare. It resembles also to some extent both *L. lettia*, (Hodg.) and *E. lempiji*, (Horsf.) but is larger than either, and otherwise different. The brown stripes and lines on all parts of the plumage are unusually delicate.

Two specimens are in the collection of the Academy, the more adult of which was obtained by Dr. Wilson from Mr. J. P. Verreaux, of Paris, by whom it was designated as probably an undescribed species. It bears a label indicating the locality as above.

#### 6. *Ephialtes Hendersonii*, nobis.

*Form.* Resembling *E. capensis* (Smith) and *E. senegalensis* (Sw.) but smaller than either, and has the bill shorter and weaker; wing with the third quill longest, but only slightly exceeding the fourth: tail short.

*Dimensions.* Total length of skin from tip of bill to end of tail 6½ inches, wing 5, tail 2¼ inches.

*Colors.* Generally very similar to those of *E. capensis* (Smith) and *E. senegalensis* (Sw.), but darker and with the fine lines and points of brown throughout the plumage much more numerous and distinct. Entire plumage above cinereous, mixed on the neck, back and rump with bright fulvous, every feather longitudinally striped and with numerous very irregular transverse lines and points of brownish black most distinct on the head and back. Frontal feathers nearly white, tufts and face very pale cinereous, striped longitudinally, and minutely lined with dark brown. Plumage below variegated with white and brown, with a tinge of fulvous, every feather having stripes and minute lines and points, as on the back, but less numerous, with the white predominating and nearly pure on the lower abdomen and under tail coverts.

Quills brown with quadrangular spots of white on the outer webs. Tail pale cinereous with irregular transverse bars of brown and exhibiting a different style of coloring from either of the species above mentioned. Tarsi nearly white, obscurely spotted with brown.

Sexes similar.

*Hab.* Angola. "Came on board U. S. brig Perry off Novo Redondo."—Dr. Henderson's label.

*Obs.* It is not without some feeling of reluctance that I add another to the several nearly allied and little understood species resembling *E. scops*, (Linn.) Of these there are several which are clearly distinct and well marked, and the bird at present described is one of this character. My reluctance has arisen from the knowledge, that from the descriptions heretofore published, it is quite impossible for naturalists to identify them, or to ascertain in what manner one differs from another; and nothing short of actually examining the original specimens in European collections, which was done by Dr. Wilson in 1851, can afford the necessary information. From his notes and from specimens which he procured during his visit to Europe, and from others previously in the collection of the Academy, I have the gratification of entirely coinciding with him in the opinion that the following are distinct, but some of them nearly related species; *Ephialtes scops*, (Linn.) from which *E. pennata*, (Hodg.) cannot be distinguished; *E. capensis*, (Smith.) *E. senegalensis*, (Sw.) *E. auria*, (Hodg.) of which I am acquainted with both young and adult, and *E. Hendersonii*, (Cassin: and of another group also resembling *E. scops* to some extent, the following appear to be different: *E. lempiji* (Horsf.) which is *J. noctula*, Temm., *E. javanicus* (Less.) *E. lettia* (Hodg.) *E. spiloecephalus* (Blyth.) and *E. mantis* (Temm.) which is *S. rufescens*, (Horsf.) Of all these species, specimens and mostly *sates* are now in the collection of this Academy, and I hope to give, at an early day, the