

‘Philosophical Transactions’ by Messrs. Günther and E. Newton. It is an interesting speculation what may have been the affinities between the Owl of Rodriguez and that of Seychelles; and we may hope that the acquisition of a skeleton of the latter will enable us to solve the problem. Meanwhile it is worthy of note that Messrs. Günther and E. Newton repeatedly remark on various points of affinity between *Carine murivora* and the genus *Scops*. They state that it shows a combination of osteological characters not found in any of numerous skeletons of Striges with which they have compared it. The form of the pelvis differs from that of all other Owls, and in one point resembles *Scops rutilus*, to which our bird bears a strong superficial resemblance. Again, there are modifications in the foramina for the sacral nerves, which closely resemble those of *Scops rutilus*. Then, again, the length and strength of its legs is greater in proportion to its size than in any other species of Owls. The strength and massiveness of the tarsus and foot in our new species is one of its most striking characteristics. It is surely, then, not improbable that further knowledge of its anatomical structure may enable us to group the species of the two islands together, and that *Carine murivora* may prove to be another species of our proposed genus. I venture to propose for this bird the name of *Gymnoscops insularis*, nov. gen. et spec.

GYMNOSCOPS, nov. genus.

Ear-tufts rudimentary; tarsi and feet unfeathered.

GYMNOSCOPS INSULARIS, nov. spec. Ex insulis Seychellarum.

Above dark chestnut; the feathers on the head irregularly mottled with black and pale fawn-colour; the neck dappled with black and isabel-colour, but without any streaks; the feathers on the back barred with the same, and with black lines down the shafts, many of the upper wing-coverts having their outer web light isabel-colour; the secondaries with the shafts black and ribbed with sandy rufous towards the outer edge of both webs; the primaries brown-black on the inner web, and barred with various shades of chestnut

and buff on the outer, very feeble towards the tips, which are mottled on both webs with brown and chestnut; the tail brown, thickly mottled, and faintly barred with chestnut; lores and sides of face very light chestnut, the feathers delicately fringed with brown; basal plumes black-tipped; ear-tufts rudimentary, and scarcely to be detected; under surface of the body light chestnut, richly mottled and irregularly barred with white, and arrow-shaped black streaks down the centres of the feathers; under tail-coverts buffy white, with a pale rufous bar near the end, and white tip; the under wing-coverts pale buff; the underside of the primaries dark brown, and the inner webs of the secondaries light buff; feathering of the legs short and close, of rich rufous chestnut and faint blackish bars and spots; tarsi very strong, and entirely bare, excepting a very narrow line of plumage for a quarter of an inch from the joint in front; the whole of the back part of the joint to the end of the tibia entirely bare; tarsi and feet clear amber-colour, and very strong and stout; claws brown at the base, black at the tip; bill horn-colour, with the tip of the upper mandible dark brown. Total length 9.75 inches, wing 6.8, tail 3.2, tarsus 1.4, middle toe with claw 1.45.

Mahé, Seychelles Islands, April 1880.

XLV.—*Remarks on two Species of Halcyon.*

By E. L. LAYARD.

(Plate XV.)

HALCYON JULIÆ, Reich., from Ansevata, in New Caledonia. There must be some error here! It *must* be a young example of *H. sancta*. Our bird never has the inside of the wing white; in *H. juliaë* and *H. chloris* it is always so in the adults, and more or less so in the young. We have splendid specimens of *H. juliaë* exactly according with Mr. Sharpe's plate and descriptions, from Aneiteum, Tanna, Vate, and St. Bartholomew, New Hebrides—also *H. chloris* from Vate or Sandwich Island, which we believe is a new habitat; at least we have no record of the species being found so far



J. G. Keenan del.

C. G. C.

Rehder sculp.

GYMNOSCOPS INSULARIS.