

Another interesting bird procured by Mr. Bates was a white-spotted Crake, which did not seem to be quite the same as *Canirallus oculeus* of the Gold Coast. It was identical, however, with the bird from the Cameroons, and Dr. Sharpe had already referred (Cat. B. xxiii. p. 73) to the differences exhibited by the birds of the latter country. He therefore proposed to describe the Crake from the French Congo and the Cameroons as

CANIRALLUS BATESI, sp. n.

*Ad.* Similis *C. oculeo*, sed saturatior, dorso saturatè olivacenti-brunneo, nec virescenti-olivaceo: pileo sordidè brunneo, nec rufescenti-brunneo: fronte et facie laterali, sicut in *C. oculeo*, cinereis, regione auriculari quoque cinereo. Long. tot. 11·0 poll., culm. 1·35, alæ 6·3, caudæ 2·4, tarsi 1·95.

Among other interesting birds obtained on the Rio Benito on the same occasion were examples of *Bubulcus lucidus* and *Calopelia brehmeri*.

Dr. SHARPE likewise exhibited a specimen of a Goshawk from British Guiana, from the collection of Mr. F. V. McConnell. Feeling sure that it was *Astur jardinii* of Gurney (Ibis, 1887, p. 96, pl. iii.), Dr. Sharpe had sent the specimen to Mr. James Reeve, the Director of the Castle Museum at Norwich, for comparison with the type and unique example of the species in that museum. Mr. Reeve stated that the Guiana example was identical with the type of *A. jardinii*, and therefore the habitat of the species, previously unknown, was now identified as Guiana.

Mr. OGILVIE GRANT, on behalf of Mr. C. B. Rickett, exhibited a very distinct new species of Scops Owl, for which Mr. Rickett proposed the name of

SCOPS LATOUCHI, sp. n.

*Adult male.* This species belongs to the yellow-billed group of the genus *Scops*, and is apparently most nearly allied to *S. icterorhyncha*, Shelley, from the Gold Coast, and more distantly related to *S. rufescens* (Horsf.), from Malacca and the Sunda Islands. The pale frontal band is, however, less

conspicuous than in the above-named species. *Scops latouchii* differs chiefly from *S. icterorhyncha* in having the feathers of the head and mantle distinctly barred with black and rufous buff; but the barring is mostly concealed by the wide reddish-brown tips to the feathers, which are very finely vermiculated with black; the tail is rather strongly marked with irregular bars and mottlings of black on a brownish-red ground; the bars on the outermost primaries are rufous buff instead of white; the underparts are whitish buff, shading into rufous on the upper breast and flanks, entirely devoid of dark shaft-streaks, but very finely vermiculated with brownish black; the feathers covering the basal part of the belly, vent, and the longish flank-plumes are pure white, some of the latter, like the under tail-coverts, having reddish-brown bars.

Total length about 9·0 inches, wing 5·9, tail 3·5, tarsus 1·15.

*Hab.* Ah Ch'ung, Fohkien, 16th December, 1899.

Mr. DIGBY PIGOTT communicated a note from his friend Mr. J. R. Dasent, C.B., who had just returned from his yearly visit to the island of St. Vincent, West Indies.

Mr. Dasent stated that the destruction of bird-life of all kinds by the hurricane of September 1898 had been very great. A small bronze-green Humming-bird, which had before been the commonest and boldest bird in the island, had, it was believed, entirely disappeared. During the seven weeks of Mr. Dasent's stay he had not noticed one of these birds, though on previous visits they were to be seen, sitting on telephone wires &c., and as plentiful as Swallows in summer in England. Mr. Thompson, the Administrator, had told him that since the hurricane he had neither himself, nor had he met with anyone who had, observed one of these birds. Two other Humming-birds, formerly less common than the extinguished species, still exist in the island, but in much reduced numbers.

A Parrot, usually to be found only with difficulty in the mountain forests, and a Pigeon (known locally as "Ramier")—also an exceptionally shy bird—after the hurricane,