

60 bis.—Strix De Roepstorffi, Hume (III, p. 390).

There seems no doubt now that this must have been the Owl which Colonel Tytler saw, and which Captain Beavan supposed might be *Syrnium seloputo*, Horsf. There is no reason whatsoever to believe that this latter does occur at the Andamans, or indeed the Nicobars, but the latter have been as yet so perfunctorily worked, that the negative evidence goes, where these are concerned, for much less.

74 bis A.—Ephialtes nicobaricus, Sp. Nov.

At p. 151, Vol. II, I entered doubtfully a small Scopsowl from the Nicobars as pertaining to the rufous form, as it is generally considered (though I believe it to be distinct) of *Ephialtes pennatus*, viz. *Scops sunia* of Hodgson.

Having now re-examined the bird, and compared it with specimens of *pennatus*, *sunia*, *malayanus*, *menadensis*, and other similar species, and having carefully studied Mr. Sharpe's catalogue, it appears to me clear that the Nicobar bird is distinct from any species as yet admitted by Mr. Sharpe.

It can be easily described as closely resembling *sunia*, with the whole forehead, crown, occiput, and upper parts generally, together with the sides of the head, throat, and breast, ferruginous chestnut (much more ferruginous than *Sunia* ever is,) with the same white scapular spots, the same white notches on primaries and greater coverts, but with the crown and entire upper surface, more or less freckled and vermiculated with blackish brown, and with the feathers of the ruff on the sides of the neck and across the throat strongly marked with black. The frecklings and vermiculations of the upper surface (which are wanting in *sunia*) are not so dense, and are much coarser than in *malayanus*, and the sides of the head and cheeks are rufous, and not greyish or greyish brown as in this latter.

No specimen of *sunia*, and I have a large series, makes any sort of approach to the markings of the upper surface, which characterise the Nicobar bird. Some very rufous examples of *pennatus* on the other hand do make some approach in the character of their markings on the upper surface to those of the Nicobar birds, but then the very brightest rufous examples of *pennatus* always have more or less of a greyish tinge on the scapulars and tertiaries, and never have the throat and breast and sides of the neck bright rufous. Moreover, the vermiculations and markings on the upper surface in the Nicobar bird are coarser and more sparse than in rufous *pennatus*.

The lower breast, abdomen, and the rest of the lower parts including the *tarsi*, are precisely as in many specimens of *sunia*, and again as in a very rufous *pennatus*.