

**Strix candidus** Tick.

*Strix candidus* Tickell, *Journ. As. Soc. Bengal* ii. p. 572 (1833—"Throughout Bengal and the upper provinces in tracts of long grass. . .").

♂ ♀, Ougarra, Angabunga River, 6000—8000 ft., 29. i. 05, 22. xi. 04. (Nos. A 1888, 2031.) A. S. Meek coll. "Iris dark brown. Feet smoky brown; black and horn-colour. Bill light horn-colour."

This species is new to the Papuan region. The two specimens shot by Mr. Meek are fine adult birds. The first primary is very dark, most of the outer web being deep brown, and the white spots on the upper surface are very small and longitudinal. The contention of ornithologists, so far, is that the "grass-owls" from India to the Philippines and Australia are one and the same. Our material is very meagre, and not sufficient to show whether several races are separable or not.

**Strix flammea meeki** subsp. nov.

Differs from the Australian *Strix flammea delicatula* Gould by the colour of the tail, the outer two pairs of rectrices being pure white, without or with a few tiny, obsolete spots, the rest cream-colour or pale buff with a few dusky spots and three or four very narrow dusky cross-bars. The spotting on the nape is not so large as, more delicate than in, *S. f. delicatula*. In the narrow bars and very light tail it resembles *S. f. sumbaensis* Hart., but the latter has all the rectrices barred, or only the outermost pair white, almost without or with a few obsolete spots; moreover the bill of *S. f. sumbaensis* is decidedly thicker and higher, also slightly more arched than in *S. f. meeki*.

Type of *S. f. meeki*: ♂ ad., Collingwood Bay, north-east coast of British New Guinea, 5. ix. 06. A. S. Meek coll. (No. 2791.)

Besides the type specimen we have two more skins:

♂ ♀ ad., Collingwood Bay, 5. ix. 06. A. S. Meek coll. (Nos. 2789, 2790.) The underside is of a beautiful silky white with some small dusky spots, almost of the shape of arrow-heads. The inner webs of the outer remiges are white, shaded with yellowish buff along the shaft and spotted with dusky near the tip only. The face-disk is white, with a rust-red spot in front of the eye. Culmen 35—36, wing 292—293, metatarsus about 60, tail 103—113, height of upper bill at nostril 10 mm. (about 11 in *S. f. sumbaensis*).

There is only one record of a "Barn Owl" from New Guinea, and that is one obtained near Port Moresby by Goldie. Count Salvadori recorded it as "*Strix delicatula*."

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