

Tyto alba thomensis (Hartl.).

Strix thomensis Hartlaub, *Rev. et Mag. Zool.* 1852, p. 3 (Sao Thomé Island in the Gulf of Guinea).

Only known from this island.

Very dark form. Upperside dark grey, almost blackish, the black and white spots very conspicuous. Face very brown. Underside of the known specimens almost golden brown, sometimes with very large black and white, sometimes with much smaller spots. Wings of three specimens in the Tring Museum, collected by A. Mocquerys in 1901, only 250–260 mm. Feet powerful.

Tyto alba stertens subsp. nov.

Strix indica Blyth, nec Gmelin!

The Indian *Tyto* is a real "Barn-Owl," one hears it snorting (hence *stertens*) round buildings and ruins, in gardens, etc. It has generally been called *javanica* (if not "*Strix flammea*"), but differs rather from specimens from Java, Kangean, and Lombok, specimens in Tring, the British and Berlin Museums having been compared. The upperside in the Indian form is lighter, paler grey, and the black and white spots are usually smaller, the brownish parts yellower. The underside is white or very pale brownish yellow, in parts or throughout, the spots nearly always present and smaller, if the underside is brown it is less deep than in typical *javanica*. Dimensions similar.

Type: ♂ ad., caught on nest in the roof of the Forest Offices, Silchar, Cachar, November 1895, by E. C. Stuart Baker.

There is not enough material from Ceylon to prove that Ceylonese specimens are smaller than continental Indian ones, though some of ours are very short-winged. Legge also says they have the same dimensions.

Tyto alba subsp. ?

Specimens from French Indo-China (Tonkin, ex Alan Owston, and Delacour's in the British Museum) are more like Javanese than like Indian ones, but richer on the upperside than the former, the spotting on the underside often very heavy. More material, however, is required to prove that they have sufficient constancy for a special name.

Tyto alba javanica (Gm.).

Strix javanica Gmelin, *Syst. Nat.* i. p. 295 (1788—Java). See remarks under *T. a. stertens*.

I have seen specimens from Java, Kangean and Lombok (Rensch coll.) only, but the form must be wider spread.

Tyto alba de-roepstorffi (Hume).

Strix De-Roepstorffi Hume, *Stray-Feathers*, iii. p. 390 (1875—South Andamans).

This dark form—the darkest are all island birds: *thomensis* from Sao Thomé, *detorta* from the Cape Verde Islands, *punctatissima* from the Galápagos, *nigrescens* from Dominica—is extremely rare, for it seems that only two specimens have ever been recorded: the type, obtained by De Roepstorff, and an adult male shot by A. L. Butler at Port Blair, South Andamans. This is marked on the label: "Iris brown. Bill whitish. Feet whitish. Length $13\frac{1}{2}$, wing $10\frac{1}{8}$, tail $4\frac{5}{8}$, tarsus $2\frac{1}{4}$. Bill (gape to tip of upper