

brighter, the wings deeper blue. ♂. "Iris dark chocolate; bill black; basal half of mandible, except edges, white; feet blackish brown."

### 23. *Halcyon chloris* (Bodd.).

A *male* and two *females*. The *male* is more blue and brighter on the crown, back, and wings; the *females* more greenish and brownish, wings and tail not so bright. Wing of ♂ 110 mm.; of the ♀♀ 108 and 110 mm.

### 24. *Centropus javanicus* Dumont.

A very young *male*, just from the nest, which is, I think, referable to *C. javanicus*.

### 25. *Ninox ocellata* (Hombr. & Jacq.).

See Sharpe, *Cat. B.* II. p. 170. A large series from Savu. I cannot find differences to separate them from the true Australian *N. ocellata*, inhabiting Northern and Western Australia. The adult *male* has the "iris golden yellow; bill and cere dark plumbeous, clouded with black; the feet grey, claws black." Young birds have the "irides pale yellowish green or slaty grey; the bill dark lead-colour to almost black; feet whitish to pale greenish grey, claws black."

The *males* are smaller than the *females*. The wing of *females* measures 214—225 mm.; the wing of *males* 208—210 mm. The tail from above looks very uniform, the central tail-feathers being only sometimes spotted with light patches, and the outer webs of the outermost rectrices only rarely having some pale spots, but as a rule not. Young birds are lighter; the dark rufous brownish spots below are paler, narrower, often indistinct; the down is white.

The occurrence of the typical form of this Australian owl in Savu is another corroboration of the theory that the Australian birds are later immigrants, being never or seldom differentiated, while the presumably (in contradiction to Wallace's theory) earlier Indo-Malayan (and Moluccan) elements appear often much changed.

### 26. *Strix flammea delicatula* (Gould).

If it is possible to separate successfully the various races of barn-owls all over the world—and I believe it will be possible to a certain extent—the above will be the name we shall have to give to the owl which is very numerous in Savu, for the specimens from that little island, of which Mr. Everett has sent a very fine series, are quite like Australian specimens, being above very pale and greyish, below white, with more or less, or even almost without, small blackish spots. The similarity between the great number of skins from Savu is very great and striking, although there is of course a certain amount of variation.

The bird from Kalao, mentioned on p. 177 of Vol. III. of this journal, differs from all these in being much more golden-brownish above, especially on the tail. It seems to be more like the Indian form, which is perhaps not separable from the European one.

On the other hand, the Sumba birds (one collected by Doherty, as mentioned on p. 588, and five sent since by Everett) differ in being slightly larger, the bill higher

and longer, and the tail extremely pale buff, almost white, with the dark bars very narrow and almost obsolete. It is necessary to distinguish them as a subspecies, and I call them

***Strix flammea sumbaënsis* subsp. nov.**

I hope on a future occasion to return to the history of the various forms of the genus *Strix*, which is apparently very difficult.

**27. *Astur torquatus* (Temm.).\***

A series of old and young, some of the latter still showing some down. The old individuals are very pale above and below. It is not impossible that they are separable as a local form, but as all old birds are in somewhat abraded plumage, it is unwise to bestow a name on them. Moreover the young birds agree with those from Djampea and Kalao. The iris of a ♂ ad. is "deep golden yellow; cere ochreous yellow, tinged at the base with green; bill black, median portion lead-grey, base dark green; legs wax-yellow, claws black." In the young birds with some down left (first plumage) the borders of the feathers above are of a very dark rusty rufous colour, while in the full plumaged young bird they fade to a pale rusty brown. On the young ♂ in first plumage the iris is marked as "olive; cere dark olive-green; bill black; legs pale greenish yellow." In a ♀ in the same age: "Iris olive; cere dark olive-green; bill black; legs pale greenish yellow." In a full plumaged much older young ♀: "Bill and cere blackish; legs greenish yellow, claws jet-black."

**28. *Tinnunculus moluccensis occidentalis* Mey. & Wigl.**

Several old and young. The young bird in first plumage is a little darker above, where it looks very much like a European *T. tinnunculus*, being longitudinally spotted with black on the crown, and with large cross-patches on the back, rump, scapulars, and secondaries. Below rather paler than old birds, and with large black longitudinal spots. The tail is grey with rusty buff tips and with broad subterminal black bars, and shows obsolete black cross-bars.

**29. *Haliastur indus intermedius* (Gurney).**

Two adult *males*.

**30. *Ptilinopus ewingi* Gould.**

A careful comparison of the very large series of this species sent by Everett from Savu with the material in the British Museum has convinced me that the so-called

\* Under the name of *Astur torquatus* (Temm.) I mentioned a hawk from Sumba, collected by Doherty. I was then not aware that A. B. Meyer, in an article on birds from German New Guinea and on other Papuan birds, on p. 7 of No. 3, *Abh. und Ber. Mus. Dresden*, 1892-93, had described an *Urospizias sumbaënsis* sp. nov., and I did not have enough material for comparison to separate the bird before me. I have now come to the conclusion that the Sumba bird sent by Doherty is not *A. torquatus*, and that it must bear Meyer's name, although that author described his species from a young bird in widely different plumage.

The old ♂ *A. sumbaënsis* (A. B. Meyer), as I should call this form, differs from *males* of *A. torquatus* principally in the under parts, which are white, barred across with rufous brown bars, slightly shaded with grey, *the throat also being cross-barred, but more with a greyish colour*, not rufous. Lower abdomen, belly, and under tail-coverts much lighter, but also distinctly barred.

The collar on the hindneck is of a darker rufous.

The thighs are white, with pale rufous cross-bars,

Wing 216 mm. ; tarsus 55 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; tail 170.