

and rivers. Though generally spread, it is not very common. It utters a harsh shrill cry at night; Mr. Elliot in his notes says, "The natives assert that in doing so, drops of blood are forced from its bill, and should any of these fall on the backs of cattle, they become weak in the loins."

The chief food of this owl is rats and mice. Whilst at Madura lately, one flew into my room at an open window after a rat that was running about, and I secured it alive; length of one specimen from tip of bill 17; (from top of disk 14) wings 12; tail 5; tarsus  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ; middle toe  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ; expansion of wings 3 feet.

38.—*S. Longimembris*.—New species?—*S. Javanica*, var.?

On the Neilgherries, near Coonoor, in a bushy valley, I obtained a specimen of an owl very similar to the last, but differing in some structural points, as well as in the shade of plumage. If it should be considered a distinct species, it may be named as above, from the comparative length of both wings and legs.

*Description*.—The ground tint of the plumage is similar to that of *S. Javanica*, but lighter or more yellow. The grey tint on the upper plumage of the latter is replaced by a deep brown colour, and the white spots are less numerous. Below, the white is much tinted with ochreous, and the brownish red spot on the disk of the common species is here of a very deep brown. The most important differences, however, are structural, as will be seen by comparing the measurements with those of the last.

Total length about  $17\frac{1}{2}$ ; of wing  $14\frac{1}{2}$ ; tail  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ; tarsus  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; middle toe  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . The wings reach two inches and more beyond the tail, whilst in *Javanica* they only reach half an inch or so. A similar species to this is indicated in Griffith's Cuvier as follows—"Tuidara, owl—*S. perlata*, Licht.—*S. Tuidara*, n. &c. Like *S. flammea*, but the legs are longer—Brazil."

#### GENUS OTUS, Auct.

39.—*O. brachyotos*, Cuv.—*Short eared Owl*.—*Chota Ghooghoo*, H.

I have hitherto only obtained this species on the table-land, though I am informed it is also found in the Carnatic and Northern Circars in suitable ground. It is not very common—frequents long grass on the open plains, and is occasionally flushed when beating for florikin. Of