

PLATALEÆ.

Plataleidæ.

HERODIONES.

Ciconiidæ.

Ardeidæ.

STEGANOPODES.

Phalacrocoracidæ.

Sulidæ.

Pelecanidæ.

Phaethontidæ.

Fregatidæ.

To what extent the Diurnal Birds of Prey and the Owls differ from the Herodiones and Steganopodes, and whether there are sufficient grounds for placing them in a distinct order, must be the subject of a future paper.

IX.—*On an apparently undescribed Species of Owl from Anjouan Island, proposed to be called Scops capnodes.* By JOHN HENRY GURNEY.

THE Norwich Museum has for some time possessed three specimens of the Scops Owl inhabiting Anjouan Island, in the Comoro group, which have hitherto been catalogued in the collection under the head of *Scops rutilus*, Pucher.; but my attention has been recently called to certain differences, in my opinion specific, between the Anjouan Scops and the Madagascar *Scops rutilus*.

The Norwich Museum contains three Madagascar specimens of *Scops rutilus*, and, through the kind intervention of Professor Newton, I have had the opportunity of examining four others, and also two of the Anjouan Scops, from the Museum at Cambridge.

I have thus had the opportunity of comparing five specimens of Scops from Anjouan with seven from Madagascar, and, as the result of this comparison, I find that in all the

Anjouan specimens the plumage is much darker than in any from Madagascar, and is also less mingled with white; it is especially noticeable that the pale portion of the lower scapulars, which is conspicuously white in six of the Madagascar birds, and is coloured light rufous in the seventh (an unusually rufous specimen), is much less extended in four of the Anjouan birds, and in the fifth, a very dark specimen at Cambridge (referred to below as B), is absent altogether; it is white in only two of the Anjouan birds, and that to a very limited extent; and in the remaining two it is cross-barred in two alternate shades of brown.

The notch-like spots on the outer webs of the primaries, which are white in most specimens of *S. rutilus*, are decidedly smaller in the Anjouan Scops, and are a fulvous brown in the five specimens which I have examined.

The average wing-measurement in the Anjouan Scops is a little longer than in *S. rutilus*, and the lower portion of the tarsus, which is feathered in *S. rutilus*, is bare in the Scops from Anjouan Island.

Of the five Anjouan specimens which I have measured, the tarsi are bare in two cases for $\cdot40$ of an inch, in two for $\cdot50$, and in one for $\cdot55$, whereas six of the examples of *S. rutilus* which I have examined are feathered to the root of the toes, and in the seventh the feathering only falls short of that point by $\cdot15$ of an inch.

As regards the measurements of the Anjouan specimens, which unfortunately are not sexed, the tarsus is $1\cdot25$ inch in two examples, $1\cdot30$ in one, $1\cdot40$ in another, and $1\cdot50$ in the remaining instance; the middle toe is $\cdot70$ (*s. u.*) in one case, $\cdot80$ in two, and $\cdot85$ in the two others. The wing-measurement is $6\cdot70$ inches in three cases and $6\cdot80$ in the two others.

I may give, for comparison, the wing-measurements of the seven specimens of *S. rutilus*, as under:—

♂ $6\cdot20$ inches; ♂ $6\cdot40$; four not sexed, $6\cdot40$, $6\cdot45$, $6\cdot50$, $6\cdot50$; ♀ $6\cdot55$.

I ought, however, to add that in 'The Ibis,' 1869, p. 452, I recorded five Madagascar specimens of *S. rutilus* in the

Paris Museum as "varying in the wing from 6 to 6.80 inches."

The following description was taken from one of the specimens in the Cambridge Museum, which I may call specimen A :—

The upper surface of the head, including the ear-tufts, which are very slightly developed, is entirely brown, the frontal feathers being blackish brown in the centre, but freckled with a paler brown on the sides, the feathers of the hinder head, nape, cheeks, and throat being finely cross-barred with the same two shades of brown disposed alternately, with some intermediate brown freckles on the nape, and the lower portion of the disk being surrounded by a black band.

The mantle is cross-barred and freckled similarly to the nape, but more coarsely on the lower scapulars, and more finely on the rump and upper tail-coverts; the upper surface of the rectrices is blackish brown, with pale brown freckles on the lower and outer portions of the feather, these freckles assuming the form of irregular transverse bars on the outer rectrices.

The primaries and secondaries are blackish brown, finely freckled with lighter brown towards the end of the feather, and with the outer webs slightly marked on the external edge with small notch-like spots of pale fulvous brown; the tertials resemble the secondaries in their general coloration, but are more largely freckled with pale brown.

The entire under surface is freckled like the mantle, but more coarsely, and with a larger admixture of pale luteous brown, the shaft-marks of the feathers being black.

Specimen B, also in the Cambridge Museum, resembles A, but is slightly darker throughout, with the exception of a single white feather on the nape, which is clearly abnormal.

In this specimen the pale brown notch-like spots on the external edge of the outer web of the primaries and secondaries are so small as to be almost obsolete.

Specimens C, D, and E are preserved in the Museum at Norwich.

Specimen C closely resembles B, but has a dull white bar, apparently abnormal, across one of the rectrices.

D is like A, but the plumage is scarcely so dark, and on the under surface is slightly mingled with rufous.

In this specimen the feathers on the crown of the head exhibit two pairs of pale brown spots on each feather, and the feathers of the throat are a rich brown, transversely barred with a darker brown.

E resembles D, but has the brown of the mantle, including the wing-coverts, and also of the entire under surface, somewhat mingled with rufous.

In this specimen the feathers immediately adjacent to the upper mandible are white, and the black band which edges the lower portion of the disk is very conspicuous.

The general aspect of the Anjouan Scops is decidedly fuliginous, a circumstance which leads me to propose for it the specific title of *capnodes*, from the Greek *καπνώδης*, *smoky*; and I think that *Scops capnodes* may be safely admitted as a valid addition to the catalogue of the Striges.

X.—On *Scolopax rosenbergi* and *S. saturata*.

By T. SALVADORI, C.M.Z.S.

WHEN I was preparing my 'Ornitologia della Papuasie e delle Molucche,' wishing to be as exact as possible, I visited the principal museums of Europe, in order to examine the existing types of the species included by me in the above-mentioned work. Thus, when in Leyden, I examined the type specimen of *Scolopax rosenbergi*, Schleg., from New Guinea, and compared it very carefully with two specimens of the allied Javan species, *Scolopax saturata*, Horsf. I must say that, although I perceived, as it had occurred also to Schlegel, that the two species were nearly related, still it never came into my head that they were specifically identical.

Again, when Mr. Laglaize sent to Count Turati, of Milan, a specimen of *S. rosenbergi* collected by Bruijn's hunters on



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