

As Mr. Hamilton saw young birds in the nests on November 9, and I found each nest containing eggs on December 21 following, it is quite evident that the Spotted Shag breeds twice in the same season.

In this part of New Zealand 1s. 6d. is paid by the Acclimatisation Society for each pair of feet of the Black Shag (*Ph. novæ-hollandiæ*), as this species is reputed to destroy the imported fish. Now, a Shag is a Shag with the general public, irrespective of species; in fact, according to them, a Gannet (*Dysporus serrator*) is, as shown by the feet sent in as those of the Black Shag! However, it is to be hoped that this colony will not be "wiped out," as has been the case with several "Shaggeries" of the Black Shag and of the White-throated Shag that I once knew of.

XXXI.—*On an apparently undescribed Species of Owl from the Liu Kiu (or Loo Choo) Islands, proposed to be called Scops pryeri.* By JOHN HENRY GURNEY.

MR. LEONHARD STEJNEGER has satisfactorily shown, in the 'Proceedings of the United States National Museum' for 1886, p. 639, that the Scops Owl described by the late Mr. Cassin under the title of "*Ephialtes elegans*" is a good and distinct species, resident in the Liu Kiu Islands.

I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Henry Seebohm for the opportunity of examining a specimen in his collection of this rare species, and agree with Mr. Stejneger's conclusion as to its specific distinctness.

This, however, is not the only Scops Owl to be found in the Liu Kiu group, and my present object is to describe two specimens of the second Liu Kiu species, which were obtained from that locality by the late Mr. Pryer, in commemoration of whom, I would propose for this hitherto undescribed Owl the name of *Scops pryeri*.

Of the two specimens which I have examined, one is an adult, now preserved in the Norwich Museum, the other a young bird which I have no doubt had left the nest, but

which retains portion of its nestling-plumage; this younger specimen is in the collection of Mr. Seebohm, who has kindly lent it to me for examination, and to whom I am also indebted for calling my attention to the distinctness of the present species from its congener, *Scops elegans*.

Both these specimens are believed to have been obtained in the island of Okinawasima, in the Central Liu Kiu Group, and both bear labels in the late Mr. Pryer's handwriting, inscribed as follows:—"Rynkyn Naba, June (Aug.), '86."

Mr. Seebohm's specimen of *Scops elegans* also bears a label in Mr. Pryer's handwriting to the following effect:—"Rynkyn, Dec. (Jan.), '87."

I subjoin the principal measurements in inches and decimals of the two specimens of *Scops pryeri*, and also, for comparison, those of the above example of *Scops elegans*.

	Culmen with cere.	Bristly feathers round the bill.	Ear-tufts.	Wing.	Tarsus.	Middle toe, s. u.
<i>Scops elegans</i> , ad.	0·65	0·60	1·15	6·80	1·20	0·75
<i>Scops pryeri</i> , ad.	1·05	0·90	imperfect	6·70	1·50	0·75
Do., imm.	0·90	1·05	1·05	7·50	1·50	0·75

In the specimen of *Scops elegans* the 3rd and 4th primaries are the longest and equal, the 5th being decidedly shorter; but in both those of *Scops pryeri* the 4th is the longest, the 3rd and 5th being equal and only very slightly shorter than the 4th.

The adult specimen of *Scops pryeri* was moulting when killed, which perhaps accounts for the wing being shorter than in the immature specimen, as the feathers may probably not have attained their full length.

Scops pryeri is readily distinguishable from *Scops elegans* by the larger size of the bill, by the tarsi being thickly feathered to the base of the toes, whilst in *S. elegans* the lower part of the tarsus is bare for one fifth of an inch, and also by the much coarser and less minute character of the vermiculations on its plumage both above and below.

The following is a description of the coloration and markings of the adult specimen of *Scops pryori* :—

The feathers on the central portion of the crown of the head and on the nape are blackish brown freckled with dark rufous brown, the sides of the crown and of the nape are a paler rufous, barred and tipped with blackish brown; the colour of the cheeks and lores resembles that of the centre of the crown; the interscapulars are dark brown irregularly cross-barred with paler brown, but both shades tinged with dull rufous; the least wing-coverts are dark brown, sparsely varied with small spots of a paler rufous brown; the median and greater coverts, and also the scapulars, are similarly marbled with two shades of rufous brown, but with the paler rufous predominating, especially on the external edge of the outer row of scapulars, where the feathers are a clear luteous brown scantily traversed towards the tip with dark brown; all the wing-feathers, including the winglet, are dark brown, alternating on the outer web with pale rufescent buff in a regularly disposed pattern of square notches, and cross-barred on the inner web with two shades of brown, the lighter bars becoming tinged with pale luteous towards the edge of the feathers; the lower part of the back and the upper tail-coverts resemble the interscapulars in their marking and coloration; the rectrices are dark brown cross-barred with paler brown, and the central pair exhibit seven such pale bars and a pale tip.

The entire under surface of the body from the chin, which is whitish and immaculate, to the vent is rich rufous brown, each feather having a conspicuous and somewhat broad shaft-mark of blackish brown and several minute irregular cross bars a shade less dark than the shaft-marks; the under wing-coverts are pale fulvous and unspotted; the tarsi are rufous brown, slightly dotted with a few spots of darker brown.

The immature specimen retains its nestling-dress on the crown of the head, the nape, the breast, and portions of the abdomen, where the colouring is less rich and the markings less distinct than in the adult bird, which it closely resembles

elsewhere, having, with the exception of the parts above mentioned, become fully feathered; it differs, however, from the adult in wanting the clear luteous spaces on the outer side of the scapulars, and in having the exterior edge of the under wing-coverts variegated with blackish brown.

The ear-tufts, which are imperfect in the adult specimen, are newly grown in the younger bird, and exhibit two shades of rufous brown, the darker and lighter alternating.

The central rectrices exhibit one more light cross bar than exists in the tail of the adult.

XXXII.—*A List of the Birds of Cyprus.*

By LORD LILFORD.

DR. F. H. H. GUILLEMARD'S two most interesting articles on Cyprus (*Ibis*, 1888, p. 94, and 1889, p. 206) have left me little to record; but as I think that a systematic list of the birds met with in the island by him, Mr. W. Pearse, and myself may be of some service to future collectors, I offer the following notes to the readers of '*The Ibis*' in the hope that the list may be, as I am confident that it can be, very much augmented. With regard to the specimens collected by Mr. Pearse, I must mention that many of the names on the labels attached to the skins are in Greek characters, and often almost illegible, and as I never received any letter or explanatory notes from him during his unfortunate stay in Cyprus, the principal value of his specimens is the proof of the occurrence of their species in that locality. I shall specify the instances in which a species was obtained or met with by only one of us, by the initial G., P., or L., at the conclusion of the paragraph relating to it.

I must take this opportunity of recording my grateful acknowledgments to Mr. H. Seebohm, Mr. R. B. Sharpe, Dr. A. Günther, and Lieut.-Colonel Irby, for their assistance in identifications, and for certain observations upon these collections, and most of all to Dr. Guillemard for his trouble in collecting and for the beautiful condition of the specimens preserved by him.



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