

flesh-colour. Total length 6·2 inches, culmen 0·7, wing 3·3, tail 2·7, tarsus 0·9.

Kilimanjaro, ♀?, 5000 ft.

Similar, excepting that the entire upper half of the head is black, and the rump and upper tail-coverts more uniform olive.

Besides those described above there are four more specimens, one from 6000 feet. Two have yellow, and two black crowns, and one yellow-crown specimen is labelled ♀, all the others being marked ♂.

As the sexes marked on the labels seem to be frequently incorrect, I have disregarded them in my descriptions, and followed Dr. Fischer, who separated these two forms as sexes, upon what I presume to be good authority.

6. On the Geographical Distribution of *Huhua nipalensis*,
Hodgs.; with Remarks on this and on some allied
Species. By JOHN HENRY GURNEY.

[Received November 8, 1884.]

(Plate LII.)

The fine Owl, of which the accompanying sketch (Plate LII.) is a portrait, was captured in or about the month of February 1877, when it was a newly-fledged nestling, on a precipitous ledge of a lofty mountain in the Karennee Country to the north-east of Pegu. It has lived in the Society's Gardens since September 1878, having been presented at that date by Mr. Charles Fowler, from whose information I made a note at the time of the circumstances of its capture. It was originally recorded in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1878, p. 790, under the appellation of *Bubo (Huhua) orientalis*; but there is no doubt that it is in reality an example (now fully adult) of the nearly allied, but larger and more northern species, *Huhua nipalensis*.

It is remarkable that no figure of this very large and handsome Owl has hitherto existed, with the exception of that published by the late Dr. Jerdon under the title of *Huhua pectoralis*, which is probably referable to it; but as this is at present a doubtful point, the accompanying figure, drawn from the life, will be acceptable to ornithologists as a reliable representation of one of the finest of the Eastern Owls.

The present is probably the most eastern example of *Huhua nipalensis* of which the locality has as yet been ascertained, as there appears to be considerable doubt whether a young Owl obtained by Col. Tickell on the Mooleyit mountain in Tenasserim belonged to this species, or to its congener *Huhua orientalis*. Mr. Blyth held the former opinion in the 'Ibis' for 1872, p. 89, and Mr. Hume advocated the latter in 'Stray Feathers,' vol. vi. p. 31.



J.Smit lith.

Hanhart imp.

HUHUA NIPALENSIS.



Captain R. G. Wardlaw Ramsay possesses a specimen of *Huhua nipalensis*, in immature dress, which was shot at Tonghoo, a locality nearly as far eastward as that from which the bird now in the Regent's Park was obtained.

Col. Godwin-Austen has recorded a much more northern specimen of *H. nipalensis*, which was obtained in the Darrang district of Assam (*vide* Journal of Asiatic Soc. of Bengal, vol. xlv. pt. 2, p. 68).

As regards the occurrence of this Owl in the countries to the west of Assam, a specimen from the Tista Valley in Sikkim has been recorded by Mr. Blanford in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, vol. xli. pt. 2, p. 154; and its original discoverer, Mr. Hodgson, states in 'Asiatic Researches,' vol. xix. p. 173, that it is found "in all parts of the kingdom" of Nepal.

Major Fitzgerald obtained a young Owl of this species "from the nest in a tree in the Darjeeling District," in recording which he states that though "not a common bird, it is met with in most parts of the Himalaya in the more temperate valleys" (*vide* 'Ibis,' 1878, p. 119).

Huhua nipalensis has not, so far as I am aware, been specifically recorded from any locality in Central or Southern India, but Dr. Jerdon obtained an Owl which may probably have been of this species in "high forest in Malabar." This specimen is unfortunately not now forthcoming, and until another one from Malabar can be obtained, its identity with *H. nipalensis* must remain an open question. It was described and figured by Dr. Jerdon, as already mentioned, under the name of *Huhua pectoralis*, in the Madras Journal, vol. x. p. 89, pl. 1.

The presumption in favour of the Malabar bird being identical with *Huhua nipalensis* is, however, strengthened by the fact of the latter species being an inhabitant of Ceylon. The average size of Ceylonese specimens appears to be slightly less than that of individuals from the Himalayan countries, but the difference seems not to be sufficiently marked, or sufficiently constant, to establish a subspecific distinction between the race inhabiting Ceylon and that found in the Himalayas (*vide* Legge's 'Birds of Ceylon,' p. 132).

Mr. Hodgson, in describing *Huhua nipalensis*, noted the peculiarities on which he proposed to found his subgenus *Huhua*, in vol. xix. of 'Asiatic Researches,' pp. 172, 173; and a fuller description of them, prefixed to an article on the same species, will be found in Dr. Jerdon's work on the 'Birds of India,' vol. i. p. 131. These descriptions apply more particularly to the Asiatic species of the section of the genus *Bubo* having dark irides; but in most respects they are also applicable to some African Owls to which I propose shortly to refer. The Asiatic species of the subgenus *Huhua* are *H. nipalensis*, Hodgs., and *H. orientalis* (Horsf.). The latter bird, which was figured by Temminck in the Pl. Col. plates 174, 229, under the name of "*Strix strepitans*," is an inhabitant of Southern Tenasserim, the Malay peninsula, Borneo, Sumatra, Java, and Bangka. The late Professor Schlegel remarked (Mus. Pays-Bas, *Oti*, p. 13) that specimens from the last-named



Gurney, John Henry. 1884. "On the Geographical Distribution of *Huhua nipalensis*, Hodgs.; with Remarks on this and on some allied Species." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1884, 558–561.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1096-3642.1884.tb02870.x>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/96832>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1096-3642.1884.tb02870.x>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/73176>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.