

July 21st, 1940. Hawkes (*in litt.* 1971) informs us also that he has seen a drake Gadwall on the Island of Sheppey (Kent, England) in the three winters of 1969-71, with a creamy white nape and neck.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For the loan of the specimen, we are grateful to Mr. J. C. Daniel. For information of the other examples, both previously unpublished, we are indebted to Mr. Brain Hawkes and Mr. Bryan Sage, and for the photographs to Dr. Pamela Harrison.

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BOWERWOOD HOUSE,  
SEVENOAKS, KENT,  
ENGLAND,  
June 1, 1971.

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8. ON THE VALIDITY OF *OTUS BAKKAMOENA*  
*STEWARTI* KOELZ

While cataloguing the specimens of *Otus bakkamoena* in the Bombay collection, we sorted out a group of seven individuals (4 ♂♂ 2 ♀♀ 1 o? : 1 Simla Hills; 2 Chandigarh, 1 Karnal, Punjab; 1 Delhi; 1 Sironj, Tonk, Rajasthan; 1 Balaghat, C.P.) which, though intruding according to IND. HANDBOOK upon the range of four other races, could be well separated from them—darker than *deserticolor* Ticehurst (Type locality: Hyderabad, Sind), larger than *marathae* Ticehurst (Raipur, C.P.), darker than and not earthy brown as *gangeticus* Ticehurst (Fategarh, U.P.), and with the feathering of the tarsus not extending on to the toes as in *plumipes* (Hume) (Murree, Punjab).

In IND. HANDBOOK, Koelz's *stewarti* (1939, *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington* 52:80. Type locality: Baijnath, Kangra, Punjab) is synonymised with *gangeticus* but as the specimen from Karnal which is not very far from the type locality was very different from *gangeticus*, we thought we would examine the original description, of which Dr. Dillon Ripley very kindly sent us a copy.

Koelz measures the wing of the type and paratype, both males, as 163 and 160 mm. In his description he does not compare it with *gangeticus* but separates it very clearly from *deserticolor* and *plumipes*, adding that the dark markings on the underparts when compared with *plumipes*, from 8000 feet in the same district, are greatly reduced, the



shaft streaks narrower, and the barring broken into dots much as in *O. brucei*.

The wings and tail measurements are compared below with those of *marathae*, which these seven specimens resemble most in colour.

	Wing	Tail
<i>Otus b. stewarti</i>	156-175 av. 163	70-82 av. 80
<i>Otus b. marathae</i>	143, 145, 147, 148	66(2), 67, 71

The larger wing '152-162, once 165 (41 measured)' indicated for *marathae* in IND. HANDBOOK, ex Ticehurst, is no doubt due to these two subspecies being measured together.

There can be no doubt that another of Koelz's buried races needs resuscitation and we do so in this instance.

75, ABDUL REHMAN STREET,  
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HUMAYUN ABDULALI

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
BOMBAY-1,

S. A. HUSSAIN

June 25, 1971.

## 9. CALLS OF THE MALABAR JUNGLE OWLET (*GLAUCIDIUM RADIATUM MALABARICUM*)

The Jungle Owlet is the commonest owlet of North Malabar. When it has young to feed, it can be seen as often during the day as any diurnal bird. Young birds are either diurnal or must be getting fed all the 24 hours of the day. The very peculiar food-call of the juvenile does not appear to have been recorded.

For about three months from the time they have developed into downy young, juvenile Jungle Owlets incessantly utter a note that could easily be mistaken for the voice of the Tickell's Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*). In fact, during April and May, 1969, though I heard it frequently at Dharmadam, Tellicherry Taluk, Kerala State, I did not pay much attention thinking that the author was a flowerpecker. On one or two occasions I saw a flowerpecker mobbing a jungle owlet and this made me ignore the fact that very often the sound seemed to issue from the place where an owlet was perched. On 10-vi-1969, however, I observed an owlet closely and found that the sounds were actually produced by it. It was a young bird and was being fed by an adult. When alone the juvenile went on uttering a series of *chick-chick-chick* (or *tchlik-tchlik*) notes at the rate of one 'chick' per second. When approached by the adult the rate increased until it became a





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