

surface and sides of a deep chocolate brown, with a broad, well-defined streak of reddish yellow on each side from the ear to the tail; the under surface brownish yellow; sides of the head under the line of the nostril, eye and ear white, or nearly so; tail irregularly and indistinctly barred with yellow and brown, and not compressed.

Total length 1 foot 10 inches, tail 1 foot 4 inches.

One specimen from Katow.

According to the description and plate given by Dr. Gray, of *Lophognathus Gilbertii*, from Port Essington, it is very distinct from the present species, and I am not aware that any other species of the genus has hitherto been described.

#### 41.—GRAMMATOPHORA JUGULARIS.

Scales strongly keeled, and acutely pointed, a few very slightly elevated along the middle of the nape; nostrils small and round, near the centre of a large plate; head, above brownish yellow, with black edged brown spots and rings, one near the muzzle, two occupying the space between the eyes, and a few small ones about the occiput; back yellow, with a series of large, black-edged brown patches down the middle; sides of body and legs of a darker hue, sides of the head and all the under surface white, with 6 longitudinal narrow brown lines indistinct on the body, but distinct under the head, where they join in pairs from the centre outwards; tail irregularly ringed.

Total length,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches; tail, 3 inches.

Several specimens were taken at Cape Grenville.

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Description of some new species of Birds from New Britain, New Ireland, Duke of York Island, and the South-East coast of New Guinea, by E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S.

#### NASITERNA PUSILLA, SP. NOV.

*Nasiterna pusio*, Sclater; Ramsay, P.L.S. of N. S. Wales. Vol. 1, pt. 4, p. 393.



In plumage, much the same as *Nasiterna pusio*, of Sclater (*P.Z.S. Lon.* 1865, p. 620, pl. 35), but differing in having the front, sides of the head and ear-coverts of a light yellow, with but a faint tinge of fulvous, the crown of the head deep blue, lighter in colour and not obscured with black as in *N. pusio*, under surface light greenish yellow, sides and flanks green; abdomen, and under tail-coverts, and spots on the inner web of the tail feathers bright yellow, the two central tail feathers dull blue, and in this specimen, without the oval apical spot of black, or the fulvous tinge at the base of the upper tail coverts, which is visible in *N. pusio*, of Sclater.

Total length, 3.05 inches; wing, 2.3 inches; tail, 1 inch; tarsus, 0.25 inch; longest toe (without nail), 0.45 inch; hind toe, 0.2 inch.

*Hab.* Dense forests in the neighbourhood of Port Moresby, New Guinea.

NINOX NOVÆ BRITANNIÆ, *sp. nov.*

All the upper surface, rufous brown; the head, face, chest and neck of a similar but duller colour; a few feathers in front and over the eye are spotted irregularly at the base with white, a few on the sides of the neck and chest, spotted with white towards the middle and end of the feathers, in some forming two broken transverse bands; loreal bristles whitish at the base, with black tips; the breast and all the under surface of the body white; the basal portion of the feathers slate colour, the remainder barred with rufous brown; under tail coverts white, with a few spots or broken bars of rufous brown; under wing coverts white, strongly barred with the same tint; back and interscapular region without spots; rump and upper tail coverts with a few white spots, on some of the feathers forming broken white bands; wings rufous brown above, dull brown below, the quills crossed with nine to ten bands of blackish brown, the basal portion of the inner webs becoming white on the interspaces, except on the first five primaries; the first four secondaries show whitish



spots on the interspaces of the outer webs towards the end of the feathers; upper wing coverts barred like the quills, but less distinctly, and show white spots on the interspaces of the outer webs towards the tip; tail rufous brown above, paler dull brown below, crossed with nine or ten dark bars, the interspaces on all, except the centre two quills, becoming whitish towards the base of the inner webs, and spotted with dull white towards the end on the outer webs; \* legs and tarsi, rufous brown, shaded with darker; bristles on the feet, yellowish; bill, dusky at the base, light horn colour at the tip; claws, yellowish at the base, blackish at the ends.

Total length, 11 inches; wing, 8·2 inches; tail, 5 inches; tarsus, 1·4 inches; middle toe, 1·15 inches; bill, from forehead, 1·15 inches; from nostril, 0·7 inch; from gape, 1·1 inches; culmen, from cere to tip, 0·8 inch; from the tip of the bill to the back of the head, 2·2 inches.

*Hab.* New Britain.

I was at first inclined to consider this species identical with the *Noctua variegata* of Quoy and Gaimard, but after a closer comparison of the skin with Dr. Kaup's description of that species, and as I find he states † "*the front, face, and chin, whitish,*" which they certainly are not in the bird I have received from New Britain. I have thought it necessary to distinguish this species, under the name of *novæ britannicæ*, although I do not altogether hold with the practice of creating new species upon such trivial, and, which may hereafter prove to be, only local differences. In other respects this species agrees very well with *Ninox (Ieraglaux, Kp.) variegata*.

MYZOMELA COCCINEA, *sp. nov.*

*Adult female.* The whole of the upper and under surface of the body of a bright rich carmine, duller on the head from the feathers being slightly centered with blackish brown; wings and tail, dull brown; the outer webs of all the feathers, except the first and second primaries, margined with dull carmine; two

\* The outermost feathers of the tail are lost. † Trans. Zool. Soc., Lon., Vol. IV. p. 216.



centre tail feathers carmine above, brown below; bill black, slightly curved; legs, blackish brown.

Total length without bill, 3·65 inches; wings 2·23 inches; tail 1·6 inches; tarsi 0·53 inch; bill from forehead 0·6 inch; from gape, 0·68 inch.

*Hab.* Duke of York Island.

This beautiful species is closely allied to *M. chermesina*, of G. R. Gray, and is of the same rich carmine tint. It is smaller, however, and is of a uniform carmine above and below.

The present specimen is said to be a female, which I am inclined to think correct. The male will doubtless prove to be of a much richer tint.

#### MYZOMELA ERYTHINA, SP. NOV.

*Male, juv.* Crown, sides of the head, and all the upper surface dull red; the basal portion of the feathers, dull brown the red tint being brighter on the back and upper tail coverts; the throat is of a lighter and brighter tint; the remainder of the under surface, dull brown washed with dull red, a little stronger on the under tail coverts; wings and tail, dark brown, the outer webs of the feathers margined with dull red of the same tint as the body; bill black; legs and feet blackish brown.

Total length, without bill, 3·1 inches; wing, 1·9 inches; tail, 1·3 inches; tarsus, 0·54; bill from forehead, 0·5 inch; from gape, 0·6 inch.

*Hab.* New Ireland.

This species is smaller than the preceding, and the bill is comparatively stronger and stouter, otherwise I should be inclined to consider it the young of the former.

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#### Description of some rare Eggs of Australian Birds, and a note on the Eggs of certain Species of *Megapodius*.

By E. P. Ramsay, F.L.S., &c., Curator of the Australian Museum, Sydney, N. S. Wales.

It is now over two years since my friend, Ralph Hargrave, Esq., forwarded to me for description, several rare nests and eggs



Ramsay, Edward Pearson. 1877. "Description of some new species of birds from New Britain, New Ireland, Duke of York Island, and the south-east coast of New Guinea." *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 2, 104–107.

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