ASTUR APPROXIMANS, Vig. & Horsf.

Fig. 1.

Mas. Ast. vertice et nuchâ plumbeis, collo postice torque fuscente obscure ornato; corpore suprâ, alis caudâque cinereo-fuscâ; hie fusco saturatoire crebris fasciâ; remigium poenonis internis albis, fusce fasciâ; guld cinereo-fuscâ; pectoro corporeque subhis fusce-brunneis fasciis albis notatis; his fusce marginati; femoribus rufis, albo crebris et irregulariter fasciatis; rostro nigresco-corneo; pedibus plaveis.

Jun. Capitâ, nucaque plumis fuscis, rufescente-brunneo marginatis; corpore suprâ intus fusco, plumis singulis notam semihinuarem rufam ad apicem ostendit; caudâ fusce, colore saturatoire fasciâ; et ad apicem alcescent; remigium poenonis internis cervinis, fusce fasciâ; guld pallide cervini, singulis plumis luted fusce in medio notatis; pectore pallide cervino fusce transversim notato; abdomine lateribus pallide cervinis irregulariter fusce fasciatis; femoribus crissoe palüdâ rufis, similiter fasciatis; rostro nigresco-fusce; pedibus plumbeis.

Long. tot. 19 unc.; rostri, 1; alae, 12; caudae, 10; tarsi, 3 1/2.

Male. Crown of the head and nape of the neck leaden grey; on the back of the neck an obscure collar of rufous brown; the remainder of the upper surface, wings and tail deep greyish brown; the latter numerous barred with brown of a deeper tint; inner webs of the primaries and secondaries greyish white, barred with dark brown; throat greyish brown; breast and all the under surface rufous brown, crossed with numerous white fasciae, which are bounded on each side with an obscure line of dark brown; thighs rufous, crossed by numerous irregular white lines; bill blackish horn; feet yellow.

Young. Feathers of the head and back of the neck dark brown, margined with rufous brown; the remainder of the upper surface deep brown, each feather with a crescent-shaped mark of rufous at the extremity; tail brown, crossed with obscure bars of a darker tint, and tipped with whitish brown; inner webs of the primaries fawn colour, barred with dark brown; throat buffy white, with a stripe of dark brown down the centre of each feather; breast buffy white, each feather crossed by two bands of dark brown, the last of which assumes a triangular form; abdomen, and flanks, buffy white, crossed by irregular bands of dark brown, which are blotched with rufous brown in the centre; thighs and under tail-coverts pale rufous, crossed by similar bands; bill blackish brown; feet lead colour.


Astur radiatus, 
——fusaceous, 
——approximans, 

Vig. and Horsf. in Linn. Trans., vol. xv. p. 181.

Remark This bird so closely resembles the Accipiter torquatus in external appearance that one description would nearly serve for both: the two species are however not only specifically, but generically distinct; the present one being a true Astur, with stout and powerful tarsi and a rounded tail, and the other a true Accipiter, with a square or somewhat forked tail, and very slender tarsi and feet, the middle toe of which, although belonging to a much smaller bird, is longer than the middle toe of the present species: in consequence of the resemblance above alluded to, I have adopted the name of approximans in preference to any other which has been given to it.

Habitat. Australia: locality, New Holland.

ASTUR NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ, Vig. & Horsf.

Figs. 2 & 3.

Ast. toto corpori albo; cerâ, tarsisque flavis; rostri apice, et unguibus nigris: variat corpore suprâ cinero, subhis albo, fasciis cineris crebris irregulariter notatis.

Mas. Long. tot. 1 3/4 unc.; rostri, 1 1/2; alae, 10 1/2; caudae, 8; tarsi, 2 1/4.

Fem. ——— 20 ; 1 3/4; ——— 12 1/2; ——— 8; ——— 2 1/4.

The whole of the plumage pure white; cere yellow; point of the bill and claws black: or the whole of the upper surface grey: throat and all the under surface white, crossed with numerous irregular grey bars; cere and tarsi yellow; point of the bill and claws black.


Astur Nova-Hollandiae, Vig. and Horsf. in Linn. Trans., vol. xv. p. 179.


Astur Raii, Vig. and Horsf. in Linn. Trans., vol. xv. p. 180.

Remark After a careful examination of a considerable number of specimens of the two states of plumage above described, but agreeing in all their relative admeasurements, I am led to differ from the opinion of most naturalists, and to consider that the two birds are strictly identical. I find this difference of colouring to be common to both sexes, but the females are readily distinguishable by their much larger size.

Habitat. Australia: locality, New Holland.
A synopsis of the birds of Australia, and the adjacent islands (3), –. 
https://doi.org/10.5962/p.363656.

View This Item Online: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/172464  
DOI: https://doi.org/10.5962/p.363656  
Permalink: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/363656

Holding Institution  
Museums Victoria

Sponsored by  
Atlas of Living Australia

Copyright & Reuse  
Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

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.