

AFRICAN ZOOLOGY:

By DR. SMITH.

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Circus Acoli. *Male.*—Bill horn-coloured towards base, bluish black towards tip; cere red; eyes orange-red: colour of plumage above pale bluish grey; beneath whitish, with the breast, belly, and thighs, finely rayed transversely with black; body slender; legs long; tail nearly even, and of a dirty brownish white tint; shafts reddish brown; legs and toes yellowish; claws black.

Inhabits South Africa,—Zwartland, Le Vaillant.

L'Acoli, Le Vaill. *Afriq. pl.* 31.

Circus ranivorus. Bill black, with a shade of yellow on lower mandible near base; eyes and cere yellow; front and crown brown, varied with light rufous; back of neck and interscapulars dirty dark brown, the feathers edged with a pure or reddish white; back and rump brown, feathers with tawny tips; upper tail coverts ferruginous and brown, with whitish tips; shoulders mottled dark blackish brown, ferruginous and pure white; cervical collar blackish brown and white; chin, throat, and breast, dirty brown, the feathers edged and tipped with dirty reddish white. Primary and secondary wing coverts blackish brown, with grey transverse bands; primary quill feathers with the outer vanes marked by alternate transverse bands of deep hoary grey and brownish black; inner ones with a considerable proportion of bluish grey, variegated by transverse partial blackish bands, the inner edges of vanes towards quills, clear white; towards tips the feathers all nearly uniform brownish black; secondaries brown and deep bluish grey, in alternate transverse bands; inner edges of inner vanes white. Tail with five blackish brown, transverse bands, and six bluish grey ones, besides bluish grey tips. Legs and toes yellow; claws black. Length eighteen inches.

Inhabits South Africa.

Falco ranivorus, Daud. Shaw. *Zool.* Le Grenouillard, Le Vaill. *Afriq. pl.* 23.

Circus maurus, Temm. Bill black; the base of lower mandible and the portion of the edge of upper adjoining it, yellow; cere and eyes yellow; head, neck, back, rump, shoulders, and all the under parts, brownish black, verging on pure black; the bases of the feathers of the nape pure white. Outer vanes of primary quill feathers hoary grey; inner vanes towards quills white; elsewhere brown or black; secondaries with the outer

vanes hoary, the inner ones nearly white, and both, towards tips, crossed by a broad blackish band; upper tail coverts white, under ones black, some of them narrowly tipped with white. Tail above black, with four transverse bands of dark bluish grey, and the tips of all the feathers greyish white; the vanes close to quills pure silky white. Legs and toes yellow; claws black. Length from bill to base of tail ten inches; length of latter nine inches and a half.

Young.—Front blackish brown; crown and part of nape light rufous, variegated with brownish black streaks or clouds; back of neck an uniform brownish black, feathers broadly tipped with pale rufous or tawny white: chin, throat, breast, and belly, tawny rufous; the two first with brownish streaks or spots, the third clouded by brownish blotches, and the last slightly marked by longitudinal brown streaks. Quill feathers with the grey less clear, and the tips of the feathers tawny white. Tail blackish brown, with three distinct white transverse bands, and the bases and tips of all the feathers white. Legs and toes dirty yellow.

Inhabits South Africa.

Circus Swainsonii, Smith. Front and eyebrows white; upper parts ashy grey; the tail coverts faintly banded with brown; under parts and insides of shoulders pure white. Primary and secondary wing coverts grey, faintly tipped with white; quill feathers towards points brown black, outer vanes towards quills grey, inner vanes white. Tail rounded, the centre feathers brown-grey with four or five broad, dark brown bands; lateral feathers pale fulvous or tawny white, banded irregularly with dark brown; the tips of all the feathers white. Bill black with a faint yellow mark on the edges of both upper and lower mandible towards base; cere, legs, and toes yellow; claws black. Length seventeen inches and a half.

Young.—Front and eyebrows whitish; top of head and back of neck pale rufous, variegated with longitudinal dark brown stripes; back and shoulders dull brown, the feathers margined with rufous; upper tail coverts white; chin whitish; under parts pale fulvous, darkest on the throat and breast; many of the feathers with a dark rufous brown stripe in the course of the shaft. Outer tail feathers banded pale fulvous and dark brown.

Inhabits South Africa.

Circus supercilii, Smith. *South African Quarterly Journal*, vol. i. p. 385. (*the young*.)

Circus Le Vaillantii, Smith. Bill black; base of lower mandible yellow. Front, chin, nape, cervix, and part of breast, white or rufous white; the feathers of the neck and nape each

with a spot of brown at tip; interscapulars and back dirty brown; upper tail coverts brown, with their tips pale tawny; throat, sides of neck, and anterior part of breast, blackish brown; flanks, belly, thighs, and vent, reddish brown, inclined to dirty ferruginous; shoulders variegated brown and pale tawny; inside of wings dark tawny, spotted with brown. Primary and secondary wing coverts brown, with tawny tips; primary quill feathers dark brown, the inner vanes towards quills light tawny, variegated by longitudinal waved dusky lines; secondaries similarly coloured. Tail nearly even, dark brown, with the three outermost feathers of each side distinctly marked by transverse interrupted tawny bands; centre ones with indistinct light coloured bands on inner vanes; tips of all the feathers tawny. Legs and toes greenish yellow; claws black. Length about eighteen inches.

Young.—Plumage an uniform dark brown, very slightly variegated by some streaks of bright tawny about the chin, front, and anterior edges of shoulders. The brown of the upper parts is dark and clear; that of the lower reddish brown or ferruginous. Tail feathers nearly uniform brown, with tawny tips, and some similarly coloured spots towards quills. Bill blackish blue, the lower mandible yellow at base. Legs and toes dirty yellow.

Inhabits South Africa.

SUB-FAM. FALCONINA.

Bill curved from the base, with one or more strong teeth upon the edge of the upper mandible; wings as long or longer than the tail, first feather long, second longest.

GENUS FALCO. *Bechst.*

Bill strong, conical, curved from the base with a strong tooth on edge of upper mandible, the lower notched near point; nostrils round, situated near anterior edge of cere; tarsi short, more or less robust, their upper third feathered, the rest reticulated. Tail moderately long, slightly graduated, broad, and rounded; hinder toe strong; claws falciform; cere nearly naked.

Falco peregrinus, Lin. Head and upper part of neck bluish black, rest of upper parts ashy blue, the feathers crossed by irregular blackish bands; quill feathers blackish, with a hoary tint on the outer vanes, inner vanes with transverse tawny or white stripes; edges of shoulders white; tail ashy with numerous transverse black bands, broadest towards the tips which are dull white. Beneath each eye a broad black streak;

throat and breast white, the latter with a few longitudinal black striæ; belly dull greyish white with many small irregular-shaped black spots. Eyes brown; bill bluish; base of lower mandible, space round eyes, and the legs, yellow. Length thirteen inches

Young.—Head bluish brown; feathers finely edged and tipped with rufous; nape and back of neck variegated blackish brown and tawny white; back blackish feathers with rufous tips; chin and throat pure white; breast and belly tawny, variegated with oblong blackish spots, largest on the flanks; tail brownish black with seven or eight transverse rufous bands, tips white; legs and toes greenish yellow; claws black.

Inhabits Africa and Europe,—not uncommon in South Africa.

Le Faucon, Buff. *pl. enl. pl.* 421. The Blue-back Falcon, Penn. *Brit. Zool.* *Falco Peregrinoides*, Smith, *South African Quarterly Journal*, vol. i. p. 235. Spervel of the Cape Colonists.

Falco biarmicus, Temm. Front and anterior part of crown black, rest of crown and nape rufous; back of neck, interscapulars, back, upper tail coverts, and shoulders, bluish grey, with dark slate coloured transverse bands; from the eye to the nape a black stripe, and another behind the angle of the mouth; sides of neck, and all the under parts, pale tawny-white. Bill bluish, the base of the lower mandible yellow; eyes dark brown. Primary and secondary wing coverts hoary blue, with dusky grey-white transverse bands; primary and secondary wing feathers brownish; the inner vanes, for the greater part of their length, partially crossed by somewhat conical white spots. Tail hoary white, with ten or eleven moderately broad, black bands; the intermediate spaces thinly sprinkled with minute brownish black dots or lines; tips of all the feathers white; cere, legs and toes, yellow; claws black. Length of male fifteen inches, of female seventeen inches.

Young.—Head rufous, the front and nape variegated with black; back of neck and interscapulars blackish, with the feathers finely tipped with rufous; the black stripes on sides of head less strongly marked than in full-grown specimens. Sides of the neck rufous; chin and throat tawny-white; breast and anterior part of belly pale rufous, with a roundish black blotch towards the middle of each feather; hinder part of belly, under tail coverts, and thighs, pale rufous, without variegations. Primary and secondary wing feathers blackish, with the inner vanes marked by transverse oviform pale tawny spots, all tipped with light rufous. Tail blackish, with seven or eight irregular transverse rufous bands; all the feathers broadly tipped with rufous. Bill bluish green, with shades of black, and the lower mandible with a very faint tinge of greenish yellow at base; cere

dusky greenish yellow ; eyes dark brown ; legs and toes yellowish white ; claws a dark horn-colour.

Inhabits South Africa.

Falco chiqueroides, Smith. *S. A. Quarterly Journal*, vol. i. p. 233.

Falco concolor, Temm. *Male*.—Bill black ; cere and legs yellow ; plumage ashy grey ; tail finely banded with a paler tint, and each feather slightly rayed longitudinally with a deeper colour than that of the body.

Femole.—a dusky lead-colour.

Inhabits Senegal, Barbary, Egypt, and Arabia.

Falco rupicolus, Daudin. Bill bluish black towards tip, bluish white at base ; cere yellow ; eyes brown ; head, together with the back and sides of neck, dull blue-grey, each feather marked along the centre by a fine longitudinal black streak ; interscapulars, back, shoulders, and scapulars, deep rufous, with irregular or somewhat triangular black spots ; chin tawny ; breast rufous, variegated with longitudinal black lines ; belly rufous, with black spots ; vent and thighs tawny, without variegations. Primary and secondary wing coverts black, with irregular tawny-white transverse bands ; primary wing feathers black, the inner vanes nearly completely crossed by numerous white indentations ; secondaries blackish, both vanes crossed by irregular rufous bands. Tail dark bluish grey, with seven or eight black bands, the last nearly an inch in width : on the three outermost feathers of each side the black only appears upon the inner vanes ; all the feathers broadly tipped with white. Legs and toes yellow ; claws black. Length of male twelve inches, of female fourteen inches.

Young.—Head and neck rufous tawny, with indistinct longitudinal black streaks ; back and shoulders light rufous, with large irregular or triangular black spots ; chin nearly white ; throat light tawny rufous, with irregular streaks like those on the head ; belly of the same ground colour as breast, and streaked or spotted before, behind like the vent and thighs, without variegations. Wing feathers all distinctly tipped with white. Tarsi, toes, and cere, dull yellow.

Falco rupicoloides, Smith. Head, neck, back, shoulders, and scapulars, pale tawny, clouded with pale rufous ; the head and neck variegated with longitudinal black stripes ; the back, shoulders, and scapulars, with broad brown transverse bars ; rump brown with blue-white bars. Throat and under parts a pale fawn-colour, the breast and belly with a few brown stripes ; flanks rayed with brown. Quill feathers brown, inner vanes banded with pale rufous. Tail brown, with about six bluish

white transverse bands, tips of the feathers pure white. Bill bluish black, base of lower mandible yellow; cere, tarsi, and toes, yellow; claws black; eyes sandy-grey. Length sixteen inches.

Inhabits South Africa.

Falco punctatus, Cuvier. Above deep rufous; head and neck variegated with longitudinal black stripes; back and shoulders with broad transverse black blotches: below white, breast with longitudinal brown blotches, belly and vent with roundish, brown-black, spots. Primary quill feathers black, inner vanes partially crossed by white or rufous bars; secondaries rufous, barred with black. Tail dark rufous with about six transverse black bands, the tips of feathers rufous white. Bill blackish blue, base of lower mandible yellow. Legs and toes greenish yellow. Length of male eleven inches, of female twelve inches.

Inhabits Isle of France and Madagascar.

Obs. In the specimens from Madagascar the black spots on the back are generally smaller, the under parts are principally rufous, and the tail blue-grey with black transverse bars.

Falco subbuteo, Lath. Head and upper part of neck dark blue-grey, rest of upper parts light blue-grey; the shafts of all the feathers black; over each eye a narrow rufous-white stripe, and below each, a black crescent, the one extremity extending under the eye, the other on a line with the base of lower mandible; sides of neck, throat, breast, and belly, tawny-white; the two last freely variegated with longitudinal black blotches; vent, under tail coverts, and thighs, rufous. Outer vanes of wing feathers hoary-blue, inner dull brown, crossed with white bars towards quills, all very finely margined and tipped with dull white. Tail slightly rounded, the two centre feathers blue-grey, the rest blue-grey banded on the inner vanes with pale rufous and tipped with tawny white. Bill bluish, base of lower mandible yellow; cere, legs, and toes, yellow; claws black. Length thirteen inches.

Inhabits South Africa and Europe.

Le Hobereau, Buff. Hobby Falcon, Lath. *Falco Cuvierii*, Smith, *South African Quarterly Journal*, vol. i. p. 392. 0

Falco Lythofalco, Lin. Upper parts of body and tail ashy-blue, the centres of feathers with a longitudinal brown stripe; five irregular black transverse bands formed by isolated spots upon the tail, the one towards the point very broad; tips of the feathers inclined to white. Throat white, rest of under parts yellow-rufous with longitudinal brown spots; bill blue; cere, space round eyes, and feet, yellow. Quill feathers rayed on inner vanes with white; sometimes a rufous or yellow rufous

collar towards lower part of neck above. Length of male eleven inches.

Young.—Upper parts dark brown, feathers bordered with rufous; tail blackish, with five narrow brown-red bands; the bands of primary quill feathers rufous white.

Inhabits Egypt, Porto Rico, and Europe.

Falco æsalon. Linn. Le Rochier, Buff. *Ois.*

FAM. STRIGIDÆ. *Vigors*.—OWLS.

Bill straight at base, curved towards the point; cere membranous covered with stiff hair or setaceous feathers; sides of upper mandible a little dilated towards edges, the lower mandible shorter than the upper, truncated and notched at point; nostrils rounded, oblique, entirely open or covered by the setaceous feathers of the cere; tarsi mostly feathered, when not feathered, reticulated; the anterior toes nearly equal, the external versatile, moderately robust; claws strong and retractile. Tail generally moderate, even, rarely elongated and graduated.

Genus *SURNIA*. *Dumeril*.

Head rounded without enlarged conch or egrets; tarsi and toes feathered to the claws; tail long, graduated.

Surnia choucou. Base of bill surrounded by fine feathers resembling hairs; upper part of head, back of neck, interscapulars, and wing coverts, reddish grey-brown; the latter variegated with white spots; wing feathers tipped with white. Tail composed of twelve feathers, the two centre ones grey-brown like the wings, the rest grey-brown, the outer vanes banded with pure white, the inner vanes pure white without bands. Throat and under parts pure white; the feathers of the legs very long; insides of shoulders white. Bill small, and like the claws black; eyes bright orange. Length eight inches and a half; figure slender. Wings when folded reach to the middle of the tail.

Inhabits South Africa,—towards the Knysna.

Strix choucou, Lath. Le Choucou, Le Vaill. *Ois. d'Afrique*. pl. 38.

Surnia nisus. Plumage above brown, of different tints, passing insensibly from the deepest to the lightest shades, or even in some to white; throat with a sort of collar or white blotch. Breast, and under parts of body, of the same colour as the back, but disposed in somewhat regular transverse bars, lightest towards the legs; the latter covered with fine silky grey-white feathers. Tail beneath banded brown-black and

reddish white, above the white is more pure and the brown lighter. Bill and claws brown black; eyes deep topaz yellow; wings when folded extend over two-thirds of the tail. Length about twelve inches.

Inhabits South Africa,—Great Namaqualand.

Strix nisueda, Lath. Le Chou-con-hou, Le Vaill. *Afriq. pl.* 39.

Obs. In the figure given by Le Vaillant, the facial disc is margined by two rows of brown spots.

Genus NOCTUA. Savigny.

Head without everts, ear opening oval, moderate. Facial disc little developed, almost incomplete; toes feathered or covered with rigid hairs; tail short, equal.

Noctua hirsuta. Forehead and lores whitish with a few black hairs at the base of the beak; top of head and nape ashy brown; back wing coverts and quills an uniform brown; scapulars and inner secondaries spotted on inner webs with white; throat reddish; breast and belly whitish, varied with large reddish brown spots; tail feathers banded with four bars of brown and four of ash-colour, their tips white; toes marbled with red and brown, their edges with rough excrescences of a yellowish colour, and a regular series of strong bristles; bill black; the tail white.

Inhabits Madagascar, India, and Ceylon.

Strix hirsuta, Temm. *pl. col.* 289.

Noctua occipitalis. Forehead and upper part of head reddish, dotted with white; upper part of body brown and yellow, with white spots encircled with black; male with a whitish band on the occiput; female, a reddish one; on each side of this a band composed of a tuft of feathers spotted with black and white; all the lower parts of body dashed with clear red; quills regularly banded, alternately, brown and reddish. Tail feathers brown or yellow, with five white spots on both webs, those on the outer ones smallest; legs and toes covered with a very short down; beak yellowish, with some white hairs on its sides as well as near the eyes. Length seven inches.

Inhabits Africa.

Strix occipitalis, Temm. *pl. col.* 34.

Noctua Woodfordii, Smith. Above brown, freely sprinkled with somewhat triangular, clear white spots, and the back, scapulars, and shoulders, marked besides with narrow transverse, obscure white, or dull tawny zig-zag lines; the outer-

most scapulars principally white, forming an irregular oblique band of that colour on each side; shoulders also with some large white spots. Primary quill feathers dull brown, the outer vanes barred with white, the inner ones with tawny; secondaries light brown. Facial disc white sprinkled with brown, but immediately around the eye pure black; eyebrows white, feathers crossed by narrow black bars; guttural collar white, crossed with black lines; sides of neck and breast tawny brown marked with brown and white transverse bars; belly irregularly banded black and white, and more or less clouded with pale rufous; legs rufous white with waved transverse brown lines. Tail brown with narrow bands of tawny white, which are generally edged by a darker brown; tips of feathers dull white. Bill and eyes yellow, the feathers about base of bill setaceous, white towards bases, black toward extremities; toes above covered with setaceous feathers, on the sides bare, reticulated and yellow; claws a dark horn-colour. Length about twelve inches.

Inhabits South Africa,—rare.

Large-eyed Owl, Latham. ? *History of Birds*, vol. i. p. 360

Noctua Cupensis, Smith. The upper parts of the head, and the back and sides of the neck, brown, each feather towards tip crossed by a narrow white bar; interseapulars, back, rump and shoulders, black-brown, the feathers with two or more waved, narrow, rufous, transverse stripes, several of the outermost scapulars principally white, giving rise to a stripe of that colour on each side of the back; on shoulders also some large white blotches; edges of shoulders white. Quill feathers brown, crossed with narrow rufous or white bands. Throat brown mixed with white; breast brown, barred irregularly with white and tawny; belly pure white variegated with ferruginous brown blotches; thighs tawny, mottled with black-brown. Tail dark black-brown, crossed by twelve very narrow rufous bars, and tipped with rufous. Bill greenish yellow; claws yellow at bases, blackish towards points. Length nine inches.

Inhabits South Africa,—rare.

Noctua perlata, Vieill. Upper parts of head and neck rufous-brown or simple brown, spotted freely with white; in front of interseapulars a more or less distinct light rufous collar; the rest of upper parts brown, sparingly spotted with white, each spot encircled by black-brown; several of the outermost scapulars half-white, forming a continuous line of that colour on each side of back; shoulders with a few white blotches intermingled with the white spots. Wings brown, imperfectly barred with white or pale rufous. Under parts either rufous variegated

with white, or an irregular mixture of brown rufous and white, the vent and under tail coverts, in some, nearly pure white. Tail dark brown, crossed by five or six rows of white spots, the last row at the tips of the feathers. Bill yellowish; claws a dark horn-colour. Length seven inches.

Inhabits Southern Africa and Senegal.

Le Perlèc Levaill, *pl.* 284. *Strix perlatà*, Vieillot.

Genus SCOPS. *Savigny.*

Head with lateral egrets; facial disc incomplete or indistinctly formed; tarsi feathered to the toes; tail short.

Scops Europeus. Above brown, finely variegated with white, grey-white, and tawny white bars or spots, and with black longitudinal stripes; sides of head from bill to egret white, the feathers crossed with delicate black lines; egrets brown, finely marked with black and white variegations; rostral feathers long and rigid, white towards bases, the points black; cervical collar brown-black and white, most distinct on sides of neck; outermost scapulars with large tawny-white spots. Wing feathers blackish brown, outer vanes barred with white, inner vanes towards margins marked with a series of rufous spots. Under parts grey-white clouded with tawny, variegated with fine black undulated bars and longitudinal black blotches and stripes. Tail tawny-white, finely and closely barred with brown or black, some of the bars of the latter colour being longer than others give the appearance of narrow irregular black bands; tips of feathers tawny. Legs pale tawny more or less pointed with brown. Eyes, toes and base of bill yellow; tip of bill and claws black. Length seven inches.

Inhabits South Africa, Senegal, and Europe.

Strix Scops, Linn. Le Scops or Petit-Duc, Buff. Scops-eared Owl, Lath. *Orn.*

Obs. Most Ornithologists regard the Owl above described as identical with the little-eared Owl of Europe, yet I am much disposed to consider it as distinct. Its colours are much darker and differently disposed, and in themselves, even different on the inner vanes of wing feathers: I am the more inclined to this opinion, as I have now before me a specimen from Senegal, which exactly corresponds with the European Scops. The colours of the South African bird being constantly different, it may perhaps be designated as the *Scops Capensis*, and that of Senegal as the *Scops Europeus*.

Genus OTUS. *Cuvier.*

Ear opening very large, extending from the bill to nearly the top of the head, with a membranous operculum in front; head with egrets erectile at the pleasure of the bird; bill long, compressed, and curved from the base; tarsi feathered to the toes.

Otus ascalaphus. Egrets or horns rudimentary and slender; setaceous feathers of the cheeks directed upwards and very short above the eyes, and assist in giving a flattened appearance to the forehead and top of the head; beak black; body, wings, and tail, whitish red varied with different shades; the whole body spotted and striped with brown-black, the spots lanceolate on the head and nape, confluent on the ears; the quills and tail feathers with broad bands and narrow zigzag brown stripes; breast dashed with the same; the rest of the under part with fine transverse stripes. Under surface of tail white, with five or six narrow dusky transverse bands; throat and middle of breast white; tarsi long, and as well as the toes covered with whitish feathers. Length about eighteen inches.

Inhabits Egypt.

Strix Ascalaphus, Savig. *Egypt. Temm. pl. col. 57.*

Otus leucotis. Egrets placed above the eyes, long and pointed, which, with the feathers of the head and nape, are dull white varied with reddish zigzag lines, and a longitudinal black stripe in the direction of the shafts, the tip of each feather is black; face and cheeks white with a rufous tinge under the eyes and a broad black band behind, extending to the egrets; edges of wings and large coverts white, upper and under parts of body light rufous, variegated with black and vermiculated with brown; quills and tail feathers ashy, delicately marked with brownish zigzag lines and broad transverse stripes; vent white, with brown stripes. Bill a whitish horn-colour, and nearly covered by pure white bristles. Length six inches.

Inhabits Senegal.

Strix leucotis, Temm. *pl. col. 16.*

Otus maculosus. Above brown or black-brown; the upper parts of head, neck, and interscapulars, irregularly spotted with white or tawny-white; the back, scapulars, and shoulders, mottled with white or tawny-white undulated bars or blotches. Face grey, the feathers crossed by black bars; egrets brown, spotted with white; chin white; cervical collar dark brown, mottled with white in front of neck; in front of breast a large white crescent. Breast and flanks white, barred with brown and blotched with black; belly and legs tawny or pure white, more regularly barred with narrow brown lines. Tail slightly rounded, two centre feathers brown with four or five irregular tawny-white bars; lateral feathers brown with the transverse tawny bars more distinct. Eyes fine yellow; bill and claws black. Length eighteen inches.

Inhabits South Africa,—common.

Strix maculosus, Vieill. *Gal. pl. 23.* *Strix Africanus*, Tem. *pl. 56.*

Otus Capensis, Smith. Above brown, finely freckled or marked with pale tawny, undulating lines and the shoulders variegated with some large tawny blotches; face tawny-white, mixed with black near the eyes; egrets small, brown variegated with tawny; cervical collar dark brown, spotted with fulvous in front of neck. Anterior part of breast nearly an uniform brown, rest of breast and belly finely mottled brown and white, the colours principally disposed in zig-zag transverse lines and bars, and in some specimens the shafts are deep brown; vent and tail coverts tawny-white. Primary wing feathers pale fulvous, irregularly barred with brown, and the points entirely brown; secondaries brown with partial fulvous bands, the tips tawny white, more or less mottled with brown. Tail slightly rounded, the two centre feathers brown, with four tawny bars, the distal one broken and indistinct, the outer feathers tawny white with three brown bars, the extremities of all the feathers nearly pure white. Legs tawny white; bill and claws black. Length fourteen inches.

Inhabits South Africa,—in marshy situations.

Marsh Owl of the Cape Colonists.

Otus Madagascariensis, Smith. Above blackish brown, each feather with a tawny blotch on each vane, producing a mottled appearance; scapulars blotched, banded or undulated with tawny. Wing feathers dull brown, with tawny bars, many of them brownish towards their centres. Egrets black-brown, some of the feathers blotched on both vanes with tawny, others only on outer vanes; cheeks tawny-brown; shafts and points of feathers black; rostral feathers black and white. Throat crossed by an obscure white crescent, and below that an indistinct collaret which extends on each side of the neck nearly to the egrets, and is mottled black-brown and tawny-white. Under parts tawny with longitudinal brown blotches, largest on the breast. Legs tawny rufous with a few brown variegations. Tail dark brown, with four or five light brown bands margined with tawny. Bill bluish black; claws black. Length fifteen inches.

Inhabits Madagascar.

Obs. This species stands close to *Otus brachyotos*, but differs from it particularly in the want of white spots on the upper parts, and in the distribution of the colours of the collaret and hinder parts of the belly:

GENUS STRIX. Savigny.

Bill straight at base, curved towards tip; ear opening ample with a large operculum; the circle of setaceous feathers of face much developed; no egrets; tarsi feathered; toes covered with hairs.

Strix Capensis, Smith. Upper parts brown, clouded with black-brown, and thinly spotted with white dots; under parts yellowish white freely mottled with small brown spots. Facial disc clear white with a large black blotch at the inner angle of each eye; cervical collar dull white, the feathers tipped with tawny-brown, and streaked along their centres with dark brown. Wings about two inches longer than the tail; primary wing feathers brown, irregularly mottled with fulvous towards quills; secondaries tawny without, white within, and imperfectly barred with brown, the tips chiefly brown, edges of shoulders tawny-white, insides white, mottled with black spots. Tail short, two centre feathers brown with some white spots at tips, outermost feathers white imperfectly banded with brown, intermediate ones tawny-brown on outer vanes, white on inner, and both partially barred with brown. Tarsi a uniform yellowish white; bill yellowish white; eyes brown-black; toes yellow with a thin sprinkling of rigid yellowish hairs; claws horn-yellow. Length seventeen inches.

Inhabits South Africa.

Genus BUBO. Cuvier.

Ear opening small; facial disc indistinct; head with two egrets; tarsi feathered to the toes.

Bubo lactea. Bill large, blackish blue towards tarsi, yellowish towards point, and furnished on each side with long, narrow, bristly, black feathers; cheeks white, broadly margined behind with deep black; egrets black towards points, waved black and white towards bases; crown waved black and white; rest of upper parts dull brown, finely and irregularly waved with dull white lines; chin white, undulated with brown; throat pure white; breast and belly dull white, waved with delicate irregularly disposed zigzag lines. Primary wing feathers white towards quills, brown towards tips, and banded with blackish transverse bands; secondaries banded alternately brown and dull white, the latter with fine brown undulations. Tail rounded, banded alternately brown and white, the white bands about four in number, are mottled with brown; on the outer vanes of all the feathers; legs dull white with waved transverse brown lines; claws black. Length of male about twenty inches, of female about two feet.

Inhabits South Africa and Senegal.

Strix lactea Temm. *pl col.* 4.

Bubo Capensis, Smith. *Young*.—Upper parts of head blackish brown, the feathers blotched and tipped with tawny; egret blackish, variegated on inner edges with clear tawny; back and

sides of neck dark brown, mottled with fulvous, the latter in large spots upon both vanes; back and shoulders blackish brown dashed with fulvous or tawny-white. Wing feathers black-brown with tawny bands, the latter often brown in the middle, particularly on the secondaries. Facial disc principally pale tawny-brown, at inner angles of eyes white; the rostral feathers tipped with black; cervical collar blackish, mottled with white at the throat, towards extremities brown; chin, and a large crescent in front of breast, white; breast and belly blackish brown, variegated freely with large transverse tawny blotches, which, towards the thighs, exhibit a whitish tint; legs rufous-white with small brown blotches; toes rufous-white, without variegations. Tail slightly rounded, the outermost feathers of each side banded black-brown and tawny-white, the bands of the latter colour brown in the middle, the centre feathers blackish brown with tawny bands, dusky in the middle; tips of all the feathers tawny-white, finely mottled with brown. Bill black; eyes yellow; claws light horn-coloured, darkest towards points. Length twenty-two inches.

Inhabits South Africa.

Obs. This bird I am convinced is distinct from the *Bubo Europeanus*. Adult specimens are said to be marked nearly as the young ones.

ORDER INSESSORES. *Vigors.*

Bill various; legs short or moderate; tarsi usually clothed with feathers; toes flat beneath; claws slender, moveable, somewhat retractile, curved and acute.

TRIBE FISSIROSTRES.

Bill broad at the base, gape very wide; legs short.

FAM. MEROPIDÆ.

Genus MEROPS.

Bill longer than the head, curved, rounded, slightly compressed on the sides, and pointed; nostrils lateral, rounded or in the form of a longitudinal fissure. Wings long and pointed, first or third quill the longest. Tail long, even; graduated or forked, often the two middle feathers longer than the others and terminating in narrow points. Tarsi short, slender, and scutellated.

• *With the middle tail feathers elongated.*

Merops Apiaster, Lin. Throat yellow, margined behind with black; front greenish white; occiput, back of neck, and interscapulars, maronne; back, rufous-yellow; middle of wings dark rufous; quill feathers and tail, olive-green; ocular band black; breast and belly, bluish green. Bill black; eyes red; feet brown. The two middle tail feathers an inch longer than the others. Length from bill to point of tail eleven inches.

Young.—Above brown-green; eyebrows rufous; no black collar; tail feathers all of equal length.

Inhabits Africa and Europe,—during the summer in South Africa.

Merops Malimbicus, Shaw. Head and neck slate-grey; chin white, passing in the form of a streak on each side of the throat; upper parts of body, wings, and tail, vinaceous ash-colour; quill feathers blackish brown; eye band blackish brown. Lower part of throat, breast, belly, and thighs, a fine deep or sanguine rose-colour, palest towards the vent. The two middle tail feathers about an inch and a half longer than the others, and terminate in narrow points. Bill and legs black; eyes red. Length about ten inches.

Inhabits Malimba.

Merops bicolor, Daud.

Merops Nubicus, Lin. Head and throat sea-green, the latter margined below with black; eye band black; neck, back, breast, and belly, bright red; wings and tail a dull red; quill feathers black at the tips, clouded with green; scapulars green-brown; tail feathers pointed with obscure green, the two centre ones much longer than the others, narrow towards the points, and of a blue-black colour; rump, vent, and under tail coverts, light blue. Bill black. Length from bill to point of middle tail feathers eleven inches and a half.

Inhabits Africa,—rare in South Africa.

Merops cæruleocephalus, Shaw.

Merops Ægyptius, Savig. Front yellowish white; forehead and eyebrows light green; top of head, neck, back, shoulders, breast, belly, and vent, dark green; eye band black, edged below by light green; anterior part of throat yellow, hinder part maronne; outer vanes of wing feathers olive-green, inner vanes dark dusky green, all tipped with black; tail feathers olive-green, the two centre ones about two inches longer than the others, narrow towards points, and green-black. Bill black; legs and toes brown. Length ten inches and a half.

Inhabits South Africa.

Var. Front, eyebrows, and line from base of lower mandible, white or green-white; upper parts, particularly head and neck, dull brown-green; breast light olive-green; belly light green, palest towards vent.

Inhabits Madagascar.

Merops Savignii, Le Vaill. *pl.* 6. *Merops superciliosus*, Lin.?

Obs. A variety of this species occurs in India and Java, with the rump, vent, tail, eyebrows, and stripe under eyeband, light blue, the upper parts olive-green; the belly light green.

Merops Cuvierii, Le Vaill. Front, eyebrows, and throat, white; top of head, eye-band, and middle of throat, black; neck, above rufous-green; interscapulars and shoulders green; scapulars blue-green; outer vanes of quill feathers olive-brown, inner vanes rufous green, all tipped with black. Back, rump, tail, and a transverse bar below, black; of throat, blue-green; breast and belly greenish white; vent light blue; two centre tail feathers longest, and narrow towards points, where they are of a black colour. Bill black. Length to tip of tail eleven inches.

Inhabits Senegal.

Merops Savignii, Swain. *Zool. Ill. pl.* 76. Le Vaill. *pl.* 9.

** *With the tail even.*

Merops Bullockii. The upper parts of the head, back, shoulders, rump, and tail coverts, green; back and sides of neck rufous-green; wing feathers green; the primaries faintly and the secondaries distinctly tipped with black. Eye-band black; throat red; breast and belly rufous-green; vent and under tail coverts dark blue. Tail even, two centre feathers green. Bill and legs black. Length seven inches.

Inhabits Senegal.

Merops Bullockoides, Smith. Front greenish white; eyebrows green; top of head and back of neck, pale chestnut, clouded with green; back, shoulders, wings, and tail, dark green; the secondary quill feathers broadly tipped with black; eye band black, edged below with white; throat red; breast and belly rusty olive-green; rump, vent, and under tail coverts, deep blue. Bill and legs black; tail even. Length eight inches.

Inhabits South Africa.

Obs. This may be only a variety of the former, or the opposite sex.

(*To be continued.*)