

Diagnosis. Darker above, rather richer rufescent below, than *rubeculus*.

Specimens examined. Queensland: Sedan, Vindex. Northern Territory: Alice Springs, Finke River. Western Australia: Derby, Parry's Creek, Point Torment.

12. *Pomatostomus temporalis nigrescens* (Mathews)

Pomatorhinus temporalis nigrescens Mathews, *Novitates Zoologicae*, vol. 18, no. 3, Jan. 31, 1912, p. 335 (Strelley River, Western Australia).

Diagnosis. Nearest *innominatus*, but with upper parts even more nigrescent (darker than in any other race).

Specimens examined. Western Australia: Coongan River, Minilya, Nullagine River, Nully Pool, Point Cloates, Strelley River.

Two New Races of the Spotted Nightjar, *Eurostopodus guttatus* (Vigors & Horsfield)

By H. G. DEIGNAN, Washington, U.S.A.*

In connection with my studies of the birds collected in the Northern Territory by the Commonwealth of Australia/National Geographic Society/Smithsonian Institution Expedition to Arnhem Land, I have had occasion to investigate the subspecies of the Spotted Nightjar. A thorough-going revision of the Australian races proved to be impracticable, owing to the lack of American topotypes of the nominated one, and the limited material available of other southern populations, but the reasonably long series seen from more northern areas permit me to name two hitherto unrecognized forms, one Australian, the other extra-limital.

My thanks are due Dr. Ernst Mayr of the American Museum of Natural History (New York), through whose courtesy I have been able to utilize the specimens in the Mathews Collection of Australian birds and to christen the population of the Babar Islands.

The new races may be characterized as follows:

1. *Eurostopodus guttatus gilberti* new subspecies.

Type.—No. 405836, United States National Museum (eventually to be deposited in the Australian Museum, Sydney), adult male, collected at Ambukwamba ('Umbakumba'), Groote Eylandt, Gulf of Carpentaria, on June 4, 1948, by H. G. Deignan (original number 274).

Diagnosis.—The very broad and conspicuous black scapular markings and the vermiculations of black and deep

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grey (rather than grey and some shade of brown) combine to make this the most nigrescent of all the known forms when viewed from above.

From *E. g. harterti* (Newery Station, N.T.), previously supposed to be the only subspecies in the Northern Territory, *gilberti* differs in having the buff of the posterior under parts slightly deeper in hue, the general coloration above dark grey, marked with rich buff (not light brownish grey, marked with a much paler buff), and the grey of the rectrices slightly darker.

Range.—That portion of the Northern Territory which has an annual rainfall in excess of 40 inches.

Remarks.—Of the paratypes, no. 405837, United States National Museum, adult male, collected at Ambukwamba, Groote Eylandt, on June 6, 1948, by H. G. Deignan (original number 283), most nearly resembles the type specimen.

2. *Eurostopodus guttatus insulanus* new subspecies.

Type.—No. 632527, American Museum of Natural History, adult male, collected at Tapa, Babar Island, Banda Sea, on September 8, 1905, by hunters for H. Kühn (original number 6877).

Diagnosis.—Similar to *E. g. harterti* above; beneath, with the buff pale as in *harterti*, but almost restricted to the lower abdomen, so that the breast and upper abdomen are barred blackish brown and buffy white or buffy grey (not blackish brown and buff or reddish buff).

Range.—Babar Island; Romah Island.

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The following specimens have been examined:

Eurostopodus guttatus insulanus. Southwest Islands: Babar Island (5), Romah Island (1).

E. g. gilberti. Northern Territory: Darwin (1), Yirrkala (1), Ambukwamba (4).

E. g. harterti. Queensland: Cloncurry (1), Normanton (4). Northern Territory: Newery Station (1, the type), 'Alligator River' (1), 'Katherine River' (1), 100 miles south of Darwin (1). Western Australia: Derby (2), Nullagine (1), Obagama (3), Point Cloates (1), Running Water—50 miles northwest of Lake Way (1).

E. g. ?guttatus. Victoria: Daytrap (1), Mallee (1).

E. g. subsp. innom. South Australia: 30 miles east of Farina (2).

Birds from Derby, Nullagine, and Obagama differ from Territorian *harterti* in having the buff markings of the upper parts slightly deeper and the colour of the posterior under parts rather richer, but these characters seem to me too tenuous to deserve nomenclatorial recognition.

Three of the specimens seen from Normanton are paler than all others, but the fourth agrees so well with the

type specimen of *harterti*, that Mathews' name must be applied to them.

The two skins from South Australia will almost certainly prove to be representative of a still undiagnosed race, the elucidation of which may be left to Australian ornithologists.

I have named the new subspecies from the Territorian coasts in honour of John Gilbert, a great explorer-naturalist who has been strangely slighted by the describers of Australian birds.

Notes on the Birds of Lord Howe Island

By K. A. HINDWOOD, Sydney, N.S.W., and J. M. CUNNINGHAM, Masterton, N.Z.

Ten years have passed since the publication of Hindwood's paper on the birds of Lord Howe Island (1940). Additional material in the form of notes and specimens has since accumulated. Much of the subject matter now presented is the result of the interest taken in the bird life of the island by the late Captain J. D. McComish, whose death occurred on June 3, 1948, and who was in constant touch with Max. Nicholls, a keen naturalist living on the island.

Before dealing with the ornithology there are a few items of general interest worth noting. Lord Howe Island was first settled in 1834, forty-six years after its discovery in 1788. Passing ships, transports, merchantmen, and whalers sometimes sent men ashore, either from curiosity or for food. In 1830 the ship *George* was wrecked on the island and the crew spent several months there as enforced dwellers, no doubt living very well on the birds and their eggs, and on fish. The birds were so tame, not having any enemies except their own kind, that they could be knocked down with sticks, a sport indulged in by earlier visitors and graphically described in published and manuscript journals of the period. A mention of the wreck of the *George* appears in *The Sydney Gazette* (February 26, 1831, p. 2).

By the arrival of the *Rambler*, from Port Macquarie, accounts have reached Sydney that the Government Colonial brig, *Mary Elizabeth*, had put into that port on her passage to Norfolk Island, after having been 40 days at sea short of water, and topsides leaky. She touched at Lord Howe's Island and brought back the master (Rattenbury) and four men belonging to the ship *George*, a whaler from Van Diemen's Land. When the *Mary Elizabeth* proceeds again for her destination, it is supposed she will call on her return from Norfolk Island for the remainder of the crew that now remains there.

Later, the *Sydney Monitor*, of March 5, 1831, p. 3, reported—

On the 4th instant, the *Nelson* (barque), 248 tons, 21 men, Davie master, from the South Sea Fishery with 150 tons of oil; sailed from London the 10th October, 1828; brought up the crew of the *George* Whaler from Lord Howe's Island.