

Mr. ERNST HARTERT exhibited and described examples of the following apparently new species of birds:—

PODARGUS INEXPECTATUS, n. sp.

♂. Upperside brown, very finely vermiculated, darker on the rump and head, merging into whitish grey on the scapulars; wing-coverts with a number of large, roundish, very conspicuous white spots; quills deep brown, with buff bars across the outer, and part of the inner, webs; tail with very obvious bars; under surface of a vermiculated irregularly transversely mottled brown colour, spotted with black near the tips of the feathers, but with white spots only in the centre of the breast and on the chin.

♀. Rufous, but similarly marked to the male. Wing-coverts very deep rufous brown, the roundish white apical spots being therefore very conspicuous. Wing, ♀ 220, ♂ ♂ 235, 221; tail, ♀ 178, ♂ ♂ 188, 192; width of bill at gape, ♀ 52, ♂ ♂ 56, 58 mm. "Iris yellowish brown, feet light pale yellow, bill turkey-umber."

Hab. Isabel Island, Solomon Islands, June 1901.

One female and two males sent by A. S. Meek.

Obs. This species, belonging to a genus which is quite new to the Solomon Archipelago, is of all the known forms evidently nearest to *Podargus intermedius*, Hart., from the D'Entrecasteaux Islands, but differs in having the white apical spots to the wing-coverts much rounder in shape, the males being darker and having much less white on the under surface, and no distinct crescents of blackish-brown patches on the sides of the throat and chest. The upper surface is more uniform, the tail much more distinctly cross-barred than is usual in *P. intermedius*. The upper wing-coverts are very dark, the under wing-coverts less uniform and more sharply spotted. The bill is somewhat broader, as a rule. From *Podargus meeki* and *P. ocellatus* the new species is distinguished at a glance by its much larger size, while it is much smaller than *P. papuensis* and *P. strigoides*, and altogether differently marked from *P. phalænoides*.

PSEUDOPTYNX SOLOMONENSIS, n. sp.

Rufous, the underside with blackish-brown shaft-stripes, the upper surface with blackish longitudinal and transverse markings.

Obs. This unexpected species is very much like *Pseudoptynx philippinensis* and *P. gurneyi*, but differs in many details. The most striking difference is in the black markings of the back and wing-coverts, which in the two Philippine species have only wide central black stripes, while in *P. solomonensis* these markings are narrower and have a number of cross-bars, more or less irregular in shape. The buffy longitudinal stripes caused by the buff outer edgings to the scapulars and outer series of wing-coverts in the Philippine species are absent in *P. solomonensis*. The under surface is of about as rich a rufous tint as in *P. gurneyi*, darker than in *P. philippinensis*, and uniform, the abdomen and feathering of the legs being as dark as the chest. The blackish shaft-stripes are rather narrower, and the feathers on the sides of the abdomen show darker rufous, though not very distinct, cross-bars. Rectrices rufous, the lateral ones regularly, the central ones irregularly, barred across with deep brown, not any lighter on the inner webs. Stiff feathers of the chin white, the outer ones rufous with brownish-black shaft-lines. Iris brownish yellow; bare toes yellowish white; bill umber, slate-colour at base. Wing 300, tail 170, metatarsus 60, middle toe without claw 45, bill 45 mm.

Hab. Isabel Island, Solomon Islands (*A. S. Meek*).

The Hon. N. CHARLES ROTHSCHILD exhibited the skin of a male Baer's Pochard (*Nyroca baeri*), shot on the Tring Reservoirs on the 5th November, 1901—the first recorded instance of the occurrence of this Duck in a wild state in the British Islands.

The exhibitor urged in support of the view that the specimen was a wild, rather than an escaped, bird: (*a*) that no specimen of this Duck had escaped from the Zoological Gardens, where there were now four pinioned examples sent



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