

## NINOX DIMORPHA.

### Salvadori's Hawk-Owl.

*Athene dimorpha*, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. vi. p. 308 (1874).

*Ninox dimorpha*, Sharpe, Ibis, 1875, p. 258.—Id. Cat. Birds in Brit. Mus. ii. p. 175 (1875).—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. x. p. 118 (1877), xii. p. 40 (1878).—Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, iii. p. 248 (1879).—Salvad. Ibis, 1879, p. 319.—Id. Orn. Papuasie e delle Molucche, i. p. 83 (1880).

? *Athene*, sp., Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, i. p. 388 (1876), ii. p. 19 (1877).

WHEN we wrote the second volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds' this species was unknown to us, and we were indebted to the kindness of Count Salvadori for a sketch of the type specimen, from which we gathered that it might belong to the genus *Glaucidium*, or that it might even be the type of a new genus. The genus *Glaucidium*, however, is unknown in the Australian region, and the discovery of a species in Papuasie would have been somewhat surprising; but an examination of a specimen of *Ninox dimorpha* proves that all these speculations were wrong, and that the bird is a true *Ninox*, as might have been expected from the locality.

Its position in the last-named genus is very easily defined, for it can be recognized at once by its streaked breast, spotted hind neck, and banded wing-coverts, the latter resembling the back. It was originally discovered near Sorong, in North-western New Guinea, by Signor D'Albertis, and Mr. Ramsay has received an adult and a nestling bird from the vicinity of Port Moresby; of the identity of the latter specimen there may be some doubt, but that the species occurs also in South-eastern New Guinea is unquestionable, as Mr. H. O. Forbes has sent a specimen from the Sogeri district of the Astrolabe Mountains, of which we give a detailed description:—

*Adult*. General colour above dark brown, regularly banded across with light rufous, whiter on the scapulars, which have also large white patches externally; wing-coverts like the back, the rufous bars obscure on the lesser coverts, but especially distinct on the greater series, which resemble the quills; bastard-wing and primary-coverts blackish, with a few obscure rufescent bands; quills blackish, banded with rufous externally, the bands more ashy on the inner webs and at the ends of the feathers; upper tail-coverts like the back; tail-feathers blackish, barred with ashy rufous, the bands twelve in number on the centre feathers, as well as the outer ones, on which, however, they are not strictly conterminous on both webs; crown of head blackish brown, streaked with tawny rufous, with which colour the feathers are edged, the nape and hind neck being pale tawny rufous with large blackish-brown mesial spots; lores white, with some hair-like black plumes; eyebrows and base of forehead white, streaked with black; ear-coverts ashy grey, streaked with black; cheeks, feathers below the eye, and chin white with narrow black shaft-lines, the hinder cheeks tinged with tawny buff and more broadly streaked with blackish; sides of neck like the hind neck; throat, chest, and under surface of body pale tawny buff, streaked with black; the lower breast and abdomen rather whiter and more boldly streaked, sides of body and flanks buffy white; thighs and under tail-coverts white, the latter streaked with black; under wing-coverts and axillaries pale tawny buff, streaked with black; quills below blackish brown, profusely banded with ashy brown or fulvous: "bill lead-colour; toes yellow; iris yellow" (*D'Albertis*). Total length 11·5 inches, culmen 1·0, wing 8·1, tail 5·5, tarsus 1·3.

The figure in the Plate represents an adult bird, and is drawn from the specimen obtained by Mr. Forbes and described above.

[R. B. S.]