Genus NYCTIDROMUS, Gould.

CHARACTERES GENERICI.

Rostrum mediocre, ad basin latissimum, hiatu amplissimo, rictu setis elongatis instructo. Nares sub-basales, elevatæ, transversim subovales, apertæ. Alæ mediocres, remige tertio cæteris præstante. Cauda elongata, ampla, subrotundata. Tarsi nudi, elongati, anticè scutellati. Digitorum externus et internus breves, intermedius elongatus, unque pectinato; digitus posticus liber, parvus, et unque parvulo instructus.

NYCTIDROMUS DERBYANUS, Gould.

Nyct. fronte, vertice, nuchâ, et regione interscapulari cinerescentibus, minutissimè nigro punctatis; vertice et nuchâ lineâ irregulari nigrâ ornatis; genis, plumis auricularibus, mentoque rufo-fuscis, hôc obscurè nigro fasciato, lineâ cervinâ ab angulo oris; alæ tectricibus rufo, cervino, nigroque ornatis; primariis ad basin nigrescentibus, rufo fasciatis, in medio albis, ad apicem nigrescenti-fuscis; secondariis rufo fuscoque fasciatis; scapularibus rufis, nigrescenti punctatis et lineatis necnon cervino-marginatis; dorso imo, rectricibusque caudæ duabus intermediis sordidè cervinis, nigro punctatis, et obscurè fasciatis; rectrice externâ utrinque nigrâ, intùs albo marginatâ; reliquis albis; corpore subtùs cervino, fusco fasciato; pectore superiore plagâ albâ semidivisâ ornato; rostro pedibusque brunneis.

Long. tot. 12 unc.; rostri, 1\frac{3}{8}; alæ, 7; caudæ, 7; tarsi, 1\frac{1}{9}.

Forehead, top of the head, back of the neck, and space between the shoulders pale grey, minutely pencilled with black, and with an irregular mark of black from the top of the head along the back of the neck; sides of the face, ear-coverts, and chin rufous brown, the latter obscurely barred with black, a stripe of buff running from the angle of the mouth; wing-coverts mottled rufous, buff and black, each feather largely tipped with buff; base of the primaries black, banded with rufous, to which succeeds a central band of white, the remainder being brownish black; secondaries alternately with brown and rufous; scapularies rufous brown, freckled with black, bounded externally with blackish brown, and margined with buff; lower part of the back and central tail-feathers dirty buff, obscurely freckled and barred with blackish brown; outer tail-feather on each side black, with a white internal margin; the remaining tail-feathers white, under surface buff, barred with brown; a white semidivided gorget across the chest; bill and feet brown.

Nyctidromus Derbyanus, Gould, in Proc. of Zool. Soc. Part VI. 1838.

The members of this group are confined to South America; they run much on the ground, and are remarkable for the great dilatation of the base of the under maxillary bones. There are at least ten species of this peculiar form, among which has hitherto reigned the greatest confusion. The present bird, which I have reason to believe has been confounded with other proximate species, I venture to distinguish by the title of Derbyanus.

The figure is of the natural size, and is taken from a fine example kindly lent to me by the Earl of Derby.