

(3) *Ninox novaeseelandiae fusca* Vieillot

A small grey-brown race with a strong tendency to white spotting. Small partly concealed white spots on the feathers of the nape, more conspicuous and numerous white spots on scapulars, secondaries, and upper wing-coverts; light bars on inner webs of wing-feathers numerous and narrow; under parts not washed with ochre or rufous, except the thighs; the brown mark in the centre of each feather of the under parts narrowed in the middle by lateral white semilunar spots.

Wing—8 ♂ 214-221 (216.8); 9 ♀ 214-223 (219.8). Tail—8 ♂ 118-128 (122.6); 12 ♀ 111-125 (119.1). Tail index—8 ♂ 54.3-58.6 (56.6); 11 ♀ 51.8-57.1 (54.6).

Range.—Timor.

The most conspicuous feature of this race is the almost complete absence of all rufous tones in the plumage and the small degree of individual variation. This low variability is shared by most of the other insular races of the species.

(4) *Ninox novaeseelandiae cinnamomina* Hartert

Barar Island. The tawny rufous extreme of the species.

(5) *Ninox novaeseelandiae moae* new subspecies

Type.—No. 630523, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♀ ad.; Moa Island, Letti group, Southwest Islands; November 30, 1902, H. Kühn coll.

Very similar to *macgillivrayi* Mathews (Cape York) and separable only by a combination of characters. Upper parts about as dark as in *ocellata* (and *macgillivrayi*), but of a warmer and more rufous colour; ochre spots and streaks on forehead, superciliary region, sides of neck and nape well developed; white spots on scapulars and upper wing-coverts larger and more often extending to inner web; light bars on wing-feathers and tail-feathers more pronounced. Dark streaks of under parts bolder and more clearly defined, often with additional dark shaft streaks.

The most characteristic feature of *moae* is the combination of the dark streaking of the under parts with the warm and rufous tone of the upper parts, and of the generally dark coloration of upper parts with the generous buffy streaking on nape and sides of head and with the liberal white spotting. The latter characters occur among Australian *novaeseelandiae* only in much lighter specimens.

Wing—♂ 210, 213, 214, 222; ♀ 211.5, 213, 225. Tail—♂ 114, 120, 121, 122; ♀ 120, 121, 121. Index—♂ 54.3, 54.9, 56.3, 56.5; ♀ 53.8, 56.3, 57.2.

Range.—Letti and Moa Islands, Southwest Islands.

Populations from adjacent islands which might temporarily be referred to *moae* are:

Roma Island.—A single bird (♂) is about half-way between *fusca* and *cinnamomina* and not unlike *moae*. The upper parts, however, are darker and more uniform, with

less streaking and spotting. The under parts are more washed with ochraceous and have the white marks more rounded. Additional material will probably prove the subspecific distinctness of the Roma population.

Wing 219, tail 121, index 55.3.

Savu Island (near Timor).—Hartert (1897, *Nov. Zool.*, 4, 269; 1904, *Nov. Zool.*, 11, 191) has already discussed the puzzling taxonomic status of this population. In the colour of the under parts birds from this island are indistinguishable from Cape York birds, but they tend to be more spotted with white on the scapulars and more streaked on the nape and might be united with *moae* for that reason. Actually they are intermediate and in some respects definitely closer to *macgillivrayi*.

Wing—♂ 208 (?), 216 (?); ♀ 222, 223. Tail—♂ 118, 120; ♀ 122, 122. Index—♀ 54.7, 54.9.

(6) *Ninox novaeseelandiae ocellata* (Bonaparte)

Type locality: Raffles Bay, Northern Territory (see Peters, *loc. cit.*).

A uniformly dark bird. Upper parts dark rufous brown; spotting of upper parts reduced to more or less concealed spots on scapulars and upper wing-coverts; nape occasionally with some tawny-ochraceous streaks; entire under parts washed with tawny or ochraceous; size of the lateral white or buffy spots reduced; the central rufous brown marks on the feathers of the under parts are very extensive and quite rufous or tawny; few and wide light bars on inner webs of wing-feathers.

Wing—3 ♂ 198, 212, 217; 2 ♀ 205, 211. Tail—3 ♂ 116, 116, 123; 2 ♀ 113, 117. Tail index—3 ♂ 54.7, 56.7, 58.6; 2 ♀ 55.1, 55.4.

Range.—Melville Island and Coburg Peninsula, Northern Territory. I have not seen any specimens from the type locality, Raffles Bay, and the figure published in the atlas of the *Voy. au Pôlé Sud* is not very useful. The description of *ocellata*, given by Pucheran, indicates, however, a dark race. The material before me consists of five adults and one immature from Melville Island, which is separated from the Coburg Peninsula only by a shallow strait and lies in the same rainfall district (60 inches). It is therefore probable that the populations of the two localities are indistinguishable. The name *melvillensis* Mathews is available for the Melville Island population if it should prove distinct. If the Coburg Peninsula population should be lighter than Melville Island birds *macgillivrayi* would become a synonym of *ocellata*. A modern collection from Coburg Peninsula is needed to decide this point.

(7) *Ninox novaeseelandiae macgillivrayi* Mathews

Type locality: Patison Creek, Cape York.

Upper parts very similar to the Melville Island series,