

***Pyctorhis sinensis saturatior*, subsp. nov.**

Adult. Upper parts, especially head, saturated; very dark brown, paling only on the rump. Chestnut colour of wings darker. Size as in typical *P. sinensis*. Large series examined.

Distribution. Bhutan and Buxa Doars, Sikkhim.

Type. In the British Museum. Bhutan Doars, Jan. 1877. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 86. 10. 1. 4661 (*Mandelli*). Hume coll.

***Otus bakkamcena deserticolor*, subsp. nov.**

Adult. Birds from Sind and Beluchistan stand out at a glance from the rest of the 150 Collared Scops Owls I have examined. Ground-colour of upper parts very pale, a grey-brown and the yellow on the collar and scapulars very pale; under parts very pale almost a white ground with hardly any rufescent tinge. Wing 165–175 mm. (both sexes).

Distribution. Sind, N. Beluchistan; a young bird from Muscat in the Bombay Mus. appears to belong here, and there is an adult in the Kurachi Museum labelled "Bushire."

Type. In the British Museum. ♀, Hyderabad, Sind, 10 April, 1878; Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 86. 2. 1. 364 (*E. A. Butler*). Hume coll.

Col. R. MEINERTZHAGEN, on behalf of Mr. P. A. Buxton, asked some questions regarding

Desert Ornithology.

1. Whether birds which breed in hot deserts dislike leaving their eggs exposed to the sun for any time? Col. Meinertzhagen presumed that both parents of Sand-Grouse must come to water at some time, and that the eggs must therefore be left to the rays of the sun—at any rate, for a short period.

Some birds in hot climates bury their eggs, notably *Pluvianus* and *Charadrius varius*. Is this done for protection against the sun or against natural enemies?

2. Are the eggs of birds laid in deserts of a peculiar desert type, or do they conform to the general type of the group to