

## A NEW WOOD OWL FROM SIAM

BY ESTELLE H. KELSO

COMPARISON of specimens indicates the existence of an undescribed race of *Strix indraneae* in Lower Siam. The species is represented by a smaller and darker form at the southern end of the Malay Peninsula, and by larger and paler forms in northern Siam, India, and China. The following is intermediate between the former and the latter group:—

### *Strix indraneae rileyi* subsp. nov.

*Type*.—Adult female, U. S. National Museum, No. 169,691, Khaw Nok Ram, Trong, Lower Siam, altitude 2000 feet; 1899; collected by W. L. Abbott.

*Subspecific characters*.—Nearest *Strix i. maingayi* of Malacca but crown darker-blackish brown; middle and greater wing coverts with less numerous bars of lighter brown; dark-brown shade on chest more pronounced; ground color of breast, sides, flanks and abdomen more grayish-buffy white instead of light ochraceous-buff.

*Measurements of type*.—Total length, 475 mm.; wing, 377; tail, 210; culmen, from cere, 27.

*Range*.—Trong, Lower Siam.

*Remarks*.—This form differs widely from the other races of the species. It differs from *Strix i. indraneae* by the deeper blackish-brown crown and back, and from *Strix i. newarensis* by the ochraceous-orange instead of grayish, barred with dusky colors on the auriculars; by the brown instead of grayish ground color of the chest; and by the much smaller size. It differs from *Strix i. shanensis* in the dark-brown ground color of the chest; in the less conspicuous white patch on the throat; and in the shorter tail. From *Strix i. ticchursti* it differs in the brown ground color of the chest and in the grayish-white bars on the hind neck. It differs from *Strix i. laotiana* in having deeper ochraceous-orange on the auriculars; in the less numerous and less conspicuous grayish bars on scapulars, wing coverts, primaries, secondaries and tail; in the brownish ground color of the chest; and in the much smaller size.

It is named for Mr. J. H. Riley of the U. S. National Museum.

Another specimen,—adult female, No. 159,401, Lay Song Hong, Trong, Lower Siam, September 28, 1896, collected by W. L. Abbott,—shows the same characters. This and the type had the bill greenish horny; the iris dark brown; the claws gray at base, dark brown at ends; and a length of 19 inches in life. The Lay Song Hong specimen weighed one and three-quarter pounds.

The stomachs of both specimens were examined by the collector. The type had eaten locusts; the other, a small bird and a large centipede.

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