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Telegraphic Address:—"SHAWLACE."

A. B. C. 5th Edition.

In your reply please

quote No.

Karachi, 11 September 1907.

Dear Dr. Sharp,

The Bombay Natural History Society have sent you a parcel by last mail containing two Owls that were received from Mr. C. H. Donald which appear to have puzzled him somewhat and we shall be very much obliged if you will settle the identification for us. I have not seen the specimens myself as I have no facilities here of comparing them with ~~xxx~~ other specimens and do not know these large owls well. I enclose extract from Donald's letter about them, which speaks for itself.

I sadly miss my enjoyable hours at the B. N. H. S. now that I am here and have little time for anything but hard office work. Very glad to hear Millard has fixed up with Kinnear as he will be the saving of the B. N. H. S. Just in time too!

Please remember me to Ogilvie Grant and with all good wishes

Believe me,

Yours sincerely

W. Wallace

Copy

Bhadarwa
via Jammu.
12 Aug '07.

Dear Mr. Comber,

I am sending you.....2 owls the identification of which puzzles me a bit.

The birds are mother & offspring and they seem to combine the characteristics of both the genera of "Syrnium" & "Huhua". If they are Syrnium wh. I rather expect they must be they differ very considerably in point of size from Blanford's measurement of "S. indrani" bring over 4 inches more in length and proportionally larger in all the other measurements.

Again you will see from the specimens that the 4th & 5th quills in each case are the longest, another characteristic of "Huhua" and finally there is a vast difference in the adult & young plumages an important factor when dealing with the last genus.

Then again they resemble Syrnium in lacking the ^{aig}~~cigarettes~~ which is such a prominent feature of "Huhua nepalensis". The latter however is not supposed to be an inhabitant of the N.W. Himalayas at least not so far up as Kashmir. This is the 4th bird of this species I have seen & handled up here and all have much more closely resembled the Eagle Owls in point of size than anything else. If they belong to "Syrnium" this is a larger variety than any yet recorded, with the wing of "Huhua" and also the difference in the old and young plumage of that genus, whereas if they belong to "Huhua" they must be quite a new species lacking the conspicuous ^{aig}~~cigarettes~~ of that genus i.e. if that fact is worthy of specific rank.

I should be very much obliged if you will kindly settle the point for me.....

Yours Sincerely,
(Sd) C. H. Donald.