DESCRIPTION OF RALLUS JOUYI, WITH REMARKS ON RALLUS STRIATUS AND RALLUS GULARIS.

BY LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

Rallus striatus is said to occur from India throughout Burmah, Cochin China, Malacca, Sumatra, Java, Southern China, the Philippine Islands, and Formosa. But it seems that several species or subspecies have been lumped together under this name. The type of R. striatus came from the Philippines, and Brisson described it as having “the lower part of the hind neck, back and scapulars of a blackish brown, each feather being marked on both sides with transverse whitish spots” (Ornith., V, 1760, p. 168). A specimen in the National Museum (No. 77009), said to have come from the Philippine Islands, agrees very minutely with his full and excellent description, and I, therefore, take it to be the typical R. striatus.

Two specimens before me (U. S. Nat. Mus., Nos. 15427, 958-3), one obtained by Peale in “Malacca,” the other by Dr. Cantor in Penang, may be regarded as nearly typical R. gularis HORSF., which was originally described from Java.

The other specimens in our museum (Nos. 85751, 85752) differ considerably from the foregoing ones, as will be shown further on, and as they were obtained by Mr. P. L. Jouy, whose excellent collections from China and Japan have added so much to our knowledge of the ornithology of these countries, I take great pleasure in calling this unnamed species Rallus jouyi or Hypotanidia jouyi.

Rallus striatus Linn. (S. N., 12 ed., 1766, I, p. 262) has the upper surface blackish brown with small, but very distinct white dots, which on the wings extend transversely into sharply-defined white bars, while in the other two forms the color of the back is more or less olive; the rufous on the upper head and neck is deeper, nearly chestnut, and in the middle, from the bill down to the back, washed so strongly with dusky that it blends nearly imperceptibly with the blackish brown of the back, while the outer edges of the chestnut portion form a brighter band running from the supraloral region over the eyes and down along the sides of the neck, ill-defined above, but sharply contrasting with the gray of the sides of the head and neck. Lores, cheeks, fore neck and breast gray, darker than in the allied forms, and slightly washed with olivaceous. Entire abdomen and the tibiae very distinctly barred with whitish and dusky, the flanks similarly barred, the dusky bars, however, being darker, nearly blackish, and broader. The primary coverts are uniform without white bars or spots, while the other upper wing coverts are distinctly barred with white.

Rallus gularis HORSF. (Tr. Linn. Soc., XIII, 1822, p. 196), if the Malaccan specimens do not differ from those found in Java, is of about
the same size as the foregoing species. The color of the back is some-
what lighter, in No. 15427; also more olivaceous, and the white mark-
ings form narrow transverse bars across the feathers. The chestnut
color of the hind neck is brighter, contrasting strongly with the back.
Underneath the gray color is lighter, and the entire abdomen and the
tibial feathers are uniformly whitish without bars. The primary coverts
are distinctly barred with white like the rest of the upper wing coverts.

*Rallus jowyi* sp. nov. (♀ ad. type U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 85751) is a much
larger bird than any of the foregoing species. The coloration of the
back is a slightly grayish olive; each feather having an ill-defined dusky
spot in the middle, which, however, is only visible externally in the
intersepal region, and two or three pairs of transverse white spots
bordered anteriorly and posteriorly by blackish; the color of the back
extends on the hind neck nearly as far as the occiput, bordered on both
sides by a bright rusty chestnut band, which forms a continuation of the
color of the pyleum and occiput. Chin and throat white; lores, suboccu-
lar, and auricular regions, fore neck and upper breast clear bluish
gray; sides of breast, flanks, and lower part of the breast with broad
white dusky-bordered cross-bars on a ground color which is olive on the
sides, gradually becoming grayer towards the middle of the breast; en-
tire abdomen, crissum, under tail-coverts, and tibias, distinctly barred
with white and dusky gray, narrower than on the flanks and breast.
Wings above olive like the back, and with white cross-bands like those
of the flanks but more distant; primary coverts with two pairs of trans-
verse white spots; wings underneath, including axillaries, dusky with
narrow white cross-bars. Tail colored like the wings. Bill (in the
dried skin) orange red, grayish white at tip beyond the nasal groove;
feet horny brown.

The female (♀ ad. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 85752) is quite similar to the
male, but the olive of the back is washed with brownish instead of gray;
the breast, flanks, and tibias are barred as in the male, but the abdomen
is nearly uniform whitish.

Habitat.—The two specimens described above are from Shanghai,
China. Whether the Indian bird really belongs here I cannot say, but
I suspect it does, since Jerdon (B. of Ind., III, p. 726) describes it as
having "the upper plumage olivaceous throughout, with narrow white,
black-edged bars, and his measurements agree pretty well with mine.
If such be the case, this is Reichenbach's *Rallus indicus* (Vollst. Naturg.,
Novit. Rason., pl. cccxxii, figs. 2575, 2576 (1851), a name which two years
previous was applied by Blyth to the Indian form of Water Rail. I may
quote, however, a remark by Mr. Swinhoe (Ibis, 1863, p. 427): "The
hind necks of the Formosan birds, as well as of species from Siam, are
bright chestnut. This color scarcely shows at all in birds that I have
seen from India; but specimens may vary in this respect, and I have
seen no large series."
The following table may facilitate the better understanding of the characters of the three forms, as shown in the specimens before me:

Smaller: lower breast not barred \{striatus,\}, primary coverts uniform, unspotted.
Larger: lower breast barred like the flanks \{gularis\}.

The difference in size between striatus and gularis, on one side, and jouyi, on the other, is shown by the following

**Measurements.**

1. **RALLUS STRIATUS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Nat. Mus. No.</th>
<th>Collector and number</th>
<th>Sex and age</th>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Wing</th>
<th>Tail feathers</th>
<th>Exposed culmen</th>
<th>Tarsus</th>
<th>Middle toe with claw</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77009</td>
<td>ad.</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>117</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **RALLUS GULARIS.**

| 95823             | Dr. Cantor         | ad.         | Penang   |      | 112  | 39            | 35            | 37     | 40                  |
| 15427             | Peale              | ad.         | Malacca  |      | 117  | 37            | 35            |        |                     |

3. **RALLUS JOUYI.**

| 85751             | Jouy, 72           | q'ad.       | Shanghai | July 5, 1881 | 133  | 51 | 44 | 46 | 47 |
| 85752             | Jouy, 73           | q'ad.       | Shanghai | May 8, 1881  | 132  | 50 | 41 | 45 | 48 |