

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
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TWO NEW OWLS FROM SINALOA, MEXICO.

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New forms of birds, which have appeared in the collections from Sinaloa, Mexico, are described in this paper.

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Asio stygius lambi,¹ subsp. nov.

LAMB'S STYGIAN OWL.

Type.—Male adult; number 15288, collection of Robert T. Moore; Babizos, northeastern Sinaloa, Mexico; December 3, 1935; altitude 6400 feet; collected by Chester C. Lamb.

Subspecific characters.—Differs from *Asio stygius robustus* Kelso of Vera Cruz, Mexico, in having the dark areas much darker throughout, dark blackish brown, instead of chocolate brown; chocolate brown and buffs of orbital region and facial rim replaced by black and white; chin whitish instead of buff; back almost immaculate blackish brown without mottling; lower back, rump and upper tail coverts darker with only inconspicuous whitish bars; flanks and sides of abdomen much darker; four outer primaries lacking the spots of deep buff or ochraceous on outer webs; spots on inner webs whiter; dark bars of longest under tail coverts four (sometimes five) instead of three; bars of middle rectrices five, very narrow, the posterior three almost obsolete; size larger. Resembles in its darker coloration *Asio stygius noctipetens* Riley of Santa Domingo, but is distinctly darker in the brown markings; black and white on the sides of the abdomen and lower

¹Chester C. Lamb is more than a collector, he has the indefatigable zest of a real student of bird behaviour, which has won him the friendship of every ornithologist. It is a pleasure to commemorate these sterling qualities by naming a well-marked race for its discoverer.

under parts, where *noctipetens* is largely bright ochraceous; size very much larger. Toes feathered almost to end of terminal joint—dark brown.

Range.—Probably the higher mountains throughout Sinaloa and western Durango.

AVERAGE MEASUREMENTS OF *Asio stygius lambi* AND RELATED RACES.

	WING. ²	TAIL.	CULMEN. FROM BASE.
MALES			
2 ads. (incl. Type)			
<i>lambi</i>	346.1	171.4	39.6
1 ad. Guatemala,			
<i>robustus</i>	325.1	157.1	39.1
1 ad. Cuba, <i>siguapa</i>	311.0	155.3	35.8
1 ad. S. Domingo,			
<i>noctipetens</i> (Type)	291.0	159.4	34.5
1 ad. Argentine, <i>bar-</i>			
<i>beroi</i> (?).....	333.4	162.4
1 ad. Colombia,			
<i>stygius</i>	330.2	162.8
FEMALES.			
1 ad. Durango, <i>lambi</i>	347.8	181.3	41.2
1 ad. Nicaragua,			
<i>robustus</i>	330.	158.7	36.4
1 ad. S. Domingo,			
<i>siguapa</i>	157.8
1 ad. Colombia,			
<i>stygius</i>	334.4	159.3

Specimens examined.—*Lambi*, Sinaloa 1♂ (Type) Babizos 1♂, 1♀ Muertocito, Durango. *Robustus*, Vera Cruz 1♀ (Type) Mirador; Guatemala 1 (?) Coban; Nicaragua 1♀ Matagalpa. *Siguapa*, Cuba 1♂ Taco Taco, 2 (?) "Cuba." *Noctipetens*, Dominican Republic 1♂ (Type) Constanza, 1♀ Samarro Prov., 1 (?) "Santo Domingo." *Stygius stygius*, Brazil 1 (?); Colombia, 1♂ La Guneta, 1♀ Santa Elena, 1♂, 1♀, 1 (?) "Colombia"; Ecuador 1♂ Montes de Parambas. *Barberoi*, Argentine 1♂ Tucuman, 1 (?) "Argentine."

Remarks.—The series of *lambi* are the only specimens which have been secured on the west coast of Mexico. Apparently the only other from Mexico is the Type of *robustus* from Mirador, Vera Cruz, Ridgway's citation of "Mexico" on the authority of the Biologia Centrali-Americana being an error. When describing *robustus*, Kelso grouped all of the Central American birds under this name and laid particular stress on three characters as distinguishing them from South American birds. With more specimens before me, including six from Mexico and Central America and eight from South America, I find his characters valid. As he pointed out, the number of bars on the longer under tail coverts and the coloration, presence or absence of spotting on the webs of the primaries seem to have

²Wing measurement is the average of both wings.

important diagnostic value. The former increase from south to north, reaching their maximum both in number and prominence in *lambi*, whereas the latter decreases, becoming whiter and almost disappearing on the outer webs. The Coban bird, which is obviously *robustus*, has no spots on the outer webs of the two outer primaries, but shows traces on the others.

The three specimens of *lambi* are the largest of the nineteen specimens. Like the Type of *robustus*, *lambi*, the most northern representative of the species, has the toes rather heavily feathered almost to the end of the terminal joint.