

bare tree less than 50 feet from the observer (who had a bright sun at his back) and minutely studied by Frederick W. Loetscher, Jr., a Yale student with exceptional knowledge and caution. He particularly noted the yellow eyes, yellowish bill, and huge facial disks, and next day found his notes tallied perfectly with a mounted specimen.

Asio f. flammeus. SHORT-EARED OWL.—Once a common transient along the Connecticut river through Massachusetts, this Owl is now a rarity there. On October 31, 1933, I found in Hadley the body of one that had very recently been shot, and on April 14, 1934, two young friends of mine observed in Northampton what can only have been this species. On Feb. 3, 1934, with the sun high and a foot of dazzling snow on the ground, one was watched by Mr. Loetscher, near the Sound southwest of New Haven, hunting by ear. It flapped and hovered close over the snow, cocked its head, and plunged, coming down with wings outspread on the snow and ducking its head deep under. Having caught its prey in its bill, it remained where it was, as if helpless, until too closely approached, when it rose, transferred the mouse from bill to foot, and lit on a post, where it seemed to pluck little pieces from the mouse and then swallow it whole, head first.

The first nine days of February, 1934, were almost solidly sub-zero in western Massachusetts. A Screech Owl perching on an iron bridge was seen to fall from it, numb and helpless. The frozen body of a Great Horned Owl was found on golf-links in Holyoke, uninjured. Quite a number of Saw-whet Owls were picked up, dead or dying, in the late winter or early spring.—SAMUEL A. ELIOT, JR., *Smith College, Northampton, Mass.*

A New Stygian Owl.—The stygian Owl, *Asio stygius stygius* (Wagler), has been considered quite uniform throughout its range. Comparison, however, shows certain differences between specimens from southern Brazil and from Mexico and Central America. I therefore describe the latter as a new race.

***Asio stygius robustus*, subsp. nov.**

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Asio s. stygius* (Wagler)¹ but lighter areas above and below whitish or light buff instead of deep buff or ochre; lighter spots on inner webs of primaries light ochraceous to buffy-white or obsolete instead of deep buff or ochre; bars of upper tail coverts buffy white instead of deep buff; ground color of flanks and under tail-coverts whitish washed with buff instead of wholly deep buff; streaks of longer under tail coverts giving out three pairs of lateral bars instead of one or none; size larger, wing of female more than 335 mm.; toes sparsely feathered to middle of terminal joint.

Type.—Adult female, U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 27, 113, Mirador, near Vera Cruz, Mexico, collected by C. Sartorius, original No. 6.

¹ *N[ycalops] stygius* Wagler, *Isis* (von Oken), 1832, col. 1221. ("Brazil" = Minas Geraes.)

Measurements of type.—Wing, 344; tail, 171; culmen from cere, 21.5 mm.

Range.—Vera Cruz, Mexico to Nicaragua, and perhaps farther southward.

Remarks.—The type of *Asio s. stygius* (Wagler) came from Minas Geraes, Brazil, according to the label. It was described as having the spots on the inner webs of the primaries whitish-rufescent in color; the posterior under parts with ochre ground color; and the longest under tail-coverts with a black bar near the tip. The specimens I have seen from southern Brazil have these characters. Therefore it is likely that the type came from that region. This also indicates that the lighter whitish buff spots on the inner webs of the primaries, the whitish buff ground color of the posterior under parts, and the streaks with three bars instead of one on the under tail-coverts occur only in Central American specimens, for which they constitute subspecific characters. I have examined two specimens of *Asio s. stygius* and two of *Asio s. robustus*. I have seen no specimens from Colombia or Ecuador and do not know to which form they belong.

The feathering on the toes tends to break down the bare toe distinction on which Wagler separated his genus *Nyctalops*.—LEON KELSO, *Washington, D. C.*

The Cuban Nightjar (*Antrostomus c. cubanensis*) in the Isle of Pines.—When paying a short visit to the Isle of Pines last March I was fortunate to secure a specimen of the Cuban Nightjar (*Antrostomus c. cubanensis*). The bird, an adult male, was in breeding condition and is the first specimen of this species that has been collected on the Isle of Pines. It was found in dense scrub near the Paso Piedras, north of the Ciénaga Lanier. In the evening of the same day, March 12, a female was flushed from her eggs in a thicket bordering a clearing. The nest, as is customary with birds of this family, was merely a slight hollow formed by the bird on a matting of dry leaves. The eggs have the ground color dull white, slightly tinged on one egg with pinkish-buff, and are indistinctly spotted with brownish or brownish-buff, with rather heavy underlying markings of dull grayish-lavender. They measure 29.9 x 22 and 29.8 x 21.6 mm. respectively. The lighter colored egg was fresh, the other slightly incubated.

Unfortunately I did not hear the notes of this species but from what the natives told me they resemble a hoarse croaking and are apparently totally unlike those of the northern Whip-poor-will (*A. vociferus*), thus corroborating the statement of Gundlach (*Ornitologia Cubana*, p. 102).—JAMES BOND, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Some Notes on the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Southwestern New Hampshire.—Having seen the Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus v. varius*) in this and nearby towns uncommonly but rather regularly for the past twelve summers, a brood present this summer (1934) is the first authentic