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# Field and Forest

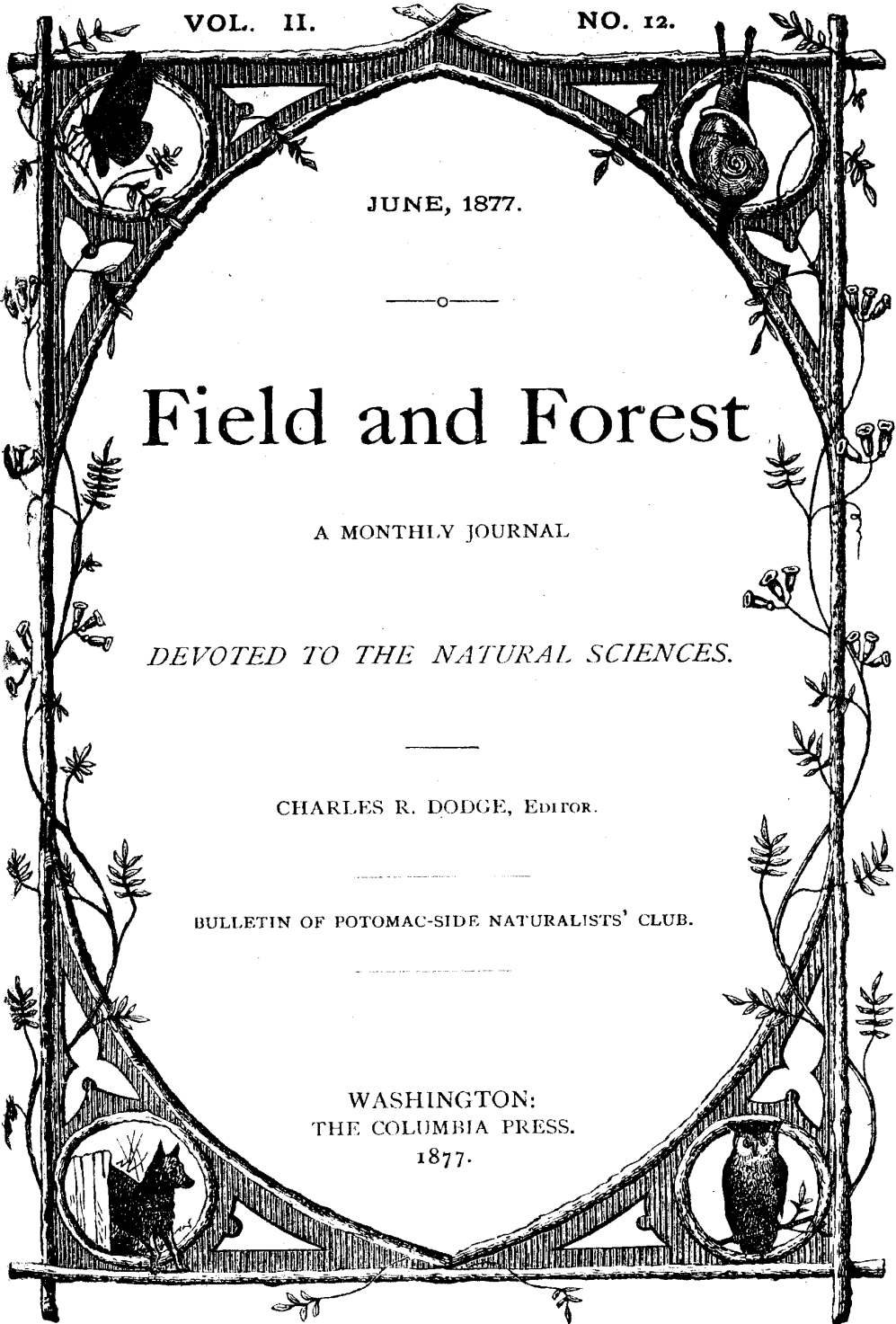
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CHARLES R. DODGE, EDITOR.

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crossed by wide but indistinct bands of silvery plumbeous; outer webs of primaries bright silvery-gray, more obscure on the inner quills. Tail, pearl-gray, (the middle portion of each feather whitish, the inner webs chiefly white,) finely sprinkled at the end and toward base with darker gray; the shafts pure white for their whole length. Entire head, throat, jugulum and breast quite uniform dark chocolate-brown, or soot-color, the feathers white at extreme bases; whole abdomen, sides and lining of wings ferruginous-rufous, with shaft-streaks and variously formed spots and bars of dusky; flank-plumes similar, but with the dusky markings prevailing; tibiæ dusky, the longer plumes variegated with ferruginous; tarsal feathers uniform dusky; lower tail-coverts with exposed ends pale ferruginous, the concealed portion whitish. Whole under surface of primaries anterior to the emarginations, pure white, *immaculate*; under surface of tail also uniform white. Wing, 18.80; tail, 10.50; culmen, 1.10; tarsus, 3.25; middle toe, 1.50.

In general aspect, this specimen bears a close resemblance to the rufous-chested examples of melanistic *Butco borealis* ( $\beta$ . *calurus*), the tail being the only very obvious difference so far as colors are concerned, though close inspection soon reveals other marked discrepancies, most important of which are the bright silver-gray of the outer surface and the immaculate snow-white of the under surface of the primaries. There is little resemblance to the melanistic examples of *A. lagopus* ( $\beta$ . *sancti-johannis*), the general color being much too rufous, while the tail is conspicuously different. The great breadth of the gape and other peculiarities of structure only recognizable in *A. ferrugineus*, also immediately refer this specimen to that species.

SCOPS ASIO,  $\epsilon$ . MAXWELLÆ, Ridgway, MSS.—Mrs. Maxwell's collection contains a number of specimens of what is evidently a local form of the common North American *Scops asio*, representing the opposite extreme from var.  $\beta$ . *kennicotti*, \* and quite as strongly marked as that form. These specimens and others that I have since seen, all agree in possessing with unusual uniformity the distinctive characters

\* Naming the several marked geographical races of this species in the order of their date of publication, they may be arranged in the following sequence: *a. asio* (*Strix asio*, Linn., S. N., 1758, 92,) *B kennicotti* (*Scops kennicotti*, Elliot, Pr. Phila. Acad. 1867, 69;)  $\gamma$ . *floridanus* (*Scops asio*, var. *floridanus*, Ridgway Bull. Essex Inst. & Dec. 1873, 200;)  $\delta$ . *evano* (*Scops asio*, var. *evano* Lawr., Bull. Essex Inst., Dec. 1873, 200, and  $\epsilon$ . *maxwelliæ*, nobis.


of the race, there being apparently much less of individual variation than in other forms of the species. This new race is a mountain bird, and possesses the distinctive features of alpine or boreal races in general, the size being larger and the colors very much paler than in the low-land races, even from much higher latitudes. In the colors, there is in all specimens an entire absence or but faint indication of any rufous tints, while the rufous phase of other forms is never assumed, as indeed, curiously enough, seems to be the case with the species throughout the western half of the continent, even where (as in California) the gray birds cannot be distinguished from individuals in corresponding plumage from the Atlantic States.

From its allies, *Scops maxwellia*, may be distinguished as follows:—  
 Ch.—Ground-color above pale gray or grayish brown, relieved by the usual ragged mesial streaks of black, and irregular mottlings or vermiculations of lighter and darker shades; the ground-color, however, never inclining strongly to reddish, and no darker in shade than a *very light* ash-gray or brown. The white spots on the outer webs of the primaries frequently confluent along the edge of the feathers, the darker spots being in extreme cases hardly visible on the basal portion of the quills when the wing is closed. Face grayish white, with faint vermiculations of darker grayish. No rusty gular collar, but in its stead, sparse, narrow bars of brown or rusty, on a white ground. Lower parts with white very largely predominating. Wing, 6.80–6.90; tail, 3.90–4.10; culmen, .60; tarsus, 1.45–1.50; middle toe, .80–.85. \*  
 Hab.—Mountains of Colorado (Mus. Mrs. Maxwell; also collection of R. Ridgway.) I name this new form in honor of Mrs. M. A. Maxwell, not only as a compliment to an accomplished and amiable lady, but also as a deserved tribute to her high attainments in the study of natural history.

ROBERT RIDGWAY.

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\* Before me are three specimens of the typical form (*a. asio*) in gray plumage which are so much alike that if the labels were removed they could scarcely be distinguished. Two of these, a pair, are from the coast of California; the other, an adult ♀, is from Virginia. Their measurements compare as follows:

	Fairfax Co., Va.	6.50.	3.70.
	Nicasio, Cal.	6.30.	3.50.
	" "	6.60.	3.65.