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VERTEBRATA FROM YUCATAN.

INTRODUCTION. AVES.

BY LEON J. COLE.

MAMMALIA.

BY GLOVER M. ALLEN.

REPTILIA; AMPHIBIA; PISCES.

BY LEON J. COLE AND THOMAS BARBOUR.

WITH TWO PLATES.

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31. *Otus*¹ *choliba*² *thompsoni*,³ subsp. nov.

Yucatan Screech Owl.

Maya name, *q'ó-a-qab'* (means "night talker").

Type.—No. 40099, ♂ ad., Mus. Comp. Zool. Chichen-Itza, Yucatan. March 29, 1904. Leon J. Cole.

Co-type.—♀, Chichen-Itza, 1890, E. H. Thompson (Pablo Perera).

Subspecific characters.—Smaller than *O. choliba*, with greater amount of yellowish buffy suffusion, especially on head and neck, and with coarser black markings on under parts.

Description.—Upper parts similar to *O. choliba*, but with a less reddish cast, and more of a light yellowish or creamy buffy suffusion; fuscous markings on shafts of feathers broader, and broken transverse bars coarser and farther apart.

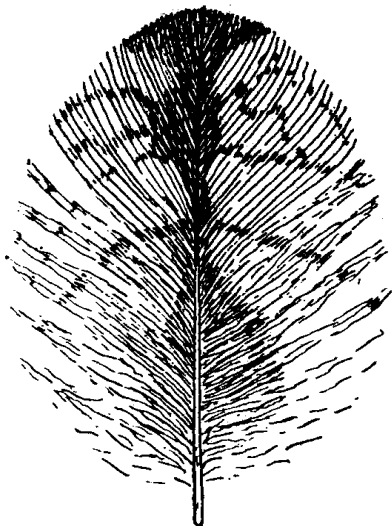


FIG. B.

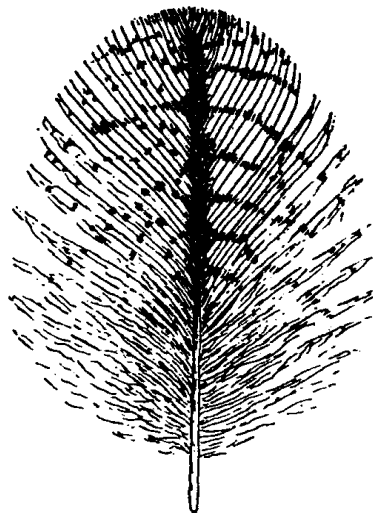


FIG. C.

Under parts : Throat suffused with creamy buff; feathers of breast and belly, as on back, with broader central markings, and with coarse and less broken bars. Figure B shows a feather from the breast of the type specimen, while Figure C represents one of the broadest-streaked feathers from a similar place from a specimen of *O. choliba* taken at Divala, Panama (Coll. E. A. & O. Bangs, No. 7743, ♂ ad., Dec. 11, 1900.) The large markings of these feathers, especially

¹ Cf. Stone, *Auk*, 1903, 20, p. 272.

² It appears that the specific name *choliba* should supersede *brazilianus* (see note by Count von Berlepsch, *Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club*, 1901, 12, p. 6).

³ Named for Mr. E. H. Thompson, United States Consul to Yucatan.

on the breast, are a rich, dark fuscous, edged rather broadly with umber. Lower belly tinged with buffy, giving a richer appearance than that of *O. choliba*. The general tone of the under parts is light, however, *choliba* being more grayish.

Measurements of type.—Wing, 158 mm.; tail, 192; culmen (from base), 20; (from cere), 13; tarsus, 32.

Gray phase.—The specimen described above appears to represent the red phase of this bird, while the gray phase is represented in the specimen taken by a native collector, Pablo Perera, for Mr. E. H. Thompson, at Chichen-Itza in 1890, and marked on the label as a female. This specimen resembles very closely the type, except in lacking, for the most part, the buffy suffusion, and in having a finer reticulation (consisting of more transverse fuscous bars) of the under parts. Measurements: wing, 160 mm.; tail, 84; culmen (from base), 22; (from cere), 13; tarsus, 37.

The single specimen of this owl which I obtained was brought to me by one of the Indians, so that I am unable to give any further notes regarding it. It has been described as new only after having been compared carefully with specimens of *O. choliba* in the U. S. National Museum by Mr. E. W. Nelson, and with a small series in the collection of Messrs E. A. and O. Bangs, by Mr. Outram Bangs and myself. There appears to be more or less of a gradation of the birds of this species in passing from Brazil to southern Mexico. Two specimens in the Bangs collection, from Costa Rica, approach most closely to the Yucatan birds, but lack the clearness of the white which appears in the under parts of the latter.

Salvin and Godman (Biol. Centr.-Amer., 3, p. 21) report a specimen of "*Scops guatemalae* (which they make synonymous with *Megascops brazilianus* = *O. choliba*) collected by Dr. G. F. Gaumer at Tizimin, Yucatan. It seems reasonable to suppose that this specimen belongs to the Yucatan race, although *Otus guatemalae*, which is undoubtedly distinct from *Otus choliba*, and in a large part co-extensive with it, may really extend northward into the peninsula.

32. **Glaucidium phalaenoides ridgwayi* (SHARPE).

Ridgway's Ferruginous Pigmy Owl.

Maya name, *tʻ-ka-šnuk*. Literally *tʻ-ka* means one who picks or pecks stone, *šnuk* is an old woman—the "old woman stone picker." The stones (*metatl*, Mexican; *ka*, Maya) on which corn for *tortillas* is ground are usually roughened by the old women, and the name *tʻ-ka-šnuk* is applied to this little owl because its note is supposed to resemble the sound made in the operation.

Three specimens:

- a. ♂, Feb. 18, 1904.
- b. ♂, March 7, 1904.
- c. (alcoholic), 1904.

Common. Apparently largely diurnal in habits. Turns the head with a jerky motion, and also jerks the tail at short intervals. Iris, light yellow.