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During the course of the preceding investigation I had occasion to compare a large number of Eastern specimens of *Scops asio* with some California examples from Nicasio and Alameda County. Somewhat to my surprise, I detected several apparently constant differences which, taken in connection with the pretty definitely settled fact that the California bird is not, like *asio*, subject to dichromatism, seem to me to warrant the varietal separation of the two. I accordingly propose a new race as follows: —

Scops asio bendirei,* var. nov.

CALIFORNIA SCREECH OWL.

CH. SP. Similis *S.* asioni, sed auribus brevioribus; colore subtus magis cinerario, transversis lineis tenuioribus, pallidioribus, ac in medio haud interruptis. Nulla rubra conditione cognita.

Adult ♀ (No. 1,546, author's collection, Nicasio, California, April 24, 1877, C. A. Allen). Above essentially similar to *asio* in its gray dress. Beneath ashy-white, every where thickly barred and streaked with black; the transverse bars being fine, numerous and regular, the shaft-stripes coarse and generally distributed from the throat to the crissum, both markings occurring as thickly on the median line of the breast and abdomen as along their sides. Wing, 6.20; tail, 3.30; tarsus, 1.50; culmen, .60; ear-tufts, 1.15.

Another adult from the same locality (♀, May 18, 1878, Coll. H. A. Purdie), measures, wing, 6.22; tail, 3.18; ear-tufts, 1.05: while seven unsexed specimens from Alameda county furnish the following extremes: wing, 6.01–6.52; tail, 3.22–3.72; ear-tufts, 1.05–1.25.

The above detailed characters, so far as my series goes, are sufficient to distinguish the California specimens from any gray examples of *asio* taken in the Eastern States. The chief difference is in the ground-color and markings of the plumage beneath. In *asio* the central line of the breast and abdomen is nearly always immaculate, while there is frequently a broad, entirely unspotted gular space: in *bendirei* these parts are as thickly barred and streaked as are the sides, while the ashy tinge of the entire lower surface and the much finer character of the transverse pencilling gives the plumage a clouded appearance which, although difficult of description, is very characteristic. The ear-tufts, also, are usually shorter than those of *S. asio*.

*As my material is not at present sufficiently comprehensive to enable me to define the limits of distribution of this race I leave the compilation of its synonymy to those who may have better opportunities in this respect.

Among the nine examples before me there is remarkably little individual variation, much less in fact than with any equal number of *asio* which I have ever examined. The Alameda County specimens as a rule are rather more finely and faintly barred than the Nicasio ones and the ground-color beneath is of a slightly different shade, inclining more to clayey than ashy white. In one bird the under surface is decidedly dull clay-color, which is so generally and evenly distributed that there is positively no approach to clear white even on the throat, lores, forehead or abdomen. But the essential characters already given are so well maintained on the whole that the description of the one chosen as the type will apply nearly as well to them all. This uniformity is doubtless largely owing to the absence in this race of any tendency to dichromatism, for much of the variation among the dichromatic ones can be traced to the combination in varying degrees of the colors of both phases, purely colored birds of either style being, at least in some sections, of comparatively rare occurence. It is of course to be expected that larger suites of specimens will furnish occasional aberrant ones some of which may approach *asio;* but, so far as the present material is concerned, the tendency of variation is rather towards *kennicotti* and "*tricopsis*." Indeed, as will be seen by comparing my diagnoses, the general coloring and markings of *bendirei* are so nearly like those of *kennicotti* in its extreme gray phase, that were it not for their wide difference in size it might be difficult to separate some of the specimens. That *bendirei* grades into the larger bird at the point where their respective habitats meet is shown by a specimen (No. 16,027, Nat. Mus.) from Fort Crook, Northern California, which is almost exactly intermediate in size, although more nearly like *kennicotti* in color and markings. As to our bird of the Southwest border, I believe that Mr. Ridgway is still undecided whether it really represents the *tricopsis* of Wagler or not, but he writes me that however this may turn out, he is now convinced that it intergrades with the form found over California at large and must hence be reduced to a variety of *Scops asio*. After a careful comparison of specimens I can unhesitatingly endorse this opinion, my Arizona examples of "*tricopsis*" differing from some of the more faintly barred *bendirei* only in the purer ash and sharper streaking of their dorsal plumage.

Save in cases where this fresh material has thrown new light

on old data, I have deemed it unnecessary to go over any of the ground trodden by Mr. Ridgway in his elaborate and invaluable monograph of the genus *Scops*,* but the bearing of some of the present testimony has proved so far reaching that I venture, in concluding, to suggest the following rearrangement of the North American Screech Owls belonging to the *S. asio* group.

Dichromatic: erythrismal phase bright rufous.

Scops asio. Habitat, United States north of the Gulf States and east of the Rocky Mountains.

Scops asio floridanus. Habitat, Florida and Southern Georgia.

Scops asio maccalli. Habitat, Highlands of Guatemala, Eastern Mexico, and Valley of the Lower Rio Grande in Texas.

Dichromatic: erythrismal phase tawny or reddish brown.

Scops asio kennicotti. Habitat, Northwest Coast from Sitka to Oregon and eastward across Washington Territory into Idaho and Montana.

Non-dichromatic: always gray in color.†

Scops asio bendirei. Habitat, Coast region of California.

Scops asio tricopsis? Habitat, Western Mexico and the extreme southwestern border of the United States.

Scops asio maxwellæ. Habitat, Mountains of Colorado.

A RECONNOISSANCE IN SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS.

BY NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN.

THE village of Boerne in Southwestern Texas, with its environing country, was the field of my ornithological labors between December 21, 1879 and April 4, 1880. Boerne is situated about thirty miles northwest of San Antonio, and less than that distance

*"Review of the American Species of the genus Scops." Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. I, pp. 85–117.

† This arrangement leaves a large portion of the Middle Province without any characteristic representative, *maxwellæ* being an Alpine form apparently confined to the Rocky Mountains, while *kennicotti* and "*tricopsis*" respectively invade only its northern and southern borders. Our knowledge of the subject is not as yet sufficiently comprehensive to enable me to fill this gap, but all the available evidence goes to show that *asio*, at least as above defined, is not found to the westward of the Rocky Mountain range.