

Representatives of *cooperi* and *vinaceus* have now been taken within four hundred and fifty miles of each other, assuming the authors of the *Biologia Centrali-Americana* (Aves III, 19) were right in assigning the Cacoprieto specimen from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to *cooperi*, which I believe to be correct, although I have not seen this specimen in the British Museum recently. However, because these gaps are still large, I hesitate to assert the conspecific relation of the *vinaceus* group with *cooperi*, although I believe this decision must eventually be made. This paper is no place for a comprehensive analysis. For the above reasons and others I deem it best at present to accept concept (3)—a conspecific relationship with the *vinaceus* group only, separating it from the *asio* group. This concept seems more desirable to me than the assumption of conspecific relation with *cooperi*, until more material is available. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the courtesy displayed in the loan of material or otherwise, by Dr. Herbert Friedmann and the United States National Museum, Dr. George Miksch Sutton and Cornell University, Mrs. Donald R. Dickey and Mr. Adrian Rossem, Mr. George Willett, the Los Angeles Museum and Dr. Louis B. Bishop.

Otus asio suttoni.²

PLATEAU SCREECH OWL.

Type.—Female adult in winter plumage, number 27962, collection of Robert T. Moore; Portezuelo, Hidalgo, Mexico, about 5800 feet, December 19, 1940; collected by Chester C. Lamb.

Subspecific characters.—Resembling *Otus asio semplei* Sutton and Burleigh, but differs in having general coloration more purely black and white throughout; the upper parts darker (more black and dark gray, rather than black and dark brown); the streaking on the pileum much more separated (less solid); the auriculars grayer (less brownish); the primary coverts and portions of greater wing coverts immediately above them more blackish (less brownish) margined with whitish, not with buff; the white areas of chin and upper throat pure white, as contrasted with the buffy areas of *semplei*; the ground color of the legs pure white instead of Cinnamon-Buff³; and in most specimens, the lighter spots on the under surface of the secondaries and proximal primaries usually pinker, rather than more tan color; wing larger; toes well feathered, not partially bristled as in both *semplei* and *mccallii*. Differs from *mccallii* (Cassin) much more than from *semplei* in being very much darker; more black and white (less brownish) throughout; the toes much more heavily feathered. *Suttoni* differs from *O. a. cineraceus* of Arizona in being darker, more black and white (less brownish) throughout; the streaking above being considerably wider and somewhat wider below; white areas on chin and upper throat whiter (less buffy); vermiculations on breast and

² I take pleasure in naming this for Dr. George Miksch Sutton, because of his work in regions of northeastern Mexico adjoining that of the range of this new form and because of the courtesy shown to me in the loan of his valuable series of *Otus asio semplei* from northern Nuevo Leon.

³ Names of colors in this paper, when capitalized, are taken from Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature," 1912.

upper abdomen less heavy and more blackish; the large light spots on the underside of the secondaries and proximal primaries much darker, in most specimens distinctly pinkish; size larger.

Range.—The south-central portion of the Central Plateau, ranging west from Hidalgo through Queretaro to Aguascalientes, thence north to Durango and probably to southern New Mexico.

Average Measurements.—

	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Tail</i>	<i>Culmen from Cere</i>
<i>Males.</i>			
2 ads. <i>semplei</i>	153.6 (152.0-155.2)	81.4 (80.1-82.7)	13.9 (13.6-14.1)
6 ads. <i>suttoni</i>	161.9 (156.9-166.4)	80.4 (74.4-84.8)	13.9 (13.5-14.0)
10 ads. <i>mccallii</i>	152.1 (145.4-160.1)	77.3 (72.3-82.6)	13.7 (13.2-14.5)
<i>Females.</i>			
5 ads. <i>semplei</i>	159.1 (155.5-162.7)	80.8 (78.1-82.0)	14.3 (13.6-15.0)
2 ads. <i>suttoni</i>	164.9 (152.1-167.7)	78.8 (75.0-82.6)	12.8 (12.5-13.1)
8 ads. <i>mccallii</i>	154.6 (150.9-160.6)	79.6 (74.3-82.3)	

Specimens examined.—*Suttoni*—Hidalgo: Portezuelo 1 ♀ (Type, Dec. 19); Queretaro: El Caracol 1 ♂ (Dec. 9); Aguascalientes: San Jacinto 2 ♀ (Oct. 14-22); Durango: Santuario 1 ♂ (Feb. 22), Rio Sestin 2 ♀ (Apr. 4-May 3), Ojito 1 im. ♀ (Aug. 26). *Semplei*—Nuevo Leon: Topotypical specimens, including type, from Mesa de Chipinque near Monterrey 2 ♂ 2 ♀ (Feb. 12-May 5), near Monterrey 2 ♀, Montemorelos 1 ♀ (Apr. 3). *Mccallii*—Texas, Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon: large series listed by Moore and Peters (loc. cit. p. 41).

Remarks.—*Suttoni* finds its best expression in the southern portion of the Central Plateau from Hidalgo through Queretaro to Aguascalientes and north to Durango. The birds of southern New Mexico are nearly intermediate between *cineraceus* and *suttoni*, having the heavier markings and streakings below and above, as well as larger size, of *suttoni*. So far no rufous phase specimen has been found of the new race, as compared with the presence of such specimens both in *mccallii* and *semplei*, but not in *cineraceus*. In one other respect *cineraceus* and the birds of the Central Plateau (*suttoni* and the undescribed race from Jalisco) are more alike in having the toes well feathered, as contrasted with the slightly bristled toes of both *semplei* and *mccallii*, the latter two being the only ones, except *xantusi*, of the *Otus asio* group which possess these intermediate kind of bristles.

Otus asio sortilegus,⁴ subsp. nov.

JALISCO SCREECH OWL.

Type.—Female adult breeding, number 17038, collection of Robert T. Moore; 3 miles west of Atoyac, Jalisco, Mexico, about 4200 feet, February 25, 1940; collected by Chester C. Lamb.

Subspecific characters.—Differing more markedly from *O. a. suttoni*, whose range lies geographically between it and *O. a. cineraceus*, it is nearest to the latter, but it differs in having upper parts darker; throat and sides of neck grayer; the fine dots and marks of the vermiculation of the under parts

⁴ From the Latin *sortilegus* = foretelling, referring to the revealing of the status of the relationship of the *Otus vinaceus* group, with *cooperi*.