

tions. In the hope that Wagler's type specimen was still in existence I wrote to Dr. A. Laubmann, Curator of Birds for the Zoologische Sammlung des Bayerischen Staats in Munich, for any information he might have on the subject. Dr. Laubmann kindly replied at once that inquiries at the Würzburg Museum had failed to produce anything but the information that the type was missing and had probably been thrown out years ago. Finally I wrote to Dr. N. B. Kinnear at the British Museum, indicating the racial characters and sending him a specimen of each form. This latter gentleman's reply sets at rest any doubt that a single form ranges continuously throughout the Mexican highlands, for he says: "We have two specimens from Arizona which agree with your bird from that locality. . . . Six skins from Chimpala [Mexico], Ajusco [D. F.], Omilteme [Guerrero], and Oaxaca are the same as the Arizona birds." This determination, of course, makes *Scops asio*, var. *enano* Ridgway,³ *Megascops asperus* Brewster⁴ and *Megascops ridgwayi* Nelson and Palmer⁵ synonyms of *trichopsis*. Determination of the relationships of *Megascops pinosus* Nelson and Palmer⁶ must await the collection of adult specimens.

Since there is no available name for the race inhabiting the northern Central American highlands and which is completely isolated from the typical Mexican race by the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, it may be designated as

Otus trichopsis mesamericanus subs. nov.

Type.—Breeding adult male in the gray phase; no. 18,509, Dickey collection at the California Institute of Technology; Los Esesmites, Chalatenango, El Salvador; March 2, 1927; altitude 8,000 feet in the oak-pine association of the Arid Upper Tropical Zone; collected by A. J. van Rossem; original number 11,372.

Subspecific characters.—Resembles *Otus trichopsis trichopsis* (Wagler) of Mexico and southern Arizona but dark markings everywhere narrower, more wavy and less contrasted with the ground color; white markings everywhere restricted and coloration very much redder when corresponding phases are compared.

Range.—Highlands (Arid Upper Tropical Zone) of Guatemala, El Salvador and probably Honduras.

³ Bull. Essex Inst., 5, Dec., 1873, 200 (Mexico). The type has been examined, thanks to the courtesy of the American Museum of Natural History, and I find it to be indistinguishable from the browner Arizona birds.

⁴ Auk, 5, Jan., 1888, 87 (El Carmen, Chihuahua).

⁵ Auk, 11, Jan., 1894, 40 (Patzcuaro, Michoacan). Juvenile in rufous phase (fide Ridgway).

⁶ *ibid.*, 40 (Las Vigas, Vera Cruz).

Remarks.—Typical *trichopsis* in the great majority of cases occurs as an almost pure ashy gray phase with the black and white markings in strong contrast. In addition there is a definitely brownish phase, comparable in color to the "gray" phase of *mesamericanus*, from which it is distinguishable by the broader, more prominent markings and more extensive white areas. There is probably a rufous phase also, as indicated by the juvenile type of "*Megascops ridgwayi*," but I have never seen an adult specimen so colored. *Mesamericanus*, similarly, has three phases, a grayish brown, a rufous and an intermediate which varyingly connects the two extremes. Although in *trichopsis* the gray phase is vastly predominant, the brown or intermediate uncommon and the rufous evidently extremely rare, *mesamericanus* appears to divide the three phases more equably. The term "gray" as applied to *mesamericanus* is, of course, a purely relative one used to denote the least reddish phase, since anything like the gray extreme of *trichopsis* is unknown in Central America.

The ranges of the two races of the Spotted Screech Owl are as follows:

***Otus trichopsis trichopsis* (Wagler)**

Mountains of southeastern and southcentral Arizona (Chiricahua, Huachuca, Catalina, Santa Rita and Pajarito ranges) south through the highlands of Mexico to Oaxaca.

***Otus trichopsis mesamericanus* van Rossem**

Mountains (Arid Upper Tropical Zone) of Guatemala, El Salvador and probably Honduras.

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