

Occurrence of the Spotted Screech Owl (*Megascops aspersus*) in Arizona.—Mr. C. K. Worthen has sent me a pair of small Screech Owls which were taken in the Huachuca Mountains, Arizona, the male by Mr. R. Lusk August 10, 1891, the female (probably by the same collector) June 20, 1895. Both birds are adults, the female being in slightly worn breeding plumage while the male had nearly completed the midsummer moult, excepting about the head where the feathers are old, faded and very much worn.

These birds do not belong to any form which is known to have been hitherto found within the United States, but on comparing them with my type of *Megascops aspersus*¹ (female, Chihuahua, Mexico, May 6, 1884), I find that they resemble it very closely in general color and markings as well as in the presence of a well-marked fringe of bristles on the sides of the head. The ground coloring, however, is slightly grayer, especially on the upper parts, and the dark markings are rather less coarse and numerous. The Arizona birds are also smaller, the male having the wing 5.18 inches in length and the female 5.27, whereas the wing of the type measures 5.66 inches. These peculiarities may prove to be characteristic of all the birds which inhabit the Huachuca range, but for the present, at least, it seems safest to regard them as representing mere individual variation and to refer the Arizona specimens to *M. aspersus* which, as has been just implied, is quite new to our fauna.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Great Gray Owl (*Scotiaptex cinerea*) in Minnesota.—During the winter of 1896-97 I secured not less than five specimens of this immense Owl and know of one other capture, all in this (Aitkin) County.

The winter just past, 1897-98, was not so cold, nor was there much snow as in the previous winter; in fact, it was a remarkably open winter, with only occasional cold spells. This open season may account for the scarcity of the Owl, for I secured but one and know of two others captured.

My friend, Mr. G. G. Cantwell, in his 'List of Birds of Minnesota' (O. and O., Sept., 1890) records this species as a "rare winter visitor," but it may be seen from my records that this Owl may be considered as a fairly common winter visitor, at least in the wooded parts of the central and northern sections of the State.

It is interesting to note how small a body this species has in proportion to its length of body and extent of wing, compared with other large Owls, as may be seen by the following data, from a series of four specimens in my collection:

¹ Originally described in 'The Auk,' Vol. V, No. 1, January, 1888, pp. 87 and 88 and figured in Vol. VIII, No. 4, October, 1891, of the same journal.

Coll. Albert Lano, ♀, length, 26.75; extent, 58.00; wing, 21.00; tail, 12.00; weight, 2 lbs. 14½ oz. Collected at Aitkin, Minn., Jan. 5, 1897.

Coll. Albert Lano, ♂, length, 26.00; extent, 57.00; wing, 21.00; tail, 12.50; weight, 2 lbs. 11 oz. Collected at Aitkin, Minn., Jan. 27, 1897.

Coll. Albert Lano, ♂, length, 25.00; extent, 55.00; wing, 21.00; tail, 12.00; weight, 1 lb. 15 oz. Testicles active, size of beans. Collected at Aitkin, Minn., March 3, 1897.

Coll. Albert Lano, ♀, length, 25.25; extent, 58.75; wing, 20.75; tail, 12.50; weight, 2 lbs. 14 oz. Ovaries active, size of No. 4 shot. Collected at Aitkin, Minn., Jan. 19, 1898. — ALBERT LANO, *Aitkin, Minn.*

Note on *Speotyto cunicularia obscura* Stephens. — Mr. Stephens described this subspecies of Burrowing Owl (*S. c. obscura*, Auk, XII, Oct. 1895, p. 372), from a single male from Upper Lake, Lake Co., California. This has since stood as a doubtful form. Through the kindness of Mr. A. W. Johnson I have been able to examine two male birds from the type locality. In coloration I cannot see that these birds differ from other Ground Owls from San Diego and Palo Alto Counties, California, and Washington. The measurements are fully as great as for birds from other localities. A table of measurements is here given. Mr. Richmond

Number.	Sex.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.
151,022	♀	Upper Lake, Lake Co.	May 29, 1894.	6.20	3.10	1.65
162,706	♂	“ “ “	Feb. 10, 1897.	6.96	3.64	1.92
162,707	♂	“ “ “	Mar. 27, 1897.	6.96	3.70	1.97
162,708	♂	Long Beach.	Aug. 15, 1894.	6.90	3.54	1.80
— ¹	♂	Tiburon.	Sept. 26, 1897.	6.80	3.50	1.90
— ²	♂	Amador Co.	Jan. 26, 1896.	7.10	3.56	1.87
162,709	♀	Palo Alto.	Oct. 15, 1897.	6.78	3.44	1.60
3,155	♀	Pullman, Wash.	Apr. 7, 1894.	6.58	3.28	1.62

has kindly compared these birds with the type and says: “Two Owls from Upper Lake, Calif., the type locality of Mr. Stephens’s *obscura*, differ in no way from the ordinary *Speotyto* of the West. The original specimen of *obscura*, obtained by Mr. Stephens, is a very small bird, differing in color, when compared with western specimens, only in the dusky face and head, where the feathers are apparently stained. The measurements of the type of *obscura*, taken by Mr. Stephens, are added to the table below. The specimen from Palo Alto is fully as dark as some specimens of *floridana*, but lacks the bars on the under wing-coverts peculiar to that and the West Indian forms.” — R. C. MCGREGOR, *Palo Alto, Cal.*

¹ Coll. of H. B. Kaeding.

² Coll. of Leland Stanford Jr. University. The others belong to U. S. Nat. Mus.