

the contiguous counties of Norfolk and Princess Anne, and thus extending to the northern limit of the Austroriparian subprovince.—JOHN W. DANIEL, JR., *Washington, D. C.*

**The Proper Name for the Western Sparrow Hawk.**—Since Dr. E. A. Mearns, U. S. A., published his review of the American Sparrow Hawks in 'The Auk' for July, 1892, pp. 263-265, the Sparrow Hawk of the western United States, and the west coast of Mexico to Mazatlan, has been commonly known to ornithologists as *Falco sparverius deserticolus* Mearns. Our work in Mexico has shown that this bird ranges along the entire Pacific coast of Mexico as well as over most of the remainder of that country. The Western Sparrow Hawk appears to be the only form found along the west coast of Mexico (exclusive of Lower California) north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Dr. Chas. W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of Birds, U. S. National Museum, recently handed me volume XX of the Lévêque edition of Buffon's works with the remark that it contained descriptions of some Mexican birds by Lesson. In looking through these I found under the heading of *Tinnunculus phalæna* Lesson, a careful description of male sparrow hawks from San Blas [Tepic] and Acapulco [Guerrero], Mexico. These places are within the ordinary range of the Western Sparrow Hawk, to which Lesson's description unquestionably refers. This being the case, the name *Falco sparverius deserticolus* Mearns becomes a synonym of *Falco sparverius phalæna* (Lesson) in Buffon, Œuvres, Vol. XX, Lévêque ed. 1847 (suppl.), pp. 178-179.—E. W. NELSON, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**The Barn Owl on Long Island.**—From Doctor Braislin's 'Notes concerning certain Birds of Long Island,' published in the July number of 'The Auk', I am led to infer that there has heretofore been some doubt about the presence of the Barn Owl on our island. It may be of interest to Doctor Braislin to know that a pair of these owls formerly inhabited the steeple of the Congregational Church on the corner of Lincoln Street and Browne Avenue, Flushing. For many years I knew of their presence there, but did not divulge the secret for fear that they might be driven away by the church people. No doubt they would still be there had not the church been overhauled and new glass put into the steeple sash where the birds were wont to enter. The owls shared the steeple with a colony of pigeons and brought muskrats and other small mammals to their young, although there were fat young squabs within reach.

Mr. Langdon Gibson, brother of Chas. Dana Gibson the artist, was also aware of the presence of the Barn Owls in the Congregational spire. Gibson was then a lad and he climbed up to the nest securing *two young owls*, if I remember aright; at any rate, he brought me one which I kept for some time and from it I made a number of drawings and still have