

Hawk shot on October 12, 1920, at Beach, held, in addition to a small bird, a considerable amount of fruit.

3. *Falco s. sparverius*. SPARROW HAWK.—One secured on May 3, 1906, near Ravinia, Lake Co., Illinois, had several grubs in the stomach. Another, taken April 24, 1926, at Winnetka, Cook Co., Illinois, was found to have fed upon ants.

4. *Asio flammeus*. SHORT-EARED OWL.—A Short-eared Owl collected at Beach October 25, 1920, contained two Juncos (*J. h. hyemalis*) and two Swamp Sparrows (*Melospiza georgiana*). Another, taken on November 12, 1927, had eaten a Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax n. nivalis*).—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Evanston, Illinois*.

American Hawk Owl in Wisconsin.—On November 16, 1925, an American Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*), was shot by Oliver LaChance in Vilas County, Wisconsin, one mile southwest of the town of Land O' Lakes. The bird was mounted and placed in his store in the above mentioned town.

This bird, which is now in my collection, is in very excellent plumage. There are about ten previous records for the state.—CHARLES D. KLOTZ, *Winnetka, Illinois*.

A New Race of Screech Owl from California.—As far as is shown by my manuscript synonymy of California birds, there has, up until now, been no published record of any form of Screech Owl from that portion of this state lying east of the Sierran divide and north from latitude 35° to the region of Lake Tahoe. But manuscript field notes in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology from different points in that general territory indicate, on the basis of the characteristic voice heard of evenings, the presence of Screech Owls rather widely. And now there has accumulated the somewhat scanty but conclusive evidence which justifies the present announcement.

This eastern portion of California includes what I have termed the Inyo subfaunal district, characterized by not a few peculiar races of birds which have been described from the White, Inyo, Panamint, or others of the numerous mountain ranges of that territory, or from the adjacent or intervening valleys. Resident birds of plastic groups many of them show well-marked characters of pale coloration and large size, as compared with related forms to the west or south. It is generally consistent, then, that *Otus* should furnish a similarly distinguishable race in this potent environment.

***Otus asio inyoensis*, new subspecies. Inyo Screech Owl.**

Type.—No. 51391, Mus. Vert. Zool.; female in full, fresh annual plumage; shot in the town of Independence, Inyo County, California, October 13, 1927, by Mr. Norman Clyde, and sent to MVZ where prepared by J. Grinnell.

Diagnosis.—A subspecies of *Otus asio* characterized in comparison with other southwestern races by large size and extremely pale coloration; ground-color of dorsum near drab-gray; streaking of both upper and lower surfaces narrow, sharply outlined, and black; white about head, on lower surface of body, and on feathering of legs, clear and extensive.

Measurements.—Of type, female: Wing, 176.5 mm.; tail, 89.5; culmen from cere, 16.2; weight, 164.5 g. Of topotype, male, No. 51440, November 17, 1927: Wing, 158.3; tail, 82.6; culmen from cere, 13.6; weight, 138.2 g. (Compare these dimensions with those presented by Ridgway, Bds. N. and Mid. Amer., Pt. VI, 1914, pp. 684-703.)

Comparisons.—In size, general pallor of coloration, and extensiveness of white, the new race resembles perhaps most closely of all the Screech Owls, *Otus asio maxwelliae*, of the Rocky Mountain region to the eastward; differs from that race, however, in still paler, more ashy and less brownish tone of general coloration; dark vermiculation beneath and on legs more sootily black; the white spots on outer webs of primaries in closed wing much the smaller in *inyoensis*, and the intervening correspondingly broader dark bars decidedly grayer in color.

Inyoensis differs from its nearest relatives to the southward, *gilmani* and *cineraceus*, in decidedly larger size, in grayer less buffy general tone of coloration, and in greater extent of white about face and on lower surface and legs. In general coloration, *inyoensis* is closest to *cineraceus*.

From *quercinus* of the opposite lower westward flank of the Sierra Nevada, *inyoensis* differs in slightly greater size and in much less brownish general cast of coloration and more extensive and clearer white areas.

Range.—So far as definitely known, the Inyo region of eastern California, from the White Mountains (pinyon belt) south to the lower end of Owens Valley and southeastward to the Panamint Mountains.

Remarks.—The first specimen of what I believe to represent the present race of Screech Owl to come to the Museum was a skeleton (now No. 28868) found by Mr. Halsted G. White "lying in a small brush-heap on a rock cliff" near the Roberts Ranch, about 8250 feet altitude on Wyman Creek, White Mountains, in extreme northern Inyo County, August 15, 1917. This was probably a male. The primaries were yet attached to the manus, making possible the usual measurement of wing, which was 160.5 mm. The skull is broader and a little flatter than skulls at hand of male *bendirei*.

On September 29, 1917, when collecting in the northern section of the Panamint Mountains, in eastern Inyo County, I shot a nearly full-grown young Screech Owl from a pinyon tree. This was at about 6000 feet altitude, one mile south of Lee Pump, and in the lower edge of the pinyon belt. The bird (now No. 27878, Mus. Vert. Zool.) was a male, far along in the post-juvinal molt, and shows some of the finely barred juvinal feathers still remaining about the sides of the neck. In so far as the plumage permits of comparisons, it is in coloration quite like the type of

inyoensis, perhaps a trifle browner on the back and less white beneath. The wing measures 160 mm. The weight of the bird was 140 grams.

During the following month in the same general portion of the Panamint Mountains, around Jackass Springs, I heard Screech Owls almost daily, night or morning; so the species was probably a fairly common resident there. In cataloguing, I left the bird taken without any name, for the reason that I could find no duplicate in the Museum's collection of Screech Owls already definitely classified.

Now, in the fall of 1927, Mr. Norman Clyde, of Independence, has obtained and presented to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology a full-plumaged pair of Screech Owls, from his neighborhood, probably mates, as they were shot from the same tree, though on different dates. These serve to clear up the situation by making possible the characterization of the new subspecies as above.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, November 28, 1927.*

The Snowy Owl in East-central Illinois.—The appearance of the article by Dr. Gross on the migration flight of the Snowy Owl, appearing in the October issue of 'The Auk,' recalls to mind my carelessness in failing to answer the appeal of the editor of that magazine, who, in the January, 1927, issue, asked that records be submitted of this unusual flight. With due apology I would make amends so far as possible by offering herewith the few records which came my way. As Illinois was practically the outer limit of the flight, these records are of somewhat more than casual interest, and should have been submitted in time for their inclusion in the general summary. The article by Mr. Gross includes but one record from Illinois, that from Pana, on December 16, 1926. Pana is 35 miles south of Decatur, which is 75 miles west of Urbana.

1. November 26, 1926. One adult female shot by a farmer four miles west of Champaign. Stomach empty.

2. December 3, 1926. An adult male was captured alive by two high school boys at Tolona, nine miles south of Urbana. The bird is still alive in captivity.

3. December 17, 1926. One individual seen for two days in the university forestry preserve, four blocks from the campus of the University of Illinois. Record by Cahn.

4. December 22, 1926. Two shot at Tolona, both of which passed through the writer's hands. Both birds males; one had stomach empty; the other contained the remains of a mouse (*Peromyscus* sp.), and a Junco.

5. December, 1926. Exact date not available, but it was shortly before Christmas. One bird taken on the shore of the Carbondale reservoir Carbondale, Illinois. The bird was alive, but had evidently been in a trap, as both feet were off. This is the southernmost Illinois record at hand. Record by W. M. Gersbacher.

6. January 9, 1927. One individual seen at the strip mines, 4 miles west of Danville, in the woods along the Vermillion river. Record by Cahn.