

Rhinoptynx clamator mogenseni subsp. nov.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Rhinoptynx clamator maculatus* (Vieillot) but with more of a light ochraceous or tawny buff tinge to light areas of upper parts; outer webs of greater wing coverts with large areas of buffy to white 15–20 mm. long and 8–12 mm. wide, instead of bars and mottlings of dusky on these areas; dark brownish bars on two central tail feathers distinct only near the shaft, becoming so invaded by light buffy mottlings as to be indistinct toward the margins, instead of being distinct clear across the feather; size averaging slightly smaller, wing of female averaging less than 285 mm.

Type.—Adult female, Field Museum of Natural History, No. 59,095, Concepcion, Tucuman, Argentina, January 3, 1917, collected by J. Mogensen, original No. 1369.

Measurements of type.—Wing, 278; tail, 142; tarsus, 62; culmen, from cere, 23 mm.

Range.—Southern Bolivia to Tucuman, Argentina.

Remarks.—Three other specimens of this race have been examined, two from Tucuman, Argentina, and one from Rio Surutu, Bolivia. They agree in having the above-described characters. Three specimens of *Rhinoptynx c. maculatus* have been examined, and in addition, data and measurements of four others were available. Eleven specimens of *Rhinoptynx c. clamator* have been examined.

The collector of the type specimen, for whom the race is named, has done considerable collecting of birds and mammals in Argentina.

It is interesting to note that three other Owl races, *Strix rufipes chacoensis*, *Pulsatrix perspicillata boliviana*, and *Glaucidium brasilianum tucumanum* are confined to the range of the above-described race and to adjacent Paraguay.

Many thanks are due to Dr. W. H. Osgood of the Field Museum of Natural History, and to officers of the Museum of Comparative Zoology and the Carnegie Museum for opportunity and permission to study these specimens.—LEON KELSO, and ESTELLE H. KELSO, *Washington, D. C.*

Food of the Barn Owl.—In the summer and fall of 1934 at Mastic, Long Island, one or more large pale-colored Owls came at dusk about and entered an open barn or large shed adjacent to woodland at the edge of our farm yard. It was always too dark to get a good look at the bird, which was never there in the daytime, but it could only have been a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba pratincola*), as could also Owl notes heard in the vicinity in fall, and from their size and shape, pellets picked up in the barn. Some 15 such pellets were gathered in the summer or early fall, a few scraps in February, and some 16 that were found by careful search in the spring of 1935, were very likely mostly left-overs, making some 30 to 35 pellets in all. An analysis of their content (by D. G. N.) is estimated from skulls as 60 individual meadow mice (*Microtus pensylvanicus*), 11 short-tailed shrews (*Blarina brevicauda*), 2 young rats (*Rattus*), 1 house mouse (*Mus musculus*).

We were surprised to find the rat, which often forms a large item in the Barn Owl's diet, so poorly represented, particularly as rats were abundant about the adjacent farm barn; and with that in mind record this item for students of the feeding habits of this species. This particular Owl or Owls must have hunted over open ground, very likely at some little distance from this roost, to have captured so large a percentage of meadow mice.—DAVID G. and J. T. NICHOLS, *New York City.*

Richardson's Owl in Wisconsin.—Since so little recent information is available concerning the status of Richardson's Owl (*Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni*) in Wisconsin, the writer deems it advisable to make known the capture of three of these Owls near Hayward, Sawyer County, in northern Wisconsin. All were shot

within a few miles of the town; all were taken by the same boy at the same place; all were mounted by Mr. Karl W. Kahmann of Hayward. The first, a male, was taken on December 12, 1930, and is now in the possession of Mr. G. W. Friedrich of Chicago. Two were taken during the winter of 1933-34: a male, December 26, 1933, now in the possession of Mr. Kahmann, and a female, January 18, 1934, now in the Aard-vark Shop in Chicago.—C. T. BLACK, *Chicago, Ill.*

White-throated Swift at Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas.—Sometime during a driving rainstorm out of the northwest on the night of May 3-4, 1935, a White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes melanoleucus*), apparently disabled from a combination of exhaustion and wetting, found its way through a west-exposed window on the eleventh floor of the Medical Arts Building at Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas. Just before daylight, it was found fluttering helplessly on the floor of a wash-room, and was carried to the street by the night watchman of the building, where it was released. By some quirk of chance, Joe Maner, a PWA employee of the National Park Service, happened along just in time to rescue the floundering bird from destruction in the early morning traffic, and he brought it to the National Park Headquarters, where it was turned over to the writer. I immediately recognized in it a correspondence with a plate of the White-throated Swift in Reed's 'Land Birds East of the Rockies' (Doubleday, Doran & Company 'Nature Guide Series'), although I had never seen one of the birds before. Lacking reference material on birds of such western distribution, I called in Dr. W. H. Deaderick, of Hot Springs, an associate of the A. O. U., for his opinion. After a careful check of measurements and marks of identification from his library, Dr. Deaderick confirmed my tentative determination.

In view of the unprecedented dust storms that had been prevailing for some time in the normal range of these birds, and the fact that the Hot Springs region represents the southeastern fringe of the affected territory, Dr. Deaderick and I concluded that there must be a definite connection between the occurrence of the dust phenomenon and the appearance of this bird so far east of its accepted distribution. Whether it represented a migratory detour to the east around the dust clouds, or a direct flight eastward from the oppressive effects of the dust, is a matter of interesting conjecture. At any rate, to confirm our identification, a study skin was prepared and submitted to the National Museum, where it stands as a record of the first White-throated Swift found in the State of Arkansas. Dr. Herbert Friedmann, of the National Museum, states that it "represents a very considerable eastward extension of the known range of the bird."

In view of the possibility of dust-clogged lungs playing a part in the disability of this individual, and that it may be available for use in any study of dust storm effects upon birds of the West and Mid-West, the body was carefully preserved, and is available for the use of any reliable student.

This individual is a fully developed female, sex organs well developed, measurements as follows: Length 6.30, Extent, 13.40, Wing 5.75, Tail, 2.40 Bill .28, Tarsus .39, Middle Toe .20, its claw .28.—H. R. GREGG, *Acting Park Naturalist, Hot Springs National Park.*

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird as Commensals.—In addition to the reference given by Mr. Francis H. Allen in the last July 'Auk,' p. 310, regarding the above, if Mr. Freer and Dr. Murray will refer to my 'Birds of Hatley' published in the January issue of 'The Auk' for 1916, p. 70, they will find a note on the subject.—HENRY MOUSLEY, *4073 Tupper Street, Montreal.*