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A NEW RACE OF SHARP-SHINNED HAWK FROM MEXICO

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Plate 6

At the International Ornithological Congress in Rouen, France, in May, 1938, my friend George Sutton showed me his field painting of the head of a Sharp-shinned Hawk taken on the Mesa del Chipinque, near Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Several characters shown in the painting were so at variance with our concept of the common North American *velox* that we decided to investigate the matter further and it was Dr. Sutton's plan to join me at the British Museum to check over the extensive Mexican material there. Circumstances prevented such joint action, but I submitted the data to Dr. Sutton and later supplemented these with further notes gathered from the collections in the National Museum at Washington. Since Sutton has insisted that I take the necessary nomenclatural action, the Mexican race is appropriately named

***Accipiter striatus suttoni* subsp. nov.**

Type.—Fully adult male, No. 7902, field catalogue of George Miksch Sutton; Mesa del Chipinque, near Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, altitude "about 4500 feet"; collected February 2, 1938, by John B. Semple.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Accipiter striatus velox* (Wilson) but under parts paler, redder (less brownish) and very much less maculated; chest, lateral under parts, and thighs immaculate, or nearly so, light brick red, between 'tawny' or 'ochraceous tawny' and 'vinaceous russet' (of Ridgway, 1912); eyes of adults, so far as known, "dark brown, not red or orange-red" (Sutton, field notes on label). Size apparently slightly larger than *velox*: wings of four males, 178–188 mm.

Range.—Highlands of Mexico from the New Mexico-Chihuahua boundary (east side of San Luis Mountains, June 26, 1892; U. S. National Museum), Nuevo Leon (type), and Vera Cruz (Cofre de Perote, 'July'; British Museum), south to Jalisco (Volcan de Colima, January 4, 1890, and the Sierra Nevada de Colima, December 8, 1889; British Museum) and "W. Mexico" (no date; British Museum). Occurs (probably regularly) in the lowlands in winter, as at Tesia, Sonora (December 29, 1929, and March 23, 1930; Dickey collection).



ACCIPITER STRIATUS SUTTONI VAN ROSSEM, ADULT MALE

From a sketch in water-color made directly from freshly killed type specimen, Mesa del Chipinque, near Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, February 2, 1938

Remarks.—The dates and plumages of certain specimens (particularly that from the Cofre de Perote in the midst of the annual moult, and that from the San Luis Mountains taken June 26) definitely indicate resident birds. Moreover, in several hundred *velox* I have never seen a specimen which even approximates the characters of *suttoni*. Seven of the eight adult specimens examined are essentially like the type; that is, they have practically immaculate light-red breasts, sides, and thighs, with cross-barring evident chiefly on the median part of the abdominal region. The only specimen which could possibly be classed as an intermediate is an adult male (Dickey collection) taken by J. T. Wright at Tesia, Sonora, on December 29, 1932, and which is barred more than is normally the case; however, it is definitely *suttoni*. The characters of the young I do not know, but assume a one-year-old female taken at Tesia on March 23, 1930, to be of this race. It is paler and redder below than any young *velox* examined and the linear streaking is so broad as almost to obscure the ground color on the pectoral region.

There seem to be no older names available for the new race. I have examined in major part, perhaps in its entirety, the series in the United States National Museum on which Ridgway (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 11: 92, 1888) based his "*Accipiter velox rufilatus*," and in this series, including the subsequently selected type from Fort Bridger, Utah, there is not one which can be referred to the Mexican race. *Nisus pacificus* Lesson ('Echo du Monde Savant,' June 19, 1845), described from the "area from Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico, to California" cannot apply to *suttoni* since it relates to a bird definitely banded on the "breast, sides and belly"; *pacificus* probably will be the name of the western Sharp-shinned Hawk should such a race ever be recognized, since it has priority over *rufilatus* (see Nelson, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 18: 122, 1905), but this cannot certainly be determined without an examination of Lesson's type, providing it is still in existence.

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