

A proposed subspecies of the Great Potoo, *Nyctibius grandis* (Gmelin).—On 20 January 1959, Hugh C. Land collected a specimen of the Great Potoo, *Nyctibius grandis* (Gmelin), in eastern Guatemala. The specimen not only represents the first record for the species north of Panamá, but is unusual in other respects. It is larger in wing and tail than any of 35 specimens of the species that could be obtained at that time. The bird differed to some extent from these specimens in color as well. The possibility of naming a new subspecies was considered but it was decided to await more material.

In the Petén, Guatemala, on 1 March 1962, William L. Schultz collected a specimen of *Nyctibius grandis* that equals the size of the first Guatemalan skin. Since this bird also is larger than any other available specimens, we feel the Guatemalan population is distinct and warrants naming as:

***Nyctibius grandis guatemalensis* new subspecies**

Holotype: HCL original catalog no. 978; adult female; collected by Hugh C. Land 7 km southwest of Panzós, Department of Alta Vera Paz, Guatemala, elevation 75 m.

Paratype: Milwaukee Public Museum, field number 848; sex unknown; collected by William L. Schultz, Salinas River, Petén, Guatemala.

Distinguishing features.—The wing (chord) and tail are longer than in the nominate form (see Table 1). In color the backs of the types of the proposed subspecies are a richer brown, less gray, and are less vermiculated with dusky than the backs of any of the specimens of the nominate subspecies before us. The sides of the crown are white, flecked with dusky, forming a broad band above each eye. Only four birds in the series used for comparison have even a partially white border to the crown, none as well-developed as in the holotype of the proposed race.

TABLE 1
MEASUREMENTS OF *NYCTIBIUS GRANDIS*

	<i>N. g. grandis</i>		<i>N. g. guatemalensis</i>	
	Males (6)	Females (23)	Female (1)	? (1)
Wing (mm)	355-391 (372.0)	347-399 (366.7)	402	402
Tail (mm)	241-259 (251.2)	231-273 (248.6)	282	277

Further description of the holotype.—When the bird was collected, the bill was grayish green along the sides, darkening to black at the tip. The iris was brown, the legs grayish green. The ovary was not enlarged, the ova being only 1 to 1.5 mm in diameter. The specimen weighed 610 gm.

Range.—Until more material can be obtained, the range of the proposed subspecies must be considered as limited to the Polochic and Salinas River valleys in the lowlands of eastern and northern Guatemala. The two collecting stations are about 130 km (80 miles) apart. In both areas additional birds have been seen.

Remarks.—In color, *Nyctibius grandis* ranges from white to buffy brown, generously barred, mottled, and vermiculated with dusky. Some tendency toward a gray and a brown phase can be noted. The type specimens of *N. g. guatemalensis* fall in the brown group but are rich in dorsal coloration. The largest specimen of the South American-Panamá population (a female from Brazil, wing 399 mm, tail 273, Museum of Comparative Zoology no. 273579) is a gray individual. We can find no significant color differences between the sexes.

There also seems to be no real difference in size between the sexes. The males measured average somewhat larger, but the largest individuals are females. Table 1 compares the males and females of the nominate form with the types of *N. g. guatemalensis*. Table 2 shows the lack of any progressive size decrease from Central America into the southern part of the species range.

TABLE 2
WING AND TAIL LENGTH IN FEMALE *NYCTIBIUS GRANDIS* BY
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

Country and number of specimens	Wing length (mm)	Tail length (mm)
Guatemala (1)	402	282
Panamá (1)	358	255
Colombia (2)	359, 382	250, 258
Venezuela (2)	347, 350	237, 238
British Guiana (1)	360	242
Surinam (1)	356	231
Brazil (9)	350-399 (367.1)	235-273 (248.8)
Peru (3)	364-367 (366.0)	254-263 (258.5)
Bolivia (4)	376-384 (380.2)	247-260 (252.3)

Acknowledgments.—Comparative material was borrowed from The American Museum of Natural History (7 specimens), Museum of Comparative Zoology (5 specimens), Chicago Natural History Museum (5 specimens), United States National Museum (5 specimens), and the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley (1 specimen). We wish to thank the personnel of these museums for the loan of this material. In addition, Kenneth C. Parkes and J. D. Martin supplied the measurements of 7 and 12 additional specimens respectively.—HUGH C. LAND, *Department of Biological Sciences, Northwestern State College, Natchitoches, Louisiana*, and WILLIAM L. SCHULTZ, *Milwaukee Public Museum, 818 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin*.

Birds associating with elephants and hippopotamuses.—The well-known association of Cattle Egrets (*Ardeola ibis*), Red-billed Oxpeckers (*Buphagus erythrorhynchos*), and Yellow-billed Oxpeckers (*B. africanus*) with the larger hoofed mammals is conspicuous throughout the plains and savannas of East Africa. However, on occasion other species of birds also exploit the ecological niche afforded by large mammals. On a recent trip to Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika, I observed three other species of birds feeding in close association with large ungulates:

Fork-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus adsimilis*.—The country around "Bushwhackers," Hugh R. Stanton's camp on the Athi River 25 km north of Kibwezi, Kenya, is typical *nyika*, or tropical lowland bush. Drongos are a common and conspicuous member of the avifauna. Bush elephants (*Loxodonta africana africana*) are seasonally abundant; during my stay at the end of the long dry season, a few herds could usually be found feeding every morning and evening within hearing distance of the camp clearing. In the *nyika*, stalking is easy; I often sat quietly and watched feeding elephants for an hour or more, from as close as 30 m, with 7 × 35 binoculars. On two occasions, drongos accompanied the elephant herds.