

## A NEW SUBSPECIES OF EARED POOR-WILL FROM GUERRERO, MEXICO

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Among rarities in the Mexican collections of the late Milton S. Ray are two Eared Poor-wills of the genus *Otophanes* taken by Wilmot W. Brown in the vicinity of Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico. The species *Otophanes mcleodii* has for long been known principally from two specimens: the type, a female in the Brewster Collection at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, which was taken in the Sierra Madre of western Chihuahua by McLeod on December 6, 1884 (Brewster, Auk, 5, 1888:89), and a male in the British Museum taken at Hacienda de San Marcos, 8000 feet, Zapotlan, Jalisco, by Lloyd on May 11, 1889 (Hartert, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., 16, 1892:582; Salvin and Godman, Biologia Centrali-Americana, Aves, 2, 1894:392). The supposed occurrence of the species in Sonora and Vera Cruz (Sharpe, Hand-list Birds, 2, 1900:83) has properly been doubted (Peters, Birds World, 4, 1940:195; van Rossem, Occas. Papers, Mus. Zool., Louisiana State Univ., 21, 1945:293). No truly new information on this poor-will seems to have appeared in the literature since the early part of the century. Recently, Ed N. Harrison and W. J. Scheffler have taken four *Otophanes mcleodii* on the Sonora-Chihuahua line at the headwaters of the Alamos River of extreme southern Sonora, latitude 27° 7', longitude 108° 35', 5000 feet.

When the Guerreran specimens were first examined, it was not apparent whether they were closely related to *Otophanes mcleodii* or annectent with *Otophanes yucatanicus*, a species which has been generically separated from *Otophanes* as *Caprimulgus* (Hartert, *op. cit.*: 525) and later as *Nyctagreu*s (Nelson, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 14, 1901:171; Ridgway, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 50, pt. 6, 1914:556).

After assembling comparative material it became obvious that the Guerreran birds were in no way intermediate in characteristics between *mcleodii* and *yucatanicus*, even though they were intermediate geographically and were darker colored than *mcleodii*. In all aspects of pattern, most importantly the lack of dark shaft streaks on the crown, back, breast shield, and tertials and the presence of well defined sagittate white spots, rather than bars, on the upper belly, the Guerreran birds show complete accordance with *mcleodii*. The shape and development of the ear tufts in them also is similar. There is as yet, then, no evidence that *yucatanicus* and *mcleodii* are linked as one species, and although such linkage is still not impossible, the situation in Guerrero reduces this likelihood.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to Ed N. Harrison for the loan of two specimens of *O. mcleodii* and to Dr. Herbert Friedmann of the United States National Museum for loan of three *Otophanes yucatanicus* from Campeche, Mexico, and Petén, Guatemala.

The Guerreran Eared Poor-wills may be described as a race of *O. mcleodii* because of distinct differences in tone of coloration. The subspecies is named in honor of Milton S. Ray.

***Otophanes mcleodii rayi*, new subspecies**

*Type*.—Female, number 107138 Mus. Vert. Zool., taken in mountains above Chilpancingo, at 6000 feet, Guerrero, Mexico, August 8, 1941, by Wilmot W. Brown; ovaries minute, iris brown.

*Diagnosis*.—Coloration generally darker than in *Otophanes mcleodii mcleodii*; feathers of breast shield and scapulars with whitish vermiculations reduced and tawny, thus less frosted in appearance than in *O. m. mcleodii*; belly and under tail coverts Tawny and Clay Color rather than Pinkish Buff; chin, auriculars, crown, back and remiges dusker in male, richer and red brown in female than in *O. m. mcleodii*.

*Range*.—Known only from the mountains of southern Guerrero in the vicinity of Chilpancingo.

	Measurements in Millimeters					
	Wing	Tail	White tip of fourth rectrix	Tarsus	Middle toe without claw	Length of rectal bristles
<i>O. m. rayi</i>						
Female, type	127.9 <sup>1</sup>	110.8	11.2	16.2	15.3	42
Male, M.V.Z. no. 107137	125.5	112.3	13.4	16.4	16.7	36
<i>O. m. mcleodii</i>						
Female, Harrison Coll.	128.3	108.3	12.1	16.5	17.0	37
	(worn)	(worn)				
Male, Harrison Coll.	130.1	110.4	12.0	16.8	17.9	37
<i>O. yucatanicus</i>						
Female, U.S.N.M. 167751	110.2	99.3	5.0	15.7	15.2	35
Female, U.S.N.M. 167752	112.7	.....	8.0	15.5	15.4	34
Female, U.S.N.M. 302472	.....	.....	.....	15.6	15.2	....

<sup>1</sup> Longest primary not fully grown.

W. W. Brown writes as follows (April 22, 1948) concerning the taking of the two specimens of *O. m. rayi*: "One specimen, the first [♂, May 5, 1938], was taken at night at Chilpancingo. The other specimen, the last [♀, the type], was taken in a deep ravine in the mountains above Chilpancingo at about 6000 ft. It was flushed from the ground among the rocks, but alighted on a boulder at the foot of a cliff about 40 yards from where it was flushed. It was collected at about 10 o'clock in the morning and its reddish brown plumage made it a conspicuous object in the bright sunshine as it was flushed from the ground. I have taken only two specimens of *Otophanes* and know of no others being taken in Guerrero."

The female of *rayi* is in fresh body plumage and the primaries and tail feathers are still molting; the ninth primary is about half grown and the tenth is old. Of the white-tipped rectrices, all but 3 (pair 3 and 1 of pair 4) are buff tipped and probably are juvenal feathers. The incoming rectrices are white tipped. The bird thus probably is in its first year; the ovaries were inactive. The male is in spring plumage, which is only moderately worn. On the label it is noted that the testes were fully enlarged and the iris brown. The plumage is closely comparable in wear to that of the May-taken male *O. m. mcleodii* from Sonora which was used for comparison; the female *O. m. mcleodii* on the other hand shows much more seasonal wear and fade, especially of the wings and tail. Presumably these *O. m. mcleodii* were breeding.

The darkening of the coloration of the species *O. mcleodii* to the southward parallels that of a number of other montane birds in Mexico.

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