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A NEW HERON AND A NEW OWL
FROM VENEZUELA

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cant is beside the point; their Río Apure bird is obviously of the northern, yellow-winged race. When first reporting this specimen, Berlepsch (Ibis, 1884, pp. 438-439) noted that it agreed with others from southeastern Brazil, but had the bill longer, and broader at the base, and that the ". . . upper wing coverts are more yellowish, not so much mixed with brownish, and the black stripes on them thinner and finer."

The species, then, has two races, which are widely separated geographically, as follows:

Syrigma s. sibilatrix—southern Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, and northern Argentina.

Syrigma s. fostersmithi—north-central and northern Venezuela.

At Cantaura, July 13, 1947, Mr. Smith collected an adult male short-eared owl in good plumage. No short-eared owl was previously known to occur in northern South America east of the high páramo zones of Colombia and Ecuador, and it is not surprising to find that the one collected differs sufficiently from all the described forms to warrant giving it a name.

ASIO FLAMMEUS PALLIDICAUDUS, new subspecies

Type.—U.S.N.M. 406386, ad. ♂, Cantaura, Anzoátegui, Venezuela, July 13, 1947, collected by Foster D. Smith, Jr. (orig. No. 20).

Subspecific characters.—Resembling *A. f. bogotensis* Chapman of Colombia-Ecuadorian highlands in its general dark color above, but differing from that race in having the ochraceous buffy markings on the back somewhat more extensive, in having a strikingly paler tail, the central rectrices being light ochraceous buff barred broadly with fuscous, the pale and the dark bands about equal in width (the dark ones very much wider than the pale ones in *bogotensis*) and the lateral rectrices similar with the dark bars rapidly decreasing in width, becoming narrow bars on the inner webs of the outermost pair and entirely absent on the outer web of the outermost pair (the median rectrices in *pallidicaudus* are about like the outer ones in *bogotensis*), the facial disc more tinged with ochraceous buff, the breast less heavily streaked with fuscous, the under wing coverts almost immaculate ochraceous buff (much streaked with fuscous in *bogotensis*) and the outermost primaries with fewer bands on the underside, unbarred for the basal two-thirds (in *bogotensis* less than two-fifths).

Measurements of type.—Wing 304, tail 140, culmen from base 30, tarsus 52 mm.

Range.—Known only from the type locality.

In his review of the neotropical short-eared owls, Bangs (Proc. New England Zool. Cl., vol. 6, pp. 95-98, 1919) rightly criticizes the tendency in literature to give the American range of the bird as North and South America from the Arctic Ocean to Patagonia, and goes on to say that he “. . . can find no record for the short-eared owl from anywhere in southern Central America, nor in the vast forested regions of northern South America. Even in migration North American birds range only about as far as Guatemala and Cuba. In South America, except for the very distinct local form (*bogotensis*) . . . the short-eared owl is confined to the open regions, south of the forest, in temperate southern South America. . . .” The new race described in this paper is the first evidence of a connecting link in the open areas of Venezuela.