BIOLOGICAL LEAFLET No. 11

ADDITIONAL RACES OF AMERICAN OWLS BY LEON KELSO

In Revue et Magazin de Zoologie, 1849, pp. 22–26, Pucheran described under the specific name melanota an owl similar to Pulsatrix perspicillata (Latham) but which had only three thin white tail bars and these much more distinct. The description was since not believed to represent a separable form, and moreover the name was considered as preoccupied by Noctua melanota Tschudi.

Examination of specimens from Pernambuco to Sao Paulo, Brazil and Paraguay convinces me that there is a separable race here and I propose for it Pulsatrix perspicillata pintoi, new name, in regard for the well-known ornithologist. addition to thin tail bands similar to those of Pulsatrix melanonota (Tschudi), an inconstant character, the race is distinguished by the crown being nearly as pale as the back; back and scapulars paler grayish brown; posterior under parts paler creamy buff; and size larger (wing averaging 347.5 mm. in 4 females). The type is in the Museum of Natural History at Paris. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is suggested as the type locality. Larger specimens have been confused with Pulsatrix pulsatrix (Wied), which, in addition to several color characters, is distinguished by the much stiffer feathers of the facial rim and the larger right ear opening (17.5 mm. in greatest diameter). Also, P. pulsatrix is known to range west to Peru thus geographically overlapping the new race.

Speotyto cunicularia boliviana, subsp. nov.

Bolivian Burrowing Owl

Type.—Adult male, Warnes, Sta. Cruz, Bolivia, alt. 400 m., November 10, 1938, collected by Francisco Steinbach, No. 5409; in writer's coll.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to S. c. juninensis but wing shorter, 192 mm. in male; toes more sparsely bristled or almost bare; differing from S. c. cunicularia by longer wing and more sparsely feathered toes; back of tarsus not hidden by feathers.

Range.—Arid Tropical Zone, Bolivia and northern Argentina.

Remarks.—Four specimens from Mendoza, Argentina are somewhat intermediate to this race and cunicularia. A juvenal specimen from the type locality likewise has the toes nearly bare. Six specimens of the new form have been examined.