

34. *SPEOTYTO BRACHYPTERA*, new species.

## SHORT-WINGED BURROWING OWL.

Native name "moriquite."

The level land to the east of Porlamar is more sandy than that to the west, and the vegetation is, in consequence, scantier. There are here and there open patches of several acres in extent covered with a sparse faded yellowish grass and dotted with melon cactus (*Melocactus communis*). In these spots I was certain to find little colonies of burrowing owls living in burrows that had been made either by a land tortoise somewhat like the Florida gopher or by a rabbit. Their color harmonizes with that of the grass, and, standing erect and motionless among the cactus melons, they are easily overlooked unless approached so close that they fly a short distance or slink off like a cat. When they have thus revealed their presence, they perform various bows and nods toward their disturber, uttering at the same time a low tremulous note a little like some of the notes of our screech owl. Among my specimens was one young bird in immature plumage. The stomachs of all contained grasshoppers and fragments of beetles. I saw none at all among the hills.

[*Type*.—Male adult, No. 151660, U.S.N.M.; Margarita, June 30, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 365. Similar to *S. cunicularia*, but paler and very much smaller; the tarsi feathered only about halfway, with straggling hairs continued down on the toes; brown bars on under parts much paler and narrower; rump and upper tail-coverts uniform pale cinnamon, without spots or bars; under tail-coverts uniform buffy white; under wing coverts and axillaries immaculate buff; middle rectrices with five light bars; three innermost bars on outer web of first primary are connected. "Irides yellow." Wing, 5.48; tail, 2.41; tarsus, 1.70; exposed culmen (without cere), 0.52 inches. Two other adult males measure: Wing, 5.80 and 5.82; tail, 2.55 and 2.40; tarsi, 1.77 and 1.80 inches, respectively. An adult female measures: Wing, 5.90; tail, 2.54; tarsus, 1.63; exposed culmen (without cere), 0.57 inches. The various forms of *Speotyto*, described from the West Indies, Bahamas, and Florida, appear to have the under wing-coverts mottled or spotted, while the true *S. cunicularia*, *hypogaea*, *rostrata*, and the present form have them uniform buff. In examining a large series of the first two, I find an occasional specimen with indications of mottled under wing-coverts; but this character is very exceptional. The forms nearest in size to the Margarita bird are the *S. maura* and *guadeloupensis* of the West Indies; but they are both very dark birds, and at once distinguishable without regard to size.—C. W. R.]

35. *GLAUCIDIUM PHALÆNOIDES* (Daudin).

## FERRUGINOUS PYGMY OWL.

Native name "lechusa."

Irides, cere, beak, and feet yellow. I tried repeatedly to attract birds in Margarita by making that "screeeping" noise which is so effective