

having their nearest relatives in the Lesser Antilles or on the American continents. Certain others, as *Dulus dominicus*, *Lawrencia nana*, the two species of *Microliga*, *Calypophilus*, and *Phaenophilus* are quite peculiar, *Dulus*, *Lawrencia*, and *Calypophilus*, especially being without known relatives of close affinity. The occurrence of a species of *Loxia* with its nearest relatives breeding in the boreal areas of North America and of a form of *Brachyspiza*, ranging elsewhere through South America north into Costa Rica is especially notable in its union in the highlands of this Antillean island of faunal elements considered typical respectively of the northern and southern American continents. Though the presence of these two here may be due to some fortuitous chance it is suggestive of an earlier time, perhaps in the Pleistocene, possibly at the close of the Tertiary, when these and other similar forms had a broader range than at present, but through various causes have been restricted elsewhere leaving a few survivors on Hispaniola as indication of their former spread.

Following is the complete list of living forms peculiar to this area:

*Accipiter striatus striatus*  
*Rupornis ridgwayi*  
*Falco sparverius dominicensis*  
*Rallus longirostris vafer*  
*OEdicnemus dominicensis*  
*Chaemepelia passerina navassae*  
*Oreopeleia leucometopus*  
*Amazona ventralis*  
*Aratinga chloroptera chloroptera*  
*Hyetornis ruficularis*  
*Saurothera longirostris longirostris*  
*Saurothera longirostris petersi*<sup>a</sup>  
*Tyto glaucops*  
*Speotyto cunicularia troglodytes*  
*Asio domingensis domingensis*  
*Asio stygius noctipetens*  
*Antrostomus cubanensis ekmani*  
*Siphonorhis brewsteri*  
*Nyctibius griseus abbotti*  
*Anthracothonax dominicus*  
*Riccordia swainsonii*  
*Mellisuga minima vielloti*  
*Temnotrogon roseigaster*  
*Todus angustirostris*  
*Todus subulatus*  
*Chryserpes striatus*

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<sup>a</sup> Confined to Gonave Island.

The story runs that on February 1, 1788 M. l'Abbé Madoulé, master of mathematics, M. le Comte de Bermont, and M. Toupin climbed to the summit of La Selle from the northwest at about ten leagues from Port-au-Prince. They found trees covered with moss, the ground torn by the rootings of wild pigs, and reported an abundance of pigeons, thrushes, and woodpeckers. From eight in the evening until one in the morning they heard hollow cries imitating the human voice that they attributed to some nocturnal bird, as they had seen feathers resembling those of a swan at the edge of sort of a den or cavern. The account is so definite as to suggest that they may have heard the calls of *Tyto ostologa*. As these adventurers noted that the feathers examined were like those of a swan we may suppose that they were white, which may be a clue to the color of this bird.

There is no indication that this species, which was far larger than any others now recorded for its family, is still living. It must be considered one of the most extraordinary members of a highly interesting extinct fauna.

### Family STRIGIDAE <sup>87</sup>

#### SPEOTYTO CUNICULARIA TROGLODYTES, new name

#### HISPANIOLAN BURROWING OWL, CHOUETTE À TERRIER, COU-COU, COU-COU TERRE

*Speotyto dominicensis* CORY, Auk, 1886, p. 471 (Haiti).

Buhio de paja, OVIEDO, Hist. Gen. Nat. Indias, Libr. 14, Cap. 7; Reprint, Madrid, 1851, p. 446 (recorded).

Chouette, SAINT-MÉRY, Descrip. Part. Franç. Île Saint-Domingue, vol. 1, 1797, p. 263 (Dondon).

<sup>87</sup> The small eared owl described and figured by Vieillot (Hist. Nat. Ois. Amér. Sept., vol. 1, 1807, pp. 53-54, pl. 22) as le Hibou Nudipède, *Bubo nudipes*, is currently identified as a species found in Central America. In the original description Vieillot gives no locality, stating of his specimen only "de ma collection." On page 45 of the work cited, however, in discussing the chouette nudipède of Porto Rico, which is *Gymnasio nudipes*, he says "cette Chouette porte un vêtement qui a de l'analogie avec celui du Hibou nudipède; mais ses couleurs ne sont pas nuancées et distribuées tout-à-fait de même. Le Hibou a les plumes de la tête élevées en forme d'aigrettes, la Chouette les a aussi courtes que les autres. \* \* \* L'une et l'autre se trouvent a Saint-Domingue et a Porto-Ricco." The same author later (Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., vol. 7, 1817, p. 46) bases the name *Strix psilopoda* on the plate cited above, stating that "on le trouve à Saint-Domingue et a Porto-Ricco." In the Tabl. Méth., Ornith., vol. 3, 1823, p. 1282, he uses this latter name again saying that the bird is found on both the islands mentioned.

It is true that the description and plate agree closely with the Central American owl currently known as *Otus nudipes*, except that the figured bird has a more rounded tail, but at the same time it is curious that if it is that species Vieillot should have given the range as "Saint-Domingue et Porto-Ricco" as he collected personally on the first island mentioned. Further at that date there were few specimens accessible to him from the region extending from Costa Rica to Panama, the range of the species to which the name is now attributed.

In this connection it may be noted that Oviedo (Hist. Gen. Nat. Indias, Libr. 14, cap. 7: Reprint. Madrid. 1851. p. 446) describes a small eared owl from the Dominican

**Speotyto dominicensis CORY.**

*Speotyto cunicularia* SHARPE, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. II, p. 142 (1875).—

CORY, Bds. Haiti & San Domingo, p. 118 (1885).

*Athene cunicularia* BRACE, Pr. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. XIX, p. 240 (1877)

(?)

*Speotyto cunicularia dominicensis* CORY, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, VI, p.

154 (1881); *ib.* List Bds. W. I. p. 22 (1885).

SP. CHAR. *Male*.—General plumage brown; the head marked with streaks of dull white; feathers of the nape showing a sub-terminal bar of dull white; back mottled and barred with dusky white; quills brown tipped with dull white and barred with pale brown; secondaries marked on the outer web; tail brown, tipped with buff white and banded; ear-coverts brown; cheeks dull white; throat and upper neck dull white, separated from each other by a mark of sandy buff, barred with brownish; underparts dull white, barred with brown, the bars becoming narrower on the lower part of the body; thighs buff; under wing-coverts yellowish buff, sometimes spotted with brown near the outer edge, and becoming dull white on the edge of the wing; tarsus feathered in front to the foot; iris yellow.

The sexes are similar.

Length, 8; wing, 6; tail, 2.50; tarsus, 1.50.

HABITAT. Haiti. Bahamas?

It is possible that the species mentioned by Brace was the Florida form. I have never seen a specimen from the Bahama Islands.

**Speotyto guadeloupensis (RIDGW.).**

*Speotyto cunicularia* var. *guadeloupensis* RIDGW. in Bd. Bwr. & Ridgw.

Hist. N. Am. Bds. III, p. 90 (1874).—COUES, Bds. N. W. p. 322

(1874).

*Speotyto guadeloupensis* SHARPE, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. II, p. 147 (1875).—

CORY, List Bds. W. I. p. 21 (1885).

SP. CHAR.—“Primaries without broad or regular bars of whitish on either web; primary-coverts plain brown. Brown markings on the lower parts regularly transverse, and equal in extent to the white. White spots on the upper parts very small, reduced to mere specks on the dorsal region.

“Wing, 6.40; tail, 3.40; culmen, .60; tarsus, 1.82; middle toe, .85. Outer tail-feathers and inner webs of the primaries with the light (ochraceous) bars only about one fourth as wide as the brown (disappearing on the inner quills).” (RIDGW., orig. descr., l. c.)

HABITAT. Guadeloupe and St. Nevis.