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**REPORT**  
OF THE  
**GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF THE FORTIETH PARALLEL,**  
MADE

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR ACCORDING TO ACTS OF  
CONGRESS OF MARCH 2, 1867, AND MARCH 3, 1869,

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

BRIG. AND BVT. MAJOR GENERAL A. A. HUMPHREYS,  
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

BY

CLARENCE KING,  
U. S. GEOLOGIST.



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UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF THE FORTIETH PARALLEL.  
CLARENCE KING, GEOLOGIST-IN-CHARGE.

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PART III.  
  
ORNITHOLOGY.

BY  
  
ROBERT RIDGWAY.

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75, ♂ *ad.*; Sacramento, June 22, 1867. 9—22—7—5 $\frac{1}{2}$ —5 $\frac{1}{2}$ —1 $\frac{3}{4}$ —3 $\frac{3}{4}$ —2 $\frac{1}{4}$ . Bill, light brownish-blue; iris, lemon-yellow; toes, very pale ashy.

### NYCTALE ACADICA.

#### Saw-whet Owl.

*Strix acadica*, GMELIN, Syst. Nat., I, 1788, 296. (*Adult.*)

*Nyctale acadica*, BONAP., Comp. and Geog. List, 1838, 7.—CASSIN, in Baird's Birds N. Am., 1858, 58.—BAIRD, Cat. N. Am. Birds, 1859, No. 57.—COOPER, Orn. Cal., I, 436.—COUES, Key, 1872, 205; Check List, 1873, No. 328; Birds N.W., 1874, 315.—B. B. & R., Hist. N. Am. Birds, III, 1874, 43.

*Strix albifrons*, SHAW, Nat. Misc., V, 1794, pl. 171. (*Young.*)

*Nyctale albifrons*, CASSIN, Illustr. Birds Cal., Tex., &c., 1854, 187; in Baird's Birds N. Am., 1858, 57.—BAIRD, Cat. N. Am. Birds, 1859, No. 56.—COOPER, Orn. Cal., I, 435.

But a single individual of this pretty little Owl was met with; this one was captured alive by Mr. O. L. Palmer, of our party, who found it asleep and placed his hat over it. It was perched on the edge of an old Robin's nest, in a dense willow thicket near the camp.

#### List of specimens.

941, ♀ *ad.*; Thousand Spring Valley (Camp 27), September 24, 1868. 8—20—(?)—4 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Bill, deep black; iris, clear bright gamboge yellow; toes, pale naples-yellow; claws, deep black.

### BUBO VIRGINIANUS.

#### Great Horned Owl.

##### *β. subarcticus.*

(*Temoooh-moooh'* of the Washoes; *Moo-hoo'* of the Paiutes.)

*Bubo subarcticus*, HOY, Pr. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad., VI, 1852, 211.

*Bubo virginianus* var. *arcticus*, CASSIN, Illustr. Birds Cal., Tex., &c., 1854, 178. [Not *Strix (Bubo) arcticus*, SWAINS., 1831, = albinouscent arctic form.]—COUES, Key, 1872, 202; Check List, 1873, No. 317.—B. B. & R., Hist. N. Am. B., III, 1874, 60, 64.—HENSHAW, 1875, 407.

*Bubo virginianus* var. *pacificus*, CASSIN, Illustr. Birds Cal., Tex., &c., 1854, 178; in Baird's B. N. Am, 1858, 49.<sup>1</sup>

*Bubo virginianus*, CASSIN, Baird's B. N. Am., 1858, 49 (part).—BAIRD, Cat. N. Am. B., 1859, No. 48.—COOPER, Orn. Cal., I, 1870, 418.

The Great Horned Owl was found by us in all wooded districts, except-

<sup>1</sup> Not of RIDGWAY, in B. B. & R., Hist. N. Am. Birds, which is a northern littoral form, of very dark colors, which appears to be unnaled, and which may be distinguished as *B. virginianus saturatus*, RIDGWAY.

ing the Sacramento Valley, where none were seen, although the species undoubtedly occurs there. In the lower Truckee Valley, near Pyramid Lake, it was abundant in December, and its nocturnal hootings were heard from among the cotton-wood groves every moonlight night, while its feathers, more than those of any other bird, adorned the arrows of the Indians on the reservation. It was also common near Carson City, and a few were startled one morning as we rode through a cedar woods near the "City of Rocks," in southern Idaho. One was also seen on the eastern shore of Pyramid Lake in May, it being chased from rock to rock by a male Falcon (*Falco communis naevius*), who, with his mate, had a nest on the "Pyramid" just off the shore.

The hooting of this Owl is low and hoarse, resembling the distant barking of a large dog; its modulation is something like the syllables *hoo'h'*, *hoo*, *hoo*, *hoo*—*hoooooooo*, the latter portion a subdued trembling echo, as it were, of the more distinctly uttered notes. These notes do not differ in the least from those of the eastern birds of this species.

*List of specimens.*

504, eggs (3); Carson River, near Carson City, Nevada, April 21, 1868. Nest about 30 feet from the ground, in a large cotton-wood tree; evidently an abandoned one of the *Buteo swainsoni*.

SPEOTYTO CUNICULARIA.

**Burrowing Owl.**

*γ. hypogæa*.<sup>1</sup>

*Strix hypugæa*, BONAP., Am. Orn., I, 1825, 72.

*Athene hypogæa*, BONAP., Consp., I, 1850, 39.—CASSIN, in Baird's Birds N. Am., 1858, 59.—BAIRD, Cat. N. Am., B., 1859, No. 58.—COOPER, Orn. Cal., I, 440.

*Speotyto cunicularia* var. *hypogæa*, RIDGWAY, in COUES' Key, 1872, 207; in B. B. & R., Hist. N. Am. Birds, III, 1874, 90.—COUES, Check List, 1873, No. 332; Birds N.W., 1874, 321.—HENSHAW, 1875, 409.

*Athene cunicularia*, CASSIN, in Baird's Birds N. Am., 1858, 60 (not of MOLINA, 1782). —BAIRD, Cat. N. Am. Birds, 1859, No. 59.—COOPER, Orn. Cal., I, 1870, 437.

Although the "Ground Owl" was found at widely-separated places

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<sup>1</sup> Races *α* and *β* are, *cunicularia*, Mol., of the Pampas of Paraguay, Buenos Ayres, etc., and *grallaria*, Spix, of Peru and western Brazil. Other geographical forms are *δ*, *floridana*, Ridgw., of southwestern Florida, and *ε*, *guadeloupensis*, Ridgw., of the island of Guadeloupe (West Indies).