

with black bristles; from the base of the lower mandible two short stripes of white run downwards and backwards. Lores pitch black. Wings brown, inferior wing coverts, and edge of wing at flexure, white; primaries with three or four narrow spots of silky white on their outer margins, and all the quills with circular spots of white on their inner webs. Tail brown, narrowly tipped with white and crossed with two bands composed of spots of white, which are wanting on the outer webs of the two lateral feathers. Throat and upper part of the breast dark chestnut; all the under parts bright reddish yellow, tarsi and toes thickly covered with plumage of the same reddish yellow as the under parts. Bill and claws black, irides golden yellow.

But two specimens of this bird have been taken to my knowledge; the first was captured Oct., 1821, and kept until winter when it made its escape; the second, and the one from which the above description was taken, flew into an open shop, July, 1852. It is strictly nocturnal, utters a low tremulous note, and is an active and efficient mouser. It is different from any other species yet known to inhabit North America, and appears to have some general resemblance in color to *N. Herrishi*, Cassin, but not sufficient to render it necessary to state their difference.

I have named this species as a slight tribute of respect to that zealous Naturalist, Prof. Jared P. Kirtland, of Cleveland, Ohio.

2. *Bubo subarcticus*, nobis.

A large light colored species. Tail crossed by five bands, wings with the third primary longest, second shorter than the fourth, tooth or lobe of the upper mandible remarkably developed.

Total length 24 inches, wing from flexure 17, tail $9\frac{1}{2}$, and extends $3\frac{1}{2}$ beyond the folded wings, tarsus $2\frac{1}{2}$, bill over its convexity 1 5-12ths, everts 3 inches.

Above white and fawn color, zig-zagged and barred with brown, scapulars broadly marked on their outer webs with white. Tail bright fawn, crossed by five bars of brown, outer webs of the exterior and tips white, two central feathers colored similar to the back. Quills with seven bars of brown.

Beneath white; on the breast, sides, and flanks, each feather crossed with bars and narrow stripes of deep brown, forming on the breast a wide irregular band of the latter color. Lower tail coverts white, each feather with a single narrow band of brown.

Face greyish white, lores tipped with black, everts with their outer webs and tips black, inner webs white, bill dark horn color, lighter at the point, claws black, irides yellow.

The specimen now described was shot in January, 1851, near this city, and proved to be a female. I have seen two others which were precisely similar in their markings to the present. This species does not agree in many essential points with Richardson's description of the Arctic horned Owl, nor does it agree either in color or anatomically with the common great horned owl, which is very abundant here, and of which I have kept living specimens for more than a year. Of the latter species I have seen some very dark colored specimens, which are mostly, but not invariably, male birds.

Some of my reasons for considering the bird just described as distinct from the common species, are as follows: It differs, 1. In color and markings. 2. In measurements; it has comparatively greater length of tail, and of wings. Anatomically; the cranium of a specimen in my possession, shows a greater development of the posterior lobes of the brain and other differences, and a more distinct tooth-like lobe of the upper mandible. 4. I have seen three specimens all corresponding in every particular, and all occurring only in the depth of winter, when the great Cinereous Owl, (*Syrnium cinereum*), the Hawk Owl, (*Syrnium harrisi*), and the Snowy Owl, (*N. nyctea*), were with us. My conclusion is, therefore, that it is like these species, an inhabitant of the Arctic regions of this continent, and one of the rarest of the winter visitants in the northern parts of the United States, and in Wisconsin is much less common than either of the three species mentioned.

The Committee to which had been referred Dr. Wetherill's paper entitled "An Analysis of the Cotton Plant and Seed," &c., reported in