

distribution, for it never has been taken in the vast area between Honduras and Veracruz, and yet its huge relative, *sancti-hieronymi*, nearly twice its size and almost identical in coloration, is found in this very gap, apparently the lone representative of the genus in Guatemala, where it seems to be extremely rare, if its infrequent capture is any criterion. Because of the enormous disparity in size of this last species it seems best to follow the custom of the past and not treat it as conspecific with *cayennensis*, but if this is the correct disposition of it, we should expect someday to find a race of *cayennensis* in Guatemala.

One of the surprising discoveries by Mario del Toro Avilés has been two specimens related to *Glaucidium m. rarum* of Panama. It is here-with described:

***Glaucidium minutissimum occultum* subsp. nov.**

**Oaxaca Pygmy Owl**

*Type*.—Female adult in intermediate phase, number 33803, collection of Robert T. Moore; Moctum (Mt. Zempoaltepec), Oaxaca, Mexico; September 10, 1941; collected by Mario del Toro Avilés.

*Subspecific characters*.—Nearest to the intermediate phase of *Glaucidium minutissimum rarum* Griscom of Panama but differs in having (1) white dots on pileum smaller and much less frequent; (2) nuchal band with more extensive black and white, extending completely across the nape; (3) white band from chin extending posteriorly below the sub-orbital area to the nuchal band—more prominent; (4) legs white to buff, instead of cinnamon. It differs from *G. m. griseiceps* in same characters, but to greater degree; differs from intermediate phases of *palmarum* and *oberholseri* in characters (1) and (2) above; in addition (A) it has only three tail-bars instead of four and the tail is shorter; (B) is much darker throughout; and (C) the streaking below is heavier. No comparable phase of *griscomi* has been collected, but since its gray phase is paler and grayer than either *palmarum* or *oberholseri*, it may be deduced that it will prove to be paler and not darker like *occultum*; tail shorter.

*Range*.—From Moctum on Mt. Zempoaltepec, Oaxaca, Mexico south to Palenque, Chiapas.

*Specimens examined*.—*rarum*: the type and one other male from Panama; also one male from Costa Rica—all three in the Mus. of Comp. Zoology; *occultum*: 1 ♀ (type) and 1 ♂ in Moore Col. from Moctum, Oaxaca and Palenque, Chiapas respectively; *griseiceps*: 3 specs. in the M. C. Z. from Honduras in the gray phase with four tail bars and two in the intermediate phase with three tail bars, all marked *griseiceps*; *griscomi*: 5 specs. in Moore Col. from two localities, one in Morelos and the other on the Rio Balsas in extreme northern Guerrero; also 2 specs. in the M. C. Z. from Omilteme and Chilpancingo in southern Guerrero, marked *palmarum*, but which are closer to the grayer *griscomi*; *palmarum*: the Type in the U. S. Nat. Mus. from Nayarit, also 4 specs. in Moore Col. from Nayarit and 3 intergrades between *palmarum* and *oberholseri* from

extreme southern Sinaloa. In addition I have inspected the large series of *gnoma* in the Moore Col. from various parts of Mexico and many others in American museums; also 5 specs. of *oberholseri* in Moore Col.

*Remarks.*—*Occultum* is known only from the adult female type from eastern Oaxaca and the adult male from Palenque on the Atlantic slope of Chiapas, both localities more humid than the Arid Tropical habitat along the Rio Balsas of its geographically nearest relative, *griscomi*.

These two individuals are almost identical in coloration and both in the intermediate phase. They belong to the southern of the two groups, into which *Glaucidium minutissimum* is divided by criteria, which a decade ago would have excluded them from being deemed conspecific. The southern group (*minutissimum*, *rarum*, *griseiceps* and *occultum*) ranging from South America through Panama to Oaxaca have (1) proportionately shorter tails; (2) tail-bars 3 in the intermediate phase of *rarum*, *griseiceps* and *occultum*, 4 in the gray phase of *griseiceps* and 4 or 5 in the South American *minutissimum*; (3) intermediate and rufescent phases predominating. The northern group (*griscomi*, *palmarum* and *oberholseri*) ranging from western Morelos and central Guerrero to Sinaloa have (1) proportionately longer tails; (2) tail-bars never 3, but 4 in both intermediate and gray phases (5 in type and one other *palmarum*); (3) rufescent phase lacking, while the gray phase predominates over the intermediate in the ratio of 5 to 1. It must be remembered it is customary in this genus, when counting tail-bars, to eliminate the one on the tip (generally worn away) and the vestigial one at the extreme base of the rectrices. The number of tail-bars is not a phase character, because 19 individuals of the northern group in both gray and intermediate phases possess 4 tail-bars.

*Average Measurements in Millimeters of Males*

	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Tail</i>
4 <i>oberholseri</i>	81.1 (80.5-82)	50.6 (48.6-53.1)
6 <i>palmarum</i>	81.9 (80.-84.1)	53.6 (52.3-55.9)
5 <i>griscomi</i>	85.6 (84.2-88.1)	56.2 (54.1-57.5)
1 <i>occultum</i>	85.9	49.8
1 <i>griseiceps</i>	84.2	43.6
3 <i>rarum</i>	98.7 (86.9-92.)	48. (46.-51.2)

From the Central Plateau we have received 8 specimens of *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*. Two females from Rancho Orozco, 8 miles south of Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila (Nov. 14) and one December female from Chareo Redondo, Jalisco, are typical migrants of the so-called hoary phase of the nominate race, formerly known as *nitidus*. But five breeding birds from the central portion of the great Plateau (one a parent male taken with a young bird just out of the nest, another a female containing large eggs, and the rest with sex organs much enlarged) represent a new race—the darkest race yet discovered, remarkably contrasted with the hoary phase *nitidus* and even darker than true *nuttallii*. It is herewith described: