

sented by a smaller representative, very similar in colour in the brown phase, but having one row of spots less on the tail, and having a ferruginous phase of plumage with regularly banded tail.

4. That, although at the extreme limits of their range these two birds are tolerably well characterized, in the lower part of Central America, and even in Brazil, occur specimens which it would be difficult to refer with certainty to either one or the other form.

5. That, viewing the differences which are exhibited by most specimens from the northern and southern ranges of the birds, it is convenient to keep them separate; and as Mr. Ridgway has incorrectly called the Central-American bird *G. gnoma*, the latter will require a new title, which I propose shall be *Glaucidium ridgwayi*.

6. That the Trinidad birds hold a somewhat intermediate position, having only six bars on the tail in the grey phase, and thus resembling the Central-American bird, but being altogether of a darker and more sepia-brown, with a dotted crown. The latter character, as I have shown, does not go for much; and the ferruginous specimens have more or less striped heads. One of the latter is younger, and has a rufous tail irregularly marked with blackish, the bars, as far as they can be counted, being eight in number. I do not attach great importance to this supposed subspecies from Trinidad, as, after all, the Central-American bird may range along Venezuela to Trinidad; but at present there is no connexion between the two birds by means of specimens of *G. ridgwayi* from any part of Venezuela. The average measurements of the three races are as follows:—

	Total length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.
1. <i>G. ferox</i>	6·5-9·0	3·6-4·6	2·6-3·5	0·7-0·9
2. <i>G. ridgwayi</i>	5·5-7·0	3·55-4·1	2·5-2·85	0·7-0·85
3. <i>G. phalaenoides</i>	6·0-8·0	3·75-4·1	2·55-2·65	0·75

These dimensions are sufficient to show that measurements are little worth in the consideration of *Glaucidium*, although, were the sexes of the specimens known, there can be no doubt that some of the great differences in size in each of the species might be accounted for by a difference of sex.

The following is therefore my proposed arrangement of the American species of *Glaucidium* with reference to Mr. Ridgway's paper on the genus :—

1. *GLAUCIDIUM GNOMA*. Californian Owlet.

Glaucidium passerinum, var. *californicum*, Ridgway, Pr. Bost. Soc. xvi. p. 94 (1873).

Hab. Western Region of North America from Vancouver Island, southwards through Central America to Guatemala.

List of Specimens examined.

E Mus. Brit.—*a*, ♂ *juv.* Vancouver Island (*J. K. Lord*).
b. Mexico. *c*. Central America.

E Mus. Salvin and Godman.—*a*, *b*, *ad.* Choctum, Vera Paz, Guatemala, Jan. 1860 (*O. Salvin*). *c*, *ad.* Choctum, Jan. 1862 (*O. Salvin*).

E Mus. Norv.—*a*, *pull.* Orizaba, Mexico (*Botteri*). *b*. Guatemala. *c*. Guatemala (*Skinner*). *d*. Northern California (*Brydges*).

E Mus. H. S. Le Strange.—*a*, ♀ *ad.*, *b*, *juv.* City of Mexico (*H. S. Le Strange*).

E Mus. H. E. Dresser.—*a*, *ad.* Vancouver's Island, Nov. 16th, 1867 (*J. Hepburn*).

2. *GLAUCIDIUM GRISEICEPS*, sp. n. Isthmian Owlet.

Glaucidium pumilum (pt.), Ridgway, *l. c.* p. 97.

Hab. Central America from Guatemala to Veragua.

List of Specimens examined.

E Mus. Brit.—*a*, *ad.* Guatemala. *b*, *juv.* Veragua (*Arcé*).

E Mus. Salvin and Godman.—*a*, *b*, *c*, *d*. Choctum, Vera Paz, Guatemala (*O. Salvin*). *e*. Chisec (*O. Salvin*).

3. *GLAUCIDIUM PUMILUM*. Brazilian Owlet.

Glaucidium pumilum, Ridgw. *l. c.* p. 97.

Hab. Brazil.

List of Specimens examined.

E Mus. Brit.—*a*, *b*. South America. *c*, *d*. Brazil. *e*. Brazil (*Claussen*). *f*, *g*. Bahia (*Wucherer*).

E Mus. Salvin and Godman.—*a*. Brazil. *b*. Bahia (*Wucherer*).

E Mus. Norv.—*a*, *ad.* Brazil.

4. *GLAUCIDIUM NANUM*. Patagonian Owlet.

Glaucidium nanum, Ridgway, *l. c.* p. 104.

Hab. South America: Chili and Patagonia as far north as the Rio Negro.

List of Specimens examined.

E Mus. Brit.—*a*, *b*. S. America. *c*. Straits of Magellan. *d*. Port Famine (*King*). *e*, ♀ *ad.* Province of Colchagua, July 1870 (*Reed*). *f*, ♂ *ad.* Rio Negro, Patagonia, May 1871 (*Hudson*).

E Mus. Norv.—*a*, ♀ *ad.* Chili (*Verreaux*). *b*, *juv.* Chili.

E Mus. Salvin and Godman.—*a*, *b*, ♂ ♀ *ad.* Province of Santiago, Chili (*Philippi and Landbeck*). *c*, ♂ *pull.* Santiago, Chili (*P. & L.*). *d*, ♀ *ad.* Rio Negro, Patagonia (*Hudson*).

5. *GLAUCIDIUM JARDINII*. Jardine's Owlet.

Glaucidium jardinii et *G. lansbergi*, Ridgw. *l. c.* pp. 98, 99.

Hab. South America: New Granada and Venezuela.

List of Specimens examined.

E Mus. Brit.—*a*, *b*, *ad.* Columbia. *c*, *juv.* Columbia. *d*, *e*, *ad.* Bogota. *f*, *juv.* Bogota. *g*, *juv.* Sierra Nevada, Venezuela.

E Mus. Salvin and Godman.—*a*, *b*, *ad.*, *c*, *d*, *juv.* Bogotá. *e*, *ad.* Antioquia, New Granada (*Salmon*).

E Mus. Norv.—*a*, *juv.* New Granada. *b*, *ad.* New Granada. *c*, *ad.* Columbia. *d*, *juv.* Columbia. *e*, *f*, *g*. Bogotá (*E. Mark*).

6. *GLAUCIDIUM FEROX*. Azara's Owlet.

Glaucidium infuscatum, Ridgw. *l. c.* p. 102.

Glaucidium ferrugineum (pt.), id. *l. c.* p. 100.

Hab. South America: the whole of Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru, extending along the western coast through Ecuador to New Granada and Venezuela.

List of Specimens examined.

E Mus. Brit.—*a*, ♀ *ad.* Brazil (*Such*). *b*, ♂ *ad.* *c*, *juv.*

Brazil (*Claussen*). *d*, *ad*. Brazil. *e*, *f*, *ad*. Bahia (*Wucherer*). *g*, *h*, *ad*. Bolivia (*Brydges*). *i*, *k*, *l*, *ad*. Santa Marta.

E Mus. Norv.—*a* (brown phase), *ad*. Brazil. *b* (rufous phase), Brazil. *c*. Santa Marta (*Verreaux*). *d*. Caracas (*Verreaux*).

E Mus. Salvin and Godman.—Brown phase: *a*, *b*, *ad*. Brazil. *c*. Cajutaba, Brazil (*Natterer*). *d*, *juv*. Bahia (*Wucherer*). *e*. Venezuela. *f*, ♀ *ad*. Babahoyo, Ecuador (*Fraser*). *g*, ♀ *ad*. Arequipa, Peru (*Whitely*). Rufous phase: *a*. S. America. *b*, *c*. Brazil. *d*. Novo Friborgo, S.E. Brazil (*Youds*). *e*. Amazon (*Baird*). *f*, ♂ *ad*. Venezuela. *g*, ♂ *ad*. Babahoyo (*Fraser*). *h*, ♀ *ad*. Lima, Peru (*Nation*).

7. *GLAUCIDIUM PHALÆNOIDES*. Daudin's Owlet.

Hab. Trinidad (*Mus. Brit.*; *S. & G.*).

List of Specimens examined.

E Mus. Brit.—*a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *ad. juv.* Trinidad.

E Mus. Salvin and Godman.—*a*. Trinidad.

8. *GLAUCIDIUM RIDGWAYI*. Ridgway's Owlet.

Glaucidium infuscatum, var. *gnoma*, Ridgw. *l. c.* p. 103.

Glaucidium ferrugineum (pt.), Ridgw. *l. c.* p. 101.

Hab. From the Rio Grande (perhaps the southern border of the United States, *Ridgway*) through Central America to Panama.

List of Specimens examined.

E Mus. Brit.—*a*, *b*. Mexico. *c*. Guatemala. *d*–*k*. Costa Rica. *l*. Veragua (*Arcé*).

E Mus. Salvin and Godman.—*a*. Orizaba. *b*, *c*. Cordova, Mexico (*Sallé*). *d*, *e*. Guatemala (*Van Patten*). *f*. Laguna, Guatemala, Dec. 26, 1857 (*O. Salvin*). *g*, *h*. San Geronimo, Nov. 1859 (*O. S.*). *i*, *j*. El Paraiso (*O. S.*). *k*, *l*, *m*, *n*. *ad. et juv.* Dueñas, 1861 & 1862 (*O. S.*). *o*, ♂ *ad*. Volcan de Agua, above San Diego, Nov. 1873 (*O. S.*). *p*. Volcan de Fuego, Sept. 7th, 1859 (*O. S.*). *q*, *r*. Coban, Vera Paz, Dec. 1861 and Feb. 1862 (*O. S.*). *s*. Costa Rica (*Carmiol*). *t*, ♂ *ad*. Santa Fé, Veragua (*Arcé*). *u*, ♂. Calobre, Veragua (*Arcé*).

E Mus. Norv.—*a*, *ad*. Orizaba, Mexico. *b*. Guatemala (*Skinner*).

9. GLAUCIDIUM SIJU. Cuban Owlet.

Glaucidium siju, Ridgw. l. c. p. 105.

Hab. Cuba.

E Mus. Brit.—*ad.* Cuba.

III.—Three Months on the Coast of South Africa.

By Captain G. E. SHELLEY, F.R.G.S.

I LEFT England for the Cape of Good Hope the 15th December, 1873, on board the 'Asiatic,' one of the Union Company's steamships. The only land we sighted during the twenty-seven days' passage was Grand Canary, Teneriffe, and St. Helena. At the latter place we arrived on the morning of the 4th of January; and most welcome was the chance of feeling oneself again on *terra firma*. Not wishing to lose the opportunity of adding a new species to my collection, I took my gun on shore; and during the time I was visiting Napoleon's tomb and the house in which he lived at "Longwood" I shot by the way three specimens of *Ægialitis sanctæ-helenæ*, Harting, the only indigenous bird, and several of the small Ground-Dove (*Geopelia tranquilla*), introduced from Australia, and of *Estrellda astrild*, a native of the African continent, both of which species are thoroughly acclimatized to the island and are very abundant.

The steep road which leads out of the town towards Longwood threads the sides of rather a picturesque valley, with a small waterfall at the end trickling down over dark volcanic rocks. On turning out of this valley, and close to the first wayside canteen, the country opens out; and the scenery becomes very wild as the road passes into the fir-woods. Here I quitted it for a small barren plateau to the left, where I found some seven or eight specimens of *Ægialitis sanctæ-helenæ*, the "Wire-bird," the only ones I saw on the island,—a strange place for an *Ægialitis*, as there is no water near, and the rocky ground is parched and barren. All the specimens I procured were moulting.

On the 12th of January we reached Table Bay. The first sight of the Cape is really fine; the flat-topped "Table Moun-

4.20; tail, 2.70; culmen, .45; tarsus, .75; middle toe, .70. *Hab.* New Granada to Guiana.

- b. Markings on the crown in form of longitudinal streaks, or lines.

5. *G. FERRUGINEUM*. Tail dark brown, crossed by 7-9 continuous bands of bright rufous, about the same width as the brown ones. Above, varying from grayish brown to bright ferrugineous, without lighter transverse bars on the dorsal region; beneath, varying from pure white to pale rufous, the stripes on the sides grayish brown, or rufous. Sides of the breast never speckled with lighter. Wing, 3.70-4.15; tail, 2.20-2.90; culmen, .45-.50; tarsus, .70-.80; middle toe, .70-.75. *Hab.* Tropical America, from southern border of U. S., (Arizona, Bendire; and probably Texas) to southern Brazil. Both coasts of Middle America, but apparently only the Atlantic slope of South America.

6. *G. INFUSCATUM*. Tail dark brown, crossed by 6-7 non-continuous bands of white, narrower than the dark ones. Above, varying from grayish brown to reddish umber and sepia (apparently never rufous). Beneath white, the stripes on the sides grayish brown, or dark brown. Sides of the breast not speckled.

Above, dark sepia, or blackish brown. Tail brownish black, or deep black. Wing, 3.70-3.90; tail, 2.50-2.90; culmen, .45; tarsus .65-.80; middle toe, .65-.70. *Hab.* Eastern South America (Paraguay to New Granada).

. var. *infuscatum*.

Above, grayish, or reddish, umber. Tail clear dark brown, or grayish umber. Wing, 3.60-3.90; tail, 2.35-2.75; culmen, .45-.50; tarsus, .65-.80; middle toe, .60-.70. *Hab.* Whole of Middle America, from the Rio Grande (perhaps in Texas) to Panama. . . var. *gnoma*.

7. *G. NANUM*. Tail brown, crossed by 8-12 continuous bands of reddish white, or rufous, not more than half as wide as the brown ones. Brown of the sides much broken anteriorly by white spotting, and forming