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NEW BIRDS FROM THE STATE OF SAN LUIS POTOSI
AND THE TUXTLA MOUNTAINS OF VERACRUZ, MEXICO

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During the past four years, the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology has been gathering material for a detailed report on the birds of the Mexican state of San Luis Potosí. This work, still in progress, has brought to light several notable instances of geographic variation, four of which are discussed below. Of the new forms described at this time, three are at present known only from San Luis Potosí. The fourth is a new form of *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus* from the Tuxtla Mountains of southern Veracruz, which we discovered in the collection of the U. S. National Museum while identifying our series of twenty-one *C. o. ophthalmicus* from San Luis Potosí. We subsequently learned that Alexander Wetmore had already noticed some of the characters that distinguish the Tuxtla population but had deferred nomenclatural action because adequate comparative material was not then available. He generously suggested that, since we were preparing this paper describing other forms from eastern México, we should include the new *Chlorospingus*.

Family STRIGIDAE

*GLAUCIDIUM MINUTISSIMUM SANCHEZI*¹ new subspecies

Type.—Adult male; no. 11002, Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology; Llano de Garzas, near Cerro Coneja, San Luis Potosí, México; elevation 6,800 feet; May 14, 1947; Robert J. Newman; original no. 669.

¹This interesting little owl is named for our good friend, Sr. Carlos Sanchez Mejorada, Jr., of México, D.F., who long has shown a keen interest in the advancement of Mexican ornithology and has rendered us assistance of inestimable value.

Characters.—This race is longer-tailed, both relatively and absolutely, than *G. m. rarum* Griscom², *G. m. griseiceps* Sharpe³, or *G. m. occultum* Moore⁴, and possesses four or five tail bars instead of three; lacks the spotting on the crown conspicuous in *rarum*, *griseiceps*, and *G. m. griscomi* Moore⁵; has feathering of legs mottled Clay Color⁶ and Bister, instead of white to buff as in *occultum*; is lighter- and grayer-backed than *rarum* or *griseiceps*, but much darker in over-all coloration than *griscomi*; and is larger than *G. m. oberholseri* Moore⁷.

Additional plumage differences will be suggested by the following more detailed description: general color of upper parts grayish brown, deepening from Saccardo's Umber on forehead to very near Bone Brown on hindneck and most of back; forehead with narrow to nearly round markings of pale buff or buffy whitish, these extending along sides of pileum to postauricular region but absent, or nearly so, from crown and hindneck; lower hindneck crossed by conspicuous black collar, which is edged anteriorly by white, and posteriorly by pale tawny, markings that irregularly encroach upon the black and divide it medially; dorsum and rump absolutely unspotted, nearly concolor with pileum but enriched here and there with traces of russet and suffused with this color in the region directly below hind collar; wings Natal Brown, the coverts edged with brighter brown (Russet to Van Dyke Brown); the rectrices spotted on outer web and barred on inner web with white or buff; tail fuscous with rows of white or buffy-tinged spots, forming four or five bars (not counting the white tail tip or the vestigial basal bar); chin and jugulum, sides of chest, sides of breast, and flanks, uniform Prout's Brown with never more than a suggestion of streaking or spotting; mid-part of chest, mid-part of breast, and belly, white, coarsely streaked with Prout's Brown darkening occasionally to Fuscous posteriorly; under tail coverts white,

²*Glaucidium minutissimum rarum* Griscom, Proc. New England Zool. Club, 12, 1931: 41 (Permé, Caribbean slope of eastern Panamá).

³*Glaucidium minutissimum griseiceps* Sharpe, Ibis, 1875: p. 41, pl. 2, fig. 2 (Veragua, Panamá, and Chisec and Choctum, Guatemala; restricted to the tropical lowlands of Alta Vera Paz by Griscom, Proc. New England Zool. Club, 12, 1931: 42).

⁴*Glaucidium minutissimum occultum* Moore, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 60, Dec. 21, 1947: 144-145 (Moctum, Mt. Zempoaltepec, Oaxaca, México).

⁵*Glaucidium minutissimum griscomi* Moore, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 60, April 3, 1947: 33-35 (El Rancho Potrero de los Indios, 12 miles south of Zirandaro, Guerrero, México).

⁶Capitalized color names in this paper are from Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature" (Washington, D. C., 1912).

⁷*Glaucidium minutissimum oberholseri* Moore, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 50, August 7, 1937: 105-106 (Vado Hondo, central Sinaloa, México).

sometimes with fine shaft streaks; feathers of legs mottled with Clay Color and Bister in varying proportions; irises and feet canary yellow.

The above characterization applies to a series of four males, representing what may be said to correspond to the "intermediate" phase of other races. The unique female example of *sanchezi*, while it must be classed within the limits of the same phase, is a lighter and brighter brown throughout: pileum and hindneck, Mummy Brown; back and most of wings, Russet to Prout's Brown; streaking of under parts, mostly Cinnamon Brown, with a few dashes of blackish brown posteriorly; primaries and tail, fuscous.

*Measurements.*⁸—Adult male (4 specimens): wing, 86.4 - 90.1* (88.1) mm.; tail, 51-57* (52.7); culmen from cere, 10.2* - 10.5 (10.2). Adult female: wing, 90; tail, 55; culmen from cere, 11.

Distribution.—Present records are confined to a narrow range in the Sierra Madre Oriental of southeastern San Luis Potosí, near the border of Queretaro, at elevations of 5,600 to 7,300 feet.

Remarks.—Since we have not had the privilege of directly comparing *sanchezi* with *G. m. occultum* Moore or *G. m. oberholseri* Moore, all specimens of which are in the Orcutt Trust collections, we do not feel that a detailed evaluation of color differences is warranted at this time. Not only are written color interpretations likely to contain a highly subjective element, but in the genus *Glaucidium* the matter is rendered still more complicated by polychromatism. It is evident, even from the written descriptions of these owls, that *sanchezi* possesses many distinctive color characters, but to make explicit comparisons of all these points under the circumstances would surely lead to some error in detail.

The discovery of *sanchezi* extends the range of *G. minutissimum* farther to the north than the species has ever been recorded in eastern México, about 150 miles north of its geographically nearest relative, *griscomi*, which, surprisingly enough, it least resembles among all the races we have examined. This dissimilarity seems less remarkable, however, when we consider the habitats involved. *G. m. griscomi* is a bird of the Lower Arid Tropical Zone, occurring as low as 1,200 feet. *G. m. sanchezi* has been found only above 5,000 feet in montane forest of mixed evergreens and hardwoods, including such temperate zone trees as Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*), cypress (*Cupressus lindleyi*), pines (*Pinus*

⁸Measurements marked with asterisks in this paper are those of type specimens.

teocote, *P. patula*, etc.), dogwood (*Cornus disciflora*), American hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), and sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). It seems unlikely that the species regularly occurs at elevations much lower than this in southeastern San Luis Potosí, within the range of *G. brasilianum*, since its presence would be quickly betrayed by its characteristic call notes, a series of short, hollow whistles, all on one pitch, delivered at intervals in groups of two or three.

Specimens examined.—Five, all from Cerro Coneja Region, San Luis Potosí, as follows: Llano de Garzas, 6,800 feet (type); near Cerro la Luz, 7,300 feet; near Cerro la Mina, 6,500 feet; Hoya de la Silleta, 6,250 feet; beyond Puerto de Loso, 5,600 feet.

Family TROGLODYTIDAE

THRYOTHORUS LUDOVICIANUS TROPICALIS new subspecies

Type.—Adult male; no. 11823, Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology; .5 mi. E Naranjos, San Luis Potosí, México; elevation 1,000 feet; March 21, 1947; Robert J. Newman; original no. 563.

Characters.—Darkest in over-all coloration of all the races of *Thryothorus ludovicianus*: Van Dyke Brown or darker on upper parts and postocular region; under parts, except throat, ranging from Clay Color to Ochraceous Tawny; flanks barred, the markings more or less blackish. *T. l. berlandieri* Baird⁹ is almost identical in coloration of the under parts but is distinctly lighter on pileum, back, and wings and has a less heavily barred tail. *T. l. miamensis* Ridgway¹⁰ is somewhat lighter, and decidedly more rufescent, above than *tropicalis* and is much lighter below, lacking the barring on the flanks.

Measurements.—Adult male (2 specimens): wing, 57*, 57.6 mm.; tail, 48*,—; exposed culmen, 17.7*, 15.5; tarsus, 20*, 21. Adult female (1 specimen): wing, 55.1; tail, 44.5; exposed culmen, 15.8; tarsus, 20.0.

Distribution.—Currently represented in typical form only by specimens taken in a tropical pocket on the eastern side of the Sierra Madre Oriental, between Sabinito and the environs of Naranjos, San Luis Potosí, México. Carolina Wrens seen in the Sierra Boca de Abra, one example of which was shot but subsequently lost, may extend the range of *tropicalis* at least as far southward and eastward as Taninul, San Luis Potosí.

⁹*Thryothorus berlandieri* Baird, Rep. Pac. R.R. Surv., 9, 1858: 362 (Boquillo, Nuevo León, México).

¹⁰*Thryothorus ludovicianus* var. *miamensis* Ridgway, Amer. Natur., 9, 1875: 469 (Miami River, Florida).