

## 298. SCOPS — ?

Though a skin from Cajabon seems to present some features that might entitle it to be considered as a distinct species, yet so much obscurity exists with respect to these Owls, that to give new names tends only to increase the confusion. The species to which it is most nearly allied are *Scops usta*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 132, and *S. brasiliensis*, from the former of which it differs in having the ears less conspicuous, and in wanting the deep rufous tinge that pervades the whole plumage of that bird. It also has a light marking over the eye which is wanting in *S. usta*. From the latter it differs in its general tone of colouring, the breast being lighter and the back richer and more rufous. More examples will be necessary, to trace the changes of its plumage, before entering upon its claims to be held as a really distinct species.

299. LOPHOSTRIX STRICKLANDI, Sclat. et Salv. *Scops cristata*, Daud., var., Strickl., Contr. Orn. 1848, p. 60, pl. 10.

The late Mr. Strickland has, in his usual accurate manner, pointed out the characters which distinguish this Central American bird from its prototype of Cayenne. He was acquainted only with one example, from which his figure was taken. Mr. Skinner having lately transmitted three examples of this bird from the Vera Paz, all of which agree in the distinctions given by Mr. Strickland, we cannot avoid considering it as entitled to specific rank. The most obvious differences are the absence of the white on the forehead, the blackish ear-coverts, and the much more distinct markings on the wings in the present bird.

300. SYRNIUM NEBULOSUM (Forster): Baird's Rep. p. 56. (N. A.)

The Norwich Museum contains examples of this Owl transmitted by Mr. Skinner from Cajabon, where it appears to breed, as one of the specimens is in the downy plumage of the young bird.

301. SYRNIUM VIRGATUM, Cassin, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 285.

Numerous examples of this species have been transmitted by Mr. Skinner.