

A diurnal and crepuscular rather than a nocturnal species. The stomachs of those individuals examined, contained the remains of orthopterous and coleopterous insects. A permanent resident at Fort Whipple, but not very abundant.

MICRATHENE Coues, nov. gen.

*Generic Characters.*—Bill small and weak, compressed at the base, where it is densely covered with recurved feathers terminating in stiff bristles; outline of culmen and gonyes moderately convex; lower mandible obsoletely notched. Facial disk not conspicuously defined, imperfect behind the eye. Wings exceedingly long; measuring from the carpal joint rather more than two-thirds the total length of the body; much rounded, the exposed portion of the first primary only two-thirds that of the longest one; third and fourth longest, fifth but little shorter, second about equal to the sixth. Tail of moderate length, not graduated: rectrices broad to their very tips. Tarsi of moderate length, feathered only for a short distance below the tibio-tarsal joint; the rest of their extent, and the superior surface of the toes, clothed with bristly hairs. Claws unusually small and weak, moderately curved; the outer one reaching a little beyond the base of the middle one; the inner intermediate between outer and middle ones. Middle toe and claw about as long as the tarsus. Hallux elongated. Of small size, being among the most diminutive of known Owls.

TYPE. *Athene Whitneyi*, Cooper.

With the size and general aspect of *Glaucidium*, this genus differs greatly from it as follows: The bill is smaller, weaker, less strongly hooked and denticulated. The wings are much longer, and the tail much shorter. The tarsus is unfeathered except for a short space superiorly. The claws are so small and weak as to be hardly more than insessorial rather than raptorial in character. The proportions of the tarsus and toes differ decidedly. Nor has it much in common with *Athene*, except the partially denuded tarsi; the relative proportions of the tarsus and toes to each other being quite different in the two genera; *Athene* having the middle toe and claw about two-thirds the tarsus, instead of fully as long. The claws of *Athene* are very long, acute and little curved. While both genera are very long winged, there is a decided difference in the shape of the wing; that of *Athene* being much the most pointed, in consequence of the greater elongation of the first and second primaries. I think it more than probable that *Micrathene* is a truly arboreal genus, like *Glaucidium*, thus differing radically in its habits from the species of *Athene*.

In conversation with me Dr. Cooper intimated his belief that the bird was not a true *Athene*; and my critical examination of his type, made at his own request, amply confirms the accuracy of his opinion.

(36.) MICRATHENE WHITNEYI (Cooper.)

*Athene Whitneyi*, Cooper, Pr. Cal. Acad. Nat. Sci., 1861, p. 118.

For the discovery of this delicate raptorial gem we are indebted to the indefatigable Dr. J. G. Cooper, so long and well known as an excellent naturalist, who procured the only known specimen at Fort Mojave, April 26, 1861. It is unnecessary to add anything to the accurate description above cited. It is one of the most interesting of the recent additions to our western Avifauna.

CUCULIDÆ.

37. GEOCOCCYX CALIFORNIANUS (Less.) Baird.

Rare and seen on but few occasions at Fort Whipple, which is near its northern and eastern limits, though specimens have been taken as far north as the Colorado Chiquito River, by Dr. Kennerly. Very abundant in the more southern and western portions of the Territory. Known as the "Chap-1866.]