

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NEW ENGLAND ZOÖLOGICAL CLUB

A NEW BARRED OWL FROM CORPUS CHRISTI,
TEXAS.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

It has been customary to give the range of the form of the barred owl having naked toes, *Syrnium nebulosum alleni* Ridg., as extending from Georgia and Florida west along the Gulf Coast to Texas. Recently I saw in Mr. M. Abbott Frazar's store a fine series of barred owls that had just been sent him from Corpus Christi, Texas. They at once struck me as very different in color from Florida birds. I bought a pair, and, upon comparing them with the Florida form, found them so different, that I think it well to give the Texan form a subspecific name.

The Florida form is constantly darker in color than true *S. nebulosum*. The Texas bird, like *S. n. alleni*, has naked toes, but is much paler in color throughout, with all the light markings more conspicuous, and the ground color above, pale yellow or cinnamon, the wings and tail in particular being very pallid. The differences in color between the Texas bird and true *Syrnium nebulosum* are almost as great as between the great horned owls of the prairie regions and of the Atlantic States.

The new form may be known as

***Syrnium nebulosum helveolum*¹ subsp. nov.**

Type, from Corpus Christi, Texas, ♀ adult, no. 4551, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected Feb. 2, 1899, by Frank B. Armstrong.

¹ *Helveolus* — pale yellow, yellowish.

Subspecific characters.—Size of true *S. nebulosum*; toes naked as in *S. n. alleni*; colors very pallid throughout; ground color of back, wings and tail, pale yellowish brown or cinnamon, lightest on wings and tail, and shading on head toward sepia; all the light bars and spots on primaries, tertiaries and scapulars, large and conspicuous and white; the light bars on tail wider and paler than in true *S. nebulosum*; colors below all paler; dark striping and barring more cinnamonaceous, less dusky, and ground color paler, more whitish; feathers of tibia and tarsus, buff to whitish, showing very little, or none whatever, of the dusky markings present in both *S. nebulosum* and *S. n. alleni*.

Size.—Type, ♀ adult: wing, 331; tail, 211 mm. Topotype, ♂ adult: wing, 347; tail, 214 mm.