me by these gentlemen, may apply in part to the southern form:—"Skunks," they inform me, "are found throughout Guatemala; and few country houses, where old stone walls or fences abound, are not infested by these beautiful but nauseous animals. They are seldom seen, being nocturnal in their habits; but not unfrequently, during the night, one is awakened by a clamour of dogs, which is soon followed by the air being tainted with the foul odour which makes the Skunk so notorious.

"These animals are preyed upon by Hawks and Owls, and we have not unfrequently shot specimens of these birds whose plumage reeked of the odour of a Skunk."

2. Mephitis macrura.


Mephitis mexicana, Gray, Mag. Nat. Hist. 2nd ser. i. p. 581 (1837, descr. orig.).

Zorrillo of Mexicans (common to all the species).

Hab. Mexico (Mus. Brit.), near City of Mexico (Deppe, Mus. Berol.), Guanajuato (Dugès), Orizaba (Botteri, U.S. Nat. Mus.).

After an examination of the specimens in the Berlin and British Museums, I fully agree with Dr. Coues in regarding the Long-tailed Skunk as deserving of specific recognition. In none of the numerous varieties of M. mephitis have I been able to find an approach to the broad hoary dorsal band with narrow lateral white stripes which mark this species; and the great proportional length of the tail also appears to be constant. As Dr. Coues has shown, this is not the M. macrura of Audubon and Bachman, which is identical with M. mephitis; and I have already given my reasons for referring Lichtenstein's M. vittata to that species, instead of to the present, as suggested by Dr. Coues. Nor, as will be seen presently, do I agree with that gentleman in giving Mr. Tomes's M. longicaudata as even a doubtful synonym of M. macrura; so that there appears to be no recorded evidence of the occurrence of the latter outside of the boundaries of Mexico. Judging from the few specimens of which the exact localities have been recorded, the Long-tailed Skunk seems to inhabit the central and southern States of that Republic, occurring in some places along with the last species.

3. Mephitis putorius.

Viverra putorius, Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. i. p. 64 (1766, ex Catesby).


Mephitis (Spilogale) putorius, Coues, Fur-bearing Anim. p. 239.


* Quad. N. Am. iii. p. 11, pl. cii.