

is the commonest species of the genus in the Atlantic States. Mr. Allen has well described the variations in size and coloration which occur in different parts of its extensive range, and which have led to the description of several nominal species, as *Lepus bachmani*, Waterhouse, *L. nuttalli*, Bachman, *L. artemisia*, Bachman, and *L. auduboni*, Baird. Of these, three seem to represent distinct geographical races; for *L. nuttalli* of the central tracts from Oregon southwards is paler and smaller than the true *L. sylvaticus* of the Atlantic sea-board; *L. arizonæ* of the deserts of Arizona is still paler and has longer ears; and *L. auduboni* of the Pacific slopes is darker than the typical form. They all, however, blend one with another, and cannot be regarded as more than varieties of one widespread and somewhat variable species⁵.

According to Audubon and Bachman, the Wood-Hare is one of the most prolific of its family, breeding throughout the greater part of the year, and producing five to seven young ones at a time. It runs with great fleetness when first started, but, if pursued, soon seeks for shelter in a hole among the roots of a tree or in a hollow log*.

South Mexico and Yucatan form the southernmost extreme of the range of this species, as at present known. Mr. Allen observes that specimens from those countries have the rufous tinge of the fur strongly developed, especially on the legs and feet, but adds that specimens from Tehuantepec and Orizaba can be almost exactly matched by others from the neighbourhood of Washington.

2. *Lepus graysoni*.

Lepus graysoni, Allen, Mon. N.-Am. Rodent. p. 347 (1877, descr. orig.¹).

Hab. MEXICO, Tres Marias Islands (*Grayson, U.S. Nat. Mus.*¹); COSTA RICA, Talamanca (*Carmiol, ib.*¹).

This species has been lately described by Mr. Allen from two specimens in the National Museum at Washington—one brought from the Tres Marias Islands by the late Colonel A. J. Grayson, in whose honour the specific name is bestowed, the other obtained by Carmiol in Costa Rica. Mr. Allen says of the Tres-Marias example that "it is about the size of *Lepus sylvaticus*, but differs in many important features from any of the varieties of the *L. sylvaticus* group. The form of the postorbital processes shows that in this respect its affinities are with this group rather than with the Aquatic Hares (*L. palustris* and *L. aquaticus*), although its feet are small and as sparsely haired as in *L. palustris*. In general colour and in some other features it somewhat resembles *L. brasiliensis*, but is in other respects quite different. It has a tail as short as *L. townsendi*." The Costa-Rican specimen agrees in all essential particulars, but is somewhat paler-coloured¹.

Knowing this Hare only from the original description, I can express no opinion as to its specific distinctness from *L. sylvaticus*.

* Quadr. N. Am. i. p. 173.