

tota circa 9.0, alæ 6.5, caudæ 3.4, tarsi 1.3. (Descr. exempl. ex Coban, Guatemala. O. S. 2352. Mus. nostr.)

*Forma hepatica.* Supra rufa, plumis omnibus medialiter nigris, maculis scapularum et tectricum alarum albis distinctis; subtus usque ad pectus imum rufescens, abdomine albo, plumis omnibus medialiter nigris et lineis nigris frequenter transfasciatis. (Descr. exempl. ex Las Salinas, Guatemala. Mus. nostr.)

*Hab.* MEXICO, Vera Cruz (*U.S. Nat. Mus.*), Catemaco (*Nelson & Goldman*<sup>15</sup>), Jalapa (*de Oca*), Zentla (*Ferrari-Perez*), Chimalapa, Isthmus of Tehuantepec (*W. B. Richardson*), Tizimin in Yucatan (*G. F. Gaumer*); GUATEMALA, Coban, Choctum, Las Salinas (*O. S. & F. D. G.*), Cahabon (*Skinner*<sup>12</sup>); COSTA RICA (*v. Frantzius*<sup>5</sup>, *Carmirol*, *Gen. Lawrence*<sup>13</sup>), San José (*v. Frantzius*<sup>4</sup>, *Boucard*<sup>6</sup>, *Cherrie*<sup>8</sup>), La Palma de San José (*Zeledon*<sup>7</sup>); PANAMA, Calobre, Chitra, Calovevora (*Arcé*<sup>3</sup>), Lion Hill (*M. Leannan*<sup>9</sup>). — W. ECUADOR.

The common bare-toed Scops Owl of Central America was long considered by us to be undistinguishable from the South-American *S. brasiliensis*, but Dr. Sharpe, when writing his 'Catalogue of Owls in the British Museum,' separated it under the name of *S. guatemalæ*, and in so doing he was followed by Mr. Ridgway. The chief differences defining *S. guatemalæ* from *S. brasiliensis* are the more confused mottling of the under surface and the denser marking of the chest as compared with the abdomen of the former, the middle of the feathers of the under surface being white, without any of the buff colour characterizing those of *S. brasiliensis*.

Mr. Ridgway in his first paper<sup>11</sup>, when he had all the Central-American specimens we then possessed before him, made no distinction between the birds of Guatemala and those of Costa Rica and Panama; but he subsequently separated the latter under the name of *Megascops vermiculatus*<sup>13</sup>, comparing the types from Costa Rica with *S. nudipes*, the tarsus being bare at the extreme end, and the sides of the face without any black border. The plumage he describes as much more uniform both above and below, and the feathering of the legs light brownish or brownish-white, distinctly barred with brown instead of plain bright ochraceous. It is, however, with *S. guatemalæ* that the Costa Rica and Panama birds must be compared; and so far as the coloration is concerned they show practically no difference, every variety of colour being present in a series of the two birds, and the dark mark at the sides of the face is to be seen in some southern birds though no doubt generally absent. Then as regards the extent of the feathering of the extremity of the tarsus no doubt great variation exists, even in Mr. Ridgway's types one has the bare part more than twice as wide as the other, and amongst our series we notice even greater discrepancy. Failing, then, to discover any distinctive characters we unite *S. vermiculatus* with *S. guatemalæ*. We may add that Mr. Ridgway has most kindly sent us one of his types (no. 90398) for examination, and we find almost its exact counterpart in a specimen from Calovevora.

Turning now to the Mexican State of Vera Cruz, whence two species or subspecies have been described, viz. *S. cassini* and *S. marmoratus*<sup>15</sup>, we have Mr. Ridgway's