

to discover any difference between them. *S. brasiliensis* therefore occurs with *S. guatemalæ*, or, as Mr. Ridgway would call it, *S. vermiculatus*, in Costa Rica, just as it also occurs with *S. roraimæ* in British Guiana, the two birds being apparently quite distinct.

*S. brasiliensis* differs from all other species of *Scops* in our country, except *S. hastatus*, in having a distinct shade of buff over the middle of the feathers of the under surface. The pattern, too, of this portion of the plumage is continuous over the breast downwards, the breast not being darker and more closely marked than the abdomen as in *S. guatemalæ*.

The references recording a *Scops* from the Line of the Panama Railway we have placed under *S. guatemalæ*, but they may belong to this species. The true *S. brasiliensis* occurs in the Cauca Valley, and thence southwards over the greater part of Tropical South America.

### 8. *Scops hastatus*.

*Megascops hastatus*, Ridgw. Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. x. p. 268<sup>1</sup>; Man. N. Am. Birds, ed. 2, p. 593<sup>2</sup>.

*S. brasiliensis* similis, sed supra omnino pallidior et grisescentior, maculis nigris præcipue in pileo magis obviis: subtus fasciis transversis magis numerosis et indistinctioribus.

*Hab.* MEXICO, Mazatlan (*Xantus*<sup>1</sup>), Mineral de San Sebastian in Jalisco (*A. C. Buller*), Tepic (*W. B. Richardson*).

Mr. Ridgway separated *Scops hastatus* from *S. brasiliensis* in 1887<sup>1</sup>, his types having previously been considered to belong to *S. guatemalæ*. One of these specimens, that from Mazatlan (no. 23793), has been kindly forwarded to us, and we find its counterpart in a specimen from Mineral de San Sebastian in Jalisco. Another specimen from Tepic we think must also be referred to the same form, but it is decidedly darker and the black spots, especially on the under surface, wider and more distinct.

All these specimens have a wash of buff tint on the under surface (slighter in the Tepic example) similar to, but not so strong as in, *S. brasiliensis*; the general markings, too, of the under surface are nearly uniform and not denser on the breast. Both these characters seem to separate *S. hastatus* from *S. guatemalæ*, and we are disposed to keep this form from Western Mexico distinct from the more eastern and southern bird. At the same time we must admit that the difference is not very pronounced, and consists of a modification of colour only, a very variable character in these Owls.

### 9. *Scops barbarus*.

*Scops flammeola*, Salv. Ibis, 1861, p. 355 (nec Kaup)<sup>1</sup>.

*Scops barbarus*, Scl. & Salv. P. Z. S. 1868, p. 56<sup>2</sup>; Ex. Orn. p. 101, t. 51<sup>3</sup>; Sharpe, Cat. Birds

Brit. Mus. ii. p. 107<sup>4</sup>; Ridgw. Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. i. p. 103<sup>5</sup>.

*Megascops barbarus*, Hasbrouck, Auk, 1893, p. 262<sup>6</sup>.

Niger, pallide rufo punctatus et variegatus, superciliis in torquem nuchalem transeuntibus albo guttatis; scapularium pogoniis externis distincte albo ocellatis, primariis fusco-nigris in pogonio externo rufescenti-