

contrast with the white color on the same parts of *mexicana*, and the deep, dark, reddish chestnut of the same parts in *M. gallopavo*, the eastern United States bird. The lower back is a deep blue black and is wanting in those brilliant metallic tints so prevalent in the eastern bird and in the type of *mexicana*. The primaries of the wing are black with white bars in contrast with *M. gallopavo* the primaries of which are white with black bars; in this respect the new race more nearly resembles *M. g. mexicana*, and approaches *M. g. osceola* of Florida described by Scott, which has narrow, white bars on the primaries. The adult female is darker than that of the other races, and the decided dark ochraceous buff edgings will separate it from the white of *mexicana* and from the dark reddish chestnut of *M. gallopavo*. In the young of both sexes the edgings of all the feathers are paler or lighter than those of the adults, but in all cases the buff is present, while in the other races the edgings are either red or white.

It gives me pleasure to name this new Turkey after my friend, Mr. D. G. Elliot, who, both in his published works and in field study has, in a greater degree than any other ornithologist, made a specialty of the game birds of America.

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## THE DWARF SCREECH OWL (*MEGASCOPS FLAMMEOLUS IDAHOENSIS* MERRIAM).

BY DR. C. HART MERRIAM.

(Plate II.)

IN STUDYING the bird life of a limited area in the summer season it is usually possible to secure specimens of most of the diurnal species. Not so, however, with the Owls, and the difficulty increases inversely with the size, and is greatly augmented in the case of species that spend the day in holes in trees. As a rule these species are obtained by chance. Who has not heard small Owls about his camp fire at night for weeks, or even



DWARF SCREECH OWL  
MEGASCOPS FLAMMEOLUS IDAHOENSIS MERRIAM.

months, without securing a single individual? Perhaps the most difficult kinds to get are the Pigmy, Saw-whet, and Flammulated.

In the summer of 1889 the writer and Mr. Vernon Bailey spent two months in the San Francisco Mountain region in Arizona. Our base camp was at Little Spring among the pines at the north foot of the mountain, and though small Owls were frequently heard at night, we were unable to obtain them. Dr. Mearns, who chanced to pass this same spring during a hurried military trip, had the good fortune to see a Saw-whet at the mouth of a Flicker's hole in a tall pine stump. He killed the bird, which "proved to be the parent of three young and an egg" (Auk, VII, 1890, p. 54). An equally accidental capture was that of the rare Flammulated Screech Owl shot by me at three o'clock in the morning while climbing out of the Grand Cañon of the Colorado by moonlight, Sept. 13, 1889. (N. Am. Fauna, No. 3, Sept., 1890, p. 91.) A third instance of the same kind was the chance capture, in the mountains of central Idaho, of the new Dwarf Screech Owl which is the subject of the present article. It was killed in a low pine tree on a mountain on the west side of Big Wood River, a few miles north of the town of Ketchum, Idaho, September 22, 1890.

The type of *Megascops flammeolus* came from Mexico, and for many years the species was known only from central Mexico and Central America; and it is probable that the type locality of the Idaho form is separated from that of *flammeolus* by about two thousand miles. The southern bird is larger and very much darker than the northern. The latter may be distinguished by the following description:—

"Similar to *M. flammeolus*, but smaller and paler. Wing, 125 mm.; tail, 62 mm. (measured from insertion of middle feathers). The back is only slightly paler than in *flammeolus*; the under parts are very much paler, the ground color being white and the vermiculations distant; the black markings are everywhere restricted. The facial ring is bright tawny ochraceous, and spreads out above so as completely to encircle the eyes; the cheeks are ash-gray, and the chin white. The dusky spots in the facial ring are inconspicuous; in true *flammeolus* they are strongly developed, sometimes forming a black ring which is merely tinged with tawny. The black spots on the

side are very much reduced in size, and seem to be arranged in a single row."

"Type, No. 119,654, ♂, ad., U. S. National Museum (Department of Agriculture collection). From Ketchum, Idaho, September 22, 1890. Collected by C. Hart Merriam and Vernon Bailey." (*N. Am. Fauna*, No. 5, Aug., 1891, p. 96).

The type specimen still remains unique. The accompanying colored plate is the work of Mr. John L. Ridgway.

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

Packard's *'The Labrador Coast.'*\* — The first twenty pages are devoted to a sketch of the physical geography of Labrador, followed by about forty pages of historical matter, devoted largely to a discussion of the early discovery of the country by the Norsemen. Chapter V, *'One of Fifty Days in Southern Labrador,'* gives a general view of the country as seen from the standpoint of the naturalist. The next hundred pages are somewhat in the nature of an itinerary of two summer cruises along the coast, with descriptions of the scenery, and notes on the geology, and the various forms of animal and vegetable life met with. Then follow chapters on recent explorations, on the civil history of Labrador and its fisheries, and on the Labrador Eskimo. The four concluding chapters are devoted respectively to a systematic account of the zoölogy and botany of the Labrador Coast, and an extended bibliography of works and papers relating to Labrador (pp. 475-501). The list of plants is by Prof. John Macoun, Naturalist of the Department of the Interior, Canada. The list of birds is by Mr. Lucien M. Turner, reprinted from the *Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum* (1885, pp. 233-254), "revised and brought down to 1891, by J. A. Allen."

The work is, in the main, a collection of previously published papers and memoirs, here brought together and revised, forming a valuable manual of our present knowledge of the Labrador coast. The narrative portions are entertainingly written, and contain passing references to the various species of birds met with. — J. A. A.

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\*The Labrador Coast. | A | Journal of two Summer Cruises | to that Region. | With Notes on its Early Discovery, on the Eskimo, | on its Physical Geography, Geology | and Natural History, | By | Alpheus Spring Packard, M. D., Ph. D., | . . . [etc.= 2 lines of titles]. | — | With Maps and Illustrations. | — | New York: N. D. C. Hodges, Publisher, | 47 Lafayette Place. | London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co. | 1891.—8vo, pp. 7 + 513.