

## A NEW SUBSPECIES OF NOTHOPROCTA FROM CHILE.

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DURING a hasty examination of a series of game birds recently collected in Chile and Argentina, the fact that there are two distinct races of *Nothoprocta perdicaria* inhabiting the Central Provinces of Chile became very evident. On looking further into the matter, I found that three names have been given to Chilean Tinamous of this genus, but that all three undoubtedly refer to the northern form, which leaves the southern one unnamed. Therefore I propose for the southern form the following:

***Nothoprocta perdicaria sanborni* subsp. nov.**

*Type* from Mafil (20 miles southeast of the city of Valdivia), Province of Valdivia, Chile. Adult female in the Conover Collection, Field Museum of Natural History. Collected February 21, 1923 by C. C. Sanborn. Original number 217.

*Characters*.—Similar to *N. p. perdicaria*, but much darker with upper parts more brownish and under parts clay-color instead of gray. Bars on the outer webs of the secondaries argus brown instead of sayal brown.

*Description*.—Feathers of the pileum brownish black tipped with brown. Sides of face and neck whitish buff irregularly spotted with blackish brown. Feathers of the upper tail coverts, back, upper wing coverts and mantle brownish black broadly edged with grayish clay-color, and with two buffy white stripes between the dark central portion and the clay-colored edges. Dark central portion of each feather crossed with irregular lighter brown bars. Throat white; neck and upper breast clay-color with a slight grayish tinge; rest of under parts clay-color, darker on the sides and flanks, lightest on the abdomen. A few irregular dark brown bars on some of the feathers of the flanks and thighs. Primaries blackish brown with argus brown bars on the outer web. Under wing coverts brown barred with argus brown, the last two with argus brown bars indistinct. Wing 115 mm.; culmen from base, 29 mm.; tarsus, 385 mm.; middle toe with claw 36 mm.,

*Remarks*.—The three names given to the northern form are *N. perdicaria* (Kittledge), *N. coquimbica* (Salvadori), and *N. punctulata* (Des Murs). Of these *N. perdicaria* was the first and the type locality is Valparaiso. As typical specimens of this race I have examined two specimens from Limache, Province of Valparaiso, and six from the Banos de Cauquenes, Province of

Colchagua. These are gray-breasted birds and agree with the description of *N. perdicaria*.

The type locality of *N. coquimbica* is given in the original description (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., v. 27, p. 554) as "Coquimbo, S. Chile." There is only one Coquimbo in Chile and it is located in the northern provinces, so "S. Chile" is doubtless an error. Three specimens have been examined from the Province of Coquimbo, one from Paiguana and two from Romero. These agree with Salvadori's description in being a clearer gray than specimens of typical *N. perdicaria*, but the difference is so slight that it would seem best to consider *N. coquimbica* (Salvadori) as a synonym of *N. perdicaria* (Kittledge).

*N. punctulata* (Des Murs) in the original description is said to inhabit the central province of Chile. Probably it came from the same region as *perdicaria* with which it is usually synonymized. The description reads "estomago y pecho de un gris violacelo, como el de ciertas palomas, punteado sobre cada pluma con una redondez blanquiza." This leads to the conclusion that the specimen described was the northern form *N. perdicaria*, as the southern bird has the abdomen and breast clay-colored or even darker.

After a recent stay in Chile of from four to five months I am convinced that there is only one species of *Nothoprocta* inhabiting the Central Provinces and that this species has two distinct races, *N. p. perdicaria* a northern form, ranging from Coquimbo south to the vicinity of Concepcion, where it intergrades with a southern form, *N. p. sanborni*, which ranges from Concepcion to Puerto Montt.

This Tinamou, which goes by the name of "Perdiz" in Chile, is a bird of the open country, living in the fields and on the brushy hillsides. In the northern part of its range, it lives from sea level to as high as 5000 feet in the foothills, but according to local hunters the birds living at the higher elevations come down to the valleys in the fall just before the hills become covered with snow. Farther south, where the country is well timbered, although much clearing has been done, the birds seem to stay around the fields and cut-over lands. While traveling on the train between Osorno and Puerto Montt, our party saw a number of birds flush from the railroad right of way, alighting again at the edge of the timber or

a hundred yards or so out in the fields. At Puerto Montt, "Perdiz" were rather scarce, and a few years before had been unknown, so it is probable that the birds are extending their range south as the country becomes more cleared. Perhaps before the coming of the Spaniard, when the country south of the Bio-Bio was entirely covered with timber, the range of this tinamou did not extend much south of this river.

This bird is very common in some parts, especially where promiscuous shooting is prohibited by the landowners, many of whom prohibit shooting on their ranches. Nevertheless during the shooting season many of these birds find their way to the markets. The market at Santiago especially is always full of them, where they sell at about a peso each (about 12 cents American).

Young birds about a third grown were taken February 23, and a nest with eggs about ready to hatch was found at about the same date. Immature birds can be told by the feathers of the upper breast having dark blotches or bars.

As a game bird it offers rather good sport, flying at a good pace when flushed, but is inclined to run and sneak away instead of flying; however a good spaniel would have no trouble in flushing it up into the air. When it does flush it gets away smartly, uttering a shrill whistle of protest. The bird is always found singly, never in coveys, although sometimes several may be found in close proximity in some spot where there is an abundant supply of food, such as a small patch of grain stubble grown up with weeds. Crops of birds I shot contained wheat, corn, small seeds and grasshoppers. According to local hunters the birds also are very fond of the seed of the thistle and of small potatoes, and this was borne out by actual observation to the extent that birds were flushed from patches of thistles several times.

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