

these openings are often used to advantage, and enlarged, by squirrels. Later, as the fruit that remains ripens and rots, it is feasted upon by many insects, among them the lovely owl butterflies (*Caligo* sp.) greatly relishing the now sweet pulp.—AUSTIN SMITH, *San José, Costa Rica, September 7, 1926.*

**An American Hawk Owl Record for Vancouver Island.**—In January, 1926, I found in the shop of C. W. Tow, taxidermist, Victoria, B. C., an American Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) shot by D. Irwin in the act of killing a European Partridge at Cedar Hill, near Victoria, B. C., December 29, 1925.—G. D. SPROT, *Cobble Hill, Vancouver Island, B. C., January 24, 1927.*

**A Pacific Coast Race of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron.**—In studying the collections made in the interests of the San Diego Society of Natural History on a short trip to Scammon Lagoon, on the west coast of central Lower California, Mexico, during May, 1926, it was found that the specimens of Yellow-crowned Night Herons show characters that seem worthy of subspecific recognition. A new race is therefore proposed, with the following name:

*Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti*,<sup>1</sup> subsp. nov. Bancroft Yellow-crowned Night Heron

*Type.*—Breeding male; no. 10654, collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History; collected at Scammon Lagoon, Lower California, Mexico, by Laurence M. Huey, skinned by George G. Cantwell, on May 25, 1926.

*Subspecific characters.*—Similar to *Nyctanassa violacea violacea* (Linnaeus), but larger, and with a heavier, longer bill in both vertical and lateral profiles.

*Range.*—The Pacific coast of Lower California from Scammon Lagoon south, the Gulf of California as far north as the San Luis Islands, and thence south along the Pacific coast of Mexico and Central America at least to Salvador.

*Remarks.*—The four Scammon Lagoon birds have the edgings of the inter-scapulars clear ashy with no trace of brownish, such as is present in all of the apparently adult eastern birds examined. However, the writer is not prepared to attach any significance to this at present. Two birds from Salvador in the collection of Mr. Donald R. Dickey are not typical of the new race, but

are very much closer to it in bill characters than to *violacea* of the southeastern United States.

*Measurements.*—Averages and extremes: Adult male, breeding, 3 specimens, including type: wing, 298.0 (297.0-299.0); tail, 114.6 (112.0-117.0); exposed culmen, 77.6 (76.0-80.0); depth of bill at base, 24.8 (23.2-26.4); tarsus, 98.6 (96.2-100.2); middle toe, minus claw, 63.9 (63.0-65.8); width of bill at base, 21.0 (20.3-21.6). Adult female, breeding, 1 specimen: wing, 287.0; tail, 115.0; exposed culmen, 74.6; depth of bill at base, 24.2; tarsus, 100.0; middle toe, minus claw, 61.0; width of bill at base, 21.0.

*Specimens examined.*—*Nyctanassa violacea violacea*, Suwanee River, Florida, 4<sup>2</sup>; Key West, Florida, 3<sup>2</sup>; Broro Neck, Georgia, 1<sup>2</sup>. *Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti*, Lake Olomega, Salvador, 2<sup>2</sup>; Scammon Lagoon, Lower California, Mexico, 4<sup>2</sup>; San Benito Islands, Lower California, Mexico, 1<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Named for Griffing Bancroft, of the San Diego Society of Natural History, who organized the trip on which the specimens were collected.  
<sup>2</sup> Specimens from the Museum of Comparative Zoology.  
<sup>3</sup> Specimens from the Collection of Donald R. Dickey.  
<sup>4</sup> Specimens from the Collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History.

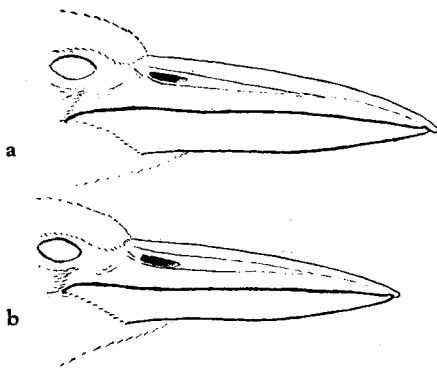


Fig. 56. BILLS OF YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS.  $\times \frac{1}{2}$ .  
 a. Type of *Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti*.  
 b. *Nyctanassa violacea violacea*, ♂ ad.; no. 225341, Mus. Comp. Zool.; Broro Neck, Georgia.