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A NEW SUBSPECIES OF PIGMY OWL.

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The Pigmy owls of the Rocky Mountain region of the United States have been considered to be true *Glaucidium gnoma* which was described from "Mexico." Specimens in the collections of the Biological Survey and the U. S. National Museum show, however, that typical *G. gnoma* is limited to the mountains about the southern end of the Mexican Tableland (and probably southward) while the bird of the Sierra Madre of northern Mexico and of the Rocky Mountains in the United States is a recognizable subspecies, which is described below.

***Glaucidium gnoma pinicola*** subsp. nov.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PIGMY OWL.

*Type* from Alma, New Mexico; No. 206,021, ♀, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection); collected December 25, 1908, by Clay Hunter.

*Distribution*.—Rocky Mountain region of the United States and the Sierra Madre of northwestern Mexico.

*Subspecific characters*.—Much larger and grayer than true *G. gnoma*.

*Remarks*.—*Glaucidium gnoma* Wagler was described from a specimen in the Wurzburg Museum collected in "Mexico" by Dr. Petz. No definite type locality was given but Dr. Petz collected several other birds in southern Mexico and it is a fair inference that this owl came from the same region. This supposition is confirmed by the description of the type which proves it to be a representative of the small grayish brown owl which inhabits the mountains about the southern border of the Mexican Tableland.

*Glaucidium gnoma pinicola* is the largest and grayest of the subspecies.

*Glaucidium gnoma californicum*, intermediate in size between *gnoma* and *pinicola*, is the darkest and most reddish brown of the subspecies. It occupies coniferous forested areas in the Pacific Coast region of the United States and British Columbia.



True *gnoma* is more suffused with brownish than *pinicola* and approaches in coloration unusually pale specimens of *californicum*. In a series of 11 specimens of *pinicola* all but one agree closely in the general grayness of the upperparts. A single specimen from Fort Whipple, Arizona, however, is almost as brownish as typical *gnoma* but may be distinguished by its larger size.

The following measurements of typical specimens show the differences in size between the three subspecies:

*G. gnoma gnoma*, ♂ (type), "Mexico": Wing, 83; tail, 57; tarsus, 19.

*G. gnoma californicum*, ♂, Pescadero, Calif.: Wing, 93; tail, 67; tarsus, 20.

*G. gnoma pinicola*, ♂, Flagstaff, Ariz.: Wing, 96; tail, 69; tarsus, 20.

*G. gnoma gnoma*, ♀, Huitzilac, Morelos, Mex.: Wing, 91; tail, 59; tarsus, 19.

*G. gnoma californicum*, ♀, Rockport, Calif.: Wing, 97; tail, 66; tarsus, 21.

*G. gnoma pinicola*, ♀, (type) Alma, N. M.: Wing, 101; tail, 72; tarsus, 22.



Nelson, Edward William. 1910. "A new subspecies of pigmy owl." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 23, 103–104.

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