

XXXVI.—*Notes on various American Mammals.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

Sphæronycteris toxophyllum, Pet.

This remarkable bat was described by Peters on a specimen from unknown locality. It is therefore of interest to record that a skin with its skull, apparently quite agreeing with the original description and figure, has been received from Merida, Venezuela. It was collected by Señor S. Briceño.

Micronycteris hirsuta, Peters.

Another bat described by Peters without exact locality is *Schizostoma hirsutum* (MB. Ak. Berl. 1869, p. 396).

Among some specimens obtained by Mr. C. F. Underwood in Costa Rica are a pair of bats, unfortunately somewhat damaged, but apparently agreeing with Peters's and Dobson's descriptions of the type of the above species in the Paris Museum.

Mr. Underwood's specimens were obtained at Pozo Azul, at an altitude of 200 m., in Costa Rica. The male is ornamented with a tuft of long hairs situated just behind the band connecting the two ears.

Conepatus mapurito, Gm.

A skunk from Guatemala, collected by Mr. C. F. Underwood, closely agrees with what is practically a topotype of this species from Bogotá, sent home by Mr. G. D. Child. Both, as also another specimen from Costa Rica, agree in having two white dorsal stripes, which do not reach to the tail and are divided by a black line extending forward between them to the occiput. The hairs on the top of the neck are directed forward and those on the crown backwards, the two sets meeting in a crest running across from ear to ear.

The identification of the real *C. mapurito* is of some interest, as all the skunks of the genus *Conepatus* have been lumped under this name.

Oryzomys vestitus, Thos.*

The typical skin of this species has been remade, and now that it is properly shaped, certain reddish marks which were

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) i. p. 454 (1898).

supposed to be due to accidental splashes of some preservative, and were therefore ignored in the description, appear almost or quite symmetrical. Consequently, although I still think my original idea about them may be correct (for they are not *exactly* symmetrical), yet some mention of them should be made on the chance that they are natural markings.

The most striking consist of five small red patches—one above and one below each eye and one on the face between the eyes (the latter is not exactly in the middle line). Round the base of each ear, and on the ears themselves, various hairs are of the same red colour. The upper anterior face of each forearm is washed with red, and there are some red-tipped hairs on each side of the rump. In addition, many of the hairs of the belly are of a dull red colour, not of the same shade as the face-markings; but this is nearly certainly due to staining, whatever may prove to be the case with the face- and arm-patches.

Æpeomys vulcani, Thos.*

Two further specimens of this interesting rat sent by Mr. L. Söderström from Mount Pichincha have considerably longer tails than the type, in which this member seems to have been unnaturally shortened. One has a tail of 125 and the other 135 millim. in length.

Lepus sylvaticus, Bachm.

(Journ. Ac. Philad. (1) vii. p. 403, 1837.)

In reference to this name, the following seems to be of unfortunate pertinence :—

Lepus borealis sylvaticus, Nilsson

(Illuminerade Figurer till Skandinaviens Fauna, i. Mammals, text to pl. xxii., 1832);

therefore antedating by five years the name given by Bachman to the common "Cotton-tail" of the Eastern United States.

Taking the species in the wider sense recognized by Dr. Allen in the 'Monographs of North-American Rodentia,' the next name (or, rather, by page-priority, an earlier name) would be

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) i. p. 452 (1898).

Lepus Nuttalli, Bachm.

(t. c. p. 345),

and the various subspecies will be *L. Nuttalli transitionalis*, *Mearnsi*, *arizonæ*, *Holzneri*, &c.

But out of the evil of the change of name one slight compensating good may be made to result; for in giving a fresh name, as will be necessary, to what has hitherto been considered the typical subspecies of *L. sylvaticus*, a type locality may be settled, which will be a relief to naturalists so geographically accurate as are modern American mammalogists.

As a suitable name for the Carolinian subspecies of the common "Cotton-tail," I would suggest the Greek equivalent of that name, *L. n. mallurus**, and would take as type a specimen from Raleigh, North Carolina, presented by Mr. Outram Bangs to the British Museum (♀, B.M. no. 97. 2. 1. 30, formerly Bangs Collection, no. 735), which quite agrees with the description given in his excellent paper on the group†. Its measurements are:—Total length 440 millim.; tail 60; hind foot, with claws, 85; ear 60. Collected and measured by Messrs. H. H. & C. S. Brimley.

Lepus Bachmani, Waterh.

(P. Z. S. 1838, p. 103.)

This name has been treated by various American writers as a synonym of "*L. sylvaticus*" (*L. Nuttalli*), at first with doubt, but later with greater and greater apparent confidence. Quite recently it has been even revived as the term for a Texan subspecies of that animal, merely on the basis of a guess by Baird that the type might have come from that country.

The animal was said by Waterhouse, although with doubt, to have come from California, and on an examination of the type now in the British Museum‡, I find that it is certainly a Californian hare, though not *L. Nuttalli*; for, without any room for doubt, it proves to be the species commonly known as *L. Trowbridgei*, Baird. As Waterhouse's name has priority by many years over that given by Baird, the species will have to be known as *L. Bachmani*, *L. Trowbridgei* falling into its synonymy.

* Strictly speaking, "wool-tail."

† P. Bost. Soc. N. H. xxvi. p. 404 (1894).

‡ B.M. no. 53. 8. 29. 36; received from the Zoological Society's Museum; collected by D. Douglas.



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