

the contiguous counties of Norfolk and Princess Anne, and thus extending to the northern limit of the Austroriparian subprovince.—JOHN W. DANIEL, JR., *Washington, D. C.*

The Proper Name for the Western Sparrow Hawk.—Since Dr. E. A. Mearns, U. S. A., published his review of the American Sparrow Hawks in 'The Auk' for July, 1892, pp. 263-265, the Sparrow Hawk of the western United States, and the west coast of Mexico to Mazatlan, has been commonly known to ornithologists as *Falco sparverius deserticolus* Mearns. Our work in Mexico has shown that this bird ranges along the entire Pacific coast of Mexico as well as over most of the remainder of that country. The Western Sparrow Hawk appears to be the only form found along the west coast of Mexico (exclusive of Lower California) north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Dr. Chas. W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of Birds, U. S. National Museum, recently handed me volume XX of the Lévêque edition of Buffon's works with the remark that it contained descriptions of some Mexican birds by Lesson. In looking through these I found under the heading of *Tinnunculus phalæna* Lesson, a careful description of male sparrow hawks from San Blas [Tepic] and Acapulco [Guerrero], Mexico. These places are within the ordinary range of the Western Sparrow Hawk, to which Lesson's description unquestionably refers. This being the case, the name *Falco sparverius deserticolus* Mearns becomes a synonym of *Falco sparverius phalæna* (Lesson) in Buffon, Œuvres, Vol. XX, Lévêque ed. 1847 (suppl.), pp. 178-179.—E. W. NELSON, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

The Barn Owl on Long Island.—From Doctor Braislin's 'Notes concerning certain Birds of Long Island,' published in the July number of 'The Auk', I am led to infer that there has heretofore been some doubt about the presence of the Barn Owl on our island. It may be of interest to Doctor Braislin to know that a pair of these owls formerly inhabited the steeple of the Congregational Church on the corner of Lincoln Street and Browne Avenue, Flushing. For many years I knew of their presence there, but did not divulge the secret for fear that they might be driven away by the church people. No doubt they would still be there had not the church been overhauled and new glass put into the steeple sash where the birds were wont to enter. The owls shared the steeple with a colony of pigeons and brought muskrats and other small mammals to their young, although there were fat young squabs within reach.

Mr. Langdon Gibson, brother of Chas. Dana Gibson the artist, was also aware of the presence of the Barn Owls in the Congregational spire. Gibson was then a lad and he climbed up to the nest securing *two young owls*, if I remember aright; at any rate, he brought me one which I kept for some time and from it I made a number of drawings and still have

them in my portfolio. Of all the creatures I have ever sketched there are none so absurdly comical in looks and action as young Barn Owls, and I can well understand the cause of the popular name of 'Monkey-faced Owl' applied to these white-faced, beady-eyed young imps.—DAN. BEARD, *Flushing, N. Y.*

✓ **Nesting of the Hawaiian Owl (*Asio accipitrinus sandvicensis*) on Oahu, H. I.**—Although the Pueo, which was worshiped and feared as a god by the ancient Hawaiians, has long been known to be a resident of the principal islands of the Hawaiian group—so long indeed that the hardship and isolation which it has suffered has reduced it quite perceptibly in size—I here append the first information on its nidification which has been recorded from this Territory.

On November 20, 1901, Dr. Geo. H. Huddy brought to me at the Bishop Museum a very young owl which he informed me was one of four he had secured from the nest, which was not far distant from his country home in Kalihi Valley on the Island of Oahu. The bird was alive, though in a dying condition, when it was presented to the museum, and little time was lost in securing a photograph of his owl-ship before he succumbed to the inevitable, for it seemed out of condition from the first and was with much difficulty induced to take food. The specimen (Museum No. 10213) was in the first downy plumage, the wing quills not having burst the capsules. The eyes were a very light straw-yellow; the bill and claws dark horn color.

The following day the Doctor and his servant (who had accidentally discovered the nest three or four days previous to our visit) conducted me to the spot where the young birds were secured. It was located in a rough grass and fern-grown path running along the steep mountain side, half way up from the valley below, and approximately 800 feet above the sea. No attempt at concealing the nest had been made—in fact, little had been attempted in the line of nest making; it was simply a very shallow platform, composed of the surrounding grasses, placed in a slight depression and befouled with the regurgitated masses of hair and bones of small rodents. The nest and such of the accessories as were available were carefully removed and will form a part of a group in the museum, for which object my friend generously added two more of the three birds which he was keeping as pets, reserving only the largest, strongest bird for himself, which he has had no trouble in bringing to its full growth on a diet of beef, with a rat or mouse added from time to time by way of variety.

The popular notion among the natives seems to be that this owl nests in holes or caves in the cliffs, a belief which the foregoing does not bear out. The situation chosen by the parent birds in this instance was an adaptation of the local conditions to the habits and requirements of the American Short-eared Owl, which is the undoubted progenitor of the Hawaiian subspecies.—WM. ALANSON BRYAN, *Bishop Museum, Honolulu, H. I.*



1902. "The Barn Owl on Long Island." *The Auk* 19, 398–399.

<https://doi.org/10.2307/4069607>.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/4069607>

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