

DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF KAUP'S GENUS MEGASCOPS.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

1. *Megascops vermiculatus*, sp. nov.

? *Scops guatemalæ* [*Scops brasiliensis*, Subsp. 3.] SHARPE, Cat. B, Brit. Mus., ii, 1875, 112 (part ?).

Scops brasiliensis, δ . *guatemalæ* RIDGW. Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus., i, 1873, 99-102 (part; spec. No. 55978, Costa Rica).

SP. CHAR.—Similar to *S. nudipes* in only partially feathered tarsus and total absence of any black or dusky bar across side of head, but plumage much more uniform, both above and below, and feathering of legs light brownish or brownish white, distinctly barred with brown, instead of plain bright ochraceous.

Hab.—Costa Rica.

Adult (type, No. 55978, Costa Rica; General Lawrence).—Above nearly uniform mummy-brown or deep cinnamon-brown, irregularly, and in places rather coarsely, vermiculated with dusky, but without any trace of streaks; outer webs of exterior scapulars irregularly barred or spotted with white; lowermost middle and greater wing-coverts with a large part of their outer webs white, forming conspicuous roundish or oblong spots; primary-coverts dusky, crossed by two distinct bands of tawny brown, and tipped broadly with the same color mixed with dusky; outer webs of primaries cinnamon-brown, spotted with white, the spots approximating a semicircular shape, and margined distinctly with dusky; they number about six on the longer quills, and gradually change in color to a light cinnamon-brown on the shorter quills; secondaries rather deeper cinnamon-brown, irregularly barred with dusky and very indistinctly banded with a lighter shade of the general color. Tail irregularly banded with dusky and cinnamon-brown, the latter prevailing terminally, the former basally. Entire head and neck cinnamon-brownish, narrowly and rather indistinctly but very regularly barred with dusky, but without trace of other markings; eyebrow somewhat lighter than general color, but not at all distinctly so. Lower parts dull whitish, tinged with dull rusty, everywhere coarsely vermiculated with dusky brownish, *but without any longitudinal markings*. Wing 6.50, tail 3.30, culmen .55, tarsus 1.03 (naked in front for .33), middle toe .85.

Another specimen (No. 90398, Dr. VanPatten) is very much like the type, but is rather deeper colored, the dusky markings above more distinct, those on the pileum and hind-neck spot-like, though still decidedly transverse; the dusky vermiculation of the under surface is rather less regular, and in places rather coarser, while on the fore-neck and breast are some decided indications of dusky mesial streaks. Wing

6.70, tail 3.50, culmen .60, tarsus 1.15 (naked below, in front, for only .15), middle toe .87.

2. *Megascops hastatus*, sp. nov.

Scops brasiliensis δ . *guatemalae* (SHARPE) RIDGW., Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus., i, 1878, 99-102 (part: Mazatlan, Mexico).

SP. CHAR.—Most like *S. brasiliensis* (GM), but much lighter and grayer above, with the darker markings more distinct and less linear, those on the pileum and hind-neck in the form of irregularly rhomboid or hastate spots; lower parts much more delicately and less regularly barred, and with very little, if any, ochraceous on the underlying portion of the plumage; feet proportionally smaller.

Adult (type, No. 85673, U. S. Nat. Mus., "La Paz, Lower California, winter of 1877"*).—Prevailing color above light grayish-brown, but this much broken by a coarse mottling of lighter (becoming nearly brownish-white on forehead and sides of crown), and very distinctly marked, especially on pileum, hind-neck, and back, with irregular spots of blackish, these sometimes approaching a rhomboid or hastate form; lowermost middle and greater wing-coverts with outer webs mostly white; primary-coverts banded with dusky and pale brownish-buffy (about four bands of each color); outer webs of primaries spotted with buffy-whitish (changing to pale buffy-brown on shorter quills); tail banded with grayish-dusky and grayish-buffy. Face dull grayish-white, narrowly and rather indistinctly barred with grayish-brown, the outer border tinged with pale brown, and, laterally, marked with an indistinct or broken bar or stripe of brownish-black across side of head. Lower parts dull white, narrowly and very irregularly barred or vermiculated with dusky-brown, two bars of the latter color often inclosing a broader one of pale brown, especially on flanks; most of the feathers of the under surface marked with irregular brownish-black mesial streaks, broadest and most conspicuous on the chest; legs dull whitish barred with dusky-brown. Wing 6.10, tail 3.40, culmen .45, tarsus 1.25, middle toe .75.

Another specimen (No. 23793, Mazatlan, John Xantus) is very similar to the type, but has the plumage pervaded by a more decided brownish tinge, but the difference is so slight as to be noticeable only on actual comparison. Wing 6.00, tail 3.50, culmen .45, tarsus 1.25, middle toe .75.†

* Probably from Mazatlan. The specimen was purchased by Mr. E. W. Nelson in San Francisco from a collector who had recently returned from Lower California, and assured him that all the birds which Mr. Nelson purchased were from La Paz. Since, however, the lot included *Centurus elegans* (four specimens), and *Merula grayi*, species which occur abundantly at Mazatlan, on the opposite shore of the Gulf of California, but have not yet been recorded from the peninsula, there is a strong probability of error as to the locality.

† Specimen remeasured, some of the measurements previously recorded being incorrect.