

## A NOTE ON VESPERUGO HESPERUS (ALLEN).

By FREDERICK W. TRUE.

In his monograph of the bats of North America\* Dr. Harrison Allen described, under the name of *Scotophilus hesperus*, or the Western Bat, a small bat from southern California. His description was based upon four specimens, two of which (Nos. 5509, 5510, Nat. Mus.) were from Posa Creek, and a third (No. 5406, Nat. Mus.) from Fort Yuma. One of these types (No. 5509), with its skull, is still in the national collection.

Upon examining the skull of this specimen I find that Dr. Allen has apparently mistaken the character of the superior incisors, in that he describes them as "of equal length," while in reality the outer pair are only about half as long as the inner pair. Otherwise the skull agrees with Dr. Allen's description, and belongs to the genus *Vesperugo* of Keyserling and Blasius, and to the subgenus of the same name, as defined by Dr. Dobson.

The species appears to be distinct and valid. It is, however, mentioned by Dr. Dobson in his Catalogue of the Chiroptera† only in a foot note, and he is apparently doubtful of its validity. After quoting Dr. Allen's description, he writes: "The above description agrees very well with a specimen of a bat from the Straits of Juan de Fuca (Vancouver's Island), which is preserved in the collection of the Hassler Museum, near Portsmouth, and which appears to me to be identical with *V. abramus*."

At a later date this author described a new species of North American *Vesperugo*, under the name of *V. merriami*, basing his description on a single specimen sent him by Dr. C. Hart Merriam. Upon going over this description with Dr. Allen's type of *V. hesperus* and another specimen of the same (No. 15981) in hand, I find that the latter agree perfectly with the former. I have no doubt, therefore, that *V. merriami* must be regarded as identical with *V. hesperus* (Allen).

The locality given by Dr. Dobson (Locust Grove, N. Y.), is incorrect. The species is resident in the extreme southwestern section of the United States. Dr. Allen's specimens, as already stated, were from Posa Creek and Fort Yuma, Cal. Another specimen recently acquired by the National Museum (No. 15981), and referred to above, is from Whitewater, San Diego County, in the same State.

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\* Smithsonian Misc. Coll., Vol. XI, 1864.

† Pages 223-229, foot note.