

1ST. SUBDIVISION.

Heads with ears.

S. Virginianus. Great Horned Owl,

Bubo Virginianus. Gmelin! Bonap! Baird!

V.S.P. & V. Upper mandible black; lower one horn colour; claws pale at their insertion, changing to black towards their tips, irides bright yellow. Eggs 2 to 4, white, large.

Dorsal aspect :—Facial disk immediately round and in front of the orbits greyish black, bordered with reddish brown—the shafts of the feathers being continued beyond the vanes, and forming a kind of fringe. This fringe is bounded by a black border. Above the eye the facial circle is incomplete. Ear-tufts of 10 to 12 feathers, black on the outer vanes, and mottled brown on the inner vanes, the smaller posterior ones being wholly brown. Crown, neck, back, rump, scapulars, and wing coverts black, mottled with grey and brown, the light brown bases of the feathers appearing often through the black tips: the grey white on the back having an undulatory appearance. Primaries and secondaries mottled and barred, the inner vanes presenting on their quill halves a fine reddish brown colour, barred with dark brown. These vanes have a peculiar velvety feel, caused by a fine fringe projecting from the superior outer margin of each barb. The reddish brown almost changes to an orange on the secondaries. Tail banded with six blackish brown bars; the bars most distinct on the inner vanes, which are reddish brown, while the outer vanes, besides the bars, are much mottled with grey and brown.

Ventral aspect. Chin white, succeeded by a belt, which is continuous with the black border of the facial disk. This belt is succeeded by a crescentic spot of pure white, situated at the lower part of the throat. A little below the crescent, and separated from it by an irregular line of black and brown, commences a mesial line of pure white, broad at its commencement, gradually contracting and terminating at the vent. On either side of this line the feathers are white, barred with numerous fine zigzag delineations of umber brown, with lighter, edgings, the yellow bases of the feathers appearing through them; flank feathers about $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, enveloping the thighs and forming a kind of fringe underneath the tail; they are much barred; inner wing coverts white, barred with umber brown; tail light reddish brown, distinctly barred; femorals yellowish brown; tarsal feathers