

parts; wing linings and tail coverts dead white, with imperfect brown marks; wings and tail slate colour, with white spots corresponding to those on the upper surface; femorals and tarsals yellow white, with dark brown bars, the tarsals continued to toes as far as the insertion of the talons.

3rd primary longest; 2nd, 4th and 5th subequal; 1st and 7th equal; outer barb of the 1st primary revolute; tail square. Length 12 inches; alar breadth 20 inches.

Richardson refers the *S. Passerina* to the *S. Tengmalmi*, on no other grounds than a similarity in the plumage of the head. The two birds, however, are totally distinct; the *S. Passerina* not only being much smaller than the *S. Tengmalmi*, but differs also from it in its ventral plumage, which is wholly brown, and moreover, has but three white bars on the tail, whereas the *S. Tengmalmi* has five. A greater difficulty, however, occurs in the distinctive characters between the *S. Dalhousii*, *S. Passerina*, and *S. Acadica*, which resemble one another in nearly all their essential points. Might not the trifling varieties which are found to exist between them be the result of age? Nuttall refers the *S. Passerina* to the *S. Acadica*, to which I feel also much inclined to refer the *S. Dalhousii*. A degree of uncertainty, however, at the best, hangs over these species, which it would require a comparative examination of numerous specimens of different ages and sexes to clear up. The two following species agree with the plates of the respective birds, as figured in Wilson and Buonaparte's splendid work. The descriptions of both of them are taken from prepared specimens, shot in the vicinity of Montreal in 1837.

*S. Acadica*. Acadian owl.

*S. passerina*? Wilson!

*S. Dalhousii*? Audubon!

*S. Acadica* of Bonaparte;

*Nyctale Acadica*, Gmelin! Bonap.! Baird!

v.s.p. Bill and claws black; the former tipped with white at the apex of the upper mandible; irides pale yellow.

Dorsal aspect. Facial disk, white superiorly, and black anteriorly and posteriorly, with a few white feathers inferiorly; bounded posteriorly by brown feathers, tipped with white, forming a line which meets immediately below the chin; frontlet yellowish white; crown and nape of neck liver brown, (which is the prevailing dorsal tint) with indications of, or imperfect, white streaks