

D.C. This is one of our most common owls, but unfortunately at the time of writing, I cannot lay my hands on a specimen. The following is from Nuttall: "Ear-like tufts inconspicuous, of 2 or 3 very short feathers; general colour, ochreous, spotted with blackish brown; face round the eyes blackish; tail without 5 bands, not extending beyond the tips of the wings; female with the general tints paler. In the young the face is blackish. Length 13 to 15 inches. Head of old bird small; tail ochreous, with small bands, and tipped with white; beneath Isabella yellow, with longitudinal spots of blackish brown; bill black; feet and toes feathered: iris of a bright yellow."

2ND SUBDIVISION.

Heads without ears.

S. nebulosa. Barred owl.

Syrnium nebulosum. Gray! Baird.

V.S.P. ET V. Upper mandible yellow; lower one blueish black, except where it closes against the upper one; claws blueish black. Eggs 4 to 5, white; irides deep blue, verging to black.

Dorsal aspect. Facial disk in front of the orbits black, bounded by greyish white; all the other parts brownish grey, posteriorly barred and tipped with brown. A line of brown feathers, tipped and barred with white, bounds the facial disk and meets on the throat. Head, neck, back, rump, tail, scapulars, coverts, primaries and secondaries, liver brown, barred with white, which has a yellow tinge. These bars are most numerous on the neck, and most distinct on the back; those of the wings and tail have a brownish tinge, about 5 in number on the latter, and tipped with the same colour, and 5 or 6 on the wings composed of spots which are darker on the outer vanes.

Ventral aspect. Chin brown; neck below the brown line continued from the facial disk, white, succeeded by white barred with liver brown. A single bar occurs on each feather, which is also tipped with the same. The bars change to streaks on the breast and belly; vent and tail coverts and wing coverts yellowish white, the second and last with narrow, brown specks; tail slate colour, with 5 bars; wings same, barred; femorals and tarsals short, yellowish white, with a faint barring; toes feathered to the last joint.

Claws long, not much curved but very sharp; claw of the middle toe longest, with a salient sharp inner ridge; hind toe compressed; 4th and 5th primaries equal, if anything 5th longest;