

and shot. It proved to be a fine old female, the plumage of which was almost pure white. I have heard of individuals having been seen as far down the Mississippi as the town of Memphis. Some Indians assured me that they had shot one at the mouth of the Red River; and, while on the Arkansas River, I was frequently told of a large White Owl that had been seen there during winter.

So much has been said to me of its breeding in the northern parts of the State of Maine, that this may possibly be correct. In Nova Scotia they are abundant at the approach of winter; and Professor MACCULLOCH, of the University of Pictou, shewed me several beautiful specimens in his fine collection of North American Birds. Of its place and mode of breeding I know nothing; for, although every person to whom I spoke of this bird while in Labrador knew it, my party saw none there; and in Newfoundland we were equally unsuccessful in our search.

STRIX NYCTEA, Linn. Syst. Nat., vol. i. p. 132.—Lath., Index Ornith., vol. i. p. 57.—

Ch. Bonaparte, Synops. of Birds of the United States, p. 36.—Swains. and Richards.

Fauna Bor. Americ., vol. i. p. 88.

SNOWY OWL, *Strix nyctea*, Wils. Amer. Orn., vol. iv. p. 53, pl. xxxii. fig. 1.—Nutt. Man., vol. i. p. 116.

Male and Female.

Tail rather long, moderately rounded; plumage white; head and back spotted; wings, tail, and lower parts barred with dusky brown. Young pure white. Individuals vary much in markings.

Male, 21, 53. Female, 26, 65.

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## LITTLE NIGHT OWL.

+SURNIA PASSERINA, Linn.

### PLATE XXIX.

The specimen from which my drawing of this bird was taken, was procured near Pictou in Nova Scotia, by my young friend THOMAS McCULLOCH, Esq., who assured me that it is not very uncommon there. How far southward it may proceed in winter I have not been able to ascertain; nor have I ever met with it in any part of the United States. It is also said to be abundant in Newfoundland, and not rare in Labrador. My specimen is a female, and was shot in winter.









R.T.

*Passerine Day-Owl.*



STRIX PASSERINA, Linn. Syst. Nat., vol. i. p. 133.

CHOUETTE CHEVECHE, *Strix passerina*, Temm. Man. d'Orn., p. 92.

LITTLE NIGHT OWL, *Strix passerina*, Aud., vol. v. p. 269.

### Female.

Tail rather short, arched, nearly even; wings almost as long as the tail, the outer four quills cut out on the inner web, the outer five sinuated on the outer; filaments of the first free and slightly recurved, as are those of the second and third beyond the sinus. General colour of upper parts chocolate-brown, the feather of the head with an oblong median white mark; hind neck with very large white spots, forming a conspicuous patch; on the back most of the feathers with a single large subterminal roundish spot, as is the case with the scapulars and wing-coverts, most of which, however, have two or more spots; quills with marginal reddish-white spots on both webs, the third with six on the outer and four on the inner, with two very faint pale bars toward the end; the tail similarly marked with four bands of transversely oblong, reddish-white spots; feathers of the anterior part of the disk whitish, with black shafts, of the lower part whitish, of the hind part brown tipped with greyish-white; a broad band of white crossing the throat, and curving upwards on either side to the ear; a patch of white on the lower part of the fore-neck; between these a brownish-grey band. Lower parts dull yellowish-white, each feather with a broad longitudinal band of chocolate-brown; abdomen and lower tail-coverts unspotted; tarsal feathers dull white.

Female,  $10\frac{1}{2}$ ; wing from flexure  $6\frac{1}{4}$ ; tail  $3\frac{1}{2}$ .

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## LITTLE COLUMBIAN OWL.

+SURNIA PASSERINOIDES, Temm.

### PLATE XXX.—MALE.

Of this pretty little Owl I can only say that the single specimen from which I made the two figures in the plate before you, was sent to me by Mr. TOWNSEND, along with the following notice respecting it:—"I shot this bird on the Columbia River, near Fort Vancouver, in the month of November. I first saw it on wing about mid-day, and its curious jerking or undulating flight struck me as extremely peculiar, and induced me to follow and secure it. It soon alighted upon a high branch of a pine tree, and I shot it with my rifle, the only gun I had with me, as I was at the time engaged in





R.T.

*Passerine Day-Owl.*



Audubon, John James. 1840. "Little Night Owl, *Surnia passerina*, Linn. [Pl. 29]."  
*The birds of America : from drawings made in the United States and their territories* 1, 116–117. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.319142>.

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