

Ninox philippensis ticaoensis new subspecies

Type DMNH 11495, ♂ Sitio Calpi, Danao, San Jacinto, Ticao, P. I., 200-400', July 1971. Wing 175; tail 81.5; bill 20.7; tarsus 34.7.

DIAGNOSIS: Differs from *proxima* by having the upperparts darker, the ventral streaking sharper and darker, and the light barring on the tail narrower.

RANGE: Ticao.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED: *proxima* (Type)—Masbate 1 ♀; *ticaoensis*—Ticao 3 ♂.

REMARKS: Two of the Ticao birds (DMNH 11494, FM 19904) are darker above than the type; the third (DMNH 11495) is notably darker. The two recent birds are also more grayish and less rufous-brown than the type of *proxima* and the 1902 Ticao bird, but this may be due to "foxing."

Seasonal differences might be expected to exist among these specimens because their dates of collection range from May to October. However, all of the Ticao birds show active back molt, and most of the feathers appear to be new. Thus, these summer specimens are probably as freshly plumaged as the October type of *proxima*.

| | | | WING | TAIL |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-------|------|
| Ticao birds: | | | | |
| FM | 19904 | (♂) | 173.0 | 81.0 |
| DMNH | 11495 | (♂) | 175.0 | 81.5 |
| DMNH | 11494 | (♂) | 168.0 | 80.5 |
| Type <i>proxima</i> : | | | | |
| USNM | 314872 | (♀) | 172.0 | 80.0 |

In ventral streaking, FM 19904 is slightly darker and sharper than the type of *proxima*, whereas the more recent DMNH 11494 and 11495 are more markedly so. In general, the character of ventral streaking is

less marked than that of back color. In addition, the light barring on the tails of the Ticao birds is narrower; but in coloration of both light and dark barring, the Ticao and Masbate specimens overlap. In wing and tail lengths the Ticao birds cluster around the type, the measurements being shown in the table.