

ARTICLE VIII.—*Descriptions of a New Species and a New Sub-species of the Genus Lepus.* By J. A. ALLEN.

The American Museum has recently received from Mr. E. C. Thurber a specimen of a Hare, allied to but very distinct from *Lepus trowbridgei*, collected at San Fernando, Los Angeles County, California. It may be characterized as follows :

Lepus cinerascens, sp. nov.

Type, No. $\frac{3388}{3302}$, ♀ ad., San Fernando, Los Angeles Co., Cal., March 22, 1890; collected by E. C. Thurber. On the label is written by the collector, "Contained four foetuses."

Length (head and body), 294 mm.; tail, 24; nose to ear, 72; nose to eye, 28 (collector's measurements from the specimen in the flesh); height of ear from notch, 58; length of hind foot (to end of nails), 63 (last two measurements from the skin).

Skull: basilar length, 48 mm.; total length, 62; greatest breadth, 29; breadth at postorbital constriction, 10; length of nasals, 25; width of nasals at front border, 7; greatest width of nasals posteriorly, 12; length of lower jaw, 42; height of lower jaw at condyle, 27; length of upper molar series at alveolar border, 6; width of palatal shelf opposite first true molar, 9.5; least length of palatal shelf, 5.5.

Post-orbital processes very slender, not touching the brain case posteriorly.

General color above (in the spring or breeding pelage), gray mixed with blackish brown, the sides clear gray, the dorsal region pale buffy gray; lower surface grayish white, the hairs at base light plumbeous; breast band brownish gray; nape pale brownish rusty; anterior surface of fore limbs dull yellowish brown; upper surface of hind feet white, of fore feet soiled white; sides of both fore and hind feet grayish brown; soles yellowish brown; tail dark gray above, white below with the terminal third gray; ears very thinly haired, nearly naked (the skin showing through over most of the surface, both externally and internally), brownish gray, without black at the tip or any black or white edging (probably with a narrow white fringe along the basal half of the anterior border in full winter pelage); feet scantily furred; eye enclosed by a whitish area, which broadens into a distinct spot behind the posterior canthus, and also in front of the eye.

This is a small, semidesert form, representing in the arid interior of Southern California the much larger, darker *L. trowbridgei* of the coast region of Central California, from which it differs in its coarse instead of soft, fine pelage, in the pale buffy gray instead of dull chestnut brown of the upper surface, and its much smaller size, *L. cinerascens* being but little more than half the bulk and weight of *L. trowbridgei*.

***Lepus sylvaticus floridanus*, subsp. nov.**

Type, No. $\frac{1889}{1188}$, ♀ ad., Sebastian River, Brevard Co., Fla., March 18, 1889; collected by Frank M. Chapman.

Length of head and body, 455 mm.; tail to end of hairs, 65 (collector's measurements from the fresh specimen); length of hind foot (to end of nails), 84; height of ear from notch, 57 (last two measurements from the skin).

Skull: basilar length, 57 mm.; total length, 72; greatest breadth, 44; breadth at postorbital constriction, 21; length of nasals, 29; width of nasals in front, 9.5; greatest width of nasals posteriorly, 16; length of lower jaw, 58; height of lower jaw at condyle, 37; length of molar series at alveolar border, 24; breadth of palatal shelf opposite first true molar, 10.5.

Above mixed buffy gray and black, the black prevailing, especially posteriorly, instead of yellowish brown slightly varied with black as in ordinary *L. sylvaticus*; nape and the usual brown areas of the fore and hind limbs much darker rufous than in northern examples; below the white areas are grayer, and the color of the sides encroaches further upon the ventral surface; breast band broader and darker; ears darker, more scantily haired, and more broadly edged and tipped with black; light area in front of and surrounding the eye grayish white instead of creamy white. The feet are also much less heavily furred.

A young specimen, less than one-fourth grown, shows the same dark colors as the adult, thus differing strikingly from young of the northern form of corresponding age.

The skull indicates the size to be about one-tenth less than in average northern specimens.

Specimens from Gainesville, central Florida, are darker than specimens from North Carolina and Louisiana, but are nearer the northern *L. sylvaticus* than the South Florida form above characterized.