
THE MASKED SCREECH OWL.

NOTHING is more easy to recognize than this bird. The two orbs of feathers which surround the eyes are black. A beautiful white plumage is the prevailing colour, except the large quill feathers of the wings, and of the tail, which are brownish. The wings extend almost to the very extremity of the tail; the scapulary feathers, which are brown, have on them some black and white spots; the feet and the toes are covered with fine white feathers; the talons and the beak are blackish.

It appears that this pretty screech owl, which belonged to M. Dorcy, and which Levaillant has described, was killed during moulting time, and while very young, according to the observations of the latter; it is therefore very probable, that the adult individual has a different plumage. It is said to be a native of Cayenne, and it has great affinity with a species of screech owl of the same country, described by Latham; this last was twenty-one inches in length. Its head was small, covered with a white plumage, like cotton; its face

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