

A NEW RACE OF BOB-WHITE FROM COSTA RICA

By H. B. CONOVER

For many years the bob-white of Costa Rica has been called *Colinus leylandi* (Moore). Recently (Condor, xxxii, 1930, p. 72) Dickey and van Rossem have shown that *Ortyx leucopogon* of Lesson came from Salvador and not Western Panama, as had previously been supposed, and they have reduced *leylandi* to a race of *leucopogon* which is undoubtedly correct.

Ortyx leylandi (Moore) was described (Proc. Zool. Soc. London for 1859, pp. 62-63) from one specimen shot "at Flores on the road from Omoa to Comayagua," Honduras. The only Flores I have been able to find is a small town just south of San Antonio and about twelve miles south of Comayagua. While this place is not on the direct road from Omoa to Comayagua, the probabilities are that this is the locality mentioned by Moore. At any rate, since no bob-white seems ever to have been found on the Atlantic coast of Honduras, specimens from the region of Comayagua undoubtedly are typical.

In the past few months I have received some specimens from Monte Redondo, near Archaga, about halfway between Tegucigalpa and Comayagua, and from Comayagua, just south of Tegucigalpa. On comparing these with birds from Costa Rica, I find that the males from the latter locality are quite different.

The Costa Rican race, therefore, may be known as

Colinus leucopogon dickeyi, new subspecies

Type.—From Las Cañas, Guanacaste, western Costa Rica; no. 1546, adult male in the Conover Collection, Field Museum of Natural History; collected May 3, 1923, by Austin P. Smith.

Characters.—Differs from *Colinus leucopogon leucopogon* and *Colinus leucopogon hypoleucus* by lacking the white on the forehead and by having the white feathers of the throat edged with black instead of pure white. Differs from *Colinus leucopogon leylandi* by having the feathers of the throat white with black edges instead of pure black. The ground color of the chest is more reddish (less grayish) and the unspotted area of the chest is much wider, extending on to the upper breast. The superciliary stripe and the white stripe running under the eye and ear coverts are more buffy. The upper parts are darker, the mantle being more heavily vermiculated with black. The outer webs of the inner secondaries and tertiaries are also more heavily barred with white. This barring is often practically lacking in *Colinus leucopogon leylandi*.

Description of type.—Top of the head brown, changing to light chestnut on the back of the head and nape. Lores and ear coverts brown. Stripes above and below the eye buffy white. Throat white, each feather bordered with black, giving a speckled appearance. Back and sides of the neck light chestnut, irregularly spotted with black and white. Lower neck, chest and upper breast gray washed with army brown, and finely vermiculated with brown. Flanks, breast and abdomen gray washed with army brown, and heavily marked with large, buffy, white spots, bordered with black. Under tail coverts black, heavily marked with large, buffy, white spots. Mantle gray, washed with army brown, and thickly vermiculated with brown. Upper back, scapulars and tertiaries like the mantle, but heavily blotched with black and marked with rufous. Inner webs of the tertiaries broadly edged with creamy white. Lower back and upper tail coverts gray mottled with black and wood brown, and narrowly banded with white. Tail brownish gray narrowly banded with white. Primaries and secondaries brown, the outer webs of the latter freckled with dirty white. Wing (flat) 106 mm.; tail 62 mm.; culmen (exposed) 9 mm.; tarsus 30 mm.; middle toe (with claw) 33 mm.

Range.—Plateau region and western slope of Costa Rica and probably similar country in southwestern Nicaragua.

Remarks.—There is great variation among these quail, and the subspecific characters are not invariably constant. However, a series of males from Costa Rica differs

greatly in appearance from a series of males from Honduras. The most important characters of the new race are the speckled throat and the more extensive unspotted area on the chest and upper breast. These characters hold for the majority of specimens.

Specimens from San Geronimo, Chinandega, northwestern Nicaragua, seem to be intermediate, having the black throats of *leylandi* but the more extensive unspotted area on the chest and breast of *dickeyi*.

The females of the several races of *Colinus leucopogon* do not differ greatly. In the series before me the specimens of *leylandi* from Honduras seem to be somewhat less heavily vermiculated on the mantle and to have less conspicuous narrow white bars on the tail than females of the other races.

I have named this race after the late Donald R. Dickey, whose interest in Central American birds is well known.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Colinus leucopogon leucopogon.—Salvador, Department Morazan, Divisadero, 5 ♂, 1 ♀;⁵ Department La Union, Olomega 1 ♂;⁵ Rio Goascoran 2 ♀.⁵

Colinus leucopogon leucopogon—*C. l. hypoleucus* intergrade.—Salvador: Department Cuscatlan, Colima, 6 ♂.⁵

Colinus leucopogon hypoleucus.—Salvador: Department La Paz, Hacienda Miraflores, 1 ♂;⁵ Department Sonsonate, Volcan Santa Ana, 1 ♀;⁵ Department La Libertad, Hacienda Zapotitan, 1 ♀,⁵ Setro del Niño, 1 ♀;⁵ Department Santa Ana, El Tablon, 5 ♂.⁵

Colinus leucopogon leylandi.—Honduras: Department Tegucigalpa, Monte Rondono, 7 ♂, 11 ♀,¹ Comayaguela, 3 ♂, 4 ♀.¹

Colinus leucopogon leylandi—*C. l. dickeyi* intergrade.—Nicaragua: Department Chinandega, San Geronimo, 9 ♂, 5 ♀.²

Colinus leucopogon dickeyi.—Costa Rica: Guanacaste, Las Cañas, 10 ♂, 6 ♀,⁵ Miravalles, 1 ♂, 1 ♀;¹ Cartago, Vol. Irazu, 3 ♂, 2 ♀;¹ Turrucares 1 ♂;¹ Alajuela, 1 ♂;⁵ San Jose, 1 ♂, 2 ♀;⁷ Santo Domingo de San Mateo, 1 ♂;² Orosi, 3 ♂, 1 ♀;² Agua Caliente, 1 ♂;⁴ Costa Rica, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.⁵

¹ Specimens in Conover Collection.

² Specimens in Field Museum, Chicago.

³ Specimens in U. S. National Museum, Washington.

⁴ Specimens in American Museum of Natural History, New York.

⁵ Specimens in Collection of Donald R. Dickey.

⁶ Specimens in Conover, Field Museum, and American Museum Collections.

⁷ Specimens in Field Museum and National Museum Collections.

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