

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW RACE OF *PEUCÆA RUFICEPS* FROM TEXAS.

BY NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN.

*Peucæa ruficeps eremæca** General aspect dull gray. Dorsal region grayish-ash, the feathers brownish centrally and with their shafts almost black. Top of head rufous, much admixed with grayish. A black frontlet, divided at the culmen by a white line, as in *ruficeps* and var. *boucardi*. Breast and sides clear gray. Abdomen whitish. Crissum and flanks tinged with fulvous. An indistinct, dusky maxillary stripe. Length of fresh specimen, 6.25; extent, 8.62; wing and tail about 2.75. Sexes alike.

The above description characterizes a bird very unlike *Peucæa ruficeps* both in size and in coloration. It is much larger and entirely lacks the peculiar rufous tint of the upper parts seen in *P. ruficeps*. Var. *boucardi*, which is simply a larger race of *ruficeps*, the present form therefore resembles only in size and in the distribution of its markings. Indeed it is so unlike both described races that, but for thorough investigations by Mr. Robert Ridgway which fail to justify such a procedure, I should urge the claims of the new form to specific rank. Mr. Ridgway has with great kindness made a careful comparison of several of my specimens with all accessible material bearing upon the matter, and writes me that he finds the former insufficiently differentiated from *ruficeps*, through *boucardi*, to stand as a species. An interesting fact, incidentally brought to light by Mr. Ridgway, is that of the few Mexican examples upon which Dr. Sclater based his *Zonotrichia boucardi*, those from Orizaba are apparently referable to the race I have named *eremæca*. The National Museum possesses one of the three original Orizaba skins.

The specimens above described were taken, during the months of Dec., 1879 and Jan., Feb., and March, 1880, at Boerne, Kendall Co., Texas. Some account of their habits may be found on another page of the present number of the Bulletin.

* *Eremæca* = ἔρημος + οὐκίω.