

NOTES ON THE GENUS *ACANTHIS*.

BY LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

HAVING just finished an examination of a collection of Redpolls, embracing several hundred specimens, from America, Europe, and Asia, I propose to give some brief notes on the results arrived at, as pressing work in other directions at present prevents my elaborating a more extensive memoir.

Before proceeding to the discussion of the several species and subspecies, remarks upon the generic name of the group may not be out of place.

Professor Baird, in 1858, adopted the name *Ægiothus*, given by Cabanis in 1851, and in this almost all American writers have followed him. "*Acanthis* Bp. 1850," is given as a synonym, and as "not of Bechstein, 1802." If we look, however, on p. 125 of the 'Ornithologisches Taschenbuch von und für Deutschland' (Leipzig, 1803), we shall be convinced that Bechstein established the term *Acanthis* for the three species *carduelis* L., *spinus* L., and *linaria* L. (and *flammea*, which is probably only the summer plumage of the last named). But of these three birds, the two first named had already been removed by Brisson in 1760, and by Schäffer in 1789, to the genus *Carduelis* (of late accepted in exactly the same sense by Professor Newton). This leaves *linaria* as the only occupant of the restricted genus *Acanthis*, of which it is consequently the type. The case is too clear to leave any doubt whatever. *Linaria* Vieill., 1816, is often applied to this group, but it is only a synonym, and moreover had been previously occupied; for, besides being used in botany long before, it was the term applied in 1803 by Bechstein (l. c.) to a group of Finches embracing *cannabina* L., *citrinella* L., and *flavirostris* L. (and not *linaria*!), one of them consequently being the type. The foregoing may be summarized thus:—

Genus *Acanthis*\* BECHSTEIN.

< 1803.—*Acanthis* BECHSTEIN, Orn. Tasch. Deutschl. p. 125 (type, *A. linaria* L.).

\* *Ἀκανθίς*, name of a bird eating thistles (*ἀκανθοί*), Aristoteles, VIII, 5.4; IX, 2.10; IX, 16.5.

= 1816.—*Linaria* VIEILLOT, Anal. p. 30 (nec BECHST. 1803, nec BOTAN.).

= 1851.—*Aegiothus* CABANIS, Mus. Hein. I, p. 161.

= 1860.—*Acanthis* DEMURS, Tr. d'Ool. pp. 334, 546.

In the first place I have to state, that an inspection of my ample material plainly shows that Mr. Ridgway was completely right, when he separated the white Greenland Redpoll ('*canescens*' = *hornemannii*) specifically from *A. linaria*, and that he was also right in placing *exilipes* as conspecific with the former and not with the latter. It is hardly necessary to remark, that no intergradation can be detected between the two typical forms, and not even—and I should say much less—between *hornemannii* and the Greenland form of *linaria*. It is between the latter and the race *exilipes* of the former, that intergradation has been supposed to occur. But this intergradation is either only apparent, because it sometimes is difficult to distinguish *young birds* of the two species, or it originates in hybridization. Of all the adult males which I have had the opportunity to examine, only one presented characters somewhat intermediate, thus creating the suspicion of its being a hybrid; but it was essentially a small *linaria*, to which species I referred it without much hesitation. That the two species really interbreed has, however, been observed in Alaska by Mr. E. W. Nelson, if we are correctly informed.

I need not point out the differences between these two species, as they are completely familiar to all North American ornithologists, but I want to call attention to the fact, that *exilipes* gradually becomes smaller going from the East to Alaska and Northeastern Asia. The decrease in size is, however, so gradual, and the difference so small, that the eastern and western birds cannot be separated, especially since there cannot be detected the slightest difference as to color. Von Homeyer indicates that the Asiatic specimens probably have the red more intense than those from America, but I can match a rather vividly colored specimen collected by me on Bering Island with specimens from the interior and the eastern part of North America.

Nor will it be necessary to treat at length of the difference between *exilipes* and its Greenland representative, *hornemannii* (= *canescens* Bp. nec Gould). The extremes are easily distinguished by the thicker and stouter bill of the latter, and its decid-

edly superior size. But intermediate forms are met with, and in color there is hardly any difference whatever. It has been generally asserted that *hornemanni* has a proportionally longer tail, a statement positively contradicted, however, by the numerous actual measurements taken by me.\*

The collection brought back by me from the Commander Islands proves the occurrence of the true *exilipes* in Eastern Asia, and to this form is referable all instances of *canescens* said to have been obtained there (v. Schrenck, Swinhoe, Taczanowski, etc.), and there is a bare possibility that it is the same form which Severzow calls *Linaria sibirica* (J. f. Orn., 1879, p. 185—nec *Linaria sibirica* Boie). Mr. Dresser, in his 'Birds of Europe,' refers to *exilipes* several light colored specimens from Northern Europe, especially two examples from Tromsö (70° N. L., Norway). I have in my private collection (No. 209) a summer bird from the same locality shot by my friend Sparre Schneider on the 13th of June, 1877. The bill is dark, and of the same size and shape as in small specimens of *linaria*. The color is very pale, and the streaks on the underparts nearly obsolete, thus reminding one very much of *exilipes*, but the rump is decidedly streaked and the proportions correspond with those of *linaria*. I feel pretty sure that the bird in question does not belong to *exilipes*, but to a pale northern race of *linaria*, to which is applicable the name *Acanthis linaria pallescens* (Homeyer). From this I am inclined to believe that *exilipes* does not occur in Europe.

Now a few remarks upon the white colored short-billed forms. In 1834, in Volume III of his 'Birds of Europe,' Gould figured a Redpoll, which he called *Linaria canescens*, a name later applied by Bonaparte and many other ornithologists to the Greenland light species. It has, however, by later authors been identified as a representative of the true *linaria*, of which it therefore has been given as a synonym, as by Dresser, Newton, Seeböhm, and the committee of the B. O. U. in its 'List of British Birds.' Unfortunately I have not access to Gould's work, but as the Greenland species is easily recognizable, I do not hesitate in accepting the identification of the above authorities, as far as the

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\* v. Homeyer (J. f. Orn. 1879, p. 183) says that the tail of *holboellii* is 'longer' than that of *hornemanni*, but this is probably only a slip of the pen, and that he meant 'shorter' instead.

exclusion of the Greenland bird is concerned, at least. The next name for the latter is given by Holböll in 1843, and is *A. hornemannii*.

The first author to distinguish the different forms of *A. linaria* was C. L. Brehm. His descriptions are, however, very unsatisfactory, and have caused considerable confusion. It has been generally agreed upon to call the long- and slender-billed form of *linaria* by Brehm's name *holboellii*, as that is the appellation applied by him to the form with the longest bill. It was afterwards named by Brehm himself *longirostris*; Sundevall used the names *alnorum* and *magnirostris*, and its summer plumage has recently been redescribed by E. v. Homcyer as *brunnescens*. It is a rather poorly differentiated form, as the intergradation into *linaria vera* is complete, and the intermediate links rather numerous. But, nevertheless, the two races exist, and we shall have to recognize them. The chief distinction is the lengthened and pointed bill, and the somewhat larger size, although the tail is about the same length. Like the true *linaria*, it occurs both in Europe and North America, and I have also met with it in Eastern Asia. It has been suggested that the American forms might be separable as races from the European birds on account of heavier streaking on the lower parts of the body. But I have not been able to verify it as a general rule, while it is certain that I have before me specimens from Scandinavia and America which are perfect counterparts of each other. In size I could detect no difference. For comparison I have had a large series of American birds, including the types of Coues's *fuscescens* from Labrador,\* and a similar series of European and Asiatic specimens; among the European, examples from the late Professor Sundevall with the names *L. magnirostris* and *L. ordinaria*, *parvirostris*, or *betularum*, in his own handwriting on the labels.

I may here add a few notes upon a small series of Redpolls from the Island of Kodiak, Alaska. They are perhaps a trifle smaller than *holboellii*, but the length of the bill is by no means inferior. As they are in the worn summer plumage little can be said with certainty about the actual length of wing and tail-feathers. Of the five specimens at hand, one adult male is especially remarkable for the deep color of the dark parts and the bril-

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\* Not from Alaska, as O. Finsch states (*Zweite Deutsche Nordpolarfahrt*, II, p. 190).

liancy of the red color\* on cap and breast, and the nearly complete absence of red on the rump. Two other red-breasted males from the same locality show no tangible differences from *holboellii*, however, although it ought not to be forgotten that they were killed on the 20th and 27th of May, while the former was obtained on the 27th of July, the difference in date thus accounting for the paleness of the two. As the specimen in question is in rather poor condition, and I have not seen its characters confirmed in other examples, I should not deem it wise to separate it at present; but I wish to draw the attention of ornithologists who may have more ample material from that particular region, to the probability that the Kodiak bird may constitute a peculiar race. I should add, however, that Ridgway has already made a similar statement (Hist. N. A. B., I, p. 492).†

Mr. William Brewster has, in a very instructive and interesting memoir on 'Holböll's Red-Poll' (Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1883, pp. 95-99), expressed the suspicion that *linaria* and what he calls *holboellii* "are forms closely allied, but nevertheless sufficiently segregated to rank as distinct species." Compared with my statements above, we seem to be of very opposite views in this case; but I think that I can offer a satisfactory explanation.

By comparing summer specimens of the so-called *holboellii* from Greenland, and more southern winter birds, with the ordinary form occurring in Europe and America under that name, I was at once struck by the great differences. The Greenland bird is evidently considerably larger, its bill much stouter and somewhat differently shaped—not so pointed—besides being on the average a trifle shorter. As to color I thought they were rather darker and heavier streaked below. I was very soon convinced that these birds were different from the common *holboellii*, being in fact the form originally described by Coues as *rostratus*, but afterward given up by him.‡ It was also clear that the specimens

\* In the intensity and brilliancy of these colors it shows a remarkable analogy to the *Pinicola* inhabiting the same island. This is described by E. v. Homeyer (J. f. Orn., 1880, p. 156) as *P. flammula*, but being connected with *enucleator* by intermediate links it will only stand as *Pinicola enucleator flammula* (Homey.). Previously Pallas noted the difference of the birds from Kodiak.

† Pallas (Zoogr. Ross. As., II, p. 25) also mentions the specimens from Kodiak as remarkable for their long bills and their coloring.

‡ It has been quite erroneously referred to *hornemannii* by Gray (Handl., II, p. 110), Giebel (Thesaur. Orn., II, p. 196) and, strangely to say, by Dr. Coues himself (Bull. U. S. Geol. Surv., V, p. 633).

examined and described by Brewster were the winter plumage of the same form. The Redpolls are rather difficult to determine from descriptions, but if they all were so clear and thorough as those of Mr. Brewster there would have been less confusion in this group of birds. His statement that the specimens from New England "will be found to differ from the ordinary type [*linaria*] in being very much larger, with stouter, less acute bills, generally darker coloring, and especially darker, coarser streaking beneath," will apply to *rostrata*, as distinguished not only from *linaria*, but also from true *holboellii*.

Nevertheless, I do not agree with him in regarding *Acanthis rostrata* as a 'distinct species.' The conclusion of Mr. Brewster is easily explained, he probably having only the short-billed *linaria* for comparison; but as the measurements, given below, show, there is a regular intergradation, and the Greenland bird cannot be justly designated except as conspecific with the other forms. It will therefore, after the common usage of American writers, stand as *A. linaria rostrata*. This name does not quite express the true relationship; for if the trinominal nomenclature is adopted in order to show that the two forms whose names are combined intergrade, we should expect a combination like *A. holboellii rostrata* on the one hand, and *A. linaria holboellii* on the other. This is the course taken by Mr. Seebohm, and is a point which merits earnest consideration.

Here comes up a question about the first name of this form, as I am inclined to believe that it may be *Acanthis linaria lanceolata* (Selys) Dubois. In the Parzudaki Catalogue of European Birds (Paris, 1856) C. L. Bonaparte enumerated among the Redpolls a *Linaria groenlandica* Bp. without giving any diagnosis or description whatsoever. As it is a 'nomen nudum' nothing can save it, although it evidently is no other bird than the present, *hornemannii* being enumerated as *canescens*, and there being only these species found in Greenland. Nor is Gerbe's description\* in that respect of any use, as it is published six years later than Coues's *rostratus*. In the 'Rev. et Mag. Zool.' (1857, p. 123), De Selys, in reviewing Bonaparte's 'Catalogue Parzudaki,' mentions the *groenlandica* as identical

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\*"La *Groenlandica* serait particulièrement caractérisée par des taches lancéolées noires et très-nombreuses sur la poitrine et sur les flancs" (Ornith. Europ., I, p. 293, Paris, 1867).

with his *lanceolata*, but gives no further clue to the origin of this name, nor does his countryman, Dubois, who, in his 'Consp. Av. Europ.', p. 18 (Brux., 1871), gives the combination *Acanthis linaria*  $\gamma$  *lanceolata* Selys. Having no access to De Selys's 'Faune Belge,' nor to his other writings (it does not occur in the paper entitled 'Sur les Oiseaux américains dans la faune européenne' in 'Mém. Soc. Liège,' 1847, IV, p. 35), I cannot come to any conclusion upon this point. But it is very desirable that anyone having the opportunity should look the matter up before the new list of North American birds, planned by the A. O. U., is published.\*

There remains only to be said a few words upon the two European races of *linaria* not recognized from America. The one is the *pallescens*, spoken of above, while the other is the form found breeding in the British Islands, and, as I believe, on all the high mountains of Southern Europe. Mr. Seebohm (Hist. Brit. Bird's Eggs, II, p. 117, London, 1883) states that "the only known instance of the Lesser Redpole breeding out of the British Islands is that recorded by Professor Giglioli ('Ibis,' 1881, p. 204), who obtained a nest from the Veglio Alps in Italy, about 7000 feet above the sea-level." This is not correct, for its breeding in the Styrian Alps, at a height of 5,000 to 6,000 feet above sea-level, has been several times announced by von Tschusi-Schmidhofen (cf. J. f. Orn., 1872, p. 132, as *Acanthis linaria*; *ibid.*, 1875, p. 409, as *Fringilla l.*; and *ibid.*, 1876, p. 331, as *Fringilla rufescens*).

This form is said to be distinguished by its rump having no white coloring, and by being smaller than *linaria*. A specimen in the National Museum from England, shot on the 18th of May, 1837, is of the size of a small *linaria*, but has a decidedly weaker bill. As it is in bad condition, nothing can be concluded from the color of the plumage.

There can be no doubt as to the identification of Buffon's 'Pl. Enlum.,' pl. 485, fig. 2, upon which Müller's name *Fringilla cabaret* and Boddaert's *Fringilla minima* are based. The uropygium is plainly visible and is painted uniform brown, the main character of the English bird.

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\* Since writing the above Mr. J. A. Allen has kindly informed me that it does not occur in this work. The probability therefore is that it is only a museum name.

The following brief synopsis and synonymy may be regarded as a condensed summary of the above notes. The synonymy, it will be seen, does not pretend to be in any way complete.

## SYNOPSIS.

1. *Acanthis hornemannii* (HOLB.) STGR.

1843.—*Linota hornemannii* HOLBÖLL. Naturh. Tidskr. (IV, p. 398).

1850.—*Acanthis canescens* BP. & SCHLEG. Mon. Lox. p. 47, pl. 51 (nec GOULD, 1834).

(*Ægiothus canescens* var. *canescens* B. BR. & RIDGW. Hist. N. Am. B. I, p. 493.—No. 178, RIDGW. Nomenclature, p. 22.—*Ægiothus hornemannii*, No. 209, COUES, Check L., 2d ed., p. 49.)

HAB.—Greenland and Eastern Arctic America.

1 a. *Acanthis hornemannii exilipes* (COUES) STGR.

1839.—*Fringilla borealis* AUD. Orn. Biogr. V, p. 87, pl. 400 (nec VIEILL. 1818).

1860.—*Fringilla linaria canescens* v. SCHRENCK, Reise Amurl. I, p. 296.

1861.—*Ægiothus canescens* ROSS, Edinb. Phil. Journ. 1861, p. 163 (nec GOULD, 1837).

1861.—*Ægiothus exilipes* COUES, Pr. Phil. Ac. 1861, p. 385.

1872.—*Ægiothus linaria* var. *exilipes* COUES, Key, p. 131.

1874.—*Ægiothus canescens exilipes* RIDGW. Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y. X, p. 372.

(*Ægiothus canescens* var. *exilipes*, B. BR. & RIDGW. l. c.—No. 178a, RIDGW. l. c.—*Ægiothus exilipes*, No. 210, COUES, l. c.)

HAB.—Arctic America and Northeastern Asia.

2. *Acanthis linaria* (LIN.) BP. & SCHL.

1758.—*Fringilla linaria* LIN. S. N. 10th ed. I, p. 182.

1818.—*Linaria borealis* VIEILL. Mem. Ac. Tor. XXIII (p. 199).

1831.—*Linaria agrorum* BREHM, Handb. Vög. Deutschl. p. 281.

1831.—*Linaria betularum* BREHM, *ibid.* p. 282.

1834.—*Linaria canescens* GOULD, B. of Eur. III (pl. 193).

1840.—*Fringilla linaria betularum*, SUNDEV. Sv. Vet. Ac. Handl. 1840 (p. 59).

1861.—*Ægiothus fuscescens* COUES, Pr. Phil. Ac. 1861, p. 222.

1866.—*Fringilla linaria brevirostris* HOLMGR. Skand. Fogl. I, p. 328.

1873.—*Ægiothus rufescens* ALST. & BROWN, Ibis, 1873, p. 64 (nec VIEILL.).

(*Ægiothus linarius* var. *linarius* B. BR. & RIDGW. l. c.—*Ægiothus linaria*, No. 179, RIDGW. l. c.—No. 207, COUES, l. c.)

HAB.—Northern portion of Palæarctic and Nearctic Regions.



2a. *Acanthis linaria pallescens* (HOMEY.) STGR.

- 1817.—*Fringilla linaria* var.  $\beta$  NILS. Orn. Svec. I, p. 150.  
 1861.—*Fringilla canescens* SOMMERF. Öfv. Sv. Vet. Akad. Förh. 1861 (p. 81).  
 1876.—*Linota canescens* SEEB. & BROWN, Ibis, 1876, p. 116 (*nec* GOULD).  
 1877.—*Linota exilipes* DRESSER, B. Eur. pts. LVII and LVIII (*part*).  
 ? 1879.—*Linaria sibirica* HOMEY. J. f. Orn. 1879, p. 185 (*nec* BOIE, 1822).  
 1880.—*Linaria pallescens* HOMEY. *ibid.* 1880, p. 156.  
 HAB.—Arctic Europe (and West Siberia?).

2b. *Acanthis linaria holboellii* (BREHM) DUBOIS.

- 1831.—*Linaria holboellii* BREHM, Handb. Vög. Deutschl. p. 280.  
 1831.—*Linaria alnorum* BREHM, *ibid.*, p. 281.  
 1840.—*Fringilla linaria alnorum* SUNDEV. Sv. Vet. Acad. Handl. 1840 (p. 59).  
 1855.—*Linaria longirostris* BREHM, Naumannia, 1855, p. 277.  
 1857.—*Acanthis holboelli* SELYS, Rev. Mag. Zool. 1857, p. 126.  
 1866.—*Fringilla linaria magnirostris* HOLMGR. Skand. Fogl. I p. 328.  
 1871.—*Acanthis linaria*  $\beta$  *holbölli* DUBOIS, Consp. Av. Europ. p. 18.  
 1879.—*Linaria brunnescens* E. v. HOMEY. J. f. Orn. 1879, p. 184.  
 1880.—*Linaria alnorum magnirostris* MEVES, J. f. Orn. 1880, p. 155 (*vide* HOMEY.).  
 (*Ægiothus linarius* var. *holbölli* B. BR. & RIDGW. *l.c.* (only in part).—No. 179a, RIDGW. *l.c.*—No. 208, COUES *l.c.*)  
 Hab.—Northern portion of Palæarctic and Nearctic Regions.

2c. *Acanthis linaria rostrata* (COUES) STGR.

- Linaria lanceolata* SELYS (*ubi?*).  
 1856.—*Acanthis groenlandica* BONAP. Catal. Parzud. p. 4 (*nomen nudum*).  
 1861.—*Ægiothus rostratus* COUES, Proc. Ac. Phil. 1861, p. 378.  
 1871.—*Acanthis linaria*  $\gamma$  *lanceolata* DUBOIS, Consp. Av. Europ. p. 18.  
 1874.—*Ægiothus linarius holbölli* B. BR. & RIDGW. Hist. N. Amer. B. I p. 493 (*part*).  
 1883.—*Ægiothus linaria holboelli* BREWSTER, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Cl. 1883, p. 95.  
 (*Ægiothus linarius* var. *holboelli* B. BR. & RIDGW. *l.c.* (in part).—No. 179a, RIDGW. *l.c.*—No. 208, COUES *l.c.*)  
 HAB.—Greenland and North Eastern America.

2d. *Acanthis linaria cabaret* (MÜLL.) STGR.

- 1776.—*Fringilla cabaret* MÜLL. Natursyst. Suppl. (p. 165).  
 1783.—*Fringilla minima* BODDAERT, Tabl. Pl. Enlum. p. 28 (*Ed. Tegetm.*).

1790.—*Fringilla linaria*  $\beta$  LATH. Ind. Orn. I, p. 459.

1818.—*Linaria rufescens* VIEILL. Mem. Acad. Torin. XXIII, (p. 202.)

1833.—*Linaria minor* SELBY, Brit. Orn. I (p. 320).

(*Linota rufescens* List B.O.U. p. 54.—No. 203, DRESSER, List. Eur. B. p. 16.)

HAB.—British Islands, and high mountains of Southern Europe.

Finally, it may not be out of place to give a few measurements, but in order to save time and space I here only offer the averages, reserving the details for a more elaborate memoir on which I am

Table of Comparative Measurements.

Name of species	Localities.	Number of specimens measured.	Wing.	Tail-feathers.	Bill from nostrils.	Depth of bill.				
<b>A. Winter specimens (October—April).</b>										
(a) Males.										
1. <i>hornemannii</i>	East N. Amer.	Av. 6 ♂♂*	85.3	3.40	66.3	2.61	8.0	0.32		
1a. <i>h. exilipes</i>	Asia, W. & E. Amer.	" 17 ♂♂	73.8	2.91	58.7	2.31	6.6	0.26		
2. <i>linaria</i>	E. Asia, Amer. Scand.	" 16 ♂♂	73.8	2.91	58.0	2.28	7.5	0.29		
2b. <i>l. holboellii</i>	E. Asia, E. Am. Scan.	" 10 ♂♂	75.4	2.97	58.6	2.31	8.6	0.34	6.3	0.25
2c. <i>l. rostrata</i>	E. Amer. & Greenl.	" 8 ♂♂*	81.1	3.19	62.4	2.46	8.2	0.32	7.5	0.29
(b) Females.										
1. <i>hornemannii</i>	E. North Amer.	Av. 6 ♀♀*	84.1	3.31	64.3	2.53	7.9	0.31		
1a. <i>h. exilipes</i>	Asia, W. & E. Amer.	" 13 ♀♀	71.1	2.80	57.7	2.27	6.7	0.26		
2. <i>linaria</i>	E. Asia, Amer., Scan.	" 19 ♀♀	71.1	2.80	56.5	2.22	7.3	0.29		
2b. <i>l. holboellii</i>	E. Asia, Scand.	" 3 ♀♀	72.0	2.83	56.7	2.23	9.0	0.35	6.2	0.24
2c. <i>l. rostrata</i>	E. North Amer.	" 6 ♀♀†	76.8	3.02	60.5	2.38	8.2	0.39	7.5	0.29
<b>B. Summer Specimens (May—September).</b>										
(a) Males.										
1a. <i>h. exilipes</i>	Alaska	Av. 6 ♂♂	72.3	2.85	58.3	2.30	6.9	0.27		
2. <i>linaria</i>	North America.	" 7 ♂♂	71.9	2.83	56.3	2.22	7.5	0.29		
2b. <i>l. holboellii</i>	E. Asia, Kodiak, Scan.	" 7 ♂♂	74.0	2.91	56.9	2.24	8.5	0.33	6.1	0.24
2c. <i>l. rostrata</i>	Greenland.	" 1 ♂	77.0	3.03	56.0	2.20	8.5	0.33	7.5	0.29
(b) Females.										
1a. <i>h. exilipes</i>	Alaska.	Av. 2 ♀♀	71.5	2.81	56.5	2.22	7.0	0.28		
2. <i>linaria</i>	North America.	" 5 ♀♀†	69.2	2.72	55.6	2.19	7.1†	0.28		
2b. <i>l. holboellii</i>	E. Asia, Kodiak.	" 3 ♀♀	71.3	2.80	57.0	2.24	8.2	0.32	6.2	0.24

\* Sex and date supp.

† The type-specimen of Coues's *fuscescens* has a very worn and therefore very short bill, thus depressing the average unduly. The average of the four other females is 7.4 mm. = .28 inch.

at present engaged. The measurements are given separately for the different sexes, and for the summer and winter plumages. In the former the feathers are usually much abraded, the measurements thus being smaller and also less reliable. It is consequently a matter of fact that the measurements of summer specimens of the larger form inosculate with those of the smaller one in winter plumage; but that is not true intergradation. Such *specimens only* are therefore measured in which locality, date, and sex were plainly marked on the label by the collector himself, unless otherwise stated. In no case have I given measurements of examples the sex or date of which I have guessed from the size, the color, or the appearance of the plumage, except in two particular instances as specified in the table.

P. S.—Since the above was written Mr. W. Brewster has had the great kindness to send to me for inspection the specimens upon which his remarks on *L. holboelli* in his above quoted paper, were based. They confirm what I have already said, and there can, in my opinion, be no doubt that these Redpolls are birds bred in Greenland, or perhaps on the opposite shore of North America, wandering along the coast line in winter as far south as New England and New York. They are, in all respects, true and typical *A. l. rostrata*.

As Mr. Brewster's and my measurements are scarcely comparable on account of our different manner of making them, I have remeasured them, so that they may be compared with the dimensions recorded in the 'Table of Comparative Measurements' of this paper. I have also added the dimensions of two fine males in winter plumage from Dr. A. K. Fisher's collection, being in every respect true *rostrata*. The character originally pointed out by Mr. Brewster, that in *rostrata* the upper mandible is decidedly decurved and its outline noticeably convex,

holds good in all the specimens. The outline is straight both in *linaria typica* and in *holboellii*.

Table of measurements of *A. l. rostrata*.

Collection.	Cat. No.	Locality.	When collected.	Sex and age.	Wing.	Tail-feathers.	Bill from nostrils.	Depth of bill.
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A. Specimens from Massachusetts.

(a) Males with red on the breast.

W. Brewster	Cat. No.	Locality.	When collected.	Sex and age.	mm. inch		mm. inch		mm. inch			
					Wing.	Tail-feathers.	Bill from nostrils.	Depth of bill.				
	7892	Near Boston.	Feb. 1883.	♂ ad.	78	3.07	62	2.44	8	0.32	7.7	0.30
	..	Nantasket.	Feb. 22, '83	♂ ad.	77	3.03	60	2.36	8	0.32	7.0	0.28
	..	"	"	♂ ad.	81	3.19	61	2.40	8	0.32	7.0	0.28
	..	"	"	♂ ad.	80	3.15	62	2.44	7.7	0.30	7.0	0.28
					79	3.11	61.2	2.41	7.9	0.31	7.2	0.28

(b) Males without red on the breast.

W. Brewster	Cat. No.	Locality.	When collected.	Sex and age.	mm. inch		mm. inch		mm. inch			
					Wing.	Tail-feathers.	Bill from nostrils.	Depth of bill.				
	7898	Near Boston.	Feb. 1883.	♂	75	2.95	59	2.32	7.7	0.30	7.0	0.28
	7913	"	"	♂	82	3.23	64	2.52	8.0	0.32	7.0	0.28
	7894	"	"	♂	77	3.03	58	2.28	8.0	0.32	7.0	0.28
	7897	"	"	♂	81	3.19	64	2.52	8.0	0.32	7.5	0.29
					79	3.11	61.2	2.41	7.9	0.31	7.1	0.28

(c) Females.

W. Brewster	Cat. No.	Locality.	When collected.	Sex and age.	mm. inch		mm. inch		mm. inch			
					Wing.	Tail-feathers.	Bill from nostrils.	Depth of bill.				
	2922	Cambridge, Mass.	Feb. 19, '73	♀	75	2.95	61	2.40	7.7	0.30	6.8	0.27
	2928	W. Newton, Mass.	Jan. 23, '75	♀	74	2.91	61	2.40	7.5	0.29	7.0	0.28
	7896	Near Boston.	Feb. 1883.	♀	77	3.03	61	2.40	8.0	0.32	6.5	0.25
					75.2	2.96	61	2.40	7.7	0.30	6.8	0.27

B. Specimens from New York.

Males with red on the breast.

Dr. A.K. Fisher	Cat. No.	Locality.	When collected.	Sex and age.	mm. inch		mm. inch		mm. inch			
					Wing.	Tail-feathers.	Bill from nostrils.	Depth of bill.				
	1444	Sing Sing, N.Y.	Winter.	♂ ad.	83	3.27	64	2.52	8.2	0.32	7.2	0.28
	1445	"	"	♂ ad.	79	3.11	65	2.56	8.0	0.32	7.0	0.28

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,

Washington, D. C., Jan. 22, 1884.

## THE WINTER PASSERES AND PICARIÆ OF OTTAWA.

BY W. L. SCOTT.

It has been the delight of poets, from time immemorial, to chant of spring and summer as the exclusive seasons of birds and sunshine; but even in our 'bleak northern clime,' our cold winter days are by no means destitute of either the one or the