

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON SOME BIRDS COLLECTED
IN ARIZONA AND THE ADJOINING PROVINCE
OF SONORA, MEXICO, BY MR. F. STEPHENS
IN 1884; WITH A DESCRIPTION OF A
NEW SPECIES OF *ORTYX*.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

IN the last number of 'The Auk'* I announced several additions to our bird-fauna made by Mr. Stevens in Arizona during the collecting season of 1884. The following notes embrace what I have to add on the subject. Late in the summer Mr. Stephens crossed the boundary into Mexico, traversing the Province of Sonora in a south-westerly direction to Port† Lobos, on the Gulf of California. As he has kindly promised a detailed account of this trip for publication in 'The Auk,' I shall mention here only a few of its more important results, especially such as have a bearing on our fauna, either by extending the known range of Arizona birds southward, or that of Mexican birds northward.

Harporynchus curvirostris palmeri *Ridgw.* PALMER'S THRASHER.—An adult male in worn breeding plumage, taken at Altar, Sonora, Mexico, Aug 14, seems to be perfectly typical of this form, which, if I am not mistaken, has not been previously found south of the United States.

Harporynchus leontii Bonap. LECONTE'S THRASHER.—The occurrence of this species well within the boundary of Mexico is attested by four specimens taken about fifteen miles inland from Port Lobos. These birds are in a plumage unlike any that I have previously seen. The upper parts are deep ash-y-, almost bluish-, drab, scarcely, if at all, tinged with brown or yellow. The wings are nearly concolor with the back, the tail much darker, in fact plumbeous-brown. The throat is white, in decided contrast with the breast and sides, which are nearly as dark as the back and of somewhat the same color, but tinged with ochrey. The abdominal region is brownish-white; the crissum, under tail-coverts, and flanks are strongly rusty.

Three of these specimens were shot Aug. 19; the fourth Aug. 21. Mr. Stephens is firm in the belief that they represent a form sub-specifically distinct from that of Arizona and California. This, however, seems to me improbable, from the fact that they all have more or less extensive patches of pallid, sand-colored feathers, which match perfectly those of the summer plumage of *H. leontii* (either adults or young in first plumage). As these pallid feathers are clearly the remnants of a plumage

* Vol. II, No. 1, Jan. 1885, pp. 84, 85.

† So spelled on the labels of his specimens. Possibly Point, or Cape, Lobos!

which must have been moulted only a short time before the birds in question were killed, it would seem most reasonable to assume that the latter are simply Leconte's Thrashers in fresh autumnal dress, a condition which does not seem to have been previously examined.

I take this opportunity of describing another hitherto unknown plumage of *leontii*.

Juv., first plumage (♀ No. 894, F. S., Aqua Caliente, California, March 28, 1884. Coll. F. Stephens). Of the same general pallid sandy-brown as the adult, but with the ochraceous of the anal region and crissum paler, the upper tail-coverts brownish-rusty, the wing-feathers (but not their coverts) delicate pearl-gray tipped with light brown, the tail dark plumbeous-brown, and the dusky loreal patch and malar stripe rather more conspicuous than in the old bird. There is no indication of other dark spots or streaks anywhere either above or beneath. This bird was evidently just from the nest when taken, as its wings and tail are not fully grown.

Although Mr. Ridgway has expressed* his inability to verify certain supposed peculiarities in the bill of this species, to which I once called attention,† I have found them nearly constant in the dozen or more specimens that have since passed through my hands.

Certhia familiaris mexicana (*Gloger*) *Ridgw.* MEXICAN CREEPER.—Two Creepers, an adult male and female, taken in the Santa Rita Mts., July 5, are nearly, if not quite, typical examples of this strongly characterized subspecies, which was added to our fauna by Mr. Stevens in 1881.

Dendroca nigrescens (*Towns.*) *Baird.* BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER.—*Juv., first plumage* (♀ No. 2072, Santa Rita Mts., July 1). Above brownish-ashy, somewhat plumbeous on the crown; below ashy-white, the throat dark ashy, the breast and sides sprinkled with fine, obscure spots of dull black. The white stripes on the sides of the head are well-defined but the lores are solidly black, lacking the yellow spot seen in the adult male.

Vireo huttoni stephensi *Brews.* STEPHENS'S VIREO.—*Juv., first plumage* (No. 2161, Santa Rita Mts., July 9). Above brownish-ashy tinged with olive on the back, the wing- and tail-feathers edged with greenish, the wing-coverts tipped with ochraceous; below ashy-white washed faintly with yellowish posteriorly.

Vireo pusillus *Coues.* LEAST VIREO.—*Juv., autumnal plumage* (♀ No. 2501, Camp Lowell, Aug. 11). Very similar to the adult, but paler and greener above, with a decided greenish edging on the wing- and tail-feathers; the under parts rather purer white.

Pyrranga hepatica *Swains.* LIVER-COLORED Tanager.—*Juv., first plumage* (♀ No. 2163, Santa Rita Mts., July 9). Above dull yellowish-green, brightest on the crown and tail, each feather with a broad shaft-stripe of dark brown; below sulphur yellow, more or less tinged with

* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. V, p. 45.

† Bull. N. O. C., Vol. VI, No. 2, April, 1881, p. 67.

green, the feathers everywhere—except on the crissum and under tail-coverts, which are immaculate—streaked centrally with dull black.

Pyrranga æstiva cooperi Ridgw. COOPER'S TANAGER.—*Juv., first plumage* (♀ No. 2500, Camp Lowell, Aug. 11). Above dull brownish-ochrey; below brownish or ashy white; the feathers of the crown and back streaked centrally with dark brown, those of the breast and abdomen with dull black. This specimen is a little past the true first plumage, patches of the autumnal feathering having already appeared in places.

The adult male of this subspecies, as shown by a specimen taken Sept. 1 at Tucson, does not have a distinctive autumnal plumage, the red at that season being quite pure and, indeed, apparently even deeper and rosier than in spring. In this respect the bird resembles its near relative *P. æstiva* and differs from *P. rubra*, the adult male of which in autumn assumes a green livery scarcely distinguishable from that of the female.

Passerculus rostratus (Cass.) Baird. LARGE-BILLED SPARROW.—Two females were taken Aug. 20 on the shore of the Gulf of California at Port Lobos, Sonora, Mexico. Mr. Ridgway, who has kindly examined them, confirms my opinion that they are typical *rostratus*.

Centronyx bairdi (Aud.) Baird. BAIRD'S SPARROW.—Two adult males, in worn and very ragged breeding plumage, were taken respectively Aug. 29 and 30, in Southern Arizona, eight miles north of the boundary line, and ten miles northeast of Sasabe, Sonora, Mexico. The dates of capture and condition of these specimens would seem to imply that the species breeds in Arizona.

Passerina versicolor (Bonap.) Gray. VARIED BUNTING.—A female, apparently adult, but in perfectly fresh, unworn plumage, was taken July 14 at Crittenden, near the Santa Rita Mts. I can find no previous record of the occurrence of this species in Arizona.

Junco cinereus (Swains.) Cab. MEXICAN JUNCO.—*Juv., first plumage* (♀ No. 2102, Santa Rita Mts., July 5). Top and sides of head dusky-ash; under parts ashy-white; chestnut of back spreading over the wing-coverts and inner secondaries as in the adult; entire plumage of head and body—except the abdomen and crissum, which are immaculate—thickly spotted and streaked with dull black; lores black.

Sturnella magna mexicana (Scl.) Ridgw. MEXICAN MEADOW LARK.—Two Meadow Larks, a male and female, taken respectively July 22 and 24 at Crittenden, Arizona, prove rather unexpectedly to be typical *mexicana*. As this form—closely related to *magna* of the East—seems never to have been detected before to the westward of Texas within the United States, its occurrence in Arizona, in the heart of the *neglecta* country, is not less interesting than unexpected.

Myiarchus mexicanus magister Ridgw. ARIZONA CRESTED FLY-CATCHER.—*Juv., first plumage* (♀ No. 2434, Camp Lowell, Aug. 5). Generally similar to the adult, but with the crown tinged with reddish, the back duller brown, the throat paler ash, the outer edges of all the wing-

coverts, primaries, and secondaries (except the inner two), strongly rusty, and the outer, as well as inner edges of all the tail-feathers edged with rusty.

Myiarchus lawrencei olivaceus Ridgw. OLIVACEOUS CRESTED FLY-CATCHER.—*Juv., first plumage* (♀ No. 2235, Santa Rita Mts., July 15). Differing from the adult chiefly in having all the tail-feathers conspicuously margined with rusty on both outer and inner webs, all the wing-feathers, including both rows of coverts, tipped and edged with rusty, the ash of the throat paler, and the yellow of the under parts much duller.

Cæligena clemenciæ Lesson. BLUE-THROATED CASIQUE.—The specimens announced in the last issue of 'The Auk' (Vol. II, No. 1, January 1885, p. 85) as having been taken by Mr. Stephens at Camp Lowell was really shot by Mr. F. Ball (Mr. Stephens's assistant) in the Santa Catarina Mts., a neighboring, but of course widely different locality. The bird bore a label with "Camp Lowell" printed on the face in large letters and I overlooked the inscription of the exact place of capture, which was rather indistinctly written in among some other manuscript data.

Eugenes fulgens (Swains.) Gould. REFULGENT HUMMINGBIRD.—A female, apparently adult, was taken in the Santa Rita Mts., July 5.

Picus stricklandi Malh. STRICKLAND'S WOODPECKER.—*Juv., first plumage* (♂ No. 2001, Santa Rita Mts., June 27). Entire crown scarlet; forehead smoky brown; occiput dull plumbeous; remainder of upper parts, including wings, clear olive-brown; underparts very densely spotted on a yellowish-white ground. Otherwise like the adult. A female (No. 2096, Santa Rita Mts., July 4) is precisely similar to the last, with the red crown patch fully as extended and deep in tint. Another female, rather younger, has the red of the crown restricted to the extreme tips of the feathers, as well as duller, yellower, and altogether less conspicuous.

Colinus ridgwayi nov spec. MASKED QUAIL.

♂ *adult*. Whole head, neck, and throat black, except the centre of the crown posteriorly and the occipital and nuchal regions, which are varied with black, white, and cinnamon, the black predominating; under parts warm brownish cinnamon, immaculate except on the flanks, where a few of the feathers are spotted marginally with white and dull black, and on the under tail-coverts, the central feathers of which are broadly tipped with brownish-white and crossed with v-shaped bars of black; inner secondaries, wing-coverts, scapulars, and fore part of back of nearly the same color as the under parts but paler and pinker, the feathers everywhere barred and mottled with whitish and dark brown or dull black; upper tail-coverts, rump, and back posteriorly grayish-drab, obscurely barred and mottled with dark brown and whitish; primaries drab, mottled with whitish on their outer webs; tail feathers bluish-ash, finely vermiculated with pale brown and whitish, most strongly on the central pair. Bill black; legs and feet horn color. Length, 9.70; extent, 14.50; wing, 4.45; tail, 2.75; tarsus, 1.20; bill, .30 deep by .34 long from nostril. Type, No. 2599, Coll. F. Stephens.

This species seems to most nearly resemble *C. coyolcos*, but differs in the restriction of the black to the head, neck and throat, in the absence of white frontal and superciliary stripes, and in its decidedly larger size.

The type specimen was taken by Mr. Stephens, Aug. 11, about eighteen miles southwest of Sasabe, Sonora, Mexico, and hence very near the boundary. Mr. Stephens on the same trip saw a precisely similar bird a few miles *north* of the line, and within Arizona and he writes me that he has recently examined two specimens which were actually taken in Arizona, thus adding the species to our fauna.

NOTES ON SOME SPECIES OF BIRDS ATTRIBUTED TO POINT BARROW, ALASKA.

BY JOHN MURDOCH.

MR. E. W. NELSON, in his paper on 'The Birds of Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean,'* mentions several species of birds as occurring at Point Barrow, which were not afterwards observed there by our party.

His opinions are based upon observations made during a hasty visit of a day or two, when on board of the Revenue-cutter *Corwin* in 1881, and upon generalizations from the abundance of the species in more southern parts of the Territory. The results of two years' careful and continuous observation and collecting in this locality lead me to consider Mr. Nelson in error on these points, and it seems to me desirable that the correction of these errors should be published before the statements have gained currency from length of time and frequent quotation. The following are the species in question :

Ægiothus linaria. Of this species, Mr. Nelson merely says, "We found it with the preceding at East Cape, Siberia, Point Barrow, and at nearly every place we landed." As he does not appear to have obtained specimens, and as we did not obtain it in either season, his statement of its occurrence must have been founded on the supposition that the two species would always be found together. It is worthy of note that the preceding species (*Æ. canescens exilipes*) which he speaks of as "perhaps the most abundant of all the land birds . . . on the Alaskan shore . . . north to Point Barrow," was decidedly rare at Point Barrow in the season of 1882 and was not observed in 1883.

* Cruise of the Revenue Steamer *Corwin* in Alaska and the N. W. Arctic Ocean in 1881. Washington, 1883.