

**Parus atricristatus.** BLACK-CRESTED TITMOUSE.

*First Plumage:*—Upper parts dark ashy plumbeous strongly washed with olive. Lores ashy white. Crest extends to bill, thus leaving no frontlet. On two of my three specimens, which were shot same place and day (Frazar, Rio Grande City, Texas, June 11th, 1880), the crest is mixed dark ash and black, and on the other the crest color is same as back but a darker shade.

I have also a female young of the year taken by Mr. Bourbois at Lomita, Texas, in July of 1879, which has a crest of mixed black and ash, so it is fair to say that in most cases the first plumage has the black crest mixed with ash and without the gloss peculiar to adults. The sides of head and jugulum are dark ashy white. Throat and middle of belly lighter. Sides washed with very pale chestnut, almost a buff, and a wash of same covers upper belly and lower tail-coverts. The quills are edged and tipped with hoary. Bill horn color. Feet plumbeous.



## DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SUBSPECIES OF TITMICE FROM TEXAS.

BY GEORGE B. SENNETT.

### **Parus atricristatus castaneifrons**, subsp. nov. CHEST- NUT-FRONTED TITMOUSE.

♂ ♀, *Adult:*—Entire upper parts plumbeous, washed faintly with olive. Crest thin, about one inch in length, restricted to middle portion of the crown; it is of a dark brown color, mixed on edges with ashy plumbeous; edges of crown and sides of both head and neck ashy plumbeous. Frontlet at base of crest chestnut. Lores white. Underparts light ash, washed with chestnut on sides, and with faint traces of same on breast and under tail-coverts. Tail slightly browner than back; wings browner than tail. Size, that of *Parus bicolor*, but with bill even larger. Bill black. Feet dark lead color.

HABITAT. Bee Co., Texas.

*Dimensions:*—Adult ♂, type, No. 3106; collector's No. 33; J. M. Priour, Bee Co., Texas, April 4, 1886. Wing, 3.12; tail, 2.95; tarsus, .77; bill, .42.

Adult ♀, type, No. 3107; collector's No. 34; J. M. Priour, Bee Co., Texas, April 4, 1886. Wing, 2.95; tail, 2.95; tarsus, .77; bill, .45.

Adult ♂, No. 3108; collector's No. 66; J. M. Priour, Bee Co., Texas, April 9, 1886. Wing, 3.11; tail, 3.; tarsus, .83; bill, .42,

Adult ♀, No. 3161; collector's No. 67; J. M. Priour, Bee Co., Texas, April 9, 1886. Wing, 3.08; tail, 3.; tarsus, .85; bill, .43.

This dark-crested Titmouse strikes one at a glance as being different from *Parus atricristatus*, on account of its chestnut frontlet, its large size, and its crest being smaller and brown, instead of glossy black. A close comparison shows also less olive on upper parts and a more plumbeous tail. It differs from *Parus bicolor* in having the crest brown instead of dark plumbeous, and the frontlet chestnut instead of black. In size it is fully equal to southern specimens of *Parus bicolor*, and its bill is even larger, and is black, with no tendency to horn color. I have compared the four specimens in my collection with more than fifty specimens of *Parus atricristatus*, and with specimens of *Parus bicolor* from New York to Texas and from Kansas to Florida.

**Parus bicolor texensis**, subsp. nov. TEXAN TUFTED  
TITMOUSE.

♂ ♀, *Adult*:—General color same as in *Parus bicolor* but paler. At base of chest a frontlet of chestnut instead of black as in *Parus bicolor*. This frontlet corresponds in color and intensity to the washings on the sides, which vary with age and season. The size is the same as that of *Parus bicolor*, but the bill appears to be longer and stronger, and the tarsus longer.

Adult ♂, type, No. 3104; collector's No. 52; John M. Priour, Bee Co., Texas, April 7, 1886. Wing, 2.95; tail, 2.85; tarsus, .80; bill, .43.

Adult ♀, type, No. 3105; collector's No. 53; John M. Priour, Bee Co., Texas, April 7, 1886. Wing, 3.10; tail, 3.10; tarsus, .85; bill, .45.

Adult specimen in Coll. of G. N. Lawrence, taken in October by Capt. J. P. McCown, no sex being given. Wing, 3.10; tail, 2.85; tarsus, .82; bill, .45.

HABITAT. Bee Co., Southern Texas; Brownville.

In comparing specimens of *Parus bicolor* from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kansas, Florida, and Texas, I am led to believe that the extreme Southern Texas specimens certainly constitute a variety, and may claim the rank of a distinct species. All these specimens from Southern Texas have the distinct russet or chestnut on the frontlet, whether pale or dark, similar to the washings on the sides. In the young of *Parus bicolor* the frontlet is brown, and in some

of the faded adult specimens the black of frontlet runs through all the changes of color from jet black to brown; but nowhere have I seen on the frontlet any chestnut or russet, those tinges of color so peculiar to the side-markings of the *Parus bicolor* and *Parus atricristatus*. In the far western specimens, notably from Missouri (see Baird, B. N. A., 1858, p. 384), the frontlet of *Parus bicolor* is so intensely black as almost to warrant a new variety on that account. Specimens from Middle and Northern Texas and Kansas are fully as black as the Missouri ones. In an almost direct longitudinal line south of where these intensely black ones are found we come to this interesting form with chestnut frontlets.

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## FURTHER NOTES ON THE GENUS ACANTHIS.

BY LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

SINCE my first paper on the species of the present genus (Auk, I, 1884, pp. 145-156), the National Museum has accumulated a vast additional material which enables me to corroborate some statements and modify others in my previous paper.

The enormous series of *A. hornemanni*, *exilipes*, *linaria*, and *rostrata* collected by Mr. L. M. Turner at Ungava, near the entrance of Hudson's Bay, has become available, and fully proves the correctness of recognizing the four forms. In fact, I am very strongly inclined to accept Mr. Brewster's view, that *A. rostrata* is specifically distinct. The outline of its culmen is quite unique in the genus. At any rate it is simply absurd to refer *A. rostrata* to *A. hornemanni* in light of our present material.

The increase of the collection of Redpolls is well illustrated by the fact, that while in 1884 we had only one very indifferent specimen of the British *A. cabaret*, the Museum now possesses a series of 41 specimens, most of which are in excellent plumage, for which thanks are due to Messrs. Blakiston, W. E. Brooks, E. Hargitt, R. B. Sharpe, and H. Seebohm. This additional material compels me to recede from the position previously taken, inasmuch as it proves to me the necessity of recognizing *A. cabaret* as a good and valid species, not a mere subspecies, easily