

ON A NEW FORM OF *OCEANODROMA* INHABITING  
SAN BENITO ISLAND, OFF THE COAST OF  
LOWER CALIFORNIA.

BY HANS GRAF VON BERLEPSCH.

***Oceanodroma monorhis chapmani* Berl.**

*O. O. monorhis* dictæ valde affinis sed alis multo, cauda tarsisque paulo brevioribus, rostro longiore, necnon corpore supra nigrescentiore, minus griseo lavato, distinguenda.

Al. 149-147 caud. 77-76 culm.  $28\frac{3}{4}$ - $28\frac{1}{4}$  tars.  $22\frac{1}{2}$ -22 mm.

*Habitat* in insula San Benito dicta, maris pacifici Californiae inferiori proxima.

*Typus* in Mus. H. v. B. (♂ San Benito Isld.).

In the year 1899 I received through Mr. H. W. Marsden of Clifton, Bristol, a number of rare North American birds, which he had to sell in commission for Mr. C. K. Worthen of Warsaw, Ill., whose firm name is to be found printed on the labels. From this consignment I picked out several specimens of Petrels belonging to the genus *Oceanodroma*, collected in the San Benito and Guadalupe Islands off the coast of Lower California. They bear labels in a handwriting I do not know. These *Oceanodroma* are evidently referable to three different species, viz.:

1. *O. macrodactyla* W. E. Bryant from Guadalupe Island, a large species with partly white upper tail coverts.

2. *O. melania* (Bp.) from San Benito Island, a large species of nearly uniform blackish coloration, but with whitish brown apical borders to the upper wing coverts. Erroneously labelled as *O. socorroensis*.

3. A species evidently closely allied to *O. monorhis* (Swinh.), but erroneously labelled as "*O. melania*." From the latter the two specimens from San Benito Island now in my collection differ in their much smaller size and in having the front, face and chin suffused with grayish slate color instead of being uniform with the rest of the body, also in the back being paler and of a more brownish black. Otherwise the coloration in these two birds is the same as in *O. melania*.

They are labelled as follows: *Oceanodroma melania*, San Benito Island, Lower California, July 14, 1897. "♂" and "♀" respectively, numbers 1770, 1763.

When at London last year by the kindness of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, I had an opportunity to compare my small so-called *O. melania* with specimens of *O. monorhis* Swinh. from Amuria in the Tring Museum. I found them to be closely allied to *O. monorhis*, but differing from it in their much shorter wings, also somewhat shorter tail and bill, and in their darker and less grayish upper parts.

*O. monorhis* had not yet been mentioned as occurring in San Benito Island, or elsewhere on the coast of California. The new form as described above is evidently the American representative of that Asiatic species.

While participating in the fourth International Congress at London, I had also the good fortune to show my birds to Mr. Frank M. Chapman of New York. Mr. Chapman having satisfied himself of the distinctness of this new form, I have great pleasure in naming it after a distinguished authority on North American birds.

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## THE STATUS OF THE "SAN FRANCISCO TITMOUSE."

BY JOSEPH GRINNELL.

TOWARDS the latter part of 1903 a new form of the Plain Titmouse was described<sup>1</sup> under the name *Bæolophus inornatus restrictus*. It was based upon specimens from a suspiciously restricted locality, namely the vicinity of Oakland, California. Without any apparent hitch the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature published<sup>2</sup> its acceptance of the alleged subspecies just nine months

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<sup>1</sup> Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XVI, Sept. 30, 1903, p. 109.

<sup>2</sup> Auk, XXI, July, 1904, p. 418.