

Vermivora browni Griscom, American Museum Novitates, No. 71, April 30, 1923, p. 4. (Miquihuana, western Tamaulipas, Mexico. Type in American Museum of Natural History.)

A very distinct species, not to be confused with any other member of the genus, of large size with a heavy bill, of dull brownish coloration with reddish crown patch and yellowish rump and upper and under tailcoverts.

Color.—Adult in spring (sexes similar). Forehead and sides of head gray—varying from mouse gray to deep mouse gray; large partially concealed, crown patch, cinnamon rufous; back, wings externally and upper surface of tail, deep olive; rump olive lake to pyrite yellow; upper tailcoverts, aniline yellow; throat and chest dull mouse gray; sides light brownish olive; middle of belly whitish; under tailcoverts light cadmium; under wingcoverts, axillars and bend of wing white.

In worn, faded midsummer dress all colors are duller, the whitish belly patch less apparent, and the crown patch orange rufous or orange chrome.

The autumnal plumage differs from that of spring in being darker and browner throughout, the gray of head a good deal obscured by deep olive or light brownish olive; crown patch orange rufous; under parts darker with whitish area in middle of belly more distinct and under tailcoverts duller, more nearly aniline yellow.¹

Measurements.—Adult ♂, wing 63–65; tail feathers, 52–55; exposed culmen, 11–11.5; culmen to base of forehead, 13–15; tarsus, 18–20.² (Four skins.)

Adult ♀, wing 60–65; tail feathers, 51; exposed culmen, 11; culmen to base of forehead, 14; tarsus, 19–20. (Two skins.)

I am indebted to the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, for the loan of the two examples collected by Nelson and Goldman.

*Museum of Comparative Zoology,
Cambridge, Mass.*

A NEW RACE OF *SICALIS FLAVEOLA* FROM SOUTH-EASTERN BRAZIL.

BY W. DE W. MILLER.

DURING the winter of 1921–22 Mr. Ernest G. Holt was engaged in collecting birds for the American Museum on Mount Itatiaya, Sao Paulo, Brazil. In his collection are two adult female speci-

¹ Names of colors are those of Ridgway's Color Standards and Nomenclature, 1912.

² Griscom's measurement of 11 mm. for the tarsus of his specimen must be a misprint.

mens of the Saffron Finch, *Sicalis flaveola*. These differ decidedly in coloration from northern South American birds. Specimens from Bahia, collected in 1916 by R. H. Beck, agree with those from Sao Paulo.

In the absence of material from Surinam, the type locality of *Sicalis flaveola* Linnæus, skins from Venezuela and Colombia have been used in comparison. Two names in the synonymy of *S. flaveola* may refer to this new race,—*Fringilla flava* P. L. S. Müller, Syst. Nat. Suppl., p. 164, 1776, and *Emberiza brasiliensis* Gmel., Syst. Nat., I, p. 872, 1788. In both cases the habitat is given as Brazil, but it is impossible to determine whether these names were based on *S. flaveola* or on *S. pelzelni*, which also occurs in Brazil. As a new name is needed, I take pleasure in naming this subspecies after Mr. Holt, whose carefully prepared paper on the birds of the Mount Itatiaya region will, it is hoped, be published during the year.

***Sicalis flaveola holti*, new subspecies.**

Subspecific characters.—Adult female similar to that of *S. f. flaveola* but upper parts darker and much more streaked; the whole pileum and nape finely streaked with dark brown, the back browner and much more heavily streaked with dusky blackish. Feathers of forehead and crown shorter and less stiffened; orange of head duller and confined to forehead. Flanks and sides of belly obscurely streaked with dusky; tibiae partly dusky instead of wholly yellow.

Adult male very similar to that of *S. f. flaveola* but the back (immaculate or with faint suggestions of streaks in *flaveola*) distinctly streaked with blackish. The orange of the crown probably averages less extensive, but more material is needed to confirm this.

Immature birds of *S. f. holti* in the "*aureipectus*" plumage, of which there are two skins in the collection (one Bahia, one labelled "Brazil") have the crown more heavily streaked than has true *flaveola*. The back also is darker and more streaked but some specimens of *flaveola* are scarcely different in this respect from those of *holti*. In both specimens of *holti* the yellow chest band is obscurely streaked, while in only one of the twelve skins of *flaveola* are any streaks evident.

One skin of *holti* in juvenal plumage differs from three of *flaveola* in having the chest band finely streaked with dusky instead of being nearly immaculate. Compared with two of these three skins *holti* has the crown and back more heavily streaked. Thus in every plumage *holti* is more streaked than is the corresponding stage of *flaveola*.

The adult female of this new race is remarkably similar to the adult male of *Sicalis pelzelni*, and unsexed or incorrectly sexed specimens of *holti* might easily be confused with *pelzelni*. Possibly some of the skins from eastern Brazil recorded in the British Museum Catalogue under the latter may really be *holti*. I have seen specimens of *pelzelni* only from Argentina, Matto Grosso and Paraguay, and a pair from Rio Grande do Sul, south Brazil. The female of this species is wholly unlike that of *flaveola* and *holti*, having no olive-green or yellow in the body plumage, the underparts white, conspicuously streaked with blackish brown.

Female *holti* differs from male *pelzelni* in having the back with less brown and more yellowish green, the streaks sharper, narrower and blacker. Pileum more extensively streaked, even the forehead streaked in some specimens, which is not the case in *pelzelni*. Streaks of flanks obscure, not blackish. Bill slightly larger and wing averaging longer, but tail relatively shorter.

Type.—No. 189299, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., ♂ ad.; Monte Serrat, 2,700 feet, Serra do Itatiaya, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Dec. 22, 1921; Ernest G. Holt.

Range.—Known only from Bahia and Sao Paulo, eastern Brazil.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

Sicalis flaveola flaveola.—Colombia: Santa Marta region, 10 ad., 4 im., 2 juv.; Magdalena River, 2 ad. ♂, 1 im., 1 juv.; Choco, 2 ad.; "Bogota," 1 im.; near Baranquilla, 2 ad. ♀. Venezuela: Ciudad Bolivar, 4 ad. ♀, 3 im.; Caicara, 4 ad. ♂, 3 im.; Estado Lara, 1 ad. ♂, 2 ad. ♀, 1 im.; Estado Carabobo, 1 ad. ♀.

Sicalis flaveola holti.—Brazil: Serra do Itatiaya, 2 ad. ♀; Bahia, 3 ad. ♂, 2 ad. ♀, 1 ad., 1 im., 1 juv.; "Brazil," 1 im.

Adult males of *Sicalis flaveola* from Colombia invariably have the throat strongly tinged with orange, which is not the case in Venezuelan birds. In females the difference is evident but less marked. In the absence of toptotypical specimens, however, it seems advisable only to record this difference, which is undoubtedly of subspecific value.

American Museum of Natural History,
New York.