

SIX NEW SUBSPECIES OF BIRDS FROM LOWER
CALIFORNIA.¹

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FURTHER systematic studies upon collections of birds from Lower California, Mexico, have made it seemingly expedient to name the following six new races. The types of three of these have been selected from specimens in the remarkably complete Brewster collection from the Cape district, in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge.

Colaptes cafer martirensis, new subspecies.

SAN PEDRO MARTIR RED-SHAFTED FLICKER.

Type and type locality: male adult; no. 46253, Mus. Vert. Zool.; La Grulla, 7200 feet altitude, Sierra San Pedro Martir, Lower California; October 8, 1925; collected by Chester C. Lamb, original no. 4996.

Diagnosis.—Similar in general characters to *Colaptes cafer collaris* Vigors (topotypes from Monterey, California), but averaging slightly smaller, bill more attenuated (especially more compressed in terminal half), and tone of ground color on head and on upper and lower surfaces in fresh plumage much more gray (rather than brown or vinaceous).

Measurements.—Average of 4 male *martirensis*: wing 157 mm., tail 101, culmen 37.0; of 10 male *collaris* from west-central California: wing 160, tail 109, culmen 36.5. See also table of measurements given by Ridgway (Birds N. and Mid. Amer., pt. VI, 1914, p. 31) which includes dimensions of 2 males from "northern Lower California" in comparison with 10 males of *collaris* from upper California.

Range.—Sierra San Pedro Martir (San José, 2500 feet, near La Grulla at 7200 feet, and near Vallecitos at 7500 feet) and Sierra Juarez (Laguna Hanson, 5200 feet). Eleven specimens examined (4 in Thayer coll., 7 in Mus. Vert. Zool.).

Remarks.—The relative depth and clearness of the gray on throat and sides of head and neck in *martirensis* is a nearly constant character, as is also the deep fuscous (of Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, 1912, pl. XLVI) tone of the back and of the top of the head, in fresh, new plumage; on the sides of the body, and on the chest surrounding the big black bar, there is little hint

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of the bright vinaceous tinting that characterizes *collaris* from throughout upper California. Weathering of the plumage toward spring tends to rob *martirensis* of its most characteristic color tones, especially on the top of the head which then becomes warmer brown, but not, however, to the degree of brightness seen in *rufipileus*. The latter is even browner than *collaris*.

***Sayornis nigricans salictaria*, new subspecies.**

SAN QUINTIN BLACK PHOEBE.

Type and type locality: male, fully adult (not bird-of-the-year, as shown by condition of skull); no. 46262, Mus. Vert. Zool.; San José, 2500 feet altitude, lat. 31°, Lower California; October 23, 1925; collected by J. Grinnell, original no. 6596.

Diagnosis.—Proportions nearly as in *Sayornis nigricans semiatra* (Vigors), of upper California, but size slightly less, and general tone of color of dark parts blacker, more slaty, less brown. Color of dorsum close to "dusky neutral gray" of Ridgway, 1912, pl. LIII. This marked slatiness of color tone is apparent not only on the forward lower surface, head and back, but also pertains to the remiges and rectrices, especially their concealed portions in closed wing and tail. This is the *blackest* of the races of the Black Phoebe.

Measurements.—Of type, adult male: wing 90.0 mm., tail 80.4, culmen 13.5, width of bill at nostrils 6.0. See below.

Range.—The "San Quintin district" of northern Lower California, where largely restricted associationally to willows, which plants, of course, as a rule in an arid country mark the near vicinity of water or at least the presence of damp ground-surface. Specimens examined only from the type locality, from San Ramon near the mouth of the Santo Domingo River, and from Rancho Ojos Negros (lat. 31° 50'); but the species seen at several other collecting stations to as high in the Sierra San Pedro Martir as near La Grulla, 7200 feet altitude.

Remarks.—The Black Phoebe was recorded by A. W. Anthony from within the range of the present-described race under the name *Sayornis nigrescens* in two places (Zoe, IV, 1893, p. 238; Auk, XII, 1895, p. 140). The word "nigrescens" is sufficiently different in spelling from "nigricans" to permit its use for two forms in the same genus; and at first I supposed that it would have to be used for the present new race because it was coupled with a vernacular name, "Black Phoebe," that might be interpreted as a virtual description. However, I have talked about this case with Doctors C. W. Richmond and H. C. Oberholser, and these experts in such matters are in emphatic agreement that Anthony's *Sayornis*

nigrescens is a nomen nudum. It was, of course, the result purely of a lapsus calami.

It is the present writer's belief that the Black Phoebes of the Pacific district of the United States comprise a recognizable subspecies, *Sayornis nigricans semiatra* (Vigors), differing from those of central and southern Mexico, which are *Sayornis nigricans nigricans* (Swainson). In other words, I agree with E. W. Nelson (Auk, XVII, April, 1900, p. 129) who, by the way, fixes the type locality of *semiatra* as Monterey. Ridgway (Birds N. and Mid. Amer., pt. IV, 1907, p. 598, footnote) was also inclined to follow Nelson, and doubtless would have recognized *semiatra* if it hadn't been for Brewster's adverse comments (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., XLI, 1902, p. 119).

***Sayornis nigricans brunnescens*, new subspecies**

SAN LUCAS BLACK PHOEBE

Type and type locality: male adult; no. 16739, coll. Wm. Brewster in Mus. Comp. Zool.; San José del Cabo, Lower California; October 11, 1887; collected by M. A. Frazar.

Diagnosis.—As compared with *Sayornis nigricans semiatra* (Vigors), of upper California, similar but browner in general tone of all dark areas, bill broader, and wing slightly and tail decidedly shorter. Color of dorsum close to "fuscous" of Ridgway, 1912, pl. XLVI; in *semiatra*, dorsum close to "chaetura drab" of same plate.

Measurements.—Average of 7 males of *brunnescens*: wing 90.4 mm., tail 78.3, culmen 13.8, width of bill at nostrils 6.4; of 10 males of *semiatra* from west-central and southern California: wing 92.8, tail 81.9, culmen 13.6, width of bill at nostrils 6.1. See also table of dimensions in Ridgway (Birds N. and Mid. Amer., pt. IV, 1907, p. 598).

Range.—Associationally appropriate parts of the Cape San Lucas district of Lower California. Specimens examined from San José del Cabo, Santiago, and Triunfo. Possibly occurs north as far as Santana, latitude about 29° (see Thayer and Bangs, Condor, IX, 1907, p. 137).

Remarks.—Brewster (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., XLI, 1902, p. 119) evidently saw most of the differences appertaining to his Cape series. But the one character which had been brought forward by a previous writer for a proposed west-American race, namely, dusky streaking on the lower tail coverts, proved so unstable that Brewster concluded that none of the characters he observed was sufficiently good to warrant him in naming the race. He uses the phrase "comparatively faded, brownish coloring" in discussing

his Cape birds, implying, I think, that their brown tone might be due to adventitious bleaching. But this is certainly not the case, for a considerable number of October and November examples, thus in new autumn plumage, show the character to be an innate one. In this connection it should go without saying that in one-molt birds like *Sayornis* only early fall plumages should be used for the determination of finely manifested color characters.

***Icterus cucullatus trochiloides*, new subspecies.**

SAN LUCAS HOODED ORIOLE.

Type and type locality: male adult; no. 16491, coll. Wm. Brewster in Mus. Comp. Zool.; Triunfo, about lat. 23° 45', Lower California; June 24, 1887; collected by M. A. Frazar.

Diagnosis.—Similar in general size to *Icterus cucullatus nelsoni* Ridgway, of Arizona and southern California, but bill in both sexes longer, more attenuated in both dorsal and lateral views, and more decurved toward tip; color tone of males in summer on bright parts of plumage averaging duller, more yellow, less orange.

Measurements.—Average of 8 adult males of *trochiloides*: wing 89.3 mm., tail 88.3, culmen 21.7; of 10 males of *nelsoni* from Arizona and southern California: wing 87.6, tail 86.8, culmen 19.1.

Range.—The Cape San Lucas district of Lower California. Specimens examined from many localities from San José del Cabo north to La Paz.

Remarks.—Despite the belief of Frazar, reported by Brewster (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., XLI, 1902, p. 132), to the effect that the Hooded Orioles for the most part leave the peninsula in winter, I think that this race is altogether resident in the Cape district. I have been unable to find a single skin in collections from the mainland of Mexico that shows the characters of *trochiloides*. Also among the total of 75 Cape birds examined I have found no example referable unequivocally to *nelsoni*. Apparently the Hooded Orioles of Arizona, of southern California, and of northern Lower California (whence breeding birds are at hand south to both bases of the Sierra San Pedro Martir), all typical *nelsoni*, do not traverse the peninsula of Lower California in migration, but go to winter quarters southeastward into the mainland of Mexico.

The character of bill in *trochiloides* is so outstanding when once looked for, and so constant, that it seems strange that Brewster should have overlooked it, or at least minimized it as not worth mentioning, when at the same time he gives a most minute de-

scription of the various plumages. But it must be kept in mind that Brewster, by the systematic standards of the present day, was notably conservative in the matter of the naming of geographic races. Many a one that he did see, and commented upon, he let go by unnamed.

***Amphispiza bilineata bangsi*, new subspecies.**

SAN LUCAS BLACK-THROATED SPARROW.

Type and type locality: male adult; no. 15968, coll. Wm. Brewster in Mus. Comp. Zool.; La Paz, Lower California; January 11, 1888; collected by M. A. Frazar.

Diagnosis.—Similar to *Amphispiza bilineata deserticola* Ridgway, of Sonora, Arizona, Nevada, southeastern California, and northern Lower California, but wing and tail shorter, bill averaging slightly larger, and color tone of upper surface slightly paler.

Measurements.—Average of 7 males of *bangsi*: wing 63.6 mm., tail 59.1, culmen 10.8, depth of bill at base 6.3; of 10 males of *deserticola* from southeastern California: wing 65.5, tail 62.5, culmen 10.4, depth of bill at base 6.1.

Range.—The Cape San Lucas district of Lower California. Specimens examined from San José del Cabo, Triunfo, La Paz, and Carmen Island, the latter (latitude 26°) being the northernmost point whence a specimen unequivocally of this subspecies is at hand.

Remarks.—The chief characters of this subspecies are in evidence in the table of measurements given by Ridgway (*Birds N. and Mid. Amer.*, pt. I, 1901, p. 265). Ridgway plainly suspected the presence of a recognizable form in the Cape district; and the many birds from different collections now available show this to be a well-marked subspecies with a definite range which coincides with the ranges of many of the other plastic birds of the same general geographical occurrence.

In choosing designation for this new fringillid, I have sought to perpetuate in nomenclature the name of a man already identified importantly with the systematic ornithology of Lower California. Mr. Outram Bangs is now Curator of Birds at the "Agassiz Museum," and includes under his charge the magnificent Brewster collection of Cape San Lucas district birds. He also has been associated with Mr. John E. Thayer in publishing reports upon the latter's exhaustive representation of birds from many localities in the Lower Californian peninsula and on the adjacent islands. To

Mr. Bangs I am indebted personally, furthermore, for freedom of use, during early October, 1926, of all the collections under his curatorship and for waiving all rights in my favor, of publishing upon anything I might find novel in those collections.

***Thryomanes bewickii carbonarius*, new subspecies.**

SOOTY BEWICK WREN.

Type and type locality: female, adult (as determined from skull); no. 46449, Mus. Vert. Zool.; San José, 2500 feet altitude, lat. 31°, Lower California; October 17, 1925; collected by J. Grinnell, original no. 6537.

Diagnosis.—Similar to *Thryomanes bewickii charienturus* Oberholser (from western San Diego County, California), but bill slightly smaller, and coloration grayer, more slaty (rather than brown), in many respects, as follows: bill, tarsus, toes and claws blackish, with no tinge of light brown; sides of neck, sides of body, and flanks clearer gray; top of head and whole dorsum darker, less warmly, brown; dark portions of webs of all flight feathers darker, more slaty.

Measurements.—Averages, of 3 males: wing 53.5 mm., tail 53.8, culmen 13.5, bill from nostril 11.1; of 9 females: wing 51.2, tail 51.0, culmen 13.1, bill from nostril 10.6. See table of Oberholser (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XXI, 1898, p. 450).

Range.—The San Quintin subfaunal district of northwestern Lower California. Life-zone characteristically Upper Sonoran. Specimens examined, 13, from: San Ramon (mouth of Santo Domingo River), Colnett, San Telmo (600 feet altitude), San José (2500 feet), El Cajon Cañon (east base of Sierra San Pedro Martir, 3200 feet).

Remarks.—This new form is quite as different from *Thryomanes bewickii cerroensis* (Anthony) of the Vizcaino Desert district of Lower California including Cedros Island, as it is from *T. b. charienturus*. This is especially true of color, for both the latter forms are prone to brown rather than to blackish or slaty; *cerroensis* is a little the paler. In addition to much darker color, *carbonarius* shows longer bill, longer tail and slightly longer wing than in *cerroensis*. As to the status and range of the latter my conclusions after examining the Carnegie Museum, Brewster and Thayer collections, accord with the findings of Oberholser (Wilson Bull., XXXII, 1920, p. 21).

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