

The Type of the Black-headed Grosbeak.¹—Thanks to the efforts of Dr. N. B. Kinnear of the British Museum it is now possible to determine the identity of Swainson's type of *Guiraca melanocephala* and, in consequence, to assign what it is hoped will be stable names to the two currently recognized races of this species.

Acting on the possibility that the location of the type specimen would be known to Dr. Kinnear, providing it was still in existence, I wrote him concerning it. After some search it was located in the collection at Cambridge and portions of Dr. Kinnear's letter (dated December 14, 1931) concerning this specimen are quoted here. "I was at Cambridge on Friday and brought away with me the type of *Guiraca melanocephala*. It is in quite good condition—a semi-flat skin and appears * * * rather intermediate in [bill] size between the two races. The measurements are as follows: bill, exposed culmen, 16.5 mm.; from base, 19.5 mm.; depth [of bill from base of exposed culmen to malar apex], 15.0 mm.; wing on curve [chord], 106.5 mm.; straight, 108.0 mm.; tail, 82.0 mm.; tarsus, 26.0 mm. The original label in Bullock's handwriting reads:—'Found in the neighborhood of Temiscaltefec [sic], feeds on maize, eyes brown.' All of the measurements, save for the intermediate bill, identified the type unmistakably with the larger, interior race but in order to make doubly sure I later sent to Dr. Kinnear a typical adult male of each race, labeling the larger one *melanocephala* and the smaller one *maculata*. Under date of July 18, 1932, he wrote me further:—"The birds arrived safely and I have got the type of Swainson's *melanocephala* from Cambridge which agrees with your example of *melanocephala* in the size of the bill." Although Dr. Kinnear did not state the sex of the type he makes certain comments which definitely place it as a fully adult male with the head solidly black and the dark feathers of the interscapular region prominently edged with rusty brown. One may infer from the last item that the type was collected in the fall or early winter.

In order to accord with the above findings the Rocky Mountain Black-headed Grosbeak will have to be known as *Hedymeles melanocephalus melanocephalus* (Swainson) while the smaller race which breeds on the Pacific coast and south into western Mexico takes the name of *Hedymeles melanocephalus maculatus* (Audubon).²—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, Pasadena, California.

The Red Crossbill at Lawrence, Kansas.—Although the Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra pusilla*) has been reported on various occasions in years past from the Lawrence region, its appearance here is very irregular and it has never occurred over such an extended period as during the past

¹ Contribution from the California Institute of Technology.

² *Fringilla maculata* Audubon, Birds of America, folio, 4, 1837, pl. 373, figs. 2, 3, 4 (Columbia River, Oregon); see also Oberholser, Auk, 36, July, 1919, pp. 410-11 and van Rossem, Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., 6, No. 19, Apr., 1931, pp. 292-3.