

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.

winter (1931-32). On November 28, 1931 W. S. Long, fellow member of the museum staff, and myself sighted a flock of sixty or more of these birds which flew close enough to be identified as crossbills. Crossbills were not seen nor reported again until February 20, 1932, when I managed to collect six birds out of a flock of fourteen near the same place. On the following day, at the same locality, where the birds were feeding on wild sunflower seeds, Mr. Long and I each managed to secure a specimen, and two other were seen. On March 1 they were discovered feeding in the pines on the campus and on March 1, 2, and 4 various persons reported seeing between thirty and forty of the birds on the campus at a time. Other records in varying numbers were made on the campus up to March 15, and another large flock was reported on the 25th. On the following day Mr. Long and myself collected sixteen of the birds about two miles north of Lawrence, which were discovered feeding on the ground, picking up wild sunflower seeds. Eight were observed on the campus on the 27th; seven on the 30th; sixteen on April 4, and finally Mr. Long reported four individuals observed at close range on May 23, also on the campus.—J. D. BLACK, *Museum of University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.*

On the Validity of the San Clemente Island Bell's Sparrow.—Many years ago Ridgway¹ named the Bell's Sparrow of San Clemente Island, California, *Amphispiza belli clementeae* on the basis of supposedly larger size. A short time later² the same author discredited the race because he believed that the differences were "too slight to warrant recognition." It is true that the table of measurements² shows the wing and tail of the San Clemente specimens to be almost identical with California and Lower California birds, but nevertheless the larger bill size of the island birds is readily apparent in the published figures.

For some years there have been four worn-plumaged birds from San Clemente in the Dickey collection at the California Institute of Technology, all of which showed the definite character of relatively large bill and, in addition, a slightly paler and grayer dorsal coloration. On October 25, 1930, Mr. J. R. Pemberton, to whom I am indebted for various opportunities to visit the islands of the Santa Barbara group, provided the necessary transportation on his yacht 'Petrel' and, among other birds, I was able to take on San Clemente five fresh-plumaged Bell's Sparrows. Search of other local collections disclosed eight worn-plumaged adults and five juveniles in the Los Angeles Museum, thus making available for study 22 examples of the species from San Clemente Island. Comparison of this series with a series of 31 *Amphispiza belli belli* (Cassin) from localities ranging from San Martin Island and San Quintin, Lower California, north to San Benito County, California, shows that some distinctive characters are apparent in the San Clemente series. I fully agree that there are no tangible differences in the wing and tail dimensions as between island and

¹ Auk, 15, July, 1898, 230 [Separates issued May 13 or 14].

² Birds of No. and Mid. Amer., 1, 1901, 267.