

is found among birds from the southern part of their range. Conversely the greatest divergence is found among birds from Alaska, which are farthest removed geographically from the West Indies population. Furthermore, it is the more northern representatives of the West Indian group, *gundlachi* of Cuba and *flaviceps* of the Bahama Islands, that have the least chestnut in the crown, and thus are more like the continental Yellow Warblers.

The reasons for the discontinuity of the ranges of the *aestiva* and *petechia* complexes, of course, can merely be speculated upon at the present time, and no good purpose would be served in doing that here. In any case it seems to me that enough evidence has been presented for considering the West Indian and North American birds as belonging to the same species and for recognizing the fact by nomenclature. The unfortunate part of it is that the well-known specific name *aestiva* must be replaced by the relatively poorly known *petechia*, since *Motacilla petechia* Linnaeus (Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1: 334, 1766), antedates *Motacilla aestiva* Gmelin (Syst. Nat., 1: pt. 2, 996, 1789 [1788]). This involves the following new arrangement of names for the continental Yellow Warblers:

- Dendroica petechia rubiginosa* (Pallas). Alaska Yellow Warbler.
- Dendroica petechia amnicola* Batchelder. Northern Yellow Warbler.
- Dendroica petechia aestiva* (Gmelin). Eastern Yellow Warbler.
- Dendroica petechia morcomi* Coale. Great Basin Yellow Warbler.
- Dendroica petechia brewsteri* Grinnell. California Yellow Warbler.
- Dendroica petechia sonorana* Brewster. Sonora Yellow Warbler.
- Dendroica petechia inedita* Phillips. Tamaulipas Yellow Warbler.
- Dendroica petechia dugesi* Coale. Dugés Yellow Warbler.

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Bonaparte's types of *Oriturus wrangeli* and *Oriturus mexicanus*.—Dr. C. E. Hellmayr has recently suggested (Cat. Birds Amer., 11: 464, 1938) that *Oriturus wrangeli* "Brandt" Hartlaub might be an earlier name for the Brown Towhee currently known as *Pipilo fuscus petulans* Grinnell and Swarth. Examination, in July, 1939, of the specimen in the Leiden Museum which was the type of *Oriturus wrangeli* "Brandt" Bonaparte and *Oriturus Wrangeli* "Brandt" Hartlaub, shows that the suggestion was well founded. Details concerning it will be given at a future date but for the present it may be stated that the bird is definitely of the San Francisco Bay race. Also, the type of *Oriturus mexicanus* is, equally definitely, of the southern Mexican race of *Aimophila superciliosa* Swainson. However, I cannot follow Dr. Hellmayr in his assignment of the generic and specific names to the authority of Hartlaub. Utterly inadequate and unidentifiable as Bonaparte's 'diagnoses' of the two species in his new genus were on first appearance [Consp. Gen. Avium, 1 (pt. 2): 469-470, 1850], they definitely are not *nomina nuda* and are considered by Sherborn to be valid names. Both are identifiable beyond question, in part by Hartlaub (Journ. f. Orn., 3: 361, 1855), by the later explanation of Bonaparte himself (Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris, 1856, p. 413) when he designated *mexicanus* as the genotype, and by the authentic, existing types of both species. Hartlaub merely re-described one of the two species (*wrangeli*) on an intelligible basis together with a citation to the 'Conspectus' and a few well chosen remarks on Bonaparte's carelessness. Not even by implication does he choose *wrangeli* as a genotype and Bonaparte's (1856) designation must stand.

The necessary adjustments are that *Plagiospiza* Ridgway becomes a synonym of *Oriturus* Bonaparte, the reference being as follows:

Oriturus Bonaparte, *Consp. Gen. Avium*, 1, (pt. 2): 469, 1850. Type, by subs. desig., *Oriturus mexicanus* Bonaparte = *Aimophila superciliosa* Swainson (Bonaparte, 1856).

The San Francisco Brown Towhee becomes *Pipilo fuscus wrangeli* (Bonaparte).

Oriturus wrangeli "Brandt" Bonaparte, *Consp. Gen. Avium*, 1, (pt. 2): 470, 1850 [(As. s. maxime or.) = (probably) San Francisco, California].

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Fuertes Red-tailed Hawk in northern Mexico and Arizona.—In the Dickey collection are three specimens of the Red-tailed Hawk which are to be referred to *Buteo jamaicensis fuertesi* Sutton and Van Tyne. Since they extend the range of that race as now understood it may be well to record them. All are fully adult.

11,065 Mouth of Bonita Canon, Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona, Feb. 7, 1915; collected by A. J. van Rossem.

23,760 Colonia Pacheco, Chihuahua, Mexico, May 15, 1909; collected by H. H. Kimball.

27,619 Reserve, Catron County, New Mexico, no date, collected by H. H. Kimball.

In the British Museum is a typical adult female, No. 90.4.26.140, taken at Hermosillo, Sonora, Nov. 23, 1887, by (or for) F. Ferrari-Perez. This specimen was identified by me in 1933 as *kriderii* and re-identified in 1938 and 1939 as *fuertesi*. The breeding range of *fuertesi* should, therefore, be extended south, east of the Sierra Madre, to west-central Chihuahua; the winter range to southeastern Arizona and central Sonora. Incidentally, the breeding race throughout Sonora is *calurus*, even in the extreme northeast.

It is of interest to note the similarity in the color patterns of *fuertesi* and *Buteo jamaicensis costaricensis* of southern Mexico and Central America, that is to say in the contrast of dark-colored upper parts with light under parts and nearly, or quite, immaculate thighs. This contrast is, of course, much greater in *costaricensis*, but it is obvious that *fuertesi* has affinities in that direction and that it forms a good connecting link between *costaricensis* and the northern races. It is well to re-emphasize the characters of *fuertesi* as given by the original describers since it is obvious that some authorities consider it to be a generally pale colored race.

I am indebted to Dr. George Sutton for confirming my identification of the Arizona specimen.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *University of California, Los Angeles, California*.

Audubon's Autobiography.—On October 12, 1820, Audubon set out from Cincinnati on a voyage down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. It was a collecting trip. He had determined to gather a portfolio-full of water-color drawings of birds, after the manner of Alexander Wilson, though to larger scale and with better artistry. He kept a journal, a record of the trip, for his sons to read; and on a rainy day (November 28) he filled half a dozen pages with a story of his own life. This journal was first published in 1929, by the Club of Odd Volumes, and the publication was represented to be a word-for-word transcript of the original. Francis Hobart Herrick in 1917 had brought to light the facts of Audubon's parentage (supplanting the legend that in his later years Audubon himself had begun), and Mr. Stanley Clisby Arthur in 1937 in his 'Biography' (Chapter 6) brought forward the early story first mentioned above, and called attention to alterations that had been made in the manuscript—alterations of no little significance, when considering this particular subject of Audubon's parentage. Mr. Arthur gave on page 118