

Description of a New California Song Sparrow.

BY RICHARD C. MCGREGOR.

EXAMINATION of a small series of *Melospiza* from Battle Creek shows that there exist in the northern Sacramento valley two races of the Song Sparrow. Four examples sent Mr. Robert Ridgway were thus commented upon by him: "Three of those from Battle Creek are typical *M. f. heermanni*, by far the most northern specimens I have seen of that form, and proving, I think, that this is the resident form of the Sacramento basin, as I had already suspected. It is this form which breeds at Stockton. The fourth Battle Creek specimen is probably best referred to *M. f. guttata* although it is really an intermediate between that form and *M. f. montana* or possibly *heermanni*; much nearer, however, to *guttata*."

Since taking this specimen above called "intermediate", I have secured three song sparrows of similar plumage at Battle Creek and on reaching home I find in my collection two sparrows of a dark plumage, one from Enterprise, Butte Co., and the other from St. Helena, Napa Co. These six skins are easily distinguished from either *heermanni* or *guttata* and form the types of an undescribed race to which I give the name:

***Melospiza fasciata ingersolli*, subsp. nov. TEHAMA SONG SPARROW.**

Subsp. char. Most closely related to *guttata* but darker and without rusty wash; spotting of lower parts tending more to streaks than to spots as in *guttata*; wing slightly longer. Entire upper parts, sides of head and flanks are darker and less grayish than in *heermanni*.

Type. No. 2222, ♂ ad. Coll. R. C. McG., Battle Creek, California, Oct. 19, 1898. Wing, 2.82; tail, 2.74; tarsus, .88; exposed culmen, .44.

Geog. Dist. Northern Sacramento valley, south in winter to San Francisco Bay.

Without a Nomenclature of Colors it is impossible for me to describe the absolute colors of the three forms; typical specimens of the new race are in no way to be confused with *heermanni*. From *guttata* it is distinguished by the much darker and browner dorsum, with centers of feathers almost black; crown stripe obsolete; entire plumage lacking the rusty or reddish brown which is characteristic of *guttata*.

Beside the Battle Creek skins four others seem worthy of mention.

No. 1564. Enterprise, Cal., Oct. 15, 1896. This bird is easily referable to *ingersolli* though not so dark on the back as are the types.

No. 1346. Saint Helena, Cal., Dec. 21, 1897. This is intermediate between *guttata* and the new form.

No. 1345. Saint Helena, Cal., Dec. 22, 1897. Very dark; markings of back almost obsolete; referable to *ingersolli*.

No. 1563. Sebastopol, Sonoma Co., Cal., Dec. 2, 1884. This skin is typical *guttata*.

Specimens from Beaverton, Or., have been used as representing *M. f. guttata*.

I take pleasure in naming this race for my friend, Mr. Albert M. Ingersoll of San Diego, California.

TABLE OF MEASUREMENTS.

	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Exposed Culmen.
<i>M. f. guttata</i> Beaverton, 5 skins	2.58-2.78 (2.69)	2.60-2.70 (2.67)	.84-.86 (.85)	.44-.47 (.45)
<i>M. f. heermanni</i> Battle Cr'k, 4 skins	2.64-2.75 (2.71)	2.66-2.78 (2.73)	.73-.80 (.77)	.40-.44 (.42)
<i>M. f. ingersolli</i> 4 skins	2.61-2.82 (2.72)	2.45-2.76 (2.65)	.82-.88 (.85)	.44-.46 (.45)