

## New Races of Birds from the Pacific Coast

BY JOSEPH GRINNELL.

BARLOW'S CHICKADEE.

### *Parus rufescens barlowi* new subspecies.

*Subs. Char.* Similar to *P. rufescens neglectus*, but the sides pure smoked gray without a trace of rusty.

*Type*—♂ ad., No. 4425 Coll. J. G.; Stevens' Creek Canon, Santa Clara County, California; October 13, 1900; collected by Joseph Grinnell.

*Habitat*—Coast Range of California south from San Francisco Bay to Monterey County.

*Parus rufescens neglectus* was described originally\* as follows: "Similar to typical *rufescens*, but sides grayish, only slightly tinged with rusty, instead of wholly bright chestnut-rufous." Mr. Joseph Mailliard has kindly supplied me with some fall specimens of typical *neglectus* from Marin County. These have the sides and flanks distinctly washed with cinnamon-rufous. Twenty-eight skins of *rufescens* in my collection from Oregon, Washington and Sitka, Alaska, agree in having the sides a pure bright brown, of a shade between hazel and chestnut. Therefore, in respect to this character *neglectus* is a transitional form between *barlowi* and *rufescens*. The habitat of *neglectus* is the coast region north of San Francisco Bay, at least up to Lake County. Typical *rufescens* occurs as far south as Mendocino County. The new subspecies is named for Mr. Chester Barlow, to whose energy is mainly due the recent spread of ornithological interest in California.

COAST JAY.

### *Cyanocitta stelleri carbonacea* new subspecies.

*Subsp. Char.*—Intermediate in size and coloration between *C. stelleri* and *C. stelleri frontalis*. Dorsal surface sooty-black as in *stelleri*, but with blue on forehead nearly as extended as in *frontalis*. Tint of blue of posterior lower parts paler than in *stelleri*, and extending further forward into pectoral region, as in *frontalis*.

*Type*—♀ ad., No. 4419 Coll. J. G.; Stevens' Creek Canon, Santa Clara County, California; October 13, 1900; collected by Joseph Grinnell.

*Habitat*—Coast region of Oregon and California, from the Columbia River south to Monterey County.

*Corvus stelleri* was described‡ by Gmelin as inhabiting "in sinn Natka (=Latinized 'Nootka') Americae borealis." Therefore the type locality of *Cyanocitta stelleri* is Nootka Sound, which is near the southern end of Vancouver Island, B. C., and not Sitka, Alaska, as I have seen stated. *Cyanocitta stelleri litoralis* Maynard‡ was also based on specimens from Vancouver Island, and so is a pure synonym of *stelleri*. Moreover the alleged characters of *litoralis* (barring of wings and tail) are very variable, and the extremes occur in all the Pacific Coast races of *stelleri*. In the description of *Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis* Ridgway§ a type locality was not designated, but I have been informed by Mr. Ridgway that the description was based on skins from the Sierras near Carson. A comparison of specimens from the Sierras of Placer County with many from the mountains of Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties discloses no constant differences that I can see, and all are referable to *frontalis*. I have not been able to examine any jays from Vancouver Island, so I have used Sitka examples as typical of *stelleri*.

Specimens from Seattle, Washington, are not quite so dark as Sitka birds, but yet are nearer *stelleri* than *carbonacea*. Many specimens from Salem and Beaverton, Oregon, are all strictly *carbonacea*. *C. stelleri annectens* from Idaho resembles *carbonacea* somewhat closely, but the white spot over the eye distinguishes both *C. s. annectens* and *C. s. macrolopha* of the Northern and Southern Rocky Mountain regions, respectively, from the parallel Pacific Coast races, *carbonacea* and *frontalis*, neither of which have any trace of such a marking. The amount of barring on the wings and tail of the three Pacific Coast races seems to be equally

\*Ridgway, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. I, 1878; p. 485.

‡Syste na Naturae, Tom. I, 1788; p. 370.

‡Ornithologist and Oologist, Vol. XIV, No. 4; April, 1883; p. 59.

§American Journal of Sciences and Arts, 3rd Series, Vol. V, 1873; pp. 41-44.

variable. Five out of twenty specimens of *stelleri* in my collection from Sitka are boldly barred with black; in six skins the barring is of a medium intensity, while in nine the barrings are quite indistinct. In the Sierra and Southern California specimens, six have boldly barred wings and tail; in five the markings are of medium extent; and in four they are indistinct. There appears to be an average sexual difference in this respect, more males being heavily barred than females. Out of 58 skins at hand, including *stelleri*, *carbonacea* and *frontalis*, 32 are males and 26 are females. Of the males 18, or 56 per cent. are heavily barred; 8, or 25 per cent. medium, and 6, or 19 per cent. indistinct. Of the 26 females, 11, or 42 per cent. are heavily barred; 6, or 23 per cent. are medium, and 9, or 35 per cent. are indistinct. There is also an average disparity in the dimensions of the females, especially as to the length of tail and crest. The accompanying table of measurements also shows the geographical variation in size of these jays. The measurements increase toward the north along with the darkening of the colors, while the length of the crest and amount of the blue on its front, conversely, increase toward the south.

	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Crest	Culmem	Depth of Bill
<i>C. stelleri</i> (Sitka, Alaska).						
Average of 12 ♂♂	5.88	5.84	1.81	2.45	1.20	.45
“ “ 8 ♀♀	5.71	5.62	1.73	2.37	1.14	.43
<i>C. s. carbonacea</i> (Oregon and Coast of California).						
Average of 8 ♂♂	5.81	5.82	1.78	2.58	1.16	.45
“ “ 10 ♀♀	5.43	5.40	1.72	2.49	1.11	.42
<i>C. s. frontalis</i> (Sierras of Central and Southern California).						
Average of 9 ♂♂	5.65	5.50	1.65	2.67	1.16	.39
“ “ 6 ♀♀	5.40	5.26	1.64	2.46	1.11	.37

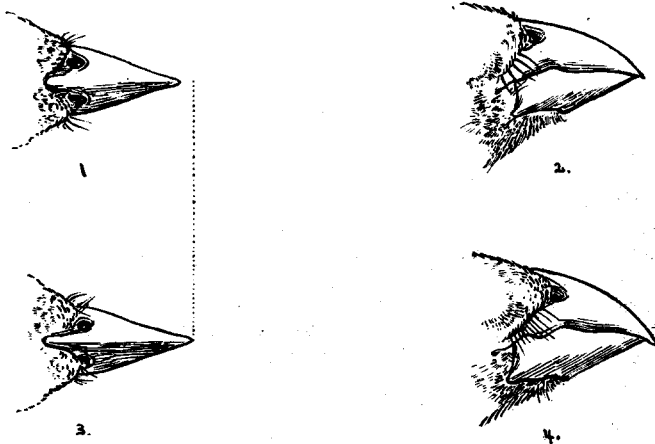
#### BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK.

#### *Zamelodia melanocephala microrhyncha* new subspecies.

*Subs. Char.*—In both sexes, as compared with *Z. melanocephala* from southern Arizona, bill much smaller and differently proportioned; wings and tail somewhat shorter; ♂ with fore parts, rump, side; and crissum darker brown, almost the tawny or Ridgway's Nomenclature of Colors; white tipping of median wing coverts broader.

*Type*—♂ ad., No. 2987 Coll. J. G.; Buckhorn Canyon, Sierra San Gabriel, Los Angeles County, California; July, 18, 1897; collected by Joseph Grinnell.

*Habitat*—Pacific Coast region of the United States, including California, Oregon and Washington.



*Guiraca melanocephala*, Swainson, was described from the "tablelands of Mexico," so I feel justified in restricting this name to the large-billed form from the southern Rocky Mountain region, thus leaving the smaller-billed Pacific Coast bird to be named. The English name, Black-headed Grosbeak, is so appropriate and of such long standing that it would be inconvenient to the bird people of California, where the species is probably best known to the public, to replace it by a new one. The accompanying life-size drawings have been made by Mr. W. K. Fisher, and they show the differences in the size and outlines of the bills of the two races better than a page of measurements. Figures 1 and 2 are from the type of *Z. m. microrhyncha*, while Figures 3 and 4 are from a selected specimen of *Z. melanocephala* (♂ ad., No. 2070, Coll. L. S. J. Univ.; Huachuca Mountains, Arizona, July 17, 1893; collected by W. W. Price and R. L. Wilbur).



### Parrots in the United States

About the middle of June there came into the Chiricahua Mountains, from Sonora, Mexico, probably, a flight of nine or ten parrots, scolding and chattering and calling in a language which was neither English nor Spanish, but may have been some Indian tongue, or, indeed, that of the old Aztecs of Mexico themselves.

They appeared to come up the large canon, at the head of which I was encamped, to about midway of the mountains' height, where the oaks begin to give place to pine, and there they tarried—many of them I regret to say, for aye, for the timbermen in a pole-cutter's camp hard by, carried away by the novelty of the visitors, began slaughtering them, and captured one by a chance wounding from which it quickly recovered. And I, of course, must have a couple of specimens of this rare straggler (?). The remnant of that picturesque and interesting company, concluding perhaps, though wrongfully, that they were unwelcome to citizenship in this great republic, disappeared, returning, probably, to the land whence they came; and if they tell hard things of the inhabitants of Arizona to their fellows in that country, and to such of its human inhabitants as speak their language, they can scarcely be blamed.

The birds were very busily engaged with the pine cones, and investigation of their stomachs showed nothing but a plentiful quantity of very immature

pinones wrested from their cavities in the hearts of the hard, green cones by their powerful beaks. The beaks, at their bases, as well as nearly the entire under parts of the birds, were more or less begummed with the resin of the cones.

The species is probably the Thick-billed Parrot (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*) I learn upon reliable information that parrots have been seen in this range twice, at least, before—once two years ago. The two specimens I have are males, one, I presume a juvenile, as it lacks the beautiful red of the shoulders possessed by the other, which is larger and is less extensively colored as to other parts also.

The Chiricahua range is a large, rough range of mountains and touches the Mexican line at its southern end, and, moreover, has been less hunted than the other border ranges, so that it is just possible the parrot may yet be found breeding there and added to our fauna.

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The Eighteenth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union will convene at Cambridge, Mass., on Nov. 13th, when the usual programme of papers will be presented.

Walter K. Fisher of Stanford University spent the three months from June to September in the high Sierras of California collecting mammals for the Biological Survey.

Wm. W. Price has opened a preparatory school for boys at Alta, Placer Co. Cal., a pleasant location on the Central Pacific Railroad in the Sierra Nevada Mts.