

way between Beulah and Pueblo, and rather frequently between Eden and Buttes stations.

**Dumetella carolinensis.** Catbird. Several seen at Glendale, and Durand took one in Hardscrabble Cañon.

**Salpinctes obsoletus.** Rock Wren. Seen at favorable places between Colorado Springs and Texas Creek; between Mears and Poncha Pass; near the roadside, in northern Huerfano County; at Querida, where family parties were seen; about ten miles west of Pueblo, and between Eden and Piñon stations.

**Troglodytes aedon parkmani.** Western House Wren. Seen at different places between Colorado Springs and Howard; at Durkee Ranch; Mosca Creek; Muddy Creek; in Hardscrabble Cañon one was caught in a mouse trap set under the overhanging creek bank; also seen near Buttes.

**Cistothorus stellaris.** Short-billed Marsh Wren. Cary took one at Medano Ranch, October 23, 1907 (*Auk*, xxvi, p. 182, April, 1909). We made a careful search for the bird, especially at the small lake where we were told he obtained his specimen, but no birds were found, and no nests were to be found about the cat-tails and rushes where they would have built if they had been there, so I have come to the same conclusion as in the case of the Swamp Sparrow, that Cary's bird was a straggling migrant.

**Telmatodytes palustris plesius.** Interior Tule Wren. Henshaw, in his report, records three specimens from the San Luis Lakes, taken in May and June, 1873. While I did not know of this when at the lakes, the search for the Short-billed Wren should have revealed this species if it had been there.

**Sitta carolinensis nelsoni.** Rocky Mountain Nuthatch. Seen at Howard, and at Mosca Creek. Also taken at Querida, February 6, 1909.

**Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis.** Long-tailed Chickadee. Seen at Herard's Ranch, Madenos Creek.

**Penthestes gambeli.** Mountain Chickadee. Taken at Howard and Querida; also at latter place, February, 1909.

**Psaltriparus plumbeus.** Lead-colored Bush-tit. Taken near Parkdale; seen at Texas Creek, and at Howard.

**Myadestes townsendi.** Townsend's Solitaire. One seen on a high ridge near the head of Madenos Creek.

**Planesticus migratorius propinquus.** Western Robin. Seen constantly from Colorado Springs to Villa Grove; after that none were seen until we got to the Durkee Ranch, and from there on seen at every locality until we reached Colorado Springs.

**Sialia mexicana bairdi.** Chestnut-backed Bluebird. Seen about a mile west of Texas Creek, and Durand saw four or five near our Madenos Creek camp.

**Sialia currucoides.** Mountain Bluebird. Seen almost everywhere from Colorado Springs to Beulah. After the middle of July many young birds were seen.

## FOR THE BETTER DETERMINATION OF *AGELAIUS TRICOLOR*

By JOHN W. MAILLIARD

WITH TWO PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOSEPH MAILLIARD

WITH only a limited reference library available, it is perhaps unwise to undertake the betterment of the determination of a species; and yet our own doubts, coupled with those expressed by many of our ornithological friends,

as to the constant characteristics of the species in question, more especially as regards the females, seem to warrant the offering of the results of a careful study by my brother and myself of a large series of *Agelaius tricolor*, *A. phoeniceus*, and *A. gubernator*, during which, however, no attempt was made to differentiate the two latter.

Before setting forth these supposedly heretofore unnoticed characteristics of *tricolor*, it seems advisable to enumerate in composite and elaborated form such

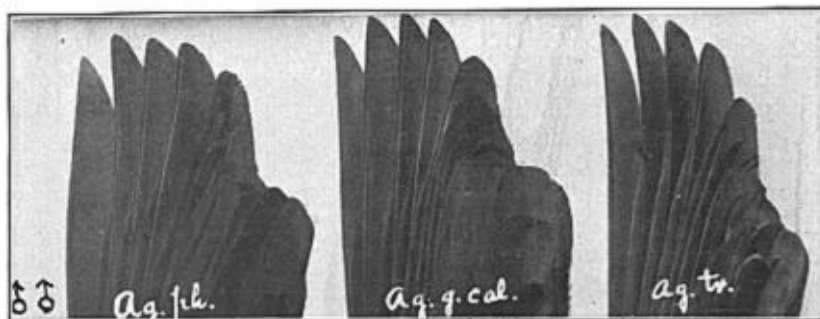


Fig. 14. WING-TIPS OF MALES OF *AGELAIUS PHOENICEUS*, *A. GUBERNATOR* AND *A. TRICOLOR*, SHOWING RELATIVE LENGTHS OF PRIMARIES IN THE THREE FORMS

constant factors as we have been able to confirm of those laid down for this species in the Key to North American Birds, 4th and 5th editions, of Coues, and Birds of North and Middle America, Ridgway, the best authorities at our command during this work, as follows:

Male, lesser wing-coverts dark red (like venous blood) bordered by middle wing-coverts of pure white during the period of breeding, and of old ivory white to

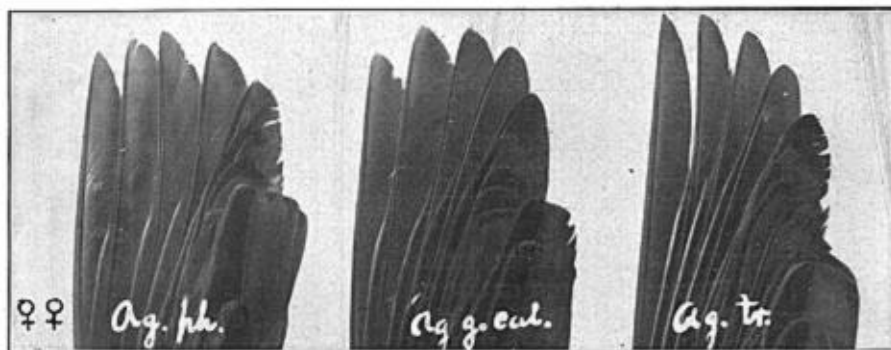


Fig. 15. WING-TIPS OF FEMALES OF THE THREE FORMS, AS ABOVE

light buff during the fall, winter and spring months, and immaturity; occasionally partially or wholly black in the latter phase.

Male and female, plumage more glossy and of silky texture to the touch: only approach by *phoeniceus* and *gubernator* during immaturity.

Male and female adults in other than breeding plumage, and immatures, show grayish brown feather edgings; when present in *phoeniceus* and *gubernator*, such edgings are always rusty or rufous.

Male and female, bill more slender than in the other forms of this genus.

In addition to these, we now call attention to the following:

Male and female, 4th primary *always* shorter than 1st (outer). This characteristic of *tricolor* has proved constant in the examination of our series of 23 males and 19 females and a few other available specimens, and in marked distinction to *phoeniceus* and *gubernator*, the examination of 146 specimens of these showing the 4th primary to be equal to, or longer than, the 1st, usually longer.

In the above mentioned material, in *tricolor* the minimum difference between the 1st (outer) primary and the 5th was found to be materially greater than the maximum difference in the other forms, and as shown in millimeters in the following table:

	Average		Maximum		Minimum	
	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀
<i>A. tricolor</i>	10.74	11.00	14.00	13.80	7.70	8.10
<i>A. phoeniceus</i> } <i>A. gubernator</i> }	3.47	4.24	7.50	7.10	0.00	1.50

In submitting the accompanying photographs of wings, attention is also called to the marked difference in the gradation from the primaries to the tertiaries in *tricolor* as compared to that in the other two forms. As these photographs were taken from dried skins, they do not show the wings to the best advantage, but sufficiently so for the purposes of this article.

## MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS FROM ALASKA

By JOSEPH GRINNELL

THE Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California contains a considerable proportion of Alaskan birds. Some of these, from particular regions, have already been reported upon in special papers, and some, from well-known localities, are not considered worthy of record. But there remain the following listed species which, because of interesting date or locality of capture, appear to deserve record. These selected specimens are from a variety of sources, chief of which are the natural history collections obtained by Chas. L. Hall from 1894 to 1901 at various points in Alaska and at Forty-mile, Yukon Territory. The birds from the latter place I have listed in a separate paper (CONDOR XI, 1909, pp. 202-207). There are also a number of birds secured by Allen E. Hasselborg in the spring and fall of 1908 in the Yakutat Bay district. All the species enumerated herewith are from points in Alaska.

***Limosa lapponica baueri*.** Pacific Godwit. Six adults (nos. 4815-4820), St. Michael, May 20 and 22, 1896; two adults (nos. 4821, 4822), Unalaska, May 29 and June 4, 1894; C. L. Hall.

***Limosa haemastica*.** Hudsonian Godwit. Adult female (no. 4823), St. Michael, May 22, 1896, C. L. Hall; two immature females (nos. 7105, 7106), Kenai, July 26, 1906; A. Seale.

***Totanus melanoleucus*.** Greater Yellow-legs. Full-grown juvenal male (no. 7111), Kenai, July 26, 1906; A. Seale.