

the 21st of February his life was ended by a fall from a scaffolding at Moore's Shipyard in Oakland.

It is not for me to make a public estimate of his character and achievements. He was a good man, greatly beloved, just, sincere, loyal, serene. I am permitted to quote the following words from a letter written by a scientific friend and colleague:

"His death is a loss not only to you, and to us, his friends, but to science. There are not many men with his ability and courage to go into hard places and do things worth doing, not in bravado, but simply in the course of his work. That quality we had all admired greatly in him, and we all had hoped that with leisure and quiet he would produce some literary work that would make his fame." I may add to this that fame, in the scientific or literary world, is something to which he would never have dreamed of aspiring; but that he has left a reputation among the many good judges who knew him for something better than fame,—for manly courage and honor united with delicacy of speech and feeling. He inherits the blessing upon the pure in heart.

*Menlo Park, California, April 6, 1919.*

## DESCRIPTION OF AN INTERESTING NEW JUNCO FROM LOWER CALIFORNIA

By HARRY-C. OBERHOLSER

IN the Biological Survey Collection in the United States National Museum there are four adult breeding specimens of a Junco that apparently is not referable to any described form. In view of this we think it should have a subspecific name of its own, although its range seems, like that of *Junco oreganus townsendi*, to be restricted to a single mountain range. This new race may therefore be known as:

### ***Junco oreganus pontilis*, subsp. nov.**

*Chars. Subsp.*—Similar to *Junco oreganus townsendi*, but head and throat of a darker slate color, and back more rufescent.

*Description.*—Type, adult male, no. 196964, U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Coll.; El Rayo, Hanson Laguna Mountains, northern Lower California; June 4, 1905; E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman; original number, 11276. Pileum, sides of head and of neck, together with cervix, rather brownish dark mouse gray; back between sayal brown and buffy brown; scapulars and lower back, hair brown; rump between neutral gray and mouse gray; upper tail-coverts deep mouse gray; tail fuscous, the two outer pairs of rectrices white, the third pair with a long terminal white streak on the inner web next the shaft, also a little white on the basal outer web (only one side); wing-quills fuscous, narrowly edged externally with neutral gray; greater and median coverts, between chaetura drab and deep mouse gray, their outer edges hair brown; lesser coverts rather brownish neutral gray; chin and throat rather brownish dark mouse gray; breast, abdomen, and crissum, dull white; sides and flanks vinaceous buff; thighs fuscous; lining of wing pallid neutral gray, the centers of the feathers and the edge of the wing deep mouse gray.

*Measurements.*—Male (four specimens, from the Hanson Laguna Mountains, northern Lower California): wing, 76-80.5 (average, 77.3 mm.); tail, 66.5-71.5 (68.3); exposed culmen, 10.2-11 (10.8); tarsus, 20-21 (20.5); middle toe without claw, 13.3-15 (13.9).

*Geographic Distribution.*—Hanson Laguna Mountains, northern Lower California.

*Remarks.*—This new subspecies differs from *Junco oreganus thurberi* in its much less blackish head and throat, which, in the adult male, are slate color instead of black; much less extensively rufescent brown of the back; paler and less extensively buff (more pinkish) sides and flanks. It thus presents a very interesting combination of the characters of *Junco oreganus thurberi* and *Junco oreganus townsendi*. It has the very pale pinkish sides of *Junco oreganus townsendi*, but in the color of both head and back is almost exactly intermediate between these two races. This is further shown by its individual variation which, as in all forms of the Juncos, is considerable. In one specimen (no. 196962, U. S. Nat. Mus.) the head is blackish, approaching the color of the same part in *Junco oreganus thurberi*, though the throat is a little darker than in the other examples from the Hanson Laguna Mountains. The color of the back in two other individuals (nos. 196963 and 196965, U. S. Nat. Mus.) can be almost exactly matched in specimens of *Junco oreganus townsendi*, although the head and throat are seen to be more deeply colored. The birds from the Hanson Laguna Mountains are clearly intermediate between *Junco oreganus thurberi* and *Junco oreganus townsendi*, but present sufficient characters of their own, particularly in view of their isolated breeding range, to warrant their separation as a distinct subspecies.

The discovery of the intermediate character of these specimens from the Hanson Laguna Mountains is of considerable interest in view of the recent opinion of Dr. Jonathan Dwight (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., xxxviii, June 1, 1918, pp. 296-297) that *Junco townsendi* is a subspecies of *Junco mearnsi*. The study of these specimens and their relationships with the two contiguous forms shows clearly that *Junco oreganus pontilis* directly connects *Junco townsendi* with *Junco oreganus thurberi*, and that, therefore, the former must be a subspecies of the latter.

The present race is probably confined to the Hanson Laguna Mountains, since the birds from the San Jacinto Mountains appear to be typical of *Junco oreganus thurberi*.

In this connection it is of interest to recall the fact that many of the species and subspecies of the genus *Junco*, in addition to the one here described, occupy very restricted geographical areas during the breeding season. Conspicuous among these forms might be mentioned *Junco bairdi*, *Junco aikeni*, *Junco insularis*, *Junco vulcani*, *Junco oreganus townsendi*, and *Junco alticola fulvescens*.

Detailed measurements of the specimens of *Junco oreganus pontilis* are added below:

MEASUREMENTS OF SPECIMENS OF *JUNCO OREGANUS PONTILIS*, ALL TAKEN IN LOWER CALIFORNIA BY E. W. NELSON AND E. A. GOLDMAN

U. S. Nat. Mus. No.	Sex	Locality	Date	Wing	Tail	Exposed culmen	Tarsus	Middle toe without claw
196964	♂ (type)	El Rayo, Hanson Laguna Mts.	June 4, 1905	76.5	66.5	11	20	13.3
196962	♂	El Rayo, Hanson Laguna Mts.	June 4, 1905	76	66.5	10.8	21	15
196963	"♀" [♂]	El Rayo, Hanson Laguna Mts.	June 4, 1905	76	68.5	10.2	20.5	13.8
196965	♂	Hanson Laguna Mts., Hanson Laguna	June 5, 1905	80.5	71.5	11	20.5	13.3

Washington, D. C., March 8, 1919.