

A New Race of Crissal Thrasher, from Northwestern Lower California.—A rather unexpected incident of the field work being carried on by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in northwestern Lower California is the finding there of an apparently new race of Crissal Thrasher. This may now be named and characterized, as follows:

Toxostoma crissale trinitatis, new subspecies. Trinidad Crissal Thrasher.

Type and type locality.—Male adult; no. 50,273, Mus. Vert. Zool.; El Valle de la Trinidad, 2500 feet altitude, lat. 31° 20', Lower California; November 15, 1926; collected by Chester C. Lamb, original no. 6650.

Diagnosis.—Similar in general characters to *Toxostoma crissale crissale* Henry, as judged from a series of specimens from the Colorado Valley, in Arizona and California, but bill longer and distinctly more curved (as seen in lateral profile), and tone of coloration darker, more slaty. This latter qualification applies to both upper and under surfaces, and particularly to the wings and tail, which are between fuscous and fuscous-black (of Ridgway, 1912), rather than near mummy brown. The bill, feet and claws also average blacker.

Measurements.—Averages of the 5 males and 1 female of *trinitatis* available: wing 98.3 millimeters, tail 140.0, tarsus 34.4, culmen 36.6, bill from nostril 33.0; of 5 males and 1 female (selected as least worn) of *crissale* from the Colorado Valley: wing 97.0, tail 139.0, tarsus 34.0, culmen 33.8, bill from nostril 29.9.

Range.—Known only from the vicinity of the type locality, as above. This is a rather extensive, east-west valley which separates the Sierra San Pedro Martir immediately on the south, from the Sierra Juarez on the north. The Trinidad Valley is thus part of an inter-mountain pass, and through it many desert-side plants and animals have gone more or less distance onto the Pacific side, and certain Pacific-side species have extended in the opposite direction. The rather unusual assemblage of animal species to be found there results.

Remarks.—The first definite record I can find, applying to the race now newly named, is a most interesting one. It is taken from a letter written by Lyman Belding to Walter E. Bryant and quoted by the latter (Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., ser. 2, II, 1889, pp. 314-315), as follows:

"CRISSAL THRASHER.—'One specimen, the first ever taken in Lower California, was shot about the middle of May, 1885, ten or twelve miles northwest of San Pedro mountains from a company or family of four. The remaining three were very shy, and after pursuing them in every direction, about an hour, I reluctantly quit the chase as our animals needed water, and we knew we must travel two or three hours before finding any. This was but one of many experiences while collecting in different parts of Lower California, when the want of water interfered seriously with my success. During this trip of two weeks, we passed two nights at different localities without a drop of water.'"

Subsequently, Ridgway (Birds N. and Mid. Amer., iv, 1907, p. 208) cites Trinidad Valley as a locality in Lower California whence the Crissal Thrasher had been reported (evidently by Belding). Now, in the autumn of 1926, Mr. Lamb, in working this valley for the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, found the species there in fair numbers. The six specimens he obtained were all shot in or near mesquites.

While this thrasher (subspecies *crissale*) occurs as a characteristic inhabitant of the mesquite association in the Colorado delta, south into Lower California to the east base of the Cocopah Mountains (Stone and Rhoads, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1905, p. 686), there is apparently a broad interval now without any, as permanent residents of the species, between there and Valle de la Trinidad. The colony in the latter locality (subspecies *trinitatis*) is seemingly far sequestered, and has existed for untold generations under the potent influences of the San Quintin climatic area.

In naming the present new race, I am not concerning myself about the nomenclatural question raised by Oberholser (*Auk*, xxxvii, 1920, p. 303). Personally, I do hope no change be ruled, by which the current name of the species, the one under which it has always been dealt with in literature, would be replaced by another that came into being solely by mistake.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, January 22, 1927.*