

these highlands, remains problematical. No specimens have come into my hands from the entire region of this mountain chain nor from its broad slopes to the westward, nor do I find any records of the species from this region. However, I question if such hiatus between the range of *oberholseri* and that of *curvirostris* actually exists, since it seems probable that the species will be found to occur throughout the Sonoran Zone areas which must abound in this region.

Altadena, California, January 24, 1928.

A NEW POOR-WILL FROM THE COLORADO RIVER VALLEY

By DONALD R. DICKEY

FOR SOME YEARS the Poor-wills inhabiting the valley of the Colorado River in California and Arizona have generally been held to represent the race *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii nitidus* described by Brewster (Auk, iv, 1887, p. 147) from Texas. This assumption was apparently based on the probability of the birds being similar all along the Mexican border, rather than by actual comparison with adequate material. Soon after the receipt of the splendid assemblage of material generously sent me some time ago by L. B. Bishop, L. M. Huey, J. E. Law, the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, the San Diego Society of Natural History and the United States Biological Survey, it became apparent that there was a marked distinction between the birds from the range of *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii nuttallii* in general and those from the Colorado River Valley; but before naming the latter it was necessary to compare the two types upon which Brewster based his name *nitidus*.

Through the courtesy of Outram Bangs, A. J. van Rossem has recently made an examination of these two birds, which are in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, no. 213,076, a male, and no. 213,077, a female, both taken on the Nueces River, Texas, February 27, 1886. Van Rossem found this pair typical of the silver-gray type which is generally regarded as the light phase of *nuttallii*, and I am therefore able to give a name to our Colorado River Valley bird. In doing so it is with peculiar fitness that I dedicate this bird to Laurence M. Huey, since the subspecies is largely based on the splendid series he and Mrs. May Canfield secured for me through the effective use of the flashlight as a clever collecting ruse.

Phalaenoptilus nuttallii hueyi, subsp. nov. Huey Poor-will.

Type.—Female adult; no. J 973, collection of Donald R. Dickey; Bard, Imperial County, California, altitude 140 feet; May 8, 1921; collected by May Canfield and Laurence M. Huey; original no. 163.

Subspecific characters.—Nearest in color to the light type of *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii nuttallii* (Audubon), which Brewster named *nitidus* and to which he gave the eminently fitting vernacular of the Frosted Poor-will, but averaging very much lighter. The backs of *hueyi* are a pinkish tan, almost devoid of the silver frosting characteristic of more eastern birds, and with the size of the dark dorsal "owl's eye" marking greatly reduced, in many cases practically obsolete; under parts lighter throughout, with the dark band below the white collar narrower and of lighter tone, and with narrower barring of sides and flanks. Tail lighter and less contrastingly barred both above and below.

Measurements of type.—Wing, 139.5 mm.; tail, 84.0; tarsus, 15.0; middle toe minus claw, 17.2.

Range.—Lower Colorado River valley in Arizona and California.

Specimens examined.—*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii hueyi*: California: Imperial

County: Bard, 5 (including the type); Potholes, 19; 8 miles east of Picacho, 1; Colorado River opposite Cibola, 2. Riverside County: Blythe, 1; Riverside Mountain, Colorado River, 1. Arizona: above Bill Williams River on Colorado River, 1. *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii nuttallii*: Nevada, 6; Utah, 2; Mexico: Sonora, 5; California (localities east of the Sierra Nevada and from the range of *hueyi* in migration), 63; Arizona, 31; Montana, 1; Kansas, 3; Texas, 10 (including the types of "*nitidus*"). *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii californicus* Ridgway: California (west of the Sierra Nevada and coastal slope of southern California), 40.

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, December 24, 1927.

NOTES ON THE SYSTEMATICS OF WEST AMERICAN BIRDS. II

By JOSEPH GRINNELL

THE POOR-WILLS OF LOWER CALIFORNIA

ACCUMULATION of specimens of *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* from Lower California shows the presence of three races within that territory: (1) that of the northwestern section, chiefly on the Pacific slope north of latitude 30°, which can properly be covered by the subspecific name *californicus*; (2) the race of the Colorado Desert at the extreme northeast, an excellent form upon which the name *hueyi* is bestowed by Mr. Dickey on a preceding page of the present issue of THE CONDOR; and (3) a race resident in the main part of the peninsula, south from about latitude 30°, for which the name *nitidus* has been used by Brewster (1902) and by Thayer and Bangs (1907). The name *nitidus*, however, cannot be used for this third race. As Dickey has just shown, it was based on specimens (from Texas) representing *nuttallii* proper in probably a light phase of coloration. It seems therefore in order to name the Lower California peninsular race, which I now do.

Phalaenoptilus nuttallii dickeyi, new subspecies. San Ignacio Poor-will.

Type.—Male adult, no. 50820, Mus. Vert. Zool.; San Ignacio, latitude 27°, Lower California; May 17, 1927; collected by Chester C. Lamb; orig. no. 7669.

Diagnosis.—Among the poor-wills in general, all races of *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*, size small and general tone of coloration dark. Similar to *Ph. n. californicus* in degree of general darkness but decidedly smaller, and with black areas on the individual feathers of scapulars, top of head and chest greatly reduced, in this respect resembling *hueyi*; terminal white of lateral rectrices greater in amount than in *californicus*; light portions of general color scheme much darker than in *hueyi* or *nuttallii*, tinged with clay color rather than "frosted"—in this respect darker even than in average *californicus*; dark barring on posterior lower surface much more extensive and heavier than in *hueyi* or *nuttallii*.

Measurements.—Of type: wing, 130.0 mm.; tail, 80.8. Of two other adult males, from San Ignacio and near Calmalli, respectively: wing, 129.0 and 133.3; tail, 79.2 and 83.2. Compare with measurements given by Ridgway (Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VI, 1914, pp. 549-550) and by Grinnell (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol 12, 1914, pp. 141-142). The latter's "*nitidus*" of course equals *hueyi*.

Remarks.—Statements of general distribution, with details of fact, are set forth in my "Summation" of Lower California ornithology now in press. I have studied the type and co-type of Brewster's *nitidus*, from Nueces River, Texas (now nos. 213076-77, Mus. Comp. Zool.). They are characterized by having the lower abdomen buffy, only obsoletely barred, the lower breast predominantly "frosty", and the upper surface very silvery; wing-length in male, 140 mm., in female, 135. They are thus quite different from *dickeyi*.

I take pleasure in selecting to designate the new race of poor-will here described, the name of one who not only has identified himself with the study of the group of