

A New Subspecies of Lesser Goldfinch from México.—Endemic subspecies of birds on the Tres Mariás Islands, México, were described more than fifty years ago. Some fail to meet the more stringent taxonomic criteria usually employed today. It is therefore surprising to find that the distinctiveness of one species on the islands, the Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), has been overlooked. Fifty-nine island specimens of known sex, and two of unknown sex, were compared with 54 mainland specimens of known sex collected in the states of Sonora, Nayarit, Jalisco, Guanajuato, and Guerrero. The comparison showed that the two populations, from which the specimens were drawn, may be considered subspecifically distinct, and the island form is described as

***Spinus psaltria witti* new subspecies**

Type.—Adult male, no. 10270, Mus. Zool., Univ. Brit. Columbia, taken on the southeast side of María Magdalena, Tres Mariás Islands, Nayarit, México, at an elevation of less than 50 feet, on March 1, 1961, by P. A. Larkin; skull fully ossified.

TABLE 1
MEASUREMENTS OF *Spinus psaltria* IN MILLIMETERS

MAINLAND		Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Bill length	Bill width
Adult ♂	Number	25	20	25	23	23
	Range	63.7 - 68.0	40.2 - 46.9	11.3 - 13.1	7.3 - 8.6	4.2 - 4.8
	Mean and standard error	66.07±0.22	42.87±0.30	12.03±0.06	8.10±0.06	4.50±0.03
Adult ♀	Number	14	13	14	13	14
	Range	61.8 - 65.6	39.3 - 44.2	11.4 - 12.6	7.0 - 8.6	4.2 - 4.9
	Mean and standard error	63.83±0.22	41.90±0.42	11.98±0.30	7.71±0.08	4.51±0.04
Immature ♂	Number	4	4	3	4	4
	Range	63.1 - 66.4	41.6 - 43.9	11.9 - 12.0	7.2 - 8.3	4.2 - 4.5
	Mean and standard error	65.47	43.00	11.93	7.80	4.42
Immature ♀	Number	6	5	8	7	8
	Range	61.3 - 63.8	39.4 - 41.7	11.4 - 12.2	7.1 - 8.6	4.1 - 4.7
	Mean and standard error	62.68±0.40	40.46±0.45	11.86±0.09	7.80±0.15	4.40±0.06
ISLAND						
Adult ♂	Number	26	24	26	26	22
	Range	60.3 - 65.0	38.3 - 43.6	11.3 - 13.2	7.1 - 7.5	3.9 - 4.3
	Mean and standard error	62.98±0.20	41.21±0.18	12.23±0.07	7.32±0.02	4.06±0.02
Adult ♀	Number	13	13	13	13	11
	Range	58.5 - 64.0	38.4 - 41.7	11.3 - 13.0	6.8 - 7.8	3.7 - 4.3
	Mean and standard error	61.42±0.31	40.10±0.24	12.39±0.13	7.18±0.04	3.99±0.04
Immature ♂	Number	9	10	10	10	9
	Range	58.4 - 62.0	37.2 - 40.7	11.1 - 12.8	6.9 - 7.6	3.9 - 4.1
	Mean and standard error	61.01±0.28	39.33±0.32	12.10±0.18	7.28±0.07	4.01±0.02
Immature ♀	Number	10	8	9	6	8
	Range	59.0 - 64.0	38.5 - 40.3	11.8 - 12.9	7.0 - 7.3	3.9 - 4.1
	Mean and standard error	61.12±0.44	39.57±0.19	12.40±0.09	7.18±0.04	4.04±0.02

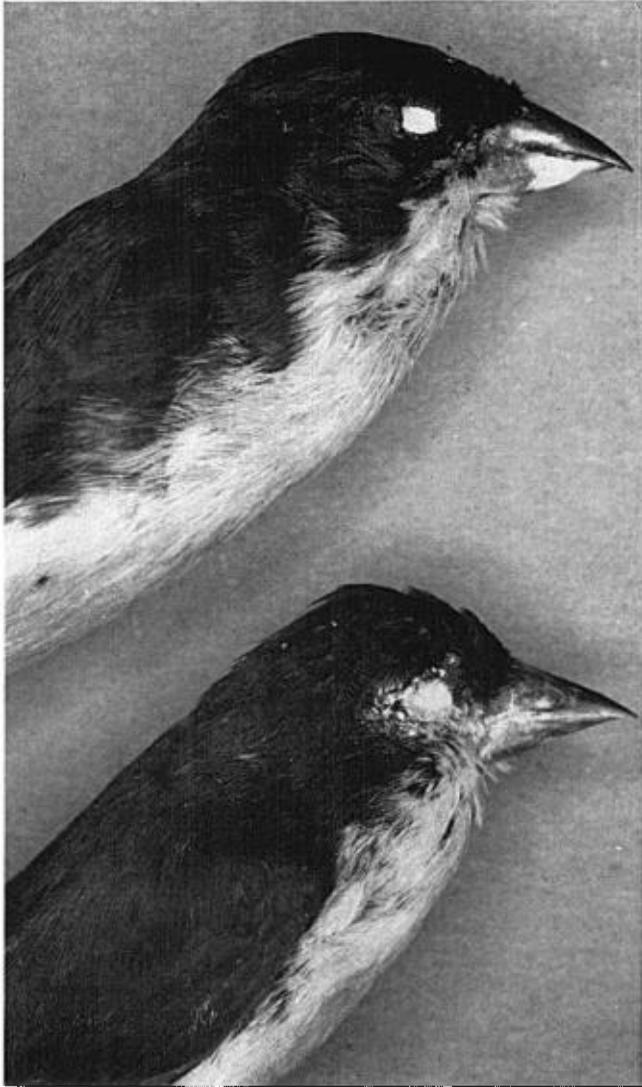


FIG. 1. Adult male specimens of *Spinus psaltria*. Above, *S. p. witti* (Univ. British Columbia no. 10270); below, *S. p. psaltria* (Univ. British Columbia no. 11276).

Diagnosis.—Males differ from the nominate race on the adjacent mainland in the pattern of color on the face and in certain dimensions. In adult males of this species the black of the dorsal plumage, meeting the yellow of the ventral plumage, forms a line on the side of the face, which runs posteriorly from the base of the bill beneath the eye. In *Spinus psaltria psaltria* the yellow-colored feathers extend dorsally up to the lower lid of the eye, whereas in *witti* the border line runs uninterrupted and distinctly beneath the eye (fig. 1). The wing length (chord), tail length, bill length (from naris to bill tip), and bill width (measured in the plane of the nares) are smaller in *witti*, but the tarsus is longer (table 1). The bill width of adult males is smaller in *witti* by an amount which satisfies the taxonomic requirement suggested by Amadon (Condor, 51, 1949:250–258).

Description.—Adult males of *S. p. witti* are colored a glossy black dorsally and lemon-yellow ventrally. The basal half of the first seven primaries is white. The primaries and secondaries are tipped with white; this is particularly extensive on the inner vane of the outer secondaries. The inner secondaries are tipped with pale yellow. White is present basally on all tail feathers, and it extends into the distal half of the outer four pairs. Adult females are olive-green dorsally, dark brown instead of black on wings and tail, and a duller yellow ventrally than males. The crown feathers have black or dark brown centers. Males in immature plumage resemble adult females; sometimes they have a partly black dorsal plumage and sometimes they have few or no white-patterned rectrices. The latter character is possessed by immature females. The colors of the soft parts are as follows: iris dark brown; bill gray, with yellow base and tip of upper mandible dark brown; mouth-lining gray and yellow; feet and legs brown or gray-brown.

Specimens collected in June and July were in reproductive condition, and although nests were not found, it is presumed that nest building occurs in July, or possibly in late June.

Range.—The Tres Marias Islands, Nayarit, México (María Madre, María Magdalena, María Cleofas and San Juanito).

Acknowledgments.—A little more than half the total specimens are now in the Museum of Zoology at the University of British Columbia, and the remainder were borrowed from the following institutions: British Museum (Natural History), American Museum of Natural History, California Academy of Sciences, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Los Angeles County Museum, Occidental College, Smithsonian Institution, and the University of California at Los Angeles. The assistance of the curators of these collections is gratefully acknowledged. This work was done as part of a comprehensive study of the passerine birds of the Tres Marias Islands, undertaken with the cooperation of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the Dirección General de Caza and Departamento de Prevención Social, México, D.F. Financial support was given by the National Research Council of Canada. The new subspecies is named after Mr. L. Witt, who has prepared a large number of museum specimens of this race.—P. R. GRANT, *Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, April 13, 1964.*

Bird Records from San Luis Potosí, México.—On December 30, 1963, in the Sierra Madre Oriental of eastern San Luis Potosí, 20 miles west of El Naranjo, at about 4200 feet elevation, a flock of ten Aztec Thrushes (*Ridgwayia pinicola*) was observed for about 30 minutes. The birds were feeding on the ground in a pine-oak forest and seemed unalarmed at our close approach. The sexes seemed present in about equal numbers.

Miller and Griscom (Mexican Check-list, 1957:186) fail to mention San Luis Potosí as a state of occurrence for this species, although the nearby states of Coahuila and Hidalgo are mentioned. The Texas Ornithological Society's Booklet "Birds of Eastern San Luis Potosí and Southern Tamaulipas, México" (1961), likewise does not record the species in San Luis Potosí.

On the same day, 15 miles east of the previously described area, in a cloud forest along a small stream our party observed a Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*). The bird allowed us to study it for a considerable time before it flew. Moore (Mexican Check-list, 1957:258) lists this species as wintering in the Mexican lowlands from southern Veracruz to Chiapas and Campeche, migrating through Tamaulipas. Hence, our record seems either to represent a stray bird or an extension northward of the winter range of the Kentucky Warbler about 1000 miles. These observations were made in company of Michael Flieg, Walter George, and Steve Hanselmann.—DAVID A. EASTERLA, *Department of Biology, Kansas City Junior College, Kansas City, Kansas, January 13, 1964.*

Bird Records from Southern Oregon.—One of the birds that Gabrielson and Jewett placed on the hypothetical list in their "Birds of Oregon" (1940:605) was the Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*). The senior author remembers seeing this species along Bear Creek near Medford in southern Oregon when he was a boy. The late E. Raymond Driver of Central Point reported to us the following observations of Black Phoebes in Oregon: in the autumn of 1939 near Grants Pass; near Medford, January 7, and October 2, 1940. Richardson has a record of two that he watched for several hours in Medford in August of 1942 and another was seen in 1943. He saw one near a small pond in Ashland on November 3, 1961. A pair of phoebes has nested for several years under a concrete