

museum has one specimen, taken on May 9 in Comanche County.

631. *Vireo griseus griseus*—White-eyed Vireo.

Common in summer. Museum records May 9, September 15, 16.

633. *Vireo belli belli*—Bell's Vireo.

This species is common throughout summer. Arrived in 1917 on April 24. It leaves mostly in August and early September. Last seen in 1916 on September 6.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW RED-WINGED BLACK-BIRD FROM TEXAS.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

Investigations of the birds of Texas revealed, many years ago, an unrecognized subspecies of *Agelaius phoeniceus* from the southern part of the State. Subsequent examination of material in the United States National Museum, including the Biological Survey Collection, also in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the American Museum of Natural History, and the private collections of Mr. John E. Thayer, Mr. J. H. Fleming, Mr. William Brewster, Dr. L. B. Bishop, and Dr. Jonathan Dwight, confirms the distinctness of this form. Owing to an indefinite delay in the appearance of our report on the birds of Texas, it seems desirable now to publish a description of this new red-wing. We accordingly propose to call it

Agelaius phoeniceus megapotamus, subsp. nov.

Rio Grande Red-winged Blackbird.

Chars. subsp.—Similar to *Agelaius phoeniceus richmondi* from southern Vera Cruz and Tabasco, Mexico, but larger; female more grayish above and less ochraceous below.

Description.—Type, adult female, No. 207912, U. S. Nat. Museum; Brownsville, Texas, February 17, 1911; A. K. Fisher, original number 7093. General color of upper parts dark fuscous; broad medial crown streak pinkish buff, verging a little toward chamois; rest of the pileum, together with the cervix, much streaked with pale buff, dull cinnamon, and clay color. Back and scapulars more broadly and less numerously streaked with the same colors

and with white; rump and upper tail-coverts streaked with smoke gray and light smoke gray, the long coverts with avellaneous; tail brownish fuscous black, anteriorly margined on both webs with very pale brownish or brownish white; primaries fuscous; rest of the wing of the same color as the tail, but the longest scapulars and the innermost greater wing-coverts broadly margined exteriorly with cinnamon, the lesser coverts edged with dull buffy brown, the bend of the wing dull reddish; remainder of the wing-coverts and quills margined with dull pale buff and with whitish; superciliary stripe white, anteriorly with a slight wash of buffy; postocular streak fuscous; the rest of the sides of the head grayish white with a slight dull buffy tinge, and flecked with pale fuscous, the lores darker; narrow rictal and submalar streaks fuscous; sides of the neck very pale buffy grayish, thickly but finely streaked with fuscous; chin and upper throat pale ochraceous salmon, immaculate except for a few small spots of dusky on the posterior portion of the latter; rest of lower parts dull creamy white, with a buffy tinge on the abdomen and crissum, and broadly streaked with fuscous, most so on the sides, flanks, and crissum, but elsewhere the white interspaces broader than these dark markings; lining of wing smoke-gray; edge of wing cinnamon.

Measurements.—Male: ¹ Wing, 113-120.0 (average, 115.3) mm.; tail, 83-92 (86.8); total culmen, 22-24 (22.6); tarsus, 26-31.5 (29); middle toe without claw, 20.5-22.3 (21.1).

Female: ² Wing, 84-98 (average, 93) mm.; tail, 63-72.5 (68.5); total culmen, 18.6-22 (19.5); tarsus, 24.5-26.5 (25.6); middle toe without claw, 17-19.5 (18.5).

Geographic distribution.—Central southern Texas and northeastern Mexico. Breeds north to central Texas; west to eastern Coahuila; south to Nuevo Leon and northern Vera Cruz; and east to Tamaulipas and to the Brazos River in Texas.

¹ Seven specimens, from Texas.

² Nine specimens, from Texas, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas.

Remarks.—This new subspecies differs from *Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus* in somewhat longer wing, rather shorter bill, and much lighter coloration of the female; from *Agelaius phoeniceus sonoriensis* and *Agelaius phoeniceus fortis* in very much smaller size; and from *Agelaius phoeniceus neutralis* in greatly inferior size and paler female. Birds belonging to this geographic race have hitherto been referred to *Agelaius phoeniceus richmondi*, but they are so different from typical representatives of the latter that subspecific separation seems desirable. It is a larger and less brownish edition of *Agelaius phoeniceus richmondi*, and replaces that form in Texas, Tamaulipas, and Nuevo Leon. It seems to be more or less permanently resident, as no specimens have been taken outside of its breeding range. Southward it passes into *Agelaius phoeniceus richmondi* somewhere in the northern part of the State of Vera Cruz; westward through central western Texas into *Agelaius phoeniceus neutralis*; northward in central northern Texas into *Agelaius phoeniceus predatorius*; and along the coast of southeastern Texas beyond the Brazos River into *Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus* of the southeastern United States. Birds from Del Rio and Fort Clark in central western Texas are intermediate between the present race and *Agelaius phoeniceus neutralis*, but are nearer the former.

The type of *Agelaius phoeniceus richmondi*¹ came from Tlacotalpam in southeastern Vera Cruz, and represents the bird breeding in that region; hence the northern race is the one without a name.

By this separation the geographic distribution of *Agelaius phoeniceus richmondi* is restricted to the southern part of its former range, *i. e.*, from central Vera Cruz, south through Tabasco, Yucatan, and Cozumel Island, to British Honduras. The average dimensions of seven adult males from southern Vera Cruz and Tabasco are added here for comparison with *Agelaius phoeniceus megapotamus*:

¹*Agelaius phoeniceus richmondi* Nelson, Auk, XIV, No. 1, Jan., 1897, p. 58.

Wing, 108.5 mm.; tail, 82.3; total culmen, 24.9; tarsus, 28.7; middle toe without claw, 21.1.

About 100 specimens of *Agelaius phoeniceus megapotamus* have been examined in the present connection, from the subjoined localities:

Texas.—Giddings (May 24, 1887); San Antonio (February 22, 1887); Fort Clark (January 4, 1893, February 18, 1893, March 4, 1893, May 15 and 17, 1893); Devil's River (January 29, 1886); Del Rio (May 20, 1903; June 2, 1903); 12 miles east of Del Rio (June 4, 1903); Eagle Pass (June 2, 1902); Rio Grande City (May 27, 1891); Lomita Ranch (February 5, 15, and 27, 1880); Granjeño Ranch, 10 miles west of Hidalgo (March 8, 1894); Hidalgo (June 21, 1891; May 15 and 18, 1889); Webber's Ranch, on the Rio Grande, 10 miles east of the western line of Cameron County (February 28, 1894); El Blanco in southern Cameron County (June 23, 1891); Brownsville (May 3, 1900; Feb. 17, 1911; February 17, 1876; March 9, 1876; Dec. 22, 1909; January 7, 1912; December 8 and 9, 1909; May 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, and 27, 1913); Sauz Ranch, Cameron County, (April 30, 1900); Corpus Christi (June 28, 1886; March 25, 1891; May 20, 29, and 30, 1891; June 1, 1891); fifteen miles northwest of Corpus Christi (March 29, 1886); Beeville (August 7 and 9, 1905); Velasco (March 10, 1892); eight miles southeast of Cuero (March 18, 1907); Roma (May 27, 1891).

Coahuila.—Porfirio Diaz (June 2, 5, and 6, 1902).

Nuevo Leon.—Monterey (February 18, 1891).

Tamaulipas.—Alta Mira (April 21, 1898; May 19, 1898); Camargo (January 7, 9, and 10, 1902).

Vera Cruz.—Rivera (April 26, 1904).