

NOTES ON SOME BIRDS FROM SANTA BARBARA ISLANDS,
CALIFORNIA.

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During the spring and summer of 1892, Mr. Clark P. Streater, under the auspices of the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture, made a small collection of birds upon the Santa Barbara Islands, California. Of these specimens, which are now in the United States National Museum as part of the Biological Survey collection, the writer has been able, through the kindness of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, to prepare the subjoined list. The new forms obtained by Mr. Streater have already been described; so it remains only to record the species collected, with the addition of various critical notes upon those of special interest.

The islands visited by Mr. Streater, with inclusive dates of his collecting, are as follows:

Santa Catalina Island, April 9 to 29.

San Miguel Island, June 24 to 29.

Santa Rosa Island, July 1 to 3.

Santa Cruz Island, July 9 to 20.

PUFFINUS GRISEUS (Gmelin).

A single specimen, taken July 3, in the Santa Barbara Channel, is in the collection.

LOPHORTYX CALIFORNICUS VALLICOLA (Ridgway).

One male and one female from Santa Catalina Island. They seem rather darker and more ochraceous than extreme examples of *vallicola*, but are identical with birds from the San Joaquin Valley. The species has probably been introduced from the mainland.

COLAPTES CAFER (Gmelin).

An immature specimen from Santa Cruz Island apparently does not differ from birds of the adjacent mainland, though the material at hand for comparison is not entirely satisfactory.

SELASPHORUS ALLENI Henshaw.

Two adult males in perfect plumage, from Santa Catalina Island are identical with Nicasio birds.

SAYORNIS NIGRICANS (Swainson).

Three birds from Santa Cruz Island are all immature, with rufous edgings to the feathers of lower back, under wing-coverts and all the upper series; the innermost secondaries are also margined with a paler shade of the same. Two adults taken on Santa Rosa Island add the species to the fauna of this island.

EMPIDONAX INSULICOLA Oberholser.

Five specimens; from Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, and Santa Catalina islands; all mentioned in the original description of the species.¹ Since that was published, the writer, through the courtesy of Mr. Joseph Grinnell, has examined specimens from San Clemente Island, which are substantially identical with those from the other islands.

OTOCORIS ALPESTRIS INSULARIS Townsend.

Twelve examples from San Miguel Island and one from Santa Rosa are all in more or less worn plumage, but even in this condition exhibit the distinctive characteristics of this insular race.

APHELOCOMA INSULARIS Henshaw.

A fine series of twelve adults and five immature specimens serves very strongly to emphasize the distinctness of this species from both of its mainland relatives. Not only are its characters very pronounced, but among perfectly comparable examples there is relatively little individual difference either in size or color. Many of the adults are strongly tinged with brownish below, but this is undoubtedly an adventitious stain, as it is absent on feathers of the fresh plumage. All the adults are in process of molt and exhibit almost every stage of feather renewal. The immature birds are all in "first" plumage, just beginning to change into perfect dress, and differ little from each other. The plumage of the young, which seems never to have been described, is as follows:

Above chocolate brown, shading into dull dark blue on crown and upper tail-coverts, the transition on latter rather abrupt; wings and tail as in the adult; sides of head and neck blackish brown; a short whitish line over each eye, the only indication of a superciliary; chin, throat, and center of jugulum brownish white, the sides of jugulum and an almost complete collar on breast dull blackish brown; remainder of breast and abdomen smoke gray; crissum dark slate gray; thighs light brown.

¹ Auk, XIV, 1897, p. 300.

CORVUS CORAX SINUATUS (Wagler).

One individual from Santa Catalina Island appears to be indistinguishable from typical specimens.

STURNELLA NEGLECTA Audubon.

Two specimens from San Miguel Island, one of them a female in the spotted and mottled plumage of the young. The other, an adult male in rather worn condition, seems not to differ from *neglecta* of the mainland.

It seems remarkable that anyone who has ever heard the striking vocal performances of the western meadowlark should consider it a subspecies of the eastern bird. And when there is taken into account the fact that over a large area the breeding ranges of the two overlap, the birds there remaining as distinct as elsewhere, and that the supposed intermediate specimens ultimately resolve themselves into seasonal or some other equally nonpertinent variation, the rational course would appear to be the recognition of *Sturnella neglecta* as a full species.

CARPODACUS MEXICANUS CLEMENTIS (Mearns).

Fourteen specimens, from Santa Catalina, San Miguel, and Santa Cruz islands, are referable to this new race. The males differ much among themselves in the shade of the red on throat and breast, as well as in the extent and intensity of the red suffusion on the anterior upper surface, in some individuals this color being confined almost entirely to the crown. There is also a considerable range of variation in dimensions, inclusive of the bill, size being but an average subspecific distinction. The specimens examined are darker above than *obscurus* (= *frontalis*),¹ a character not mentioned by Dr. Mearns in his original diagnosis.²

Birds in the juvenal plumage are much more ochraceous, particularly above, than adult females, and seem to be rather darker than the young of *obscurus*. This plumage of *clementis* appears not to have been described, and the following is therefore added, from a male shot on Santa Cruz Island, July 18:

Above dull brown, rather darker on the back, all the feathers with ochraceous margins, these imparting a somewhat streaked appearance; rump and upper tail-coverts almost plain deep ochraceous; wings and tail fuscous, edged with buffy, the wing-coverts and innermost secondaries margined with ochraceous; lores and subocular region buffy whitish; sides of head and neck ochraceous, streaked with dull brown; under surface dull white, washed with ochraceous and everywhere streaked with dull brown; crissum buffy ochraceous, with narrow shaft markings of brown.

¹ See Oberholser, Auk, XVI, 1899, p. 186.

² Auk, XV, 1898, p. 259.

ZONOTRICHIA LEUCOPHRYS GAMBELI (Nuttall).

A pair of adults from Santa Catalina Island. This is the race formerly known as *intermedia*.¹

SPIZELLA SOCIALIS ARIZONÆ Coues.

Three specimens. Two of these are adults from Santa Catalina Island, and are in color and in most of their measurements apparently like the mainland form. The wings are, however, somewhat shorter, but the difference seems too slight to warrant the separation of the island bird. The third specimen, which is in the spotted plumage of the young, is from Santa Rosa, and appears to be the first record of the species for this island.

MELOSPIZA MELODIA CLEMENTÆ (Townsend).

Eighteen specimens, including both adults and young, from the islands of San Miguel and Santa Rosa. The adults are in worn plumage, but agree with examples from San Clemente Island, the type locality of this race. The young exhibit much more individual variation than the adults, but on the whole present quite as good characters for subspecific distinction. This juvenal stage, as is usual among the song sparrows, is quite different in appearance from the adult, and may be described as follows:

Above brownish gray, somewhat rufescent on the rump, the feathers with deep brown or blackish centers, these broadest on back, where they are margined conspicuously with pale grayish; head with no evident median stripe; wings and tail about as in the adult; sides of head and neck dull buffy white, considerably mixed with brown; lower parts dull buffy white; jugulum, sides of throat and body, with short streaks of brownish gray, less evident on the last.

The species appears not to have been previously recorded from San Miguel Island.

MELOSPIZA LINCOLNII (Audubon).

A single adult female from Santa Catalina Island. The upper surface is rather more than usually tinged with ochraceous, as are also the posterior lower parts, thus almost obliterating the definition of the pectoral band.

PASSERELLA ILIACA INSULARIS Ridgway.

One adult from Santa Catalina Island.

PASSERELLA ILIACA MEGARHYNCHA (Baird).

Three typical examples from Santa Catalina Island.

¹ For change of name, see Ridgway, Auk, XVI, 1899, p. 36.

PASSERELLA ILIACA STEPHENSI Anthony.

Although not recorded from any of the islands of the Santa Barbara group, three specimens from Santa Catalina Island are undoubtedly referable to this race, being of course migrants from the mainland, as all the other forms of *Passerella* seem to be. Two of these individuals are quite typical, the other verging somewhat toward *megarhyncha*. All have a considerable tinge of brown over the entire upper surface.

PIPILO MACULATUS CLEMENTÆ (Grinnell).

Three examples from Santa Cruz Island, with one from Santa Rosa, are in color like *clementæ*, but differ in their somewhat smaller size. A single bird in juvenal plumage is very little different from the similar stage of *megalonyx*. Seven adults from Santa Catalina Island are intermediate between *clementæ* and the mainland coast form (*P. m. atratus*) recently described by Mr. Ridgway, but seem to be nearer the former.

LANIUS LUDOVICIANUS ANTHONYI Mearns.

A single specimen in juvenal plumage is darker above than even *ludovicianus* of similar age.

HELMINTHOPHILA CELATA SORDIDA Townsend.

Eight males and two females were collected, all on Santa Catalina Island. This fine series bears out the characters assigned by Mr. Townsend, but shows also that these differences are not entirely constant. The olivaceous wash on the flanks is one of the best distinctions.

MIMUS POLYGLOTTOS (Linnæus).

Three examples from Santa Catalina Island show considerable individual variation in the shade of the upper surface, but appear to be absolutely indistinguishable from birds of the extreme eastern United States. They are quite brownish both above and below, but this is evidently due to wear or stain, perhaps to both.

SALPINCTES OBSOLETUS (Say).

The single specimen is from San Miguel Island and is not satisfactorily distinguishable from mainland specimens.

THRYOMANES BEWICKII CHARIENTURUS Oberholser.

Five examples from Santa Catalina Island. The slight and very inconstant differences presented by the birds from this island as compared with typical *charienturus* have been already fully set forth in a previous paper,¹ and therefore need not be repeated here.

¹ Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XXI, 1898, p. 436.

THRYOMANES BEWICKII NESOPHILUS Oberholser

Ten specimens, from Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa islands. All these were recorded in the writer's recent paper on the genus.¹ Since the appearance of that article additional material from Santa Cruz Island has been examined, substantiating former conclusions with regard to the validity of this form. It is certainly different enough from both *charienturus* and *drymæcus* to warrant recognition as a subspecies. Two young birds from Santa Rosa are somewhat paler above than the young from Santa Cruz Island.

HYLOCICHLA AONALASCHKÆ (Gmelin).

One perfectly typical female from Santa Catalina Island.

¹ Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XXI, 1898, p. 443.