

Washington — Bellingham, Whatcom Co.; Auburn, Duvall, North Bend, Seattle, Snoqualmie, King Co.; Kiona Benton County ¹; Enumclaw, Tacoma, Pierce Co.; Olympia, Thurston Co.

Oregon — Forest Grove; Bush Lake near Salem; North Salem.

Measurements in millimeters of *Sturnella neglecta confluenta* are as follows:

No. & Collection.	Sex.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle toe without claw.
105, S. F. Rathbun	♂	Seattle, Wash.	Apr. 5, 1895	125	76	34	39	24
920, S. F. Rathbun	♂	Olympia, "	Sept. 25, 1916	122	79	32	37	27
921, S. F. Rathbun	♂	Tacoma, "	Oct. 8, 1911	118	77	33.5	36.5	28
922, S. F. Rathbun	♂	Auburn, "	Sept. 21, 1916	132	82	32	36	26
923, J. M. Edson	♂	Bellingham, "	Mar. 7, 1915	125	80	31	36.5	27.5
139400, U. S. N. M.	♂	Comox, B. C.	June 11, 1895	127	75	34	35.5	27
112, S. F. Rathbun	♀	Seattle, Wash.	Apr. 21, 1895	108	62	28	34.5	26.5
924, S. F. Rathbun	♀	Enumclaw, "	Sept. 21, 1916	110	65	28	34	24.5
925, S. F. Rathbun	♀	Auburn, "	Sept. 21, 1916	109	65	30	36	25
926, S. F. Rathbun	♀	Duvall, "	Oct. 4, 1916	111.5	70	30	35	23
1107, Univ. Wash.	♀	Salem, Oregon	Mar. 16, 1891	115	67.5	29.5	36	26
Average of six adult males				124.8	78.2	32.8	36.8	26.6
Average of five adult females				110.7	65.9	29.1	35.1	25.

DESCRIPTION OF *TELESPIZA ULTIMA* FROM NIHOA ISLAND.

BY WILLIAM ALANSON BRYAN.

CONTINUING my note on the discovery of a new land bird on the island of Nihoa, which appeared in the January, 1916, number of 'The Auk,' I am now able to report that through the interest of Lieut. W. H. Munter, specimens have been secured which on comparison with the "Laysan finch," *Telespiza cantans* Wilson, fully warrant the separation of the Nihoa birds under the new name that was only withheld in my former article for want of a definite type specimen.

In view of the fact that the species under consideration is

¹ Not breeding at this locality.

very liable to be the last native passerine bird to be discovered in the Hawaiian Group, the following name seems appropriate for this form occurring on remote Nihoa: viz.,

***Telespiza ultima*, new species.**

TYPE.—♂ ad. (orig. no. 1), Nihoa Island, Hawaiian Group, February 12, 1916. Collected by Lieut. W. H. Munter for W. A. Bryan.

PARATYPES.—(a) ♀ (orig. no. 2), do. do.; (b) ♂ (orig. no. 3), do. do.; (c) sex ? (orig. no. 4), do. do.; (d) (orig. no. 5), specimen in formalin.

SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Closely resembling the Laysan species (*T. cantans*) in color but smaller in all dimensions; upper and lower mandible approximately equal in length.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE.—(Fully adult male specimen.) Head all round and under parts to the middle of the abdomen yellow, brightest on the breast, brighter than equally adult specimens of *cantans*. Back, olive-yellow, varied with darker shaft-stripes; rump, gray, with an olive cast; upper tail coverts, olive-gray to yellowish; webs of tail feathers and primaries, brownish black, narrowly edged with yellow; wing coverts, yellowish; center of abdomen, whitish; under tail coverts, yellowish-white.

MEASUREMENT OF TYPE.—Total length, 5.65 in.; wing, 3.05; tail, 2.20; tarsus, .85; culmen, .52; depth of bill, .42.

Remarks. This species, occupying the restricted habitat of one of the smaller and older volcanic islands of the group, has evidently been evolved through isolation from the only other existing species of the genus, a well known form occurring abundantly on the low sand island of Laysan and which in recent years has also been introduced on Midway Island.

I am indebted to Lieut. W. H. Munter for the type series, consisting of five specimens, which he secured for me on the last cruise of the U. S. R. C. "Thetis" to the Leeward Islands all of which are included in the Hawaiian Islands Bird Reservation. The birds are described as being quite fearless and were easily killed with small shot. The specimens were preserved in formalin provided for the purpose and four have since been made up as dry skins. The three cabinet specimens not described above present the following measurements in inches;

Orig. no. 2, ♀	length	5.50;	wing	2.80;	tail	2.05;	tarsus	.85;	culmen	.50.
" " 3, ♂	"	5.60;	"	3.00;	"	2.20;	"	.90;	"	.53.
" " 4, ?	"	5.50;	"	2.90;	"	2.05;	"	.85;	"	.50.

Of this series number 2 is in the characteristic immature plumage of the Laysan species having the feathers of the head and breast blackish-brown with yellowish edges. Number 4 is more nearly mature while number 3, is only slightly less brilliant in coloring about the head and neck than the type specimen.

It will be seen by comparing the measurements and description given above, with that given in my 'Key to the Birds of the Hawaiian Group,' that the Nihoa birds are in reality a somewhat dwarfed form of the Laysan species which, owing to isolation and restricted habitat, is to be regarded as specifically distinct.

The Nihoa "finch" is a stocky, independent creature much resembling the Grosbeaks in size and appearance. Like their Laysan cousins they sing very sweetly, their song resembling that of the canary. In habit they are saucy, sociable and fearless and are so unsuspicious that they approach to within a few feet of the observer without hesitation.

On arriving at Nihoa on February 12, 1916, the landing used by the "Thetis" on the occasion of its 1915 cruise was found to be too rough to use with safety. A landing was made however in a small cove a few hundred feet to the eastward of the old landing in the following manner. One of the boat's party swam ashore, and a line was heaved from the stern of the boat and the boat then hauled close to the rocks. At a favorable opportunity the rest of the party were landed without mishap. The boat's crew then rigged a line fitted with a running rove through a block at the mast head. Dry clothing, ammunition, cameras and other articles were whipped ashore and the dinghy shifted its anchorage to a safe distance to await the return of the party.

After four hours on the island the party returned to the vessel without accident bringing with them photographs, notes and specimens of the fauna and flora that are of great interest and value.



Bryan, William Alanson. 1917. "Description of Telespiza ultima from Nihoa Island." *The Auk* 34, 70–72. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4072541>.

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