

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONTHE SONORA RACES OF *CAMPTOSTOMA* AND
PLATYPSARIS.¹

BY A. J. VAN ROSSEM.

Field work in the Mexican state of Sonora undertaken during the past eighteen months by J. T. Wright in the interest of Mr. Griffing Bancroft has resulted in the discovery of several new races of birds. Study of the specimens collected, most of which are now a part of the Dickey collection at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, shows that in the cases of at least two species whose ranges extend into the territory covered by the A. O. U. Check-list a change in status is necessary.

The first of these is *Camptostoma imberbe ridgwayi* which Brewster (Bull. Nuttall Ornith. Club, 7, 1882, p. 208), on the basis of Arizona specimens, long ago distinguished from the typical race. The form remained in good standing for some years, but the range ascribed to it in the second edition (1896) of the Check-list took in too much territory (indeed a good slice of the range of typical *imberbe*!) and finally Ridgway (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 50, pt. 4, 1907, p. 414) eliminated it as an unrecognizable form, which it certainly is on the basis of the 1896 Check-list. However, if confined to extreme northwestern Mexico and southern Arizona there appears to be every reason for its recognition, for birds from that area present uniform and stable differences which set them off sharply from typical *imberbe* of Central America and eastern and southern Mexico.

The characters given for *ridgwayi* by the original describer were larger bill and darker and more ashy coloration. The first of these is perfectly valid, as a glance at the accompanying table of measurements will show. As to color, while there is no doubt that *ridgwayi* is more ashy than *imberbe* in relatively worn plumage there appears to be no color difference whatever when fresh-plumaged specimens of *ridgwayi* and the paler individuals of *imberbe* are compared. The matter of two types of coloration in the typical race seems to have been generally overlooked although Mr. Ridgway

¹Contribution from the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.

(ibid., footnote) has suggested that sex might be responsible. Intimate personal field acquaintance with *imberbe* in El Salvador convinces me that the darker crowned, more olivaceous type and the more ashy type with the crown nearly concolor with the back are variants which occur independently of age or sex.

The validity of *ridgwayi* appears to rest not alone in its larger bill, but in general size as well. Males are decidedly larger than females and I am inclined to suspect from the measurements given by Ridgway (ibid., p. 415) that faulty field determination of sex is in part responsible for the apparent size similarity of males and females.

The range of *ridgwayi* on the basis of 13 specimens of that form in the Dickey collection is confined to southern Arizona and south throughout Sonora. True *imberbe* ranges northward at least to Tepic, Nayarit (specimen in the Dickey collection) on the Pacific coast, but which form occurs in Sinaloa is not known to me at the present time.

Measurements of males in millimeters.

	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Tail</i>	<i>Exp. Culmen</i>
9 <i>imberbe</i>	51.0-54.5	39.0-43.5	7.2-8.0
6 <i>ridgwayi</i>	55.0-58.0	45.0-48.0	8.7-9.6

The inclusion of Sonora and Arizona specimens of *Platypsaris aglaiae* with true *albiventris* of Colima and Tepic is found to be incorrect. The extreme northern birds constitute a very distinct race for which I propose the name of

***Platypsaris aglaiae richmondi*,¹ subsp. nov.**

Type.—Male adult; no. 28,347, collection of Donald R. Dickey; Saric, Sonora, Mexico; May 14, 1929; collected by J. T. Wright, original number 3249.

Subspecific characters.—Most nearly resembling *Platypsaris aglaiae albiventris* (Xantus) of central western Mexico, but coloration of adult males slightly paler and very much grayer with no buffy or brownish tones; back "slate gray"² fading to "neutral gray" or "light neutral gray" on rump, upper tail coverts and rectrices; underparts more purely (less creamy or buffy) white, the flanks, sides and breast washed with "deep gull gray" or "light neutral gray." In typical *albiventris* the corresponding parts of the adult males are washed or tinged with "mouse grays" or "olive-grays." Females with center of pileum "slate gray" fading to "light gull gray" or "pale gull gray" on forehead and deepening to "slate color" on nape; back nearly pure "neutral gray" fading to "light grayish olive" on rump; underparts *very much* paler than in *albiventris*; chin, throat and central abdominal region very pale (almost white) "light buff"; pectoral region, flanks and under tail-coverts more or less tinged with "light ochraceous buff." The females of *albiventris* have the underparts almost uniform "cinnamon buff," with only the chin and median abdominal region approaching white.

¹Named for Dr. C. W. Richmond of the United States National Museum.

²Colors in quotes from Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, 1912.

Range.—The Mexican state of Sonora north into extreme southern Arizona. The whereabouts of the specimen recorded by Price (Auk, 5, 1888, p. 425) from the Huachuca Mountains in extreme southern Arizona, is unknown to me. There can be no question, however, that it belongs to *richmondi*, as in all probability do the records from the Pacific slope of Chihuahua.

Remarks.—While the five females and the two young males of the new race are very uniform in color, save for the rose colored throats of the males, the ten adult males present two distinct extremes of coloration. These may be called the gray-bellied and white-bellied extremes. Although the two are fully connected by individual variation the gray type is the more common, for a somewhat arbitrary division places seven on the gray side and three on the white. The same variation is shown in the series of seven adult males of *albiventris*, the white (or to be more exact in this case, creamy white) type being represented by two birds to five of the darker birds. Xantus' type of *Hadrostomus albiventris* which, by the courtesy of the U. S. National Museum, has been examined in the present connection, represents the white-bellied extreme. I have therefore selected the same color extreme to serve as the type of *richmondi*. The description of the adult male given by Ridgway (ibid., p. 856) applies much better to *richmondi* than to *albiventris* and I strongly suspect was drawn from a specimen of the former race.

In this most northern race of *Platypsaris aglaiae* there is, in the case of the females, an interesting uniformity of characters compared with the color variations seen in the extreme southern form *latirostris*. In the latter instance the long series of adult males presents variations similar to those seen in *richmondi* and *albiventris*. The equally comprehensive female series (all collected by the writer) shows scarcely any two which are identical, particularly in regard to the color of the pileum. That this variation is in any way dependent on age is impossible, for both gray headed and black headed extremes are represented not alone among the fully adult females, but among partially grown juveniles as well.

Material examined.—*Platypsaris aglaiae albiventris*: Mexico: Nayarit (Tepic; Santiago), 6; Colima (plains of Colima; Colima), 3. *Platypsaris aglaiae richmondi*: Mexico: Sonora (Saric; Tesia; Chinobampo; Guirocoba), 17.



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