

a pair. The following season I saw fourteen; in 1899 this number had increased to about seventy, associating in small flocks. The year 1900 showed an increase, and this season, 1901, it appears scattered about the business part of the city, and although as yet not in such numbers as in the eastern cities, the time seems not far distant when it may be.

THE CACTUS WRENS OF THE UNITED STATES.¹

BY EDGAR A. MEARNS.

WITHIN the United States are three forms of the Cactus Wren, all subspecies of the Mexican *Heleodytes brunneicapillus* (Lafresnaye), occupying, respectively, the coastal region of California, the Texan region, and the arid interior region of the Southwest; and a fourth race is confined to southern Lower California.

Heleodytes brunneicapillus brunneicapillus, first described by Lafresnaye (Mag. de Zool., 1835, p. 61, pl. 47), was supposed to have come from California; but, as the Cactus Wren of the portion of California west of the Coast Range Mountains is different from that east of them, it became necessary to determine with certainty to which form of *Heleodytes* Lafresnaye's name *brunneicapillus* pertains. At my request, in the year 1897 the authorities of the Boston Society of Natural History kindly forwarded the type of *Picolaptes brunneicapillus* Lafresnaye to Mr. Robert Ridgway, at the Smithsonian Institution, and the following are his conclusions respecting it:

"The type of *Picolaptes brunneicapillus* Lafresnaye, which I have been able to compare with an extensive series of specimens from the southwestern border of the United States, does not agree with any specimens from north of the Mexican boundary-line, and certainly is not from California, as alleged. It is much deeper colored beneath than any United States specimen, the sides, flanks and abdomen being deep ochraceous-buff. In this respect it

¹These, the largest of our Wrens, are about the size of the Scarlet Tanager, and in the United States are confined to the tier of States and Territories bordering on Mexico, and to portions of Utah and Nevada.

agrees exactly with a specimen from Guaymas, Sonora (No. 89908, U. S. Nat. Mus., Dec. 11, 1882, L. Belding), and in the coloration of the under parts in general it is practically identical with four specimens from the same locality, though three of these being obtained late in March and therefore in worn plumage have the ochraceous-buff color somewhat paler. The coloration of the upper parts is not materially different from that of another Guaymas specimen (No. 90081, March 26), and far more like it than any two of the Guaymas specimens resemble one another. On the whole, I have very little doubt that Lafresnaye's type came from some part of northwestern Mexico, perhaps from Guaymas.

"Measurements of the type and the four Guaymas specimens are as follows:—

"MEASUREMENTS.

Museum No.	Collection.	Sex and Age.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen. ¹	Gonys.	Tarsus.	Middle toe.
2600	Lafr.	—ad.	"California"	—	3.32	3.10	.90	.55	1.09	.72
89908	U. S. Nat. Mus.	"	Guaymas, Sonora.	Dec. 4.	3.20	3.02	.89	.53	1.04	.69
90079	"	♂	" "	Mch. 11.	3.48	3.20	.88	.50	1.09	.72
90082	"	♂	" "	" "	3.40	3.28	.91	.56	1.05	.71
90081	"	♀	" "	" "	3.30	3.08	.87	.52	1.05	.72

It appears from the foregoing that Lafresnaye's *brunneicapillus* is a Mexican form, which, subspecifically restricted, does not enter the United States. The forms pertaining to the region covered by the A. O. U. Check-List should stand as follows:—

***Heleodytes brunneicapillus affinis* (Xantus).**

ST. LUCAS CACTUS WREN.

Campylorhynchus affinis XANTUS, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1859 p. 298.

Heleodytes brunneicapillus affinis ANTHONY, Auk, Vol. XII, No. 3, July, 1895, p. 280.

Geographical distribution.—Southern Lower California.

¹"The tip of the maxilla is broken off in Lafresnaye's type; consequently I have substituted for length of culmen in all the specimens the length of the mandible measured from tip to malar apex."

***Heleodytes brunneicapillus bryanti* Anthony.**

BRYANT CACTUS WREN.

Heleodytes brunneicapillus bryanti ANTHONY, Auk, Vol. XI, No. 3, July, 1894, p. 212.

Geographical distribution.—Northern Lower California and southern California, west of the Coast Range.

***Heleodytes brunneicapillus couesi* (Sharpe).**

TEXAN CACTUS WREN.

Campylorhynchus couesi SHARPE, Catal. Birds Brit. Mus., Vol. VI, 1881, p. 196.

Geographical distribution.—Rio Grande region of Texas and adjoining Mexican States, west to the Eastern Desert Tract,¹ south over the Mexican tableland.

***Heleodytes brunneicapillus anthonyi*, subsp. nov.²**

DESERT CACTUS WREN.

Geographical distribution.—Interior deserts of the southwestern United States, south into the Mexican States of Chihuahua, Sonora, and northeastern Lower California (east of the Coast Range).

Type.—No. 132804, U. S. National Museum. Adult male from Adonde Siding, Southern Pacific Railroad, Arizona. Collected February 27, 1894, by Edgar A. Mearns and Frank X. Holzner. (Original number, 10306.)

Characters.—Back and wings pale drab striped and barred with black, the last bars interrupted; intermediate rectrices, except the subterminal white bar, nearly all black. Under surface of body white anteriorly, pale ochraceous-buff posteriorly; chin immaculate; throat and fore part of breast sparsely marked with crescentic black spots; those on flanks, chest, and abdomen small (sometimes obsolete), and more or less linear in the median area.

Measurements of type (adult male).—Length, 220 mm.; alar expanse, 300; wing, 93; tail, 90; chord of culmen, 23; tarsus, 29; middle toe with claw, 26. (Measured fresh by the author.)

¹ For description of the Differentiation 'Tracts' of the Mexican boundary region, see Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XIX, No. 1103, December 21, 1896. (Advance sheets of this paper were published May 25, 1896.)

² Named in honor of Mr. Alfred W. Anthony, to whom ornithologists are indebted for most of the knowledge respecting geographic variation in this species.

Comparisons. — This race is readily distinguishable from the subspecies *brunneicapillus* and *bryanti* by its pallid coloration and mostly black tail. The black spots on the throat are much smaller, and much less numerous; those on the belly and flanks are also fewer. The white striping of the upper surface is much less pronounced; and the crown lacks the rusty tinge.

Compared with the *Heleodytes brunneicapillus couesi* of Texas,¹ the throat has still less of the black spotting, and the general pallor is even more striking, though the pattern of the tail markings is quite similar, except that the upper surface of the middle rectrices is much more conspicuously barred with black, owing to the pale drab coloring of the interspaces, which are narrower and darker than in *Heleodytes brunneicapillus couesi*.

This race needs no close comparison with the subspecies *affinis*.

Remarks. — The Cactus Wrens collected along the lowest part of the Colorado River and on the deserts east and west of it are all typically of the present subspecies, which also occupies the lower two-thirds of the desert slopes of the Coast Range Mountains adjacent to the Mexican border. Slightly different phases of *anthonyi* inhabit the Eastern Desert Tract, and the Elevated Central Tract between the two desert areas on the Mexican line; but all of the Cactus Wrens of the interior region — western Texas to eastern California — are considered as belonging to the present race. Those of the Elevated Central Tract are connectants between the subspecies *anthonyi* and *couesi*.²

Our forms may be distinguished by means of the following

KEY TO THE CACTUS WRENS OF THE UNITED STATES.

- a. Throat white, slightly spotted; under surface of body faintly ochraceous-buff posteriorly. . . . *Heleodytes brunneicapillus affinis*.

¹ The type, an adult female from Laredo, Texas, was collected February 28, 1867, by Doctor H. B. Butcher, and received by the British Museum from the Smithsonian Institution.

² *Heleodytes brunneicapillus obscurus* Nelson (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XII, March 24, 1898), from the Tableland of Mexico, closely resembles *couesi*, which latter is the most strongly colored form.

- aa.* Throat mostly black; under surface of body strongly ochraceous-buff posteriorly.
- b.* Coloration pallid; underparts slightly spotted with black
Heleodytes brunneicapillus anthonyi.
- bb.* Coloration dark; underparts heavily spotted with black.
- c.* Back broadly striped with white; intermediate rectrices plainly barred with white. . . . *Heleodytes brunneicapillus bryanti.*
- cc.* Back narrowly striped with white, the stripes being broken up into spots; intermediate rectrices nearly all black, or slightly spotted with white *Heleodytes brunneicapillus couesi.*

NOTES CONCERNING CERTAIN BIRDS OF LONG ISLAND.

BY WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D.

Nettion crecca. A number of years has passed since the publication of any record of the European Teal on Long Island. This species is included in Lawrence's 'List' (1866), but is not mentioned by Giraud in his 'Birds of Long Island' (1844). I am able to record two additional specimens for Long Island. These, together with one American Green-winged Teal, were shot by Mr. Sherman Smith of Merrick, on a small fresh-water pond at that place, about a week before Christmas, 1900. These birds were mounted by Mr. Albert Lott, a taxidermist of Freeport; one of them I found recently in Mr. Willis's shop at the latter place and traced the history of the specimens as related, finding the second specimen at Mr. Lott's house. Both are males in fine plumage. They are now in my collection of Long Island birds.

Ardea egretta. Through the courtesy of Capt. James G. Scott, keeper of the Montauk Point Light, I am enabled to record the second specimen of the American Egret which has come under my observation from Long Island (*Auk*, XVII, 1900, p. 67). Capt. Scott informs me that he shot the bird on July 23, 1900, on Oyster Pond Beach (Montauk). The mounted skin is now in the possession of Capt. Jesse B. Edwards, keeper of the Amagansett Life Saving Station, to whom I am indebted for measurements and other particulars concerning the bird. The following data are noted: Length, 39½ inches (dry skin); length of bill, 4½ inches.

Ardea cœrulea, not **A. candidissima**: A Correction. In 'The Auk,' Vol. XVII, Jan., 1900, p. 69, I recorded *Ardea candidissima* from Long Island. The record was due to an error in identification, and should refer to *A. cœrulea*. The two birds to which reference was made were imma-



Mearns, Edgar Alexander. 1902. "The Cactus Wrens of the United States." *The Auk* 19, 141–145. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4069305>.

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