

## REPUBLICATION OF DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES AND SUBSPECIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS. NO. II.

BY J. A. ALLEN.

THE first series of these descriptions was published in 'The Auk' for October, 1899 (XVI, pp. 338-350), in response to requests therefor, as there stated. The first installment covered the years 1897, 1898, and most of 1899, and included those added in the Ninth Supplement to the Check-List (see Auk, XVI, 1899, pp. 97-133). The present installment covers the year 1900, with a few species published in the latter part of 1899.

In this 'republication,' as explained in the introduction to the first installment, the original diagnoses or descriptions are given in full, in the exact words of the author, unless otherwise indicated by the omission of marks of quotation, with such additional remarks as are necessary to a proper presentation of the case.

*Colymbus dominicus brachypterus* (Chapman).

*Colymbus dominicus brachypterus* CHAPMAN, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. XII, 1899, 256, Dec. 23, 1899.

"*Char. subsp.* — Similar to *Colymbus dominicus* Linn., but with shorter wings and bill, less fuscous on the sides and flanks, and whiter underparts.

"*Description of type.* — (No. 11, Coll. George B. Sennett, male, Lomita Ranch, Lower Rio Grande, Texas, April 27, 1878. Collected by George B. Sennett.) — Head and neck all around plumbeous, the crown greenish; the throat black, some of the feathers tipped with whitish; back fuscous with slight greenish reflections; wing-coverts, tertials, and exposed part of outer primaries fuscous; basal portion of inner web of first primary white, this white increasing in extent on each succeeding feather until it wholly occupies the seventh to twelfth feathers, when it decreases and is replaced by fuscous; neck slaty, breast washed with brownish, fainter on the sides; sides and flanks washed with fuscous; rest of underparts silvery white, through which the darker bases of the feathers show only slightly. Wing, 3.80; tarsus, 1.25; middle toe, 1.78; culmen, .82; depth of bill at nostril, .30 in.

"*Description of female*, No. 12, Collection of George B. Sennett, Lomita,

Texas, April 27, 1878. — Similar to the male, but whiter below and slightly smaller. Wing, 3.78; tarsus, 1.10; middle toe, 1.62; culmen, .68; depth of bill at nostril, .25 in.

"This, the northern continental form of *Colymbus dominicus*, is to be distinguished from *dominicus* by its whiter underparts, smaller bill, and shorter wing; while from *C. d. brachyrhynchus* it may be known by its larger bill, shorter wing, and whiter underparts."

*Arenaria morinella* (Linn.).

RUDDY TURNSTONE.

*Tringa morinella* LINN. Syst. Nat. ed. 12, 1766, 249. Based on the "Turn-stone, or Sea-Dottrel" of Catesby.

*Arenaria morinella* W. PALMER, Fur Seals and Fur-Seal Islands of the North Pacific Ocean, Pt. III, 1899, 412-418.

"*Adult ♂, breeding plumage.* — Similar in pattern to *A. interpres*, but smaller and general color above chestnut with sides of interscapulars black; scapulars for the most part chestnut, the outer feathers broadly tipped with black and slightly with white, longer feathers blackish olive irregularly tipped with chestnut; body, head, and neck as in *interpres*, but the black of the breast less extensive and narrower, white areas on head more extensive, and the black streaking on top of head with whiter edgings; wings with more extensive white areas; tertials various shades of clove brown, rarely blackish, broadly blotched, margined and tipped with chestnut with white tips; lesser wing coverts pale dusky olive, with much less black and more white posteriorly than in *interpres*; median coverts extensively chestnut with little or no blackish centers; long coverts chestnut with black blotches or narrow bands near the tips of the feathers; tail as in *interpres*, but usually less broadly banded and [bands] less sharply defined; legs and feet deep orange-red strongly and broadly crossed at the joints with blackish; bill black.

"*Adult ♀, breeding plumage.* — Similar to the male in pattern, but larger and more subdued in color, grayer with white of head and neck obscured with dusky; chestnut of mantle obscured with dark streaking; chestnut all over much less rich than in males; pileum less strongly black, with wider rufous edgings; median wing coverts, mixed grayish and pale chestnut with dark sometimes black center streaks; much grayer and less black than in ♀ *interpres*; tail band as in ♂ but duller; long tertials more plain colored, less positively chestnut-tipped and margined; feet and tarsi as in ♂."

The immature plumages are fully described, and altogether six quarto pages are given to the description and discussion of the species.

*Geographical range.*—“America from the Arctic regions north of Hudson Bay and westward to the Mackenzie River, along the Atlantic watershed, though generally coastwise, to Patagonia and the Falkland Islands. Rare on the Pacific slope. Breeds about Hudson Bay, northward and eastward.”

*A. morinella* is stated to be smaller than *A. interpres*, with chestnut prevailing above instead of black, and with the feet orange-red instead of vermilion. *A. interpres* is mainly Old World, but extends to Alaska and Greenland, *A. morinella* being its North American representative.

*Asio accipitrinus mcilhennyi* Stone.

*Asio accipitrinus mcilhennyi* STONE, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1899, 478.

“Very much paler than specimens from Pennsylvania and have the tawny tints largely replaced by white. The lower surface is white with a slight buff suffusion in some examples, while the dark stripes on the breast average narrower than in more southern specimens. The females are slightly darker than the males. In measurements they agree pretty well with specimens from the United States.”

Type locality, Point Barrow, Alaska.

The Point Barrow specimens are regarded “as representing a distinct geographic race, probably ranging southeastward over the arctic barren grounds.”

*Cyanocitta stelleri carbonacea* Grinnell.

COAST JAY.

*Cyanocitta stelleri carbonacea* GRINNELL, Condor, II, Nov. 1900, 127.

“*Subsp. char.*—Intermediate in size and coloration between *C. stelleri* and *C. stelleri frontalis*. Dorsal surface sooty-black as in *stelleri*, but with blue on the forehead nearly as extended as in *frontalis*. Tint of blue of posterior lower parts paler than in *stelleri*, and extending further forward into pectoral region, as in *frontalis*.”

Type locality, Stevens’s Creek Cañon, Santa Clara Co., California.

*Range*, “Coast region of Oregon and California, from the Columbia River south to Monterey County.”

*Sturnella magna argutula* Bangs.

FLORIDA MEADOWLARK.

*Sturnella magna argutula* BANGS, Proc. N. Engl. Zoöl. Club, I, 20, Feb. 28, 1899.

"*Type*, from Dunedin, Hillsboro Co., Florida.

"*Subspecific characters*. — Size, much less than in true *S. magna*, though the proportions remain about the same; yellow of under parts more intense; upper parts much darker in color, the central areas of feathers being much greater in extent and the light edges much less; tail and wings darker, the barring on middle rectrices, and on secondaries, tertials and wing-coverts, much wider and more pronounced. The general effects produced by these differences are, in *S. magna magna*, a larger bird with paler yellow under parts and a lighter brown back; in *S. magna argutula* a small bird with deeper yellow under parts and a very dark brown back.

"*Size*. — Type, ♂ adult: wing, 113.4; tail, 72.6; tarsus, 41.2; exposed culmen, 35 mm. Topotype, No. 226, ♀ adult: wing 100.2; tail, 68; tarsus, 36; exposed culmen, 28.6 mm."

*Geographical Distribution*. — *S. magna argutula* reaches "its extreme differentiation in peninsular Florida," but "extends along the Gulf coast to Louisiana, and thence up the Mississippi Valley to Indiana and Illinois."

*Leucosticte kadiaka* McGregor.

*Leucosticte kadiaka* MCGREGOR, Condor, III, Jan. 1901, 8. Separates issued Nov. 25, 1900.

"*Spec. char.* — Similar to *Leucosticte griseonucha* but with smaller bill and smaller, weaker feet and claws."

Type locality, Karluk, Kadiak Island, Alaska. Known only from Kadiak Island.

*Melospiza melodia cleonensis* McGregor.

MENDOCINO SONG SPARROW.

*Melospiza melodia cleonensis* MCGREGOR, Bull. Cooper Orn. Club, I, Sept.-Oct., 1899, 87.

"*Subsp. char.* — Size of *M. m. samuelis* but lighter and more rusty; black markings of back more restricted; spots of breast broadly edged with rusty; black on side of head and neck entirely replaced by rusty reddish brown."

Type locality, Westport, Mendocino Co., California.

Range, "Coast of Mendocino County."

*Melospiza sanaka* McGregor.

*Melospiza sanaka* MCGREGOR, Condor, III, Jan. 1901, 8. Separates issued Nov. 25, 1900.

"*Sp. char.* — Similar to *Melospiza cinerea* but bill longer and more slender, middle toe with claws shorter."

Type locality, Sanak Island, Alaska.

Range, "Sanak and Popoff Islands, Alaska."

*Zamelodia melanocephala microrhyncha* Grinnell.

WESTERN BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK.

*Zamelodia melanocephala microrhyncha* GRINNELL, Condor, II, Nov. 1900, 128, figs. 1-4, bill.

"*Subsp. char.* — In both sexes, as compared with *Z. melanocephala* from southern Arizona, bill much smaller and differently proportioned; wings and tail somewhat shorter; ♂ with fore parts, rump, sides and crissum darker brown, almost tawny of Ridgway's Nomenclature of Colors; white tipping of median wing-coverts broader."

Type locality, Buckthorn Cañon, Sierra San Gabriel, Los Angeles, Co., California.

Range, "Pacific Coast region of the United States, including California, Oregon, and Washington."

*Pipilo maculatus falcifer* McGregor.

*Pipilo maculatus falcifer* MCGREGOR, Condor, II, March, 1900, 43.

"*Subspecific characters.* — Terminal white spot of outer tail feather considerably shorter (less than one inch) than in *megalonyx*; claws much longer and heavier than in *oregonus*; under tail-coverts darker than in *atratus*; rump more or less grayish, upper tail-coverts tipped with pale buff."

Type locality, Palo Alto, California.

Range, "San Francisco Bay region."

*Hirundo erythrogastra unalaschkensis* (Gmelin).

ALASKAN SWALLOW.

*Hirundo erythrogastra unalaschkensis* W. PALMER, Fur Seals and Fur-Seal Islands of the North Pacific Ocean, Pt. III, 1899, p. 422.

"Similar to *H. erythrogastra*, but larger, with longer wings and tail and relatively smaller bill; white areas of tail larger, with narrow white outer edgings to the feathers."

Seen by Mr. Palmer near the village of St. George on May 28, 1890, and at Black Bluffs, St. Paul, on June 4; nest found at Unalaska on August 13, and three young and a pair of adult birds taken there.

Mr. Palmer adopts the name *unalaschkensis* from Gmelin, Gmelin's name being based on Latham.<sup>1</sup> Latham's description is as follows:

"Length four inches and a half. Bill very short, dusky: the plumage above dull black, without gloss: beneath, and sides of the head, dusky ash-colour, the last darkest: rump dirty white: tail forked: each feather round at the end: legs dusky.

"Inhabits *Aoonalashka*." — Latham, General Synopsis of Birds, Vol. II, Pt. ii, 1783, p. 571. Described from a specimen in the Leverian Museum.

According to Sharpe (Mon. Hirundinidæ, Introd., 189 , p. xl) Gmelin's *Hirundo unalaschkensis*, "has not since been identified," and, it hardly need be added, is never likely to be. That it is not a form of *Hirundo erythrogaster* is perfectly evident. Hence if the form proves to be recognizable it will have to be rechristened, Gmelin's name being untenable in this connection

*Lanius borealis invictus* Grinnell.

NORTHWESTERN SHRIKE.

*Lanius borealis invictus* GRINNELL, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 1, Nov. 1900, 54.

"Description. — Lower surface white; foreneck, crissum and lower abdomen immaculate, otherwise distinctly and narrowly barred with varmiculate blackish markings, two such bars being discernible on each feather, upper surface (except irregularly where washed with clay color) French gray merging on rump and scapulars into whitish; superciliary stripe and brow white; lores and upper two thirds of auriculars black, excepting a faint admixture of grayish in middle of lores and next to lower eyelid. Wings and tail blackish, edged with lighter; all the tail feathers white for an inch or more at base; outer web of outer tail feather completely white, and inner web white for terminal 1.50; second feather, 1.05; third, .80; fourth, .35, and remaining two pairs only narrowly tipped with white. White patch on wing formed by white bases of primaries; secondaries tipped with whitish."

Differs from *Lanius borealis* in "larger size, paler coloration dorsally, and greater extent of white markings."

Type locality, Kowak River, Alaska. Range, in summer, "Alaska, thus

---

<sup>1</sup> *Hirundo unalaschkensis* GMELIN, Syst. Nat. I, 1788, 1025. Based on "Aoonalashka Swallow. Latham, syn. II, 2, p. 571, n. 15."

restricting true *borealis* to the eastern portion of North America. In winter *invictus* comes south as far as the northwestern United States." A specimen is recorded from Quincy, California, and another from Lac Qui Parle County, Minnesota.

*Parus rufescens barlowi* Grinnell.

BARLOW'S CHICADEE.

*Parus rufescens barlowi* GRINNELL, Condor, Nov. 1900, 127.

"*Subsp. char.*— Similar to *P. rufescens neglectus*, but the sides pure smoked gray without a trace of rusty."

Type locality, Stevens's Creek Cañon, Santa Clara Co., California.

Range, "Coast Range of California south from San Francisco Bay to Monterey County."

*Chamæa fasciata intermedia* Grinnell.

INTERMEDIATE WREN-TIT.

*Chamæa fasciata intermedia* GRINNELL, Condor, II, July, 1900, 86.

*Description.*— Back and upper tail-coverts sepia, shading into hair brown on nape and top of head. Lores and small spots on upper and lower eyelids pale gray. Throat and breast cinnamon rufous, fading posteriorly into pale vinaceous cinnamon on middle of belly. Feathers on breast with faint dusky shaft-streaks. Sides, flanks and lower tail-coverts brownish olive. Under wing-coverts and axillars pale vinaceous cinnamon. Wings and tail clove brown, the feathers with slightly paler edgings."

Type locality, Palo Alto, Santa Clara Co., California. Range, "the San Francisco Bay region."

Intermediate in characters, as in geographical range, between *C. fasciata* and *C. fasciata phæa*.

*Merula migratoria achrustera* Batchelder.

*Merula migratoria achrustera* BATCHELDER, Proc. N. Engl. Zoöl. Club, I, 104, March 6, 1900.

"*Type*, from Raleigh, North Carolina, ♂ ad., No. 6433, Coll. C. F. Batchelder, taken June 8, 1894, by H. H. and C. S. Brimley.

"*Subspecific characters.*— Size considerably less than in *M. migratoria*. Colors in general much lighter and duller.

"Adult male in breeding season: whole top and sides of head and nape dull black, wing-coverts and rump dull gray, tinged with olive brown

rather than ashy, feathers of the back having hardly ever any trace of the black central markings often shown by *migratoria*. Remiges dark olive brown, lighter and browner than in *migratoria*. Throat white, streaked with black, the streaks fewer, smaller, and less intensely black than in *migratoria*. Breast, sides, axillars, and most of the under wing-coverts light reddish brown of a slightly deeper shade than 'tawny ochraceous' of Ridgway, whereas in *migratoria* these parts range from Ridgway's 'cinnamon-rufous' nearly to his 'burnt sienna.' Feathers of the belly partly of the color of the breast, partly white. Flanks, legs and under tail-coverts white, mixed with gray.

"The differences between the females of the two forms are so closely parallel to those of the males that a description of them is unnecessary."

The measurements given show the southern form to be considerably smaller than the northern.

*Geographical range.*—"Probably all the Robins breeding in the Carolinas and Georgia, outside of the mountain region of these States, will prove to belong to the new form, while those that pass the summer among the mountains, and in the low country of the adjacent region to the north may be expected to be variously intermediate between it and true *migratoria*."

---

## NEW SUBSPECIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

BY WILFRED H. OSGOOD.

IN identifying birds collected while working in the interests of the Biological Survey, on the coast of British Columbia and Alaska during the past season, comparisons have been made which have led to the discovery of several well marked undescribed subspecies. Several of these which do not come within the scope of special reports now in preparation are here described. For the freedom of the Biological Survey and the National Museum collections, and for generous criticism, I am indebted to Dr. C. Hart Merriam and Mr. Robert Ridgway. For the loan of specimens I thank Mr. Joseph Grinnell and Mr. F. H. Fowler of Palo Alto, California.



Allen, J. A. 1901. "Republication of Descriptions of New Species and Subspecies of North American Birds. No. II." *The Auk* 18, 172–179.  
<https://doi.org/10.2307/4069504>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54098>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.2307/4069504>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/89437>

**Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

**Sponsored by**

Smithsonian

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.