

Chars. subsp.—Similar to *Catherpes mexicanus polioptilus*, but decidedly darker above, and of smaller size.

Type locality.—Forest Hill, Placer County, California.

Geographical distribution.—California (excepting the southeastern part), Oregon, and southern Washington (Almota).

Catherpes mexicanus conspersus Ridgway.

Catherpes mexicanus var. *conspersus* RIDGWAY, Amer. Nat. VII, Oct. 1873, p. 602.

Chars. subsp.—Resembling *Catherpes mexicanus polioptilus*, but smaller (except the bill); paler and more rufescent above, particularly on the head.

Type locality.—Fort Churchill (southeast of Wadsworth), Nevada.

Geographical distribution.—Wyoming and Colorado, west to Nevada and southeastern California.

Average millimeter measurements of males of the five forms of *Catherpes* are as follows :

| No. of specim's | Name | Wing | Tail | Exposed culmen | Tarsus | Middle Toe |
|--------------------|--|------|------|-------------------|--------|---------------|
| 5 | <i>Catherpes mexicanus mexicanus</i> | 65.8 | 56.2 | 22.2 | 19.7 | 15.1 |
| 2 | <i>Catherpes mexicanus albifrons</i> | 62.8 | 53.8 | 24.3 | 18.5 | 14.3 |
| 5 | <i>Catherpes mexicanus polioptilus</i> | 63.4 | 54.6 | 20.7 | 19.1 | 13.7 |
| 5 | <i>Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus</i> | 59.9 | 50.4 | 19.1 | 18.3 | 13.6 |
| 5 | <i>Catherpes mexicanus conspersus</i> | 59.6 | 52.1 | 20.4 | 17.5 | 13.2 |

A SYNOPSIS OF THE GENUS *PSALTRIPARUS*.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

THE genus *Psaltriparus*, though by Dr. Gadow not considered separable from *Acredula*,¹ is, nevertheless, an easily recognizable group. As commonly accepted it comprises the few small species of Paridæ treated below.

¹ Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., VIII, 1883, p. 54.

Psaltriparus Bonaparte.

Psaltriparus BONAPARTE, Compt. Rend. XXXI, 1850, p. 478.

Psaltrites CABANIS, Journ. f. Orn. 1881, p. 333 (nom. emend. pro *Psaltriparus*).

Type.—*Psaltriparus personatus* Bonaparte; = *Parus melanotis* Hartlaub.

Range. — Guatemala, Mexico, and the western United States.

Psaltriparus melanotis melanotis (Hartlaub).

Parus melanotis HARTLAUB, Rev. Zool. 1844, p. 216.

Psaltriparus personatus BONAPARTE, Compt. Rend. XXXI, 1850, p. 478.

Psaltrites helviventris CABANIS, Journ. f. Orn. 1881, p. 333, pl. iv, fig. 1.

Type locality.— Mexico (southern part).

Geographical distribution.— Guatemala, and southern Mexico north at least to Hidalgo and Michoacan.

The black sides of the head and the rich brown color of the back serve readily to distinguish this form from all others of the genus. The bird described by Cabanis as *Psaltrites helviventris*,¹ from Western Mexico, interrogatively Tehuantepec, though sometimes synonymized with *Psaltriparus plumbeus*, is undoubtedly the female of *P. melanotis*.

Psaltriparus melanotis iulus Jouy.

Psaltriparus melanotis iulus JOUY, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. XVI, 1894, p. 776.

Type locality.— Hacienda El Molino, Jalisco, Mexico.

Geographical distribution.— Jalisco, with probably north central Mexico.

Similar to *P. melanotis*, but the back paler, as are also the lower parts.

Psaltriparus melanotis lloydi (Sennett).

Psaltriparus lloydi SENNETT, Auk, V, Jan. 1888, p. 43.

Psaltriparus santaritæ RIDGWAY, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. X, September, 1888, p. 697.

¹ Loc. cit.

Type locality. — Limpia Cañon, near Fort Davis, Texas.

Geographical distribution. — Southwestern Texas, southern New Mexico, southern Arizona, and northern Mexico.

Resembles *P. m. iulus*, but the back is almost clear plumbeous instead of light brown. Specimens from northern Mexico (Chihuahua) show intergradation with *iulus*, so that *P. lloydi* must be considered a subspecies of *P. melanotis*.

Adult males of *lloydi* are of course distinguishable at a glance from the very distinct *Psaltriparus plumbeus*, but females and young require to be examined more closely. The adult female of the former differs from both sexes of *plumbeus* in having a distinct blackish streak along each side of the head above the auriculars. Young males present generally a greater contrast between the color of the head and back than is seen in *plumbeus*, and, furthermore, nearly always have, even when very young, some black or blackish brown on the sides of the head or neck, with often a narrow black or blackish collar on the hind neck, — this, however, frequently incomplete or partially obscured. Young females have but very slight indication of blackish on the sides of the head, sometimes none, in which latter condition they cannot with certainty be separated from *plumbeus*.

The type of Mr. Ridgway's *Psaltriparus santarita* is an immature male of *lloydi*, as a careful examination shows, and it can be easily matched by young male specimens from any part of the range of the latter.

Psaltriparus plumbeus (Baird).

Psaltria plumbea BAIRD, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. June, 1854, p. 118.

Type locality. — Little Colorado River, Arizona.

Geographical distribution. — Western Texas to eastern California, north to eastern Oregon and western Wyoming.

Psaltriparus minimus minimus (Townsend).

Parus minimus TOWNSEND, Journ. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. VII, pt. ii, 1837, p. 190.

Type locality. — Columbia River.

Geographical distribution. — Pacific coast region, from San Francisco Bay, California, to Washington.

The darkest specimens come from the state of Washington. Those from the northern coast of California, particularly near San Francisco Bay, are intermediate between *minimus* and *californicus*.

***Psaltriparus minimus californicus* Ridgway.**

Psaltriparus minimus californicus RIDGWAY, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. II, 1884, p. 89.

Type locality. — Baird, Shasta County, California.

Geographical distribution. — California, excepting the northern coast region; northern Lower California.

Lighter colored than true *P. minimus*, and apparently a good form. We therefore can see no reason for the suppression of the name *californicus*, which Mr. Grinnell has recently sought to accomplish.¹

***Psaltriparus grindæ* Ridgway.**

Psaltriparus grindæ RIDGWAY, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. VI, 1883, p. 155 (Belding MS.).

Type locality. — Laguna, Lower California.

Geographical distribution. — Southern part of Lower California.

This bird seems to be specifically distinct from *Psaltriparus minimus*, as Mr. Brewster has recently stated.²

The name, moreover, should be credited to Ridgway instead of Belding, to conform to the present treatment of manuscript names.²

¹ Pac. Coast Avifauna, No. 3, 1902, p. 72.

² Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., XLI, 1902, p. 205.



Oberholser, Harry C. 1903. "A Synopsis of the Genus *Psaltiriparus*." *The Auk* 20, 198–201. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4069837>.

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