

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW BLUE GROSBEAK FROM CALIFORNIA.

BY JOSEPH GRINNELL.

Early in 1910 an expedition was sent by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California to the lower Colorado valley, in California and Arizona. While working up the extensive collection of birds obtained, my attention was arrested by the appearance of the blue grosbeaks from that region. Their bills are uniformly very much larger than those of the form previously familiar to me and occurring in summer on the Pacific slope of southern and central California. Examination of specimens and literature shows that the large-billed form is the one already designated and that it is the bird of western California that needs to be named.

Guiraca caerulea salicarius subsp. nov.

CALIFORNIA BLUE GROSBEAK.

Type.—No. 3276, Univ. Calif. Mus. Vert. Zool.; Santa Ana River bottom, near Colton, San Bernardino Co., Calif.; July 21, 1908; C. H. Richardson, Jr., collector.

Diagnostic characters.—Similar to *Guiraca caerulea lazula*, of Arizona and Mexico, in coloration and general size, but bill much smaller and proportionally less tumid, that is, outlines straighter; compared with *Guiraca caerulea caerulea* of the South Atlantic States, blue color of the male paler throughout, bill smaller, and wing and tail longer.

Measurements of type.—Wing, 90.7 mm.; tail, 72.6; tarsus, 20.0; culmen, 15.0; bill-from-nostril, 11.4; depth of bill at base, 11.9; gonys, 9.5; greatest outside width of corneous portion of lower mandible, 10.4.

Habitat.—In summer, the Lower Sonoran zone of central and southern California west of the Sierran divide; in winter, unknown.

Remarks.—This form was characterized, but not named, by Ridgway (Birds N. & Mid. Am., I, 1901, p. 610). It is paralleled in many other passerine genera of the southwest, and since the characters are conspicuous to the trained eye and are fairly constant, the only wonder is that the race has not been provided with a name before.



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