

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF CONTOPUS FROM TROPICAL AMERICA.

By **ROBERT RIDGWAY.**

Contopus pileatus, sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Above uniform olive-gray or hair-brown, the feathers abruptly ash-gray beneath the surface. Entire pileum dull sooty brown, much darker than the back, and in marked though not abrupt contrast with the ash-gray of the postocular region and sides of occiput. Lores and suborbital region dusky, like pileum, but passing gradually into a lighter sooty grayish on the auriculars. Lower parts brownish gray, paler on the chin and upper part of the throat, the abdomen dull buffy whitish, the lower tail-coverts dull white with very pale brown central cuneate spots. Wing coverts with barely perceptible paler margins; secondaries more distinctly edged with pale grayish, or grayish white; primaries blackish brown or dusky, without perceptible lighter edges. Tail even, uniform hair-brown. Wing 3.00, 2d and 3d primaries longest, 4th next, the 2d shorter than the 5th; tail 2.80, culmen .55, width of bill at base .30, tarsus .60, middle toe .32.

Hab. ignot., but probably some portion of Tropical America.

Type in American Museum of Natural History, New York City.

The type specimen of this new species has been compared directly with examples of fifteen of the sixteen known species of the genus, but does not correspond at all with any of them. The only two which it in the least resembles are *C. ardesiacus* (Lafr.) and *C. richardsoni* (Aud.). The former, however, is very much larger and altogether darker in general coloration, while the latter is also decidedly larger, with emarginate tail, the colors much more olivaceous above and paler beneath. Apart from its peculiar proportions (being the smallest member of the genus), the new species is distinguished by its quite marked sooty gray cap, the absence of light edgings to the wing-coverts, and the very uniform light ash-gray color of the breast, jugulum, sides of head and neck, and sides.

Unfortunately nothing is known as to the locality or origin of the type specimen, the only example I have seen.

NOTE ON THE ANSER LEUCOPAREIUS OF BRANDT.

By **ROBERT RIDGWAY.**

Much confusion has hitherto existed regarding the white-cheeked geese of North America, among which there are variations of size probably unequaled in any other bird in the feral state. At least four very strongly characterized forms exist, which perhaps represent two distinct species, each with a larger and a smaller race. These forms have been

usually known by the names of *Bernicla* (or *Branta*) *canadensis*, *B. hutchinsi*, *B. leucopareia*, and *B. occidentalis*, and under these names, the last three of which, however, are united as trinomials to *canadensis*, they are treated in detail in the recently published Water Birds of North America, Vol. I, pp. 455-467. More recent investigations, however, made in conjunction with Dr. Stejneger, and with considerable additional material, have resulted in the discovery of certain facts which render some corrections necessary. These are the following:

(1) *Anser leucopareius* of Brandt is an exact synonym of *Anser hutchinsi*, Swains. & Rich.

(2) *Bernicla leucopareia* Baird (B. N. Am., 1858, pp. xlix, 765) is the same as that author's *B. occidentalis*, the latter name having been given in the text, under *B. leucopareia*, on p. 766, as a provisional name, on account of a suspicion that the bird might not be the *A. leucopareius* of Brandt.

From consideration of these facts it appears that the very small form breeding in western Alaska and migrating south to California in winter is not the *Anser leucopareius* of Brandt nor the *Bernicla leucopareia* of Baird, and that it requires a name. I accordingly propose for it the specific name *minima*, on account of its very small size, some specimens being less even than the brant, and the average size about the same as in that species. Its principal synonymy and characters are as follows:

+ *Branta minima*, sp. nov. Little Cackling Goose.

Bernicla leucopareia, CASS. Illustr. B. Cal. Tex., &c., 1853, 272, pl. 45, nec *Anser leucopareius*, BRANDT. (California.)

Branta canadensis, var. *leucopareia*, COUES, in Elliott's "Affairs in Alaska," 1875, 190; not of Key, 1872, p. 284, which = *B. occidentalis*, BAIRD. (Prybilov Islands.)

Bernicla canadensis leucoparia, RIDGW. Nom. N. Am. B., 1881, No. 594 b.—COUES, 2d Check List, 1882, No. 703; 2d Key, 1884, 689.

Bernicla canadensis, d. *leucopareia*, B. B. & R. Water B. N. Am., I. 1884, 456, 459.

SP. CHAR.—Similar to *B. occidentalis*, Baird, but very much smaller. Differing from *B. hutchinsi* in smaller size, especially the bill, and much darker coloration. White cheek-patches usually separated by a black stripe or spotting on the throat, and lower part of neck encircled by a more or less distinct white collar. Lower parts dark grayish brown, abruptly defined against the white of the anal region. Wing, 13.60-14.25; culmen, 0.95-1.12; depth of bill at base, .60-.70; width, .52-.55; tarsus, 2.40-2.60; middle toe, 1.90-1.95; rectrices, 16.

Habitat.—Pacific coast of North America, breeding abundantly about the Yukon delta and contiguous shores of Norton Sound, and migrating south in winter to California.