

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW CLIFF SWALLOW FROM TEXAS.

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Mr. Ridgway has called my attention to certain differences characterizing the cliff swallow of southwestern Texas, which differences seem to warrant its subspecific separation. It may therefore be known as

***Petrochelidon lunifrons tachina*, subsp. nov.**

Chars. subsp..—Similar to *Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*, but decidedly smaller, the forehead ochraceous instead of cream color.

Description..—Type, adult male, No. 168,271, U. S. N. M., Biological Survey Collection; Langtry, Texas, April 26, 1901; H. C. Oberholser. Upper surface dark steel green, the forehead ochraceous, the rump rufous, the hind neck with a narrow collar of light brownish gray, succeeded anteriorly by an imperfect one of chestnut; wings and tail fuscous, with a greenish gloss, the innermost secondaries (tertials) and primary coverts with margins of pale grayish; chin, cheeks, and auriculars. continuous with the collar, chestnut; center of throat steel green; breast, and sides of throat and neck behind the chestnut, dull light brownish, the first with a strong ochraceous tinge; remainder of ventral surface white, with the sides and lower tail-coverts pale fuscous, the anal region ochraceous.

Length of wing (type), 104 mm.; tail, 45 mm.; exposed culmen, 7 mm.; tarsus, 11.5 mm.

Although seemingly most like true *P. lunifrons*, the bird above described is intermediate between *lunifrons* and *melanogastra*, approaching

in size very close to the latter. In respect to the color of the forehead, as well, its aberration from *lunifrons* is in the direction of *melanogastra*, with which also it may be found to intergrade. After due allowance has been made for individual variation which, however, does not exist to an unusual degree, the characters exhibited by this new race seem to be very constant, at least in the considerable series available for examination.

Apparently all the breeding cliff swallows of southwestern Texas ought to be referred to *tachina*, the range of which extends thence into eastern Mexico as far at least as Vera Cruz.

The following average measurements of the three forms of *Petrochelidon* here concerned have been kindly furnished by Mr. Ridgway. They relate to males, and are in millimeters.

No. of Specimens	Name	Wing	Tail	Exposed Culmen	Tarsus	Middle Toe
17	<i>Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons</i>	108.6	49.4	7.2	12.6	12.2
7	<i>Petrochelidon lunifrons tachina</i>	102.1	45.3	7.6	12.1	12.1
8	<i>Petrochelidon melanogastra</i>	103.	46.4	6.8	12.	11.