

Nest a somewhat compressed compact mass composed externally of dried weed- and grass-stalks and dead leaves, many of the latter partially skeletonized; internally composed of rather fine weed- and grass-stalks, lined with black fibres, apparently dead threads of the black pendant lichens (*Ramalina*, species?) which hang in beard-like tufts from button-bushes (*Cephalanthus*) and other shrubs growing in wetter portions of the western bottom-lands. The height of the nest is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; its greatest breadth is about 4 inches, its width in the opposite direction being about 3 inches. The cavity is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep and $1\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ inches wide.

The eggs are of very regular ovate form, and entirely pure white in color, their measurements being as follows:—No. 1, 0.63×0.48 ; No. 2, 0.64×0.49 ; No. 3, 0.63×0.49 . — ROBERT RIDGWAY.]

PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW BIRDS FROM MEXICO AND ARIZONA.

BY FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

THE material on which the following descriptions are based was in part secured by the writer during April, 1897. The relationships of the forms here described will be discussed more fully in a subsequent paper. Thanks are due Dr. C. W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of the Department of Birds, U. S. National Museum, for the loan of specimens of *Coccothraustes* and *Spinus*.

Contopus pertinax pallidiventris, subsp. nov.

Chars. subsp. — Similar to *Contopus pertinax* Cab. but with the under parts, especially the centre of the abdomen, whiter, the upper parts paler, the crown of practically the same color as the back. Wing, 4.48; tail, 3.51; tar., 62; ex. cul., 72.

Type. — Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 29007, ♂ ad., Pima County, Arizona. Collected by W. E. D. Scott, April 22, 1885.

Cabanis's type of *pertinax* was from 'Jalapa,' but it is doubtful if the species breeds in the immediate vicinity of that city.

However, specimens taken at Jalapa agree with others taken at Las Vigas, where they were evidently preparing to breed.

***Coccothraustes vespertinus mexicanus*, subsp. nov.**

Hesperiphona vespertina var. *montana* B. B. & R., N. A. Bds., I, 1875, p. 449 (in part).

Coccothraustes vespertina montana MEARNS, Auk, VII, 1890, p. 246 (in part).

Char. subsp.—Slightly smaller than *Coccothraustes vespertinus montanus*, the male with the yellow frontal band narrower, the female with the under parts more buffy. Wing, 4.50; tail, 2.64; tar., .75; ex. cul., .75 in.

Type.—Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 68480, ♂ ad., Las Vigas, Vera Cruz, Mexico. Alt., 8000 feet. Collected by Mateo Trujillo and Frank M. Chapman, April 24, 1897.

The characters distinguishing this race have in part been commented on by previous writers¹ who, however, deemed them insufficient to warrant its recognition, but on comparing four adult males and four adult females from Mexico with over sixty specimens of *Coccothraustes vespertinus* and *C. v. montanus*, I have no hesitancy in describing the Mexican bird as a new form.

A young male but a few days from the nest, being fed by an adult male, was taken at Las Vigas, April 21, where the bird doubtless breeds, therefore, early in March.

***Spinus pinus macroptera* (Du Bus).**

"*Carduelis macroptera* DUBUS, Esq. Orn. t. 23;" BONAP. Consp. Av. I, 1850, p. 515.

Char. subsp.—Similar to *spinus pinus* but larger, less heavily streaked below, and with yellow of wings and tail of greater extent. Wing, 3.12; tail, 1.98; tar., .52; ex. cul., .42 in.

Type.—Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 68481, ♂ ad., Las Vigas, Vera Cruz, Mexico. Alt., 8000 feet, collected by Frank M. Chapman, April 20, 1897.

I have not seen Du Bus's description but the description by Bonaparte is sufficient to fix the name of this well-marked race. At the time of my visit males were in full song and evidently mating.

¹ Cf. Baird, Brewer and Ridgway and Mearns, *l. c.*