

PROCEEDINGS
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DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW BIRDS FROM CANADA.

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While working up the collection of birds taken on the 1911 Alpine Club of Canada's expedition to Jasper Park, Yellowhead Pass, and the Mount Robson region, the following birds have been found to be apparently unnamed and are herewith described.

Lagopus lagopus ungvavus subsp. nov.

Type, U. S. National Museum, No. 101,068, adult male, Ft. Chimo, Ungava, July 22, 1884. Collected by L. M. Turner (original No. 5823).

Like *Lagopus lagopus albus*, but with a heavier bill. Measurement of type: Wing, 205; tail, 128; culmen, 21.5; depth of bill at base, 15.

Remarks.—Leaving out of consideration *Lagopus lagopus alexandrae*, which is recognized as a perfectly distinct form, I have gone over the same ground as Mr. A. H. Clark,* with some additional material, and reached the following conclusions: That the name *Lagopus lagopus lagopus* should be restricted to the small-billed European bird and that the bird from the west side of Hudson Bay should be known as *Lagopus lagopus albus*.† Specimens from the mountains of western Alberta and eastern British Columbia are slightly smaller than birds from Hudson Bay and northern Alaska. There appear to be no color differences except in *Lagopus lagopus alexandrae*, which is darker. In my opinion, the willow ptarmigans of the North American mainland can be separated into at least three recognizable races, as follows:

1. *Lagopus lagopus alexandrae* Grinnell, from the southwest coast of Alaska.
2. *Lagopus lagopus albus* Gmelin, from the west side of Hudson Bay, west through northern Alaska to eastern Siberia.
3. *Lagopus lagopus ungvavus* subsp. nov., from Ungava and probably the eastern shore of Hudson Bay south.

* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 38, No. 1727, April 30, 1910, 51.

† [*Tetrao*] *albus* Gmelin, Sys. Nat., I, pt. 2, 750.

The average measurements of a series of willow ptarmigans taken in the breeding season, except *Lagopus lagopus alexandra*, from the various parts of its range are as follows:

	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Depth of Bill
One male, Norway	177	97.5	17	11
Ten males, Ungava	197	121.9	20.9	13.5
Five males, west side Hudson Bay	200.6	126.7	19.1	11.8
Eight males, mountains Alberta and B. C.	188.9	118.8	18.5	12.2
Six males, northern Alaska	196.8	119.9	18.9	12.8
One male, Lake Iliamna, Alaska	195.5	111	18.5	12
One male, Petropaulski, Kamchatka	204	125.5	20	
Ten females, Ungava	179	110	19.3	12.9
Three females, west side Hudson Bay	191.2	116.7	18.3	10.8
Seven females, mts. Alberta and B. C.	174.6	96.8	16.5	11.1

***Melospiza melodia inexpectata* subsp. nov.**

Type, U. S. National Museum, No. 222,829, adult female, three miles east of Moose Lake, British Columbia, August 21, 1911. Collected by J. H. Riley (original number 2268).

Similar to *Melospiza melodia rufina*, but the browns of the upper parts lacking the reddish tinge, thus giving to the back a gray cast; below not so heavily streaked; averaging smaller. Measurement of type: Wing, 65; tail, 63.5; culmen, 12; tarsus, 22; middle toe, 15.5.

Remarks.—This race is founded on four specimens, as follows: the type and a young male still in the juvenile plumage from the type locality; one adult female from Henry House, Alberta, September 14, 1911; and an adult female from near Telegraph Creek (25 miles east, near Buckley Lake), British Columbia, July 26, 1910, the latter specimen taken by E. A. Preble and in the Biological Survey Collection. Average of the three adult females: Wing, 63.8; tail, 60.3; culmen, 12; tarsus, 21.3; middle toe, 15.7. Average of three adult females of *Melospiza melodia rufina* from the Sitkan District taken at about the same season of the year: Wing, 67; tail, 63.8; culmen, 12.8; tarsus, 22.8; middle toe, 16.

One of the interesting results of our trip was the discovery of this song sparrow, which instead of resembling *Melospiza melodia merrilli*, as one would naturally suppose, is more nearly related to the Pacific Coast bird. Its range is probably the interior mountain valleys from northern British Columbia at least, south to Henry House, Alberta, and in migration probably further. The bird taken at Henry House may have been a migrant, but the type was probably a breeding bird as the young male taken at the same locality seems to indicate.

***Passerella iliaca altivagans* subsp. nov.**

Type, U. S. National Museum, No. 222,832, nearly adult male, Moose Branch of the Smoky River, Alberta (about 7000 feet altitude), July 31, 1911. Collected by J. H. Riley (original number, 2175).

Similar to *Passerella iliaca schistacea*, but middle of the back more brown instead of mouse gray; wings and tail with more red in the brown (near burnt umber). Measurement of type: Wing, 81.5; tail, 76; culmen, 11.5; tarsus, 21; middle toe, 14.5.

Remarks.—This race is founded on two slightly immature birds from the type locality; an immature male from Moose Pass, British Columbia; and an immature specimen from Thudade Lake (source of Finlay River), British Columbia. An adult male from Columbia Falls, Montana, September 24, 1896; an adult male and female, Ft. Klamath, Oregon, April 9 and 28, 1883; and an adult female, Ft. Crook, California, April 12, 1860, all in the collection of the U. S. National Museum, are apparently migrants of this form. They differ from the type in having the upper parts more rusty, but from typical *Passerella iliaca schistacea*, to which they have been referred, they are quite distinct, having the mouse gray of the upper parts of that race replaced by broccoli brown and burnt umber and the spotting of the under parts prout's brown, not sepia. Apparently there is no difference in size.

