

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW BULLFINCH FROM CHINA.

BY J. H. RILEY.*

Mr. George D. Wilder, of Peking, China, has presented to the U. S. National Museum a small bullfinch captured in the wooded mountains of Chili Province, China. It apparently represents an isolated race of *Pyrrhula erythaca*, which I take pleasure in naming after the donor :

Pyrrhula erythaca wilderi, subsp. nov.

Type, adult female, U. S. National Museum, No. 254,074, Eastern Hills about sixty miles east of Peking, China, February, 1917. Collected by George D. Wilder (original No. 419).

Similar to *Pyrrhula erythaca* Blyth, but smaller, with black facial mask more restricted, the lighter border of the facial mask almost obsolete, the lighter tips to the greater coverts narrower, and the dark band across the lower back less pronounced and lighter in color.

Description.—A narrow band surrounding the bill and running back around the eye and slightly further as a postocular streak, black; a narrow band bordering the black on the forehead and below the eye, smoke gray; top of head, cervix, sides of neck, auriculars, and upper back, neutral gray; back and scapulars, wood brown; a band across the lower back, deep neutral gray; rump, white; upper tail coverts, tail, and primaries, black with steely blue reflections; alula, lesser, middle, and primary wing-coverts, deep neutral gray; greater wing-coverts, black, tipped rather broadly with drab and the outer feathers narrowly edged at the tip with white, forming a wing-bar; chest drab; flanks cinnamon-drab; middle of belly, under tail-coverts, and under wing-coverts, white. Wing, 73.5 (85); tail, 53 (65.5); culmen, 8.5 (10.5) mm.

Remarks.—I have given the measurements of a female specimen of *Pyrrhula e. erythaca* from Szechuan Province in parenthesis for comparison.

* Published with the permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

Pyrrhula erythaca Blyth* was described from the Himalayas of Sikhim, whence it ranges into western Szechuan and Kansu Provinces, China. The race above described seems to be widely separated, geographically, from the remainder of the species and additional material may prove it to be worthy of specific rank.

Mr. Wilder has sent the following note on the habitat of this new form: "It is a fine wooded hill country of some four thousand square miles, the only good forest country in this province and it is being rapidly cut and burned. This forest is about sixty miles east of Peking, in mountains that are clothed with pine at the tops and with thin growths of oak, elm, wild pear, etc., on the lower hills. The hunter [who brought this specimen] reported that the birds come every winter but he has brought none this year."

* *Ibis*, 1862, 389.