

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW NORTH AMERICAN DUCK

BY WHARTON HUBER

While collecting ducks south of Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, New Mexico, during the winter and spring of 1915, I noticed numbers of very dark individuals in the flocks of Mallards flying over the sloughs and along the Rio Grande River; while during April and May these ducks were generally seen in pairs.

Upon making inquiries I find these ducks to be fairly common, especially during the late spring and early fall; they are however, just as plentiful during the winter months but are lost sight of in the large flocks of ducks that make their winter home in the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico.

A careful study of specimens secured seem to indicate that the bird in question is an undescribed member of the Black Duck group and may be described as follows.

My thanks are due to the following for assistance rendered in preparing this paper: Dr. Witmer Stone, Mr. E. W. Nelson, Dr. H. C. Oberholser, Dr. C. W. Richmond and Mr. J. H. Riley.

Anas novimexicana NEW MEXICAN DUCK

Description: Type No. 1928. Collection of Wharton Huber. Adult male; along the Rio Grande River west of Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, New Mexico.

May 7, 1915; Wharton Huber. Forehead and top of head black streaked with pinkish buff. Auriculars and sides of neck pinkish buff streaked with black. Throat pinkish buff unstreaked. Breast black margined and mottled with cinnamon; turning to vinaceous buff on abdomen. Under-tail coverts essentially black edged with grayish-white, the outer edges of the feathers margined with cinnamon-rufous. Flanks black-edged and internally streaked with cinnamon and vinaceous-buff. Back, rump and upper-tail coverts black streaked and margined with cinnamon and vinaceous-buff. Primaries mummy brown, darker on the outer webs. Under wing coverts white. Speculum dark dull bluish-violet bordered by a black band then a white band. Bill in life, pyrite yellow. Nail black. Feet and legs in life, Grenadine orange.

The fall plumage is much darker and the edgings of the feather smuch deeper cinnamon. The feathers of the throat are streaked with black.

Measurements: Type; length, 545 mm.; wing, 279; tail 94; exposed culmen, 55; tarsus, 46.

Male, 1786. Coll. Wharton Huber, Mesilla Dam, three miles southwest of Mesilla, New Mexico, April 12, 1915; length, 541 mm.; wing 275; tail, 92; exposed culmen, 57; tarsus, 47.

Male, Belen, New Mexico, December 9, 1917. Collected by Aldo Leopold; length, 550 mm.; wing, 278; tail, 89; exposed culmen, 51; tarsus, 48.

Measurements of three specimens (skins) including the type in mm.

	Length	Wing	Tail	Ex Culmen	Tarsus
Type No. 1928—Adult Male. Along Rio Grande River, west of Las Cruces, New Mexico, May 7, 1915. Coll. by Wharton Huber.....	545	279	94	55	46
No. 1786—Male. Mesilla Dam, 3 miles s. w. of Mesilla, Dona Ana Co., New Mexico, April 12, 1915. Coll. by Wharton Huber.....	541	275	92	57	47
Male. Belen, New Mexico, Dec. 9, 1917. Coll. by Aldo Leopold.....	550	278	89	51	48

*The names of the color used are from Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature."

Habitat: The Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico from Albuquerque south to El Paso, Texas.

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FIFTH ANNUAL LIST OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE A. O. U. CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

THIS is the Fifth Annual List of Proposed A. O. U. Check-List additions and changes in the names of North American birds. Like the First, Second, Third, and Fourth,¹ the present list comprises only ornithological cases—*i. e.*, such as require specimens or the identification of descriptions for their determination—and consists of additions, eliminations, rejections, and changes of names due to various causes. However, only changes known to be the result of revisionary work are included; therefore no mention is here made of changes involved in names in local lists or

¹ For the four previous lists, see THE AUK, XXXIII, October, 1916, pp. 425-431; XXXIV, April, 1917, pp. 198-205; XXXV, April, 1918, pp. 200-217; XXXVI, April, 1919, pp. 266-273. The A. O. U. Committee has not as yet acted on any of these cases.