

DESCRIPTIONS OF SEVERAL NEW SPECIES AND GEOGRAPHICAL RACES OF BIRDS CONTAINED IN THE COLLECTION OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

RHODINOCICHLA ROSEA.

Specimens of this species from Western Mexico, while agreeing with Central American ones in the color of the throat, breast, etc., differ very conspicuously in their upper plumage, which is a clear slate-color, the flanks almost cinereous instead of dusky black. This difference is entirely constant in the four specimens before me, compared with five of the typical form. The Northern form being unnamed, it may be characterized as follows:—

*Rhodinocichla rosea*,  $\beta$ . *schistacea* (Ridgw. MS.).

CH.—Above clear slate-color, the wings darker, with paler, nearly cinereous edges to the feathers; lores and auriculars dark slate; entire sides clear slate, becoming more ashy on the flanks. *Adult male*: A continuous superciliary stripe, the anterior half of which is intense rose-red, the posterior half rosy-white; chin, throat, malar region, middle of the jugulum, breast, and abdomen, and the whole crissum, pure, beautiful rose-red, most intense on the jugulum, narrower and paler on the abdomen; edge of the wing and anterior lesser coverts also pure rose-red; lining of the wing partly grayish-white. *Adult female*: Similar, but the red replaced by rich, tawny rufous, the middle of the abdomen whitish. Bill horn-yellowish, the maxilla mostly dusky; iris red (Xantus, MS.) or brown (Grayson, MS.); feet dark horn-color. Length, 8.25; wing, 3.45–3.60; tail, 3.75–3.90; bill, from nostril, .60–.65; tarsus, 1.00; middle toe, .70–.75. *Hab.*—Western Mexico (Sierra Madre of Colima, Xantus; Rio Mazatlan, Grayson).

The distinctive characters of the two forms may be contrasted as follows:—

- a. rosea.*—Upper parts, sides, and flanks sooty-black, the flanks scarcely paler. Wing, 3.25–3.45; tail, 3.40–3.80; bill, from nostril, .52–.60; tarsus, 1.00–1.10; middle toe, .70–.80. *Hab.*—Central America (Panama; Veragua).
- $\beta$ . schistacea.*—Upper parts, sides, and flanks clear slate-color, the flanks almost cinereous. Wing, 3.45–3.60; tail, 3.75–3.90; bill, from nostril, .60–.65; tarsus, 1.00; middle toe, .70–.75. *Hab.*—Western Mexico.

In *R. schistacea*, the red is very slightly paler than in *R. rosea*, but the difference can be appreciated only on close comparison; the rufous in the female, however, is equally deep. The number of tail-feathers is occasionally 13, this being the number possessed by specimen 30,160. A note on the label of Colonel Grayson's male specimen is to the effect that the species is "a superb singer".

*a. rosca.*

53911	U. S . . . . .	♂ ad.	Panama . . . . .		3.45	3.80	0.60	1.00	0.70
45626	U. S . . . . .	♂ ad.	Veragua (Santa Fé) . . . . .		3.35	3.70	0.55	1.05	0.75
.....	R. R . . . . .	♂ ad.	do . . . . .		3.45	3.80	0.60	1.10	0.80
53910	U. S . . . . .	♀ ad.	Panama . . . . .		3.25	3.40	0.52	1.00	0.75
45627	U. S . . . . .	♀ ad.	Veragua (Santa Fé) . . . . .		3.25	3.75	0.52	1.05	0.75

*β. schistacea.*

30160	U. S . . . . .	♂ ad.	Sierra Madre, Colima . . . . .	Apr. —, 1863	3.45	3.90	0.60	1.00	0.70
34057	U. S . . . . .	♂ ad.	Mazatlan . . . . .	June —, 1862	3.50	3.80	.....	1.00	0.70
30161	U. S . . . . .	♂ ad.	Sierra Madre, Colima . . . . .	Apr. —, 1863	3.60	3.75	0.65	1.00	0.75
34058	U. S . . . . .	♀ ad.	Mazatlan . . . . .	June —, 1862	3.45	3.75	.....	1.00	0.70

## EMBERNAGRA RUFIVIRGATA, Lawr.

Specimens from Merida, Yucatan, of which there are three before me, differ from all other Mexican examples in the collection, as well as those from Texas, in the very sharp definition and dark color of the stripes on the crown, these being a very dark brown—almost black—anteriorly, the broad stripe between a pure ash-gray, without a trace of olivaceous tinge. The bill is also very much darker in color, the maxilla being quite black in some examples, while the feet are also of a darker brown color. In the light grayish color of the flanks and the very pale buff of the crissum, these Merida examples agree much more closely with Texas specimens than those from Mexico.

Mexican examples are like those from Texas in the character of the head-stripes and in the color of the bill and feet, but they are very different in their lower plumage, not only from the true *rufivirgata*, but also from the Yucatan race, the flanks being a dark raw-umber tint, or deep drab, almost like the back, and in strong contrast with the white of the abdomen, while the crissum is of a deep fulvous, or dark grayish-buff.

It thus appears that three well-marked geographical races of this species may be defined, their characters being as follows:—

A. Maxilla reddish-brown; legs and feet pale brown. Stripes of the head not sharply defined, uniform reddish umber-brown, the broad vertical stripe olive-green throughout, or only tinged with ash anteriorly.

*a. rufivirgata*.—Bill slender, its depth .25, the length of the maxilla from the nostril to the tip being .35–.38. Flanks pale grayish-buff, or light grayish-fulvous; crissum pale buff. Wing, 2.60–2.65; tail, 2.50–2.70; tarsus, .90–.95; middle toe, .60. *Hab.*—Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

*β. crassirostris*.—Bill very stout, its depth .28–.33, the length of the maxilla from the nostril to the tip being .35–.40. Flanks deep drab, or raw-umber brown; crissum deep fulvous. Wing, 2.55–2.75; tail, 2.30–2.70; tarsus, .85–.90; middle toe, .58–.65. *Hab.*—Mexico.

B. Maxilla dark brown, or brownish-black; legs and feet deep brown. Stripes of the head sharply defined, black anteriorly, chestnut mixed with black posteriorly, the broad vertical stripe clear ash-gray throughout.

*γ. verticalis*.—Bill slender, as in *rufivirgata*, its depth being .26–.28; its length from the nostril .35–.40. Flanks and crissum pale, as in *rufivirgata*. Wing, 2.50–2.68; tail, 2.60–2.80; tarsus, .85–.95; middle toe, .60. *Hab.*—Merida, Yucatan.

Following is a list of the specimens examined:—

*a. rufivirgata.*

					Wing.	Tail.		Tarsus.	Middle toe.
.....	R. R. ....	♂ ad.	Texas .....	.....	2.60	2.50	0.38 × 0.25*	0.90	0.60
.....	R. R. ....	♂ ad.	.....do.....	Mar. 28, 1876	2.65	2.70	0.35 × 0.25	0.95	0.60

\* The first number indicates the length of the bill from the nostril; the second, its depth through the base.

*β. crassirostris.*

.....	G. N. L. ....	♂ ad.	Cordova .....	.....	2.75	2.85	0.40 × 0.32	0.90	0.60
29229	U. S. ....	♂ ad.	Orizaba .....	May 4, 1858	2.55	2.40	0.35 × 0.30	0.85	0.65
22443	U. S. ....	♂ ad.	"Mexico" .....	.....	2.55	2.70	0.38 × 0.33	0.90	0.65
23890	U. S. ....	♀ ad.	Venado Island, W. Mex.†	June —, 1861	2.60	2.30	0.35 × 0.28	0.90	0.58

† This specimen is somewhat intermediate in coloration between *rufivirgata* and *crassirostris*, but seems decidedly nearer the former. It differs from both, however, in the very sharp definition of the stripes on the head, which, however, are clear, uniform chestnut, and in the bright buff yellow cast of the crissum and tibia. It is quite possible that this specimen, which is not in good condition, may represent a fourth race, peculiar to Western Mexico.

*γ. verticalis.*

39282	U. S. ....	♀ ad.	Merida, Yucatan .....	May 25, 1865	2.50	2.60	0.35 × 0.26	0.85	.....
37894	U. S. ....	♂ ad.	.....do.....	Feb. 28, 1865	2.60	2.80	0.40 × 0.28	0.90	0.60
.....	R. R. ....	♀ ad.	.....do.....	Mar. 19, 1865	2.68	2.75	0.40 × 0.28	0.95	0.60

Following are the chief references to this species:—

*a. rufivirgata.*

*Embernagra rufivirgata*, LAW., Ann. Lyc. N. Y. April 28, 1851, 112, pl. v, fig. 2 (Rio Grande, Texas).—BAIRD, B. N. Am. 1858, 487 (Ringgold Barracks, Texas; Nuevo Leon, N. E. Mexico); Mex. Bound Survey, II, Birds, 1859, 16, pl. xvii, fig. 2; Cat. N. Am. B. 1859, No. 373.—BUTCHER, Pr. Ac. Nat. Sci. Phil. 1868, 150 (Laredo, Texas).—COUES, Key, 1872, p. —; Check List, 1873, No. 209.—B. B. & R. Hist. N. Am. B., II, 1874, 47, pl. xxviii, fig. 3.—MERRILL, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, I, Nov. 1876, 89 (Ft. Brown, Texas; descr. nest and eggs); Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. I, 1878, p. 128 (Ft. Brown, Tex.; biogr.).—SENNETT, Bull. U. S. Geol. and Geog. Survey Terr. IV, No. 1, 1878, 22 (Brownsville and Hidalgo, Texas; common).

*Brown-striped Olive Finch*, LAW., l. c.

*Texas Finch*, BAIRD, l. c.

*Green Finch*, COUES, l. c.

*β. crassirostris.*

? "*Zonotrichia plebeja*, LICHT.," BONAP., Compt. Rend. XLIII, 1856, 413.\*

"*Embernagra rufivirgata*", SCL., P. Z. S. 1856, 306 (Cordova); 1859, 380 (Playa Vicente); Catal. 1861, 117, No. 709 (Orizaba).—LAW., Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 4, 1876, 22 (Huemelula, Isth. Tehuantepec).—SUMCH., Mem. Bost. Soc. I, 1869, 551 (Vera Cruz; temp. and hot reg., up to 1,200 metres).

*Embernagra rufivirgata* var. *crassirostris*, BAIRD, MS.

*γ. verticalis*

"*Embernagra rufivirgata*", LAW., Ann. Lyc. N. Y. IX, 1869 (Merida, Yucatan).

\* I have at present no means of verifying this reference, and therefore adopt, provisionally at least, Professor Baird's MS. name of *crassirostris*.

## LOXIGILLA VIOLACEA.

A specimen of this species from the Bahamas differs from Jamaican examples in larger bill and feet and much more intensely black plumage; the chestnut-red of the throat, etc., being also deeper and richer. These differences being probably geographical, the Bahaman form seems entitled to a distinctive name, and I therefore propose that of *bahamensis*.

The characters of the two races may be defined as follows:—

- a. violacea*.—Plumage of the body more or less decidedly slaty posteriorly; lining of the wing white. Throat, eyebrow, and crissum bright cinnamon-rufous. Wing, 3.00–3.30; tail, 2.90–3.20; bill, from nostril, .40–.45; depth of bill, .40–.48; tarsus, .70–.80; middle toe, .55–.60. *Hab.*—Jamaica.
- β. bahamensis*.—Plumage of the body lustrous black posteriorly; lining of the wing dark grayish. Throat, eyebrow, and crissum rich purplish rufous. Wing, 3.25; tail, 2.95; bill, from culmen, .45; depth of bill, .50; tarsus, .85; middle toe, .65. *Hab.*—Bahamas. (Type, 74,707, Nat. Mus. Bahamas; Dr. Bryant.)

*a. violacea.*

74711	U. S. ....	♂ ad.	Jamaica.....	Feb. —, 1865	3.30	3.20	0.45 × 0.48	0.80	0.60
.....	R. R. ....	♂ ad.	.....do.....	(?)	3.00	2.90	0.40 × 0.40	0.70	0.55
1800	R. R. ....	♀ ad.	.....do.....	Aug. 8, 1859	3.10	3.00	0.42 × 0.40	0.80	0.60

*β. bahamensis.*

74707	U. S. ....	♂ ad.	Bahamas.....	(?)	3.25	2.95	0.45 × 0.50	0.85	0.65
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## ANAS ABERTI (Ridg., MS.).

SP. CII.—*Adult female*: Size of *Querquedula discors* and *cyanoptera*, but in coloration closely resembling *A. fulvigula*. Prevailing color ochraceous-buff, but this everywhere relieved by brownish-black spots or streaks. Head, neck, and lower parts streaked, the streaks finest on the neck and sides of the head, broadest on the jugulum and crissum, which is somewhat tinged with rusty, and assuming the form of oblong spots on the abdomen, thighs, and anal region; throat immaculate. Back, scapulars, and rump with the blackish predominating; the feathers bordered with ochraceous; those of the back and the scapulars with irregular indentations and occasional bars of the same. Lesser wing-coverts brownish-slate, bordered with dull earthy-brown; middle coverts with their exposed portion velvety-black, forming a distinct bar. Secondaries widely tipped with pure white (forming a conspicuous band about .35 of an inch wide), this preceded by a velvety-black bar of about equal width, the basal half or more (of the exposed portion) consisting of a metallic speculum of dark grass-green, varying to blue and violet in certain lights. Tertiaries opaque velvety-black exteriorly, the inner webs brownish-slate; primary-coverts and primaries brownish-slate, the latter edged with lighter. Tail brownish-gray, the feathers

edged and coarsely spotted with light buff. Bill light yellowish-brown, darker on the culmen, the unguis dusky; feet light yellowish (probably orange in life). Wing, 8.50; tail, 3.25; culmen, 1.65; greatest width of the bill, .60; depth of maxilla through the base, .50; tarsus, 1.30; middle toe, 1.70.

Type, No. 12,789, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Mazatlan, Mexico; Colonel Abert.

REMARKS.—This remarkable little duck is very different from any other species known to me. In its small size, and, to a certain extent, the narrow bill, it is like the species of *Querquedula*, but its coloration calls instantly to mind the *Anas fulvigula* from Florida, and the species from the Sandwich Islands, recently described by Mr. Sclater. The specimen is marked as being a female, so it is possible that the male may be more brilliant in plumage.

In addition to the characters given above, it may be mentioned that there is a distinct indication of a narrow, dusky, postocular streak, and of a wider and less distinct loreal stripe, thus separating a light superciliary stripe from the light color of the cheeks. The lining of the wing and the axillars are pure white, the latter with a segregation of dusky spots near the carpo-metacarpal joint.

In the collection of the National Museum, there is a female specimen of the recently described *Anas wyvilliana* of the Sandwich Islands. Mr. Sclater's description was fortunately seen just in time to prevent the renaming of the species. Since Mr. Sclater describes only the male, however, a description of the opposite sex, which seems to differ but little in coloration, may not be out of place in this connection:—

ANAS WYVILLIANA, Sclater.\*

*Adult female*: Smaller than *A. boschas* or *A. obscura*, but somewhat resembling the female of the former in plumage, being much darker, however. Prevailing color a mixture of rusty ochraceous and brownish dusky, the latter predominating on the upper surface, the former on the lower, the abdomen considerably paler. Eyelids pure white, forming a distinct but narrow orbital ring. Head and neck finely and densely streaked with blackish and pale ochraceous, the pileum nearly uniform blackish; jugulum and breast with broad crescentic or U-shaped marks of dusky, each enclosing a cuneate or oblong longitudinal spot of the same along the shaft; abdomen and anal region thickly spotted with lighter grayish-brown; flanks with markings similar to those on the breast, but much larger; crissum strongly tinged with bright rusty, the larger feathers uniform black towards ends. Back and scapulars dusky, the feathers with ochraceous borders, enclosing another V- or U-shaped mark of the same; rump blackish, the feathers with only the external ochraceous border; upper tail-coverts blackish, marked much like the scapulars, only more irregularly. Tail brownish-slate, the feathers edged with whitish, and with three or four narrow bars of pale

\* P. Z. S. Mar. 19, 1878, p. 350.

buff (V-shaped) on each feather, more apparent on the outer rectrices. Lesser wing-coverts dark grayish-brown, distinctly bordered with dull ochraceous; middle coverts with the concealed portion brownish-gray; this succeeded by a paler grayish shade, the most of the exposed portion being opaque velvety-black, forming a distinct broad band; secondaries metallic dark bluish-green, changing to blue and violet, this succeeded by a subterminal band of opaque velvety-black, about .25 in width, and this by a terminal band of pure white of the same width; outer webs of the two lower tertials opaque black, the rest grayish-brown, more brown on outer webs; primaries brownish-slate, with slightly paler edges. Bill dusky (probably dark olivaceous in life); legs and feet light yellowish-brown (probably orange in life). Wing, 9.00; tail, 3.65; culmen, 1.75; greatest width of bill, .68; depth of maxilla, through base, .55; tarsus, 1.40; middle toe, 1.70. [Described from No. 20,319 U. S. Nat. Mus.]

Unlike the somewhat similar species from Mazatlan (*A. aberti*), as well as the female of *A. boschas* and both sexes of *A. fulvigula*, the whole throat is densely streaked, like the neck. The entire lining of the wing, with the axillars, is pure white, as in allied species.

Gray's *Hand-list* quotes, under *A. boschas*, an "*A. freycineti*, Bp.," with the locality "Sandwich I." standing opposite. No indication is given, however, as to where Bonaparte's bird is described, and I have been unable to find any further clue. Should the locality of "*A. freycineti*" be the Sandwich Islands, it is very probable that this is the same species.

The female of *A. wyvilliana* scarcely needs comparison with that of *A. boschas*. It is much smaller, the colors altogether darker, the speculum green instead of violet, and preceded by a wide black instead of a wide white bar. The white ocular ring is also a peculiar feature.

NOVEMBER 18, 1878.

**DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS FROM COSTA RICA, AND NOTES ON OTHER RARE SPECIES FROM THAT COUNTRY.**

**By ROBERT RIDGWAY.**

A small collection of birds brought from Costa Rica by Mr. José C. Zeledon includes several exceedingly rare and interesting species, among which may be mentioned a young male of *Carpodectes nitidus*, a second specimen of *Porzana cinereiceps*, Lawr., the recently described "*Zonotrichia*" *vulcani*, and *Phœnoptila melanoxantha*, besides *Pyrgisoma capitalis*, *Panterpe insignis*, *Geotrygon costaricensis*, etc. In addition to the above are the two following, which are believed to be undescribed:—

1.—*THRYPHILUS ZELEDONI* (Lawrence, MS.).

SP. CH.—Wing, 2.50–2.60; tail, 2.15–2.45; bill, from nostril, .48–.50; tarsus, 1.00; middle toe, .62–.65.