

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF PORZANA FROM COSTA RICA.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

Porzana alfari, sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Similar to *P. albigularis* LAWR., but darker, with the black bars on flanks, &c., much broader, and the white interspaces correspondingly narrower.

Adult female (specimen in "Coleccion del Museo Nacional de Costa Rica," Las Trojas, Pacific coast, February, 1886).—Pileum deep bistre-brown, becoming lighter and more of an umber tint along the hind neck; rest of upper parts deep bistre anteriorly, deepening gradually into blackish brown posteriorly, the tail almost black. Sides of head, neck, and breast cinnamon-rufous, most intense laterally, much paler along the middle line, the chin and throat being almost white. Lores dull light grayish brown, bordered above by a very indistinct rusty streak on each side of forehead; ear-coverts tinged with grayish brown. Entire sides, flanks, thighs, under tail-coverts, anal region, and belly distinctly and regularly barred with black and white, the bars of the latter color everywhere much narrower than those of the former. Bill dusky olive-greenish; legs and feet olive-blackish. Length (skin), 5.50 inches; wing, 3.00; culmen, 0.70; tarsus, 1.20; middle toe, 1.25.

Remarks.—This new species is most nearly related to *P. albigularis* LAWR., of which there are two specimens, from the Isthmus of Panama, before me. In the very broad black bars of the lower parts, however, it is much more like *P. cinereiceps* LAWR., from Talamanca, but the latter differs conspicuously in the color of the head. These three species, together with *P. leucogastra* RIDGW., from Nicaragua (Los Sábalos), may be distinguished as follows:

a¹. Head without any gray.

b¹. Belly and anal region white; the black bars on adjacent portion of sides narrower than the white interspaces; upper parts paler and more rusty. *Hab.*, Isthmus Panama *P. albigularis* LAWR.¹

b². Belly and anal region heavily barred with black, the black bars everywhere broader than the white interspaces; upper parts darker, more sooty. *Hab.* Costa Rica (Las Trojas) *P. alfari* RIDGW.²

a². Head partly gray.

b¹. Breast entirely deep rufous; throat pale rufous, approaching white only on chin. *Hab.* Costa Rica (Talamanca) *P. cinereiceps* LAWR.³

b². Breast white, tinged with cinnamon, passing into pale cinnamon-rufous on cheeks, the throat again white. *Hab.*, Nicaragua (Los Sábalos, Atlantic side) *P. leucogastra* RIDGW.⁴

¹*Corethrura albigularis* LAWR., Ann. Lyc. N. Y., vii, 1861, 302.—*Porzana albigularis* SCL. & SALV., P. Z. S., 1867, 280.

²New species.

³*Porzana cinereiceps* LAWR., Ann. Lyc. N. Y., xi, Feb., 1875, 90.

⁴*Porzana leucogastra* RIDGW., Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vi, Apr. 11, 1884, 408.