

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF FIELD-SPARROW FROM  
NEW MEXICO.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

*Spizella wortheni*, sp. nov.

SP. CH.—Resembling *S. pusilla*, but altogether less rufous, with the black streaks of the dorsum broader, the rufous auricular streak and rufous spot on sides of the breast wholly absent, the wing bands much less distinct, the eyelids distinctly white, and the bill much more slender.

*Adult* ♂ (type No. 98512, U. S. Nat. Mus., Silver City, New Mexico, June 16, 1884): Pileum light fulvous-brown, tinged with rufous, indistinctly streaked with dusky, and without trace of lighter median stripe. Back and scapulars light fulvous-brown, broadly, and rather sharply streaked with black. Rump and upper tail-coverts brownish ash-gray, the latter with rather distinct medial streaks of dusky. Wings dusky, all the feathers edged with light grayish-brown; middle coverts tipped with buffy-whitish, but terminal light margins of the greater coverts scarcely more distinct than the lateral edgings, and not forming an appreciable band. Entire side of head ash-gray, including the anterior part of the forehead and whole superciliary and supra-auricular region; no trace of a rufous or brown post-ocular streak. Eyelids white, forming a rather distinct orbital ring. Chin and throat grayish-white; remaining lower parts brownish-white, deeper on the jugulum, especially laterally, where, however, the color does not incline to rufous; crissum and lining of wing nearly pure white. Bill cinnamon-brown; legs and feet horn-brown. Wing 2.70; tail (somewhat worn) 2.50; culmen from extreme base .40; bill from nostril .25; depth at base .18; tarsus .70; middle toe .45.

While unquestionably most nearly related to *S. pusilla*, this species is also allied to *S. atrigularis*; in fact, these three species form a well-marked group of the genus, distinguished by certain characters which they possess in common, and which separate them from two other groups, including *S. monticola* on the one hand, and *S. socialis*, *S. pallida*, and *S. breweri* on the other. The differences from *S. pusilla* have been pointed out above. With *S. atrigularis*, *S. wortheni* agrees in the exactly similar coloration of the upper parts, excepting only the head and neck, and in the similarly small, slender bill. *S. atrigularis*, however, has the head entirely uniform ash-gray (excepting the adult ♂, which has the feathers round the base of the bill, the chin, and throat black) and the lower parts also gray, except the abdomen and crissum, which are white. The latter occurs in the same region with *S. wortheni*; in fact, specimens of the two were contained in the same collection.

I take great pleasure in dedicating this new species to Mr. Charles K. Worthen, of Warsaw, Ill., who has by his personal efforts done much to develop the ornithology of New Mexico, and who has kindly presented the type specimen to the National Museum.