

ON TWO HITHERTO UNNAMED SPARROWS FROM THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

The so-called *Passerculus anthinus* of authors (but not of Bonaparte) includes two quite different birds, one of which is a very dark-colored form of *P. sandwichensis*, confined to the salt marshes about San Francisco Bay, while the other apparently belongs exclusively to similar localities along the coast south of San Francisco, especially about San Diego and Santa Barbara, but also extending for an undetermined distance to the northward and southward of these localities. So far as we know, the southern limit, during spring or summer, of the last mentioned form is San Quentin Bay, Lower California,* while I have seen no typical examples from north of Santa Barbara. The material in hand is not sufficient to determine the status of the San Diego and Santa Barbara bird, many of the specimens being in winter plumage—a considerable proportion of them evidently young. In these obscurely colored streaked sparrows the greatest care should be taken in forming an opinion as to the relationships of allied forms, since, if immature and winter specimens are placed on an equal footing with adults in perfect plumage, in making comparisons, the real distinctions become confused and the difficulties of the case thereby increased. My own impression, at the present moment, after a careful comparison of the series before me (52 specimens of both forms), is that they both represent specializations of the widely distributed and very “plastic” *P. sandwichensis*. This is almost certainly the case with the more northern form (*bryanti*), but the southern one (*beldingi*) is so very different in its appearance as to convey at once, in the case of spring and summer birds, the impression of a decidedly distinct species. It is not so much this fact, however, as the consideration that Mr. Belding and Mr. Henshaw, both of whom have made an intimate acquaintance with the bird in life, have expressed their decided opinion as to its specific distinctness,† that I here describe it under a binomial title, as—

Passerculus beldingi, sp. nov.

Passerculus anthinus, COOPER, Orn. Cal. J. 1870, 183 (part; spec. ex San Diego).—RIDGW. Nom. N. Am. B. 1881, no. 194 (pt.).—BELDING, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. vol. 5, 1883, 528 (San Quentin Bay, Low. Cal.).

Passerculus savanna var. *anthinus*, COUES, Key, 1872, 136 (part); Check List, 1873, no. 159^a.—B. B. & R. Hist. N. Am. B. I. 1874, 539 (part).—HENSH. Orn. Wheeler's Exp. 1876, 240 (Santa Barbara, June, July).

Passerculus savanna anthinus, STREETS, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 7, 1877, 9 (Todos Santos I., Lower Cal.).

Passerculus sandvicensis anthinus, COUES, 2d Check List, 1882, no. 228 (pt.); 2d Key, 1884, 363 (pt.).

* Dr. T. H. Streets obtained a specimen at Todos Santos Island, near the southern extremity of the peninsula, but no information is given, either on the label or in his paper, as to the date. It seems, however, to be in winter plumage.

† I would add that Mr. Henshaw entertained a contrary opinion before his recent visit to the coast of Southern California, where he collected many specimens.

SP. CHAR.—Similar to the darker form of *P. sandwichensis* (i. e. *bryanti*), but much darker, with decidedly heavier dark spotting on lower parts, the bill larger and more elongated.

Adult male (type No. 96613, San Diego, Cal., March 9, 1884; L. Belding): Above dull grayish olive, heavily streaked with brownish black, the streaks narrowest across nape and on rump; interseapulars with scarcely a trace of lighter edgings, and crown without indication of lighter median stripe; outer webs of tertials and greater wing-coverts tinged with brown, the primaries edged with light olive-green. Supraloral line, extending to above the eye, dull olive-yellow; distinct malar stripe dull buffy white, bordered above by a blackish stripe from rictus along lower edge of cheeks and auriculars, and below by a similar stripe, narrower anteriorly, widening posteriorly; auriculars dull olive-grayish, indistinctly streaked with lighter and darker, the upper edge with dusky prevailing, and slightly contrasted with an indistinct postocular stripe of streaked dusky and light olive-grayish. Lower parts white, the whole throat speckled with black, the jugulum, breast, sides, and flanks heavily streaked with black, these streaks averaging nearly .10 of an inch in width; entire abdomen, anal region, and crissum immaculate. Maxilla black, with pale brownish tinnin; mandible pale brownish (in skin), darker terminally; tarsi pale brown, toes deep brown. Wing 2.70, tail 2.00, culmen .52, bill from nostril .35, gonys .31, tarsus .80, middle toe .60.

Adult female (type, No. 96614, same locality, &c.): Exactly like the male, but with a very slight indication of a median stripe on the crown. Wing 2.55, tail 2.00, culmen .50, bill from nostril .31, gonys .30, tarsus .78, middle toe .59.

Hab.—Salt marshes along the coast of Southern California and Pacific side of Lower California, south to Todos Santos Island, north to at least Santa Barbara.

Passerculus sandwichensis bryanti, subsp. nov.

Passerculus anthinus, BAIRD, B. N. Am. 1858, 445; Cat. N. Am. B. 1859, no. 334 (not of BONAP. 1853 *).—COOPER, Orn. Cal. I. 1870, 183, et AUCT. (part).

Passerculus savanna, var. *anthinus*, COUES, Key. 1872, 136 (part).—B. B. & R. Hist. N. Am. B. I. 1874, 539, pl. xxiv, fig. 10, et AUCT.

Passerculus sandvicensis anthinus, COUES, 2d Check List, 1882, no. 228, et AUCT. (part).

* Bonaparte's *P. anthinus* was based upon a specimen from Kodiak, Alaska, from which locality the National Museum has received a considerable number of specimens. Comparing these with Bonaparte's description, it is found that some of them fit sufficiently well to leave no doubt as to what Bonaparte had in hand. We must therefore transfer *anthinus*, Bp., to *alaudinus*, Bp., as a pure synonym, the two names having been based on somewhat different plumages of the same bird. At the same time, we must admit that the authors of "History of North American Birds" were mistaken in supposing (vol. I. p. 539, foot-note) that the localities of the two supposed species as given by Bonaparte—i. e. California for *alaudinus* and Kodiak for *anthinus*—had been transposed. In further explanation, it may be stated that while these two supposed species were described in the same number of the "Comptes Rendus" (vol. xxvii, Dec. 1853), *alaudinus* is given on page 918 and *anthinus* on page 919, the former thus having, according to some rulings, priority.

SUBSP. CHAR.—Differing from *P. sandwichensis alaudinus* in decidedly smaller size and much darker coloration of the upper parts, the latter approximating the plumage of the same portions in *P. beldingi*.

Adult male (type, no. 96633, Oakland, Cal., January 23, 1884; W. Bryant): Above grayish brown, somewhat suffused with buffy yellowish, the pileum and back heavily, the nape and rump narrowly, streaked with brownish black; pileum with a quite distinct median stripe of dull buff, broken, however, by black streaks; interscapulars showing quite distinct light grayish brown edgings. A very distinct superciliary stripe of bright olive-yellow, the yellow purer anteriorly; a malar stripe of light buff, extending upward behind the auriculars; auriculars bright brown, inclining to tawny, edged both above and below with black; lower parts white, the throat minutely and sparsely speckled with the same and bounded on each side by a cuneate stripe of blackish; jugulum, breast, and sides distinctly marked with cuneate streaks of brownish black, averaging much less than .10 of an inch in width. Maxilla blackish, with pale brownish tomium; mandible pale brownish (in skin); tarsi and toes nearly uniform pale flax-brown. Wing 2.70, tail 2.00, culmen .45, bill from nostril .30, gonys .29, tarsus .80, middle toe .65.

Adult female (type, no. 96628, same locality and collector, February 14, 1884): Essentially identical in color with the male, but supercilium rather brighter yellow, the malar stripe deeper buff. Wing 2.50, tail 1.95, culmen .45, bill from nostril .29, gonys .28, tarsus .80, middle toe .60.

Hab.—Salt marshes of San Francisco Bay (and perhaps southward along the coast of Southern California in winter).

This form, which has been mixed by authors with *P. beldingi*, under the names of *P. anthinus*, *P. savanna anthinus*, &c., I take pleasure in dedicating to Mr. Walter Bryant, of Oakland, Cal., who has taken the majority of the specimens now existing in collections, and who has devoted much study to the birds of San Francisco Bay and vicinity.

DESCRIPTION OF SEVEN NEW SPECIES OF CRUSTACEA AND ONE WORM FROM ARCTIC ALASKA.*

By JOHN MURDOCH.

The following species were obtained by the Point Barrow expedition, under the command of First Lieut. P. H. Ray, Eighth United States Infantry, acting signal officer.

This expedition was sent out in 1881 by the United States Signal Service to establish one of the stations of the International Polar Conference at Point Barrow, and remained for two years in the Arctic re-

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