

to the writer, embracing altogether 45 adult males (6 from Yucatan, 9 from eastern and southern Mexico, and 30 from northwestern Mexico, including Arizona and Lower California). From this comparison of specimens the following facts become at once evident:

(1) That all specimens from Arizona, southern California (San Diego), Lower California, and western Mexico as far south as Mazatlan, are uniformly and decidedly paler in coloration than those from other portions of Mexico, the yellow never assuming an orange tint, but approaching quite closely to the tint known as Indian yellow, from which there is scarcely any variation in a series of 30 specimens. The difference is so great and so constant that the birds from the region in question should be separated as a well-marked geographical race.

(2) Specimens from Yucatan are, on the other hand, more intensely colored than those from southern and eastern Mexico, the orange color being both more intense and purer. It may be necessary to separate the Yucatan birds on this account, but having only six specimens, and these in somewhat worn plumage, I would not under the circumstances feel justified in making the separation. Should such a step be deemed desirable or necessary, however, I propose for the Yucatan bird the name *Icterus cucullatus igneus*.

The name *cucullatus* having been based by Swainson upon a specimen or specimens from Temiscaltepec, on the table land of southwestern Mexico, it follows that the form requiring a new name is that inhabiting the northwestern portions, or a definite region extending from Mazatlan to southern Arizona, thence west to San Diego, and again southward to Cape St. Lucas. This new form may be appropriately named *Icterus cucullatus nelsoni*, Arizona Hooded Oriole, Mr. E. W. Nelson having supplied the material upon which these observations are based.

Type, No. 98992, ♂ ad., Tucson, Arizona, April 26, 1884; E. W. Nelson.

PASSER SATURATUS, A NEW SPECIES OF TREE-SPARROW FROM
THE LIU-KIU ISLANDS, JAPAN.

By LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

Passer saturatus, sp. n.

DIAGNOSIS.—Similar to *Passer montanus*, but washed all over with umber-brown, except on head, which is slightly tinged with ashy; the feathers on the breast are indistinctly edged with brown, the cross-bands on the wings are broad and strongly suffused with the brown color, and the whitish or grayish tips of the tertiaries have entirely disappeared, the whole border being brown; on back no trace of gray, and the black stripes small and few; all brown colors, except that of the head, deeper and richer.

DIMENSIONS.—Wing, 66^{mm}; tailf., 52^{mm}; expos. culmen, 10^{mm}; tarsus, 18^{mm}; middle toe with claw, 17.5^{mm}.

HABITAT.—Liu-Kiu Islands, Japan.

TYPE.—U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 21118.

COLLECTOR.—William Stimpson.

SYNONYM.—*Passer montanus* CASSIN, Pr. Philada. Acad. 1862, p. 314 (*nec* LINN.).

The type of this new species or form was collected by Dr. Stimpson, of the United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition, under Capt. John Rodgers, on the Liu-Kiu Islands, a group of islands situated to the south of Japan and politically belonging to that empire. The specimen was obtained in November, 1854.

I have before me for comparison a series of true *P. montanus* from Western Europe, Tenasserim, Canton, and Shanghai, China, and from the Northern and Middle Islands of Japan. These are practically identical, eastern and western specimens being absolutely indistinguishable both as to size and color, the only exception being the skin from Tenasserim, which has the back, particularly the rump, slightly more brownish than the others, the white parts, however, wing bands, tips of tertiaries, sides of head and neck, and under parts as pure as they. The average measurements of 8 males are: Wing, 69^{mm}; tailf., 52.5^{mm}; exposed culmen, 10.8^{mm}; tarsus, 17.6^{mm}; middle toe with claw, 18^{mm}.

There is, consequently, no appreciable difference in size, since the type specimen of *P. saturatus*, though somewhat smaller than the above averages, is equal to the smallest *P. montanus* of my series. The main distinction is the rich suffusion of the umber-brown color, which does away with all traces of gray and strongly stains the white markings.

Passer saturatus is evidently a local form of *P. montanus*, and probably an insular one, confined to the group from which the type was received. No intergradation between the two forms is known to occur, however, nor is it likely to be found, thus relieving us of the necessity of a trinomial, for the present at least.

The species here under consideration (*montanus* and *saturatus*) afford another example of a form, distributed over an immense area without showing any variation at all, which then on a restricted and isolated locality sets off a small branch showing distinctive features. In this respect *P. montanus* is analogous with *Asio accipitrinus* and *Lagopus lagopus* (cf. *A. portoricensis* et *galapagoensis*, and *L. lagopus alleni*). +

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Washington, D. C., December 25, 1884.