

DESCRIPTION OF THE ADULT MALE OF ACANTHIDOPS BAIRDI.

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

The specimen described below, probably the first adult male obtained of this exceedingly rare species (described in Vol. IV, p. 336, of these Proceedings), was recently presented by the National Museum of Costa Rica to that of the United States, through the courtesy of Mr. Anastasio Alfaro, director of the first named establishment, and Mr. José C. Zeldon, discoverer of the original type specimen.

The adult male of *Acanthidops bairdi* resembles very closely in coloration that of *Haplospiza unicolor*, of Brazil, but is darker and less of a bluish cast, both above and below, and has the under mandible chiefly light colored. Not having a specimen of the Mexican *H. uniformis*, I am unable to point out with exactness the differences from that species; but judging from the description and remarks given by Messrs. Salvin and Godman in *Biologia Centrali-Americana, Aves*, pp. 366, 367, it seems to come much closer to that species, if it be not actually the same! It would appear, however, to have decidedly a shorter wing and longer tail, and longer tarsus than that bird. Whether or not it is the same species or congeneric with *H. uniformis*, there can be no doubt that it is generically distinct from *H. unicolor*, which has the bill much shorter and more typically Fringilline, the tarsi shorter, and the nostrils more exposed. There can, I think, be no question that *Acanthidops* comes very near to *Haplospiza*, and I am inclined to believe that the so called *H. uniformis* belongs to *Acanthidops* and not to *Haplospiza*, since Messrs. Salvin and Godman (*loc. cit.*) say that its chief differences from *H. unicolor* consist in "a larger bill and longer wings and stronger feet," as well as "rather darker" coloration. If this view of its relationship proves correct, we would then have a Middle American genus, *Acanthidops* and a related Brazilian genus, *Haplospiza*; the first with two species, *A. bairdi*, of the Costa Rican highlands, and *A. uniformis*, of southeastern Mexico. A case of somewhat anomalous geographical distribution would thereby be satisfactorily disposed of.

Adult male (No. 114907, ♂ ad., El Alto, Poas, Costa Rica, July 27, 1888; A. Alfaro).—Above uniform slate-black or blackish slate,* the concealed portion of the wing-feathers decidedly black, this showing distinctly, in the closed wing, on the remiges, which have only the edges dark slaty: under parts plain slaty, lighter than upper parts, † slightly paler posteriorly, the flanks tinged with light olive-brownish and under tail-coverts rather broadly bordered with the same. Upper mandible brownish black, lower dull whitish, passing into dusky brownish on terminal third and on basal portion of gonys; legs and feet horn-brown. Length (skin) 5.50, wing 2.60, tail 2.35, exposed culmen .55, tarsus .85, middle toe .60.

* Very close to Fig. 2, Plate ii, of my "Nomenclature of Colors."

† Intermediate in tone between "slate-color" and "slate-gray" of my "Nomenclature of Colors."