

SMITHSONIAN MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS

VOLUME 66, NUMBER 15

THREE REMARKABLE NEW SPECIES OF  
BIRDS FROM SANTO DOMINGO

BY

J. H. RILEY



(PUBLICATION 2435)

CITY OF WASHINGTON  
PUBLISHED BY THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
DECEMBER 1, 1916

The Lord Baltimore Press  
BALTIMORE, MD., U. S. A.

### THREE REMARKABLE NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS FROM SANTO DOMINGO

By J. H. RILEY

Dr. W. L. Abbott, the well-known traveller and collector, during the past summer and fall paid a visit to Santo Domingo, the Spanish-speaking portion of the Island of Haiti. He visited the highlands of the interior where few zoölogical collectors have ever penetrated and amongst the last shipment of birds received from this region the three following prove to be apparently undescribed. One is a white-winged crossbill, another is a song sparrow of the genus *Brachyspiza*, both belonging to genera that have never been reported from the West Indies, while the owl is closely related to a species found in Cuba and on the mainland, from which, however, it is very distinct.

These three birds, without question, are the most remarkable discoveries in West Indian ornithology in recent years.

#### *ASIO NOCTIPETENS*, sp. nov.

*Type*, U. S. National Museum, No. 249475, ♂ adult, Constanza, 4,000 feet, Santo Domingo, September 23, 1916. Collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Similar to *Asio stygius* (Wagler) but much darker, with the lighter markings much restricted everywhere above and entirely disappearing on the interscapular region. Wing, 300; tail, 161; culmen from cere, 21 mm.

*Remarks*: Below, the differences are not so well-marked, but still the dark markings are darker than in *Asio stygius*, while the differences above are obvious. The type is the only specimen.

#### *LOXIA MEGAPLAGA*, sp. nov.

*Type*, U. S. National Museum, No. 249615, ♂ adult, El Rio, 4,000 feet, Santo Domingo, October 7, 1916. Collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Similar to *Loxia bifasciata* (Brehm) but with a heavier and stouter bill and shorter wing.

*Description*: Head dusky, the feathers tipped with dull scarlet red and sulphine yellow; back dull black, the feathers washed with

dull scarlet red and sulphine yellow; rump scarlet with some scattering lemon yellow feathers; upper tail-coverts dull black washed with dull scarlet; lores white with black stippling; auriculars, sides of neck, throat, and breast light grayish olive, the feathers tipped or washed with dull scarlet red and lemon yellow; belly dull grayish, vinaceous buff; flanks dusky, streaked with blackish and washed with pinkish and yellowish; under tail-coverts black, rather broadly edged with white and washed slightly with pinkish; tail dull black; wings dull black, the greater and middle coverts broadly tipped with white with a pinkish wash, forming two wing bands; the tertials also edged with white; under wing-coverts dusky, the feathers edged with whitish and with dark shaft streaks; the axillaries white, dusky at the base. Wing, 89; tail, 56; culmen, 18.5; tarsus, 17; middle toe, 12.5 mm.

*Remarks:* Besides the type Dr. Abbott took a female on the same day and while he found these birds more or less common in the pines, only succeeded in obtaining the pair. The female resembles the same sex of *Loxia bifasciata* but is smaller with a much stouter and heavier bill. From *Loxia leucoptera* the present species can be told at a glance by its heavier and much less attenuated bill.

**BRACHYSPIZA ANTILLARUM, sp. nov.**

*Type*, U. S. National Museum, No. 249605, ♂ adult, Constanza, 5,000 feet, Santo Domingo, September 23, 1916. Collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Similar to *Brachyspiza capensis peruvensis* (Lesson) from the highlands of Costa Rica, but collar around hind-neck, edging of wings externally, back and flanks much darker, and the black patch on fore-neck heavier. Wing, 67; tail, 63.5; culmen, 12; tarsus, 24; middle toe, 14.5 mm.

*Remarks:* Besides the type Dr. Abbott took two additional adult males, one adult female, and six immature specimens at the type locality and an additional adult male at El Rio, 4,000 feet.