

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

CHAMÆA FASCIATA AND ITS SUBSPECIES.

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Among the Wren-Tits in the collection of the U. S. National Museum* is a single specimen (No. 3339) which formed part of the original Baird collection and which is labeled in Prof. Baird's writing ' *Parus fasciatus* California, Wm. Gambel.' This is the only known specimen of *Chamæa* collected by Gambel, and as such Mr. Ridgway has for some time considered it the type of *Chamæa fasciata* Gambel. The exact locality from which it came is unknown but its characters show conclusively that it belongs to the pale southern form rather than to the dark northern one. This being the case, *Chamæa f. henshawi* becomes a synonym of *C. fasciata*, and it is necessary to provide a new name for the northern coast form heretofore assumed to be typical *fasciata*. The status of the two forms may be summarized as follows:

***Chamæa fasciata* Gambel. Pallid Wren-Tit.**

Parus fasciatus Gambel, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., p. 265, 1845.
Chamæa fasciata Gambel, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., p. 154, 1847.
Chamæa fasciata henshawi Ridgway, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., V, 13, June 5, 1882. (Type from Walker Basin, California.)

Type from [southern] California, No. 3339 U. S. Nat. Mus. Collected by Wm. Gambel.

Distribution.—Southern coast and interior of California, including coast valleys and foothills from San Francisco Bay south to northern Lower

*The Wren-Tits in the U. S. National Museum collection were kindly placed at my disposal by Mr. Robert Ridgway, Curator of Birds.

California; interior valleys and slopes north to head of the Sacramento Valley. Upper Sonoran zone.

Description of type.—Upper parts pale hair brown, shading into grayish on nape and top of head and into olivaceous on rump; flanks pale brownish olive; sides of head, neck and shoulders ashy, slightly paler than crown; a small white spot above and below eye; throat and breast cinnamon rufous; sides washed with cinnamon; belly yellowish white medially; inner web of primaries and secondaries edged with whitish; under wing coverts and axillars pale cinnamon rufous.

Measurements of type.—Wing 59; tail 83; exposed culmen 11; tarsus 25.

Remarks.—The type of *C. fasciata*, though slightly darker than the type of '*henshawi*,' exactly represents the average condition of the southern and interior form. Specimens from the Sacramento Valley, from San Bernardino county and Pasadena do not differ from it in any way. It is possible that the type was taken in San Bernardino County, since it agrees perfectly with specimens from there and Gambel must have passed through that region. Even if the type were not available it would be best to use the name for the southern form, since so far as known, Gambel's collecting in California was confined to the region south of San Francisco.

***Chamæa fasciata phæa* subsp. nov. Coast Wren-Tit.**

Type from Newport, Yaquina Bay, Oregon, ♂ ad., No. 164256, U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection. Collected March 14, 1899, by B. J. Bretherton. Orig. No. 2405.

Distribution.—Coast of Oregon and California from Astoria to Nicasio. Transition zone.

Description of type.—Upper parts almost uniform sepia, darkest on head, becoming bister on rump; tail bister with tinge of olivaceous; flanks about like rump, grading insensibly into sides; lores, cheeks and sides of head dark ashy; a white spot above and below eye; throat, breast, and sides deep brownish rufous; limited area in middle of belly buffy yellow; throat and breast obscurely streaked with dusky; inner web of primaries and secondaries edged with white; under wing coverts and axillars pale cinnamon rufous.

Measurements of type.—Wing 60; tail 79; exposed culmen 10; tarsus 25.

Remarks.—Intergradation between typical *C. fasciata* and *C. f. phæa* occurs in the vicinity of San Francisco Bay. Among the few specimens examined from the region immediately south of San Francisco (Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, etc.) are individuals referable to each form, though the majority are nearest to *C. fasciata*.