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DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW BIRDS FROM WESTERN TEXAS

By Thos. D. Burleigh and George H. Lowery, Jr.

In the course of preparing a detailed report on the birds of the Guadalupe Mountain region of western Texas, a study undertaken jointly by the Bureau of Biological Survey and the Louisiana State University, it becomes evident that two species are not referable to any known geographical races. Careful analysis of the material at hand reveals differences sufficient to justify their taxonomic distinction. The following diagnoses will serve to differentiate the two subspecies.

Aimophila ruficeps tenuirostra new subspecies

GUADALUPE MOUNTAIN ROCK SPARROW

Subspecific characters.—This well-marked race resembles both Aimophila ruficeps scotti (Sennett)¹ and Aimophila ruficeps eremoeca (Brown),² but the bill is decidedly smaller and more slender than in either of those races and the upper parts, including the crown, are distinctly darker. In measurements it is similar to scotti, the wing being shorter than in eremoeca.

Type.—Adult male: No. 3334, Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology; Guadalupe Mountains, Culberson County, Texas; McKittrick Canyon; altitude 5,500 feet; January 3, 1939; George H. Lowery, Jr. (original number 1293).

Measurements.—Adult male:³ wing, 66.2-66.9 (average, 66.5) mm.; tail, 70.6-73.8 (72.1); exposed culmen, 10.9-11.7 (11.4); tarsus, 19.4-20.3 (19.9). Adult female:⁴ wing, 62.0-63.5 (average, 62.7) mm.; tail, 65.0-67.8 (66.6); exposed culmen, 11.3-11.9 (11.6); tarsus, 20.0-20.1 (20.1).

¹ Sennett, The Auk, 5, 1888, p. 42.
³ Four specimens.
⁴ Three specimens.
Range.—Guadalupe Mountain region of western Texas; limits of range im-
perfectly known.

Specimens examined.—Eight, all from the type locality.

Remarks.—In unworn winter plumage this new race is characterized by less
gray upper parts, the streaks on the back being rather broad and dark chestnut
in color. In any plumage, however, it can be readily distinguished by its small
slender bill.

**Amphispiza bilineata opuntia** new subspecies

**FRIJOLE DESERT SPARROW**

Subspecific characters.—Resembling Amphispiza bilineata bilineata (Cassin), but decidedly larger, with the upper parts slightly grayer and the white spot of the outermost tail feather much smaller. From Amphispiza bilineata deserticola (Ridgway), it differs in having the upper parts distinctly grayer with but a faint tinge of brown and in averaging larger in size.

Type.—Adult male; No. 342085, Biological Survey collection, United States National Museum; Guadalupe Mountains, Culberson County, Texas; 10 miles east of Frijole, altitude 4,800 feet; January 2, 1939; Thos. D. Burleigh (original number 5458).

Measurements.—Adult male: wing, 68.0-69.2 (average, 68.4) mm.; tail 62.4-65.5 (63.4); exposed culmen, 10.2-11.0 (10.6); tarsus, 17.8-20.0 (18.8). Adult female: wing, 65.0-66.2 (average, 65.5) mm.; tail, 54.5-61.0 (60.1); exposed culmen, 10.0-10.8 (10.3); tarsus, 18.3-19.0 (18.7).

Range.—Guadalupe Mountain region of western Texas; limits of range im-
perfectly known.

Specimens examined.—Eleven from the type locality and one from El Paso, Texas.

Remarks.—On the basis of a single specimen from El Paso, Texas, it appears
that this new race is the breeding form at this extreme western edge of that
State. Unfortunately this one specimen, a male, was taken during the middle
of February and may merely represent the race occurring there during the winter
months. Specimens from Van Horn, Texas, at the southwestern edge of Cul-
berson County, and from Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas, are referable to
deserticola, although they approach bilineata in measurements.

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C. Oberholser and the Bureau of Biological Survey; Dr. Herbert
Friedmann and the U. S. National Museum; Mr. George Willett and
the Los Angeles Museum.

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5 From *Opuntia*, the generic name of the cane cactus, in which without ex-
ception the nest of this new sparrow has been found.
8 Nine specimens.
9 Three specimens.