

PROCEEDINGS
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BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

TWO NEW BIRDS FROM THE ISLAND OF MOLOKAI.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

While identifying and arranging the extensive series of Hawaiian birds in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, I noticed that both the Iiwi and Ou of Molokai showed characters by which they could be picked out easily, despite the fact that ornithologists dealing with the birds of these islands have not considered them separable. I therefore propose the following names for these two subspecies:

Vestiaria coccinea suavis subsp. nov.

Type from the island of Molokai, Hawaiian Islands; Museum of Comparative Zoology No. 15,059, Bangs Coll., adult ♂. Collected February 5, 1895, by M. J. Flood.

Characters.—Similar to true *V. coccinea* (Forster) of Hawaii; but larger, bill slightly stronger, and red of general plumage orange-vermilion instead of scarlet-vermilion.

Measurements.—Adult ♂, type: wing, 85; tail, 60; culmen, 28; tarsus, 25. Adult ♀, topotype, No. 15,058: wing, 80; tail, 55; culmen, 25.5; tarsus, 22.*

Remarks.—A young male of the new form, also collected by Flood, that was changing from a spotted nestling to the red dress of the adult, when compared with similar skins from Hawaii, shows exactly the same difference in the shade of the vermilion portions of its plumage as do adults. While this particular difference in the shade of vermilion is very striking in the symmetrical, smooth skins of even and regular make, which I have just compared, I must confess that it probably would not be in rough skins such as some European ornithologists appear still content with. At all events I find no mention of it in literature, although Wilson did notice certain dissimilarities in size, the shape of the bill, and in the color of the nestlings, in comparing birds from these two islands.

* In a long series of true *V. coccinea* from Hawaii, the wing in adult males averages 79.6 (78-81), in adult females, 73.75 (72-75).

The island whence the type of *V. coccinea*, brought back by Captain Cook, really came can probably never be known; it seems safe, however, to assume that it was Hawaii, as Captain Cook stopped longer there than at any of the other islands.

***Psittirostra psittacea oppidana* subsp. nov.**

Type from the island of Molokai, Hawaiian Islands; Museum of Comparative Zoology No. 15,047. Bangs Collection, adult ♂. Collected February 8, 1895, by M. J. Flood.

Characters.—Similar to true *P. psittacea* (Gmel.) of Hawaii, and quite as large; larger, therefore, than *P. psittacea deppei* Rothsch. (now supposed to be extinct) of Oahu. In color somewhat intermediate between the two. The fully adult male compared with fully adult males of true *P. psittacea* has the upper parts paler, more yellowish,—rather nearer oil-green than olive-green, instead of the reverse; the chest much paler, about gray No. 9 of Ridgway, and without darker median streaks to the feathers, instead of gray No. 6, or rarely No. 7, the feathers with darker median streaks; middle of belly with more extended grayish white patch, and sides and flanks dull olive-yellowish instead of oil-green. The adult female is more yellowish, less olivaceous green above and the sides and flanks are dull olive-yellowish, instead of oil-green.

Measurements.—Adult ♂, type: wing, 97.5; tail, 54; culmen, 16.5; tarsus, 23.5. Adult ♀, topotype, No. 15,048: wing, 93; tail, 57; culmen, 15.5; tarsus, 22.5.

Remarks.—Both Wilson and Rothschild seem to have been aware that the Molokai Ou was not quite the same as that of Hawaii, Wilson saying: "Examples from Molokai do not present any definite points of difference, though perhaps they are somewhat duller beneath"; while Rothschild specially mentions a youngish male in his collection from that island which he considered to be about intermediate between *P. psittacea* and *P. deppei*.

The three skins—two adult males and one adult female—in our collection from Molokai are all very different from any in a large series, including many adults and young of various ages from Hawaii.



Bangs, Outram. 1911. "Two new birds from the island of Molokai."
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