

ON A PROBABLE HYBRID BETWEEN DRYOBATES NUTTALLII
(GAMB.) AND D. PUBESCENS GAIRDNERII (AUD.).

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

No. 39456, U. S. National Museum collection of birds, is labeled and has always passed for, "*Picus nuttallii*;" but a recent critical examination of the extensive series of that species and its several allies in the national collection has resulted in the discovery of such a number of abnormal characters possessed by the specimen in question as to lead irresistibly to the conclusion that it cannot be referred, without qualification, to that, nor, indeed, to any other known species. That it is a new or distinct species is very strongly discredited by the circumstance that in every character wherein it departs from the diagnostic characters of *D. nuttallii* it agrees with *D. pubescens gairdnerii*—every feature of size, form, and coloration being exactly intermediate between the two, and thus justify the theory of its being a veritable hybrid between the two species. In order to render this more clear to the reader the facts may be tabulated as follows:

Measurements.

| | Wing. | Tail. | Culmen. | Exposed culmen. |
|--|-------|-------|---------|-----------------|
| <i>D. nuttallii</i> (No. 98450, ♂ ad., Red Bluff, Cal.)..... | 4.10 | 2.80 | .98 | .80 |
| Supposed hybrid (No. 39456, ♂ ad., San Francisco, Cal.)..... | 3.85 | 2.70 | .85 | .69 |
| <i>D. gairdnerii</i> (No. 3898, ♂ ad., California)..... | 3.70 | 2.40 | .80 | .65 |

Coloration.

| | <i>D. nuttallii</i> . | Supposed hybrid. | <i>D. gairdnerii</i> . |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Crown | Black, conspicuously streaked with white. | Black, with a few white streaks, next to red occipital patch. | Entirely uniform black. |
| Red occipital patch.... | .70-.75 wide at widest part. | .70-.80 wide at widest part.* | .30 wide at widest part. |
| Back | Regularly barred with black and white, the bare of the former color rather broader. | Irregularly barred and transversely spotted with white, the white bars considerably broader than the black ones, and anteriorly broken or modified into large spots, some of them longitudinal in direction. | Broadly striped down middle with white. |
| Middle wing-coverts . | Conspicuously spotted with white. | Plain black..... | Plain black. |
| Greater wing-coverts. | Crossed by two rows of large white spots (the first concealed by middle coverts). | The three or four middle feathers each with one small white spot, the rest plain black. | The two middle feathers each with one small white spot, the rest plain black. |

* The apparently greater width of the red occipital patch in the supposed hybrid than in *D. nuttallii* is no doubt owing to the different position of the head in the two skins, that of the former having the head bent at a right angle to the body, while the latter has it straightened out on the same line. In two specimens of *D. nuttallii* which have the head bent in the same way as in the supposed hybrid, the width (lengthwise) of the red patch is 1.00 and 1.10 respectively.

Coloration—Continued.

| | <i>D. nuttallii</i> . | Supposed hybrid. | <i>D. gairdnerii</i> . |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| Tertials | Broadly banded or transversely spotted with white, nearly all of the white spots crossing or touching the shaft. | Irregularly spotted with white, none of the spots touching the shaft. | With still fewer white spots, none of them touching the shaft. |
| Sides of breast | Marked with large wedge-shaped, tear-shaped, and otherwise formed spots and streaks of black. | Marked with a very few, mostly indistinct, black streaks. | Entirely immaculate. |
| Sides | Marked with large black spots, mostly of roundish form. | Sparsely and indistinctly streaked, like sides of breast. | Entirely immaculate. |
| Flanks | Conspicuously barred and transversely spotted with black. | Indistinctly spotted and streaked with blackish. | Entirely immaculate. |
| Under tail-coverts.... | Broadly barred with black. | More narrowly barred with black on longer feathers, marked with sagittate spots on shorter ones. | Marked with sagittate spots on longer feathers, the shorter ones immaculate. |



Ridgway, Robert. 1887. "On a probable hybrid between *Dryobates nuttallii* (Gamb.) and *D. pubescens gairdnerii* (Aud.)." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* 9(590), 521–522. <https://doi.org/10.5479/si.00963801.590.521>

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5479/si.00963801.590.521>

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