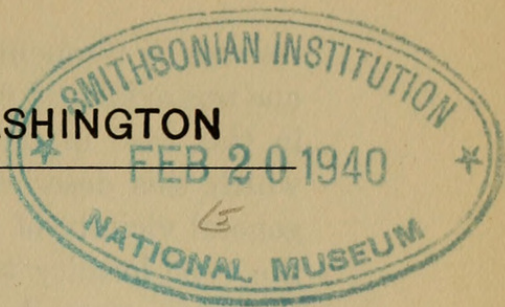


PROCEEDINGS
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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW CHICKADEE FROM THE
EASTERN UNITED STATES.

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The distribution of *Penthestes atricapillus* and *Penthestes carolinensis* in Ohio presented a problem solvable only by study of the birds of both species from neighboring regions. That part of the problem relating to *Penthestes carolinensis* has already been elucidated by the recent description of *Penthestes carolinensis extimus* Todd and Sutton.¹

The relationships of the other bird, *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*, are, however, more intricate, since the range of this subspecies overlaps that of the Northern Carolina Chickadee, *Penthestes carolinensis extimus*, over a considerable area in Ohio and elsewhere, and their characters, therefore, need careful examination and delineation. Certain individuals of *Penthestes atricapillus* approach *Penthestes carolinensis* in characters and may indicate hybridization. For a number of years the writer has been gathering data and specimens, the present study of which rather clearly indicates the existence of an undescribed southeastern race of *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*. Although the primary interest in this matter was proper identification of the chickadees of Ohio, as above indicated, it develops that not surprisingly the greatest differentiation of this form occurs in the southern Appalachian Mountains.

The Black-capped Chickadee was originally described as *Parus atricapillus* by Linnaeus,² and the habitat given as "Canada." It was based evidently entirely on *Penthestes canadensis atricapillus* of Brisson,³ which came from Canada.

¹ Proceedings Biol. Soc. Wash., Vol. XLIX, July 3, 1936, p. 70.

² Syst. Nat., ed. 12, Vol. I, 1766, after May 24, p. 341.

³ Ornith., Vol. III, 1760, p. 553, pl. XXIX, fig. 1.

As was so frequently the case with Brisson's descriptions, this one was evidently drawn from a specimen to which he had access, in this case in the Reaumur Museum. As the specimen on which this description was based most likely came from the general vicinity of Quebec, it seems best accordingly to restrict the type locality to the city of Quebec in Canada, which we, therefore, now do. As there is no name available for the southern race, it may be called

***Penthestes atricapillus practicus*, subsp. nov.**

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*, of Canada, but smaller, particularly the tail; upper parts darker, more grayish, less ochraceous, particularly in winter; wing-coverts and rectrices with narrower white edgings.

Measurements.—Adult male: wing, 63–65.5 (average, 63.7) mm.; tail, 57–60.5 (58.9); exposed culmen, 6.5–7 (6.8); tarsus, 15–16 (15.5); middle toe without claw, 9.5–10.5 (10). Adult female: wing, 59–64 (61.4); tail, 52–60.5 (56.6); exposed culmen, 6.8–8 (7.3); tarsus, 15–16.5 (15.6); middle toe without claw, 9–10 (9.4).

Type.—Adult male, No. 340642, U. S. National Museum, Mount Guyot, 6,500 feet altitude, Great Smoky Mountains, North Carolina, April 15, 1932; Thomas D. Burleigh, original No. 1797.

Geographic distribution.—Resident and breeds chiefly in the Appalachian Mountains region from southwestern North Carolina, north through western Virginia, West Virginia, southwestern Pennsylvania, to central eastern and northeast central Ohio.

Remarks.—In some plumages this race very closely resembles *Penthestes carolinensis*, but has more whitish on the edges of the wing-quills, and of the upper wing-coverts, and this, together with the difference in proportions, particularly those of the tail, will readily distinguish doubtful specimens.

For comparison with the above given measurements of this new race, the following dimensions of *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus* may be of interest. Adult male: wing, 64–67.5 (average 66.1) mm.; tail, 60–65 (62.1); exposed culmen, 7.3–8 (7.9); tarsus, 16–17 (16.4); middle toe without claw, 9–11 (10.1). Adult female: wing, 60–66.5 (63.5); tail, 57–63 (60.3); exposed culmen, 7–8.5 (8.1); tarsus, 16–17 (16.5); middle toe without claw, 9.5–10 (9.8).

Some Ohio individuals have been misidentified as *Penthestes carolinensis* on account of the similarity in plumage. Summer birds from Geauga and Portage counties in northeast central Ohio are nearer this form, but intermediate in size. On the other hand, birds from farther north, from Pymatuning Lake, and from Cuyahoga and Lake counties, are also intermediate, but much nearer *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*.



Oberholser, Harry C. 1937. "Description of a new chickadee from the eastern United States." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 50, 219–220.

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