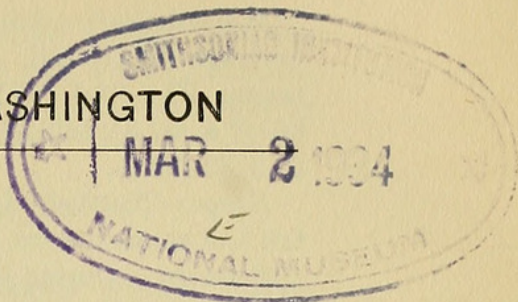


PROCEEDINGS  
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BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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TWO APPARENTLY UNRECOGNIZED RACES OF  
NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

BY LOUIS B. BISHOP.

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In the description of unrecognized subspecies now-a-days one expects not honor, rather obloquy and contumely. That this should be so is easy to understand, as the great majority of those interested in birds study them from some other standpoint, and are not interested, but rather repelled, by what to them seems an overdrawn nicety of discrimination. That forms whose differences are only average, and of which many specimens can not be properly allocated without referring to the locality given on the label, do not deserve subspecific recognition I cordially agree; but when in studying a series of specimens one finds a number from a given locality which he can not call by the name of any at present accepted race without doing injustice to his sense of the truth, he must group these differences under a new name, so that those studying other aspects of avian life may be sure which bird it is of which they are writing.

This is my apology for the two races described below.

***Hylocichla guttata dwighti*, subsp. nov.<sup>1</sup>**

DWIGHT'S HERMIT THRUSH.

*Type*.—Male adult; no. 43677, collection of Louis B. Bishop; Lion Creek, Priest Lake, Idaho, June 23, 1929; elevation 5500 feet; no. 3165 of Charles F. Hedges, collector.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Hylocichla guttata auduboni* of the southern Rocky Mountains, but much smaller; approaching *H. g. nana* and *guttata* in size, but much grayer. Two breeding males from Priest Lake are between hair brown and grayish olive (of Ridgway) above; three young females collected at Priest Lake in September and October are from light brownish olive to buffy olive.

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<sup>1</sup>Named in memory of Dr. Jonathan Dwight.



*Measurements.*—Adult males (2 from Priest Lake): wing, 92.5–94 mm. (average 93.2); tail, 71.3–74 (72.6); exposed culmen, 13.5–13.8 (13.7); tarsus, 27.4–28.4 (27.9). Immature females (three from Priest Lake): 86–89.8 (87.3); tail, 66.5–71 (68.1); exposed culmen, 12–13 (12.3); tarsus, 28.3–30 (29.1).

*Range.*—Northern Idaho in summer, passing south through Arizona in fall and southwestern Idaho in spring.

*Remarks.*—During the years 1926–31, Mr. Charles F. Hedges collected for me a number of birds in Idaho, chiefly at Coeur d'Alene, Priest Lake, in the northern part of the state, and at Payette in the southwestern portion. When I received the two male Hermit Thrushes described above they were so different from any race I knew that I asked him to get more; but the bird was evidently rare, or he was not at the center of abundance, as the three young females from Coolin, Priest Lake, mentioned above, were all he was able to take. A female (?) Hermit Thrush, however, which he collected at Payette on May 19, 1930, is identical in color with the June males from Priest Lake, and has a wing of 92 mm.; tail, 73; exposed culmen, 13.7; tarsus, 29.8. An adult male Hermit Thrush collected by Mr. H. H. Kimball at Cooley, Arizona, Nov. 10, 1920, and a young female on Nov. 2 (35135,7) agree in color with the fall birds from Priest Lake, and are about the same size—wing, 89.5 and 86.5; tail, 67.5, 68; exposed culmen, 14, 14.3; tarsus, 28.5, 29—and I refer them to *d Dwighti*.

The type of *H. g. auduboni*,—a male, collected at Fort Bridger, Utah (now Wyoming), May 28, 1858, now no. 10886, United States National Museum,—Dr. Oberholser has kindly measured for me and finds the wing 106 mm.; tail, 80; exposed culmen, 15; tarsus, 32.5. Seven male Hermit Thrushes from Reserve, New Mexico, and Paradise and the Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona, collected by H. H. Kimball, average,—wing 103.4; tail 81; exposed culmen, 14.8; tarsus, 30.3, and indicate the name *auduboni* properly belongs to the bird of the southern Rockies, and the northern Idaho bird is new.

In Idaho the summer range of *d Dwighti* is apparently limited to the far northern portion, as the only Hermit Thrushes Mr. Hedges collected at Coeur d'Alene—a male on Oct. 4, and a female on Oct. 8, 1926—are referable to *H. g. guttata*. While three breeding birds he obtained at 4500–4700 feet at Tamarack, Washington Co., in the southwestern part of Idaho,—one male and two females,—I refer to *H. g. polionota*, as in color above they resemble closely *H. ustulata swainsoni*, and measure—male, wing 105; tail, 81; exposed culmen, 15; tarsus, 32; females, wing, 92.5–95.5; tail, 75–73; exposed culmen, 15–14.3; tarsus, 29–30. To this race also I refer two males collected by Mr. Kimball at Saliz Canyon, Reserve, New Mexico, on Sept. 27 and Oct. 5, 1927, and a female on Oct. 9, 1928 (41639–40, 43176), because of their close resemblance in color to the Tamarack birds, though they are slightly smaller.

If the slightly smaller Hermit Thrush of the Cascade Mountains of Oregon and Washington be considered sufficiently distinct from *sequoiensis* of the Sierras, and *Hylocichla guttata oromela*<sup>2</sup> of Dr. Oberholser be recog-

<sup>2</sup>Scientific Publications of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, IV, No. 1, p. 8.



nized, to it must be referred five male and six female Hermit Thrushes collected by Mr. Kimball in Reserve, New Mexico, and Tucson, Arizona, in March, April and October, now in my collection, and one collected by Mr. J. T. Wright at Chinobampo, Sonora, in February.

***Lanius ludovicianus miamensis*, subsp. nov.**

MIAMI SHRIKE.

*Type*.—Male adult; no. 48332, collection of Louis B. Bishop; Cutler, Dade Co., Florida, February 5, 1932; L. B. Bishop, collector.

*Subspecific characters*.—Resembles most closely *L. l. excubitorides* and *sonoriensis* in color, but is even clearer bluish (not brownish) gray above—about light neutral gray of Ridgway, and purer white on breast and lower parts, not stained with brown; wing and tail shorter, bill shorter and less hooked than *sonoriensis*. Resembles *ludovicianus*, but is much paler above (not the dark gull gray of the latter), and pure white, not sooty white, below; wing and tail slightly shorter and bill longer and heavier.

*Measurements* of five males and five females, all from Dade county, Florida—Males: wing 93–98 mm. (average 95.4); tail, 94.5–99.5 (97.9); exposed culmen, 16.3–17 (16.9); depth of bill at base, 8.8–9.7 (9.3). Females: wing, 89.5–94 (91.3); tail, 89–94.3 (92.5); exposed culmen, 15.4–16.8 (16.1); depth of bill at base, 9 mm. Nineteen (twelve males and seven females) *L. l. ludovicianus* from Robeson Co., North Carolina; Mt. Pleasant and St. Helen's Island, South Carolina; Roswell, Georgia; Stewartsville, Alabama; Amelia Island, Enterprise, Orlando, Palatka, Lundy, Buffalo Bluffs, and Putnam Co., Florida; males: wing, 96.3–103.3 (98.2); tail, 91.7–108 (99.2); exposed culmen, 14.8–17.5 (16.3); depth of bill at base, 8.2–10 (9.1); females: wing, 93–100 (95.4); tail, 93–103 (98.5); exposed culmen, 14.5–17.6 (15.5); depth of bill at base, 8–9.5 (8.8).

*Range*.—Dade County, Florida, including Key Largo. A common, permanent resident.

*Remarks*.—As is well known, southeastern Florida is the only portion of the United States in the Humid Tropical Zone, and avian forms from the West Indies find their northern limit there. Remembering this I collected one or two of most of the resident species, including four shrikes, all from south of Miami, while spending the winter of 1931–2 at Coconut Grove. More it seemed inadvisable to take, as the Assistant Game Commissioner was very averse to scientific collecting.

But those four shrikes, on comparison with others from farther north in the state, showed themselves at once so distinct that I asked Mr. Semple to aid me, and through his kindness I obtained four more, including one from Key Largo, where shrikes are very rare; Mr. Adriaan van Rossem lent me two from the Donald Dickey collection in the California Institute of Technology collected by Mr. H. H. Bailey south of Miami. To these gentlemen my thanks are due as these specimens verified what mine indicated. Forty shrikes from northern Florida and eight from North and South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, which I examined in this connection, show upper parts of neutral gray to dark gull gray with no approach to the pale to light neutral gray of *miamensis*. The scapulars also are more broadly



white, in the latter, and the upper tail-coverts often as white as in *excubitorides* and *sonoriensis*.

This study led me to an examination of some 90 shrikes from the West, and these birds agreed with Dr. Miller's dictum that birds from the coast region of California north to Payette, Idaho, and northeast to Deer Lodge, Montana, and Salt Lake City, Utah, are darker—*gambeli*, and that birds from Imperial and part of Riverside counties, California, southern Arizona and New Mexico, and south into Sonora, Mexico, are slightly paler, with longer tails and slightly longer bills with a more pronounced hook than *gambeli*, and also than the birds of the region west of the Mississippi Valley not included in the ranges of the other two. I believe his *sonoriensis* is an easily recognizable race. But I fail utterly to find any satisfactory characters separating his *nevadensis* from the other birds of that region, and think *excubitorides* must be applied to all the shrikes from Manitoba, North Dakota, Saskatchewan, western Kansas, western Texas, Colorado, to Bakersfield in the southern San Joaquin Valley and Victorville on the Mojave Desert of California, occasionally wandering south in winter to Witch Creek, San Diego Co.; though I heartily agree that birds from the eastern border of this range blend into *migrans*, as the latter does into *ludovicianus*.

This brings me to another point on which Dr. Miller and I differ, that is our definition of intergradation. Some years ago in *The Condor* I stated *excubitorides* (then including *sonoriensis*) breeding in close connection with *gambeli* in southeastern San Bernardino County in the Mojave Desert does not intergrade with it, and that the same was true at San Gorgonio Pass, while Dr. Miller, in his description of *sonoriensis* and *nevadensis* in *The Condor*, XXX, p. 155 and 6, and in his *Systematic Revision and Natural History of American Shrikes (Lanius)*, p. 69, says they do. Intergradation as I understand it is exemplified in a meeting and blending such as occurs where *excubitorides* and *migrans* and the latter and *ludovicianus* meet; but this condition is not what obtains where *gambeli* and *sonoriensis* breed only a few miles apart at San Gorgonio Pass, or where *gambeli* and *excubitorides* breed side by side in the Mojave Desert. Fourteen shrikes which I have collected in the Coachella and Imperial Valleys are all *sonoriensis* while those on the western side and even through San Gorgonio Pass to Cabazon and Fingal are easily recognizable as *gambeli*. An adult and soon-to-lay female (42304) collected at Coyote Wells on the western side of the Imperial Valley on February 6, 1928, is particularly instructive in this connection; it combines the long tail (108 mm.) of *sonoriensis* with the darker colors and shorter bill of *gambeli*—a condition indicative of hybridism, not intergradation. An adult male on the other hand (42505) collected by Mr. George G. Cantwell at Palms, Los Angeles County, on Sept. 12, 1928, has the shorter bill of *excubitorides* but the longer tail (108 mm.) and slightly paler upper parts of *sonoriensis*. From near Victorville on the Mojave Desert I collected ten shrikes, five males and five females, almost all in March or April. Of these birds two males and two females seem to me typical *excubitorides*, two males and two females equally typical of *gambeli*, and the remaining male and female intermediate. As I under-



stand Mendel's law this is the condition and ratio to be expected where two *species* hybridize. Therefore, since I find races, characterized by only such slight differences that I must believe they were developed in a not very remote past, when meeting on the same breeding ground still retain these same small peculiarities, I can only conclude that in spite of appearances, they have become so somatically and genetically distinct that they hybridize as species do, not merely intergrade.



Bishop, Louis B. 1933. "Two apparently unrecognized races of North American birds." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 46, 201–205.

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