

propinquus it differs in smaller size, larger terminal white tail spots, and darker coloration.

Its breeding range extends from the Pacific slope of the State of Washington north through the Pacific coast region of British Columbia to the coast of southeastern Alaska as far north as Glacier Bay.

A NEW SUBSPECIES OF RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD FROM WESTERN CENTRAL AMERICA.

BY A. BRAZIER HOWELL.

AMONG a collection of birds which was made by A. van Rossem in Salvador, during 1912, are five red-wings — four males and a female — which prove to be of a form heretofore unnamed. I am indebted to H. W. Henshaw of the Bureau of Biological Survey, and to D. R. Dickey, for the loan of specimens that were necessary for working up this material. The series of *Agelaius p. richmondi* used in making the comparisons, comprise skins from the states of Vera Cruz, Tabasco, and Yucatan, Mexico. Those of *A. p. sonoriensis* are from the Imperial Valley, and the Lower Colorado River in California.

Agelaius phœniceus grinnelli, new subspecies.

GRINNELL'S RED-WING.

TYPE.— Male adult; no. 1585 coll. A. B. H.; San Sebastian, Salvador, July 18, 1912; collected by A. van Rossem.

DIAGNOSIS.— From *richmondi*, the males differ in being larger, especially the wings; the culmen is slightly shorter, but the bill is much heavier, thicker, and deeper. The length, taken in the flesh, is about the same as that of *sonoriensis*, but wing and tail are shorter, especially the former, while tarsus, middle toe with claw, and culmen are longer, the bill being also heavier, thicker, and deeper. The wing formula agrees with the usual one of *richmondi* (ninth primary shorter than fifth), as opposed to that of

sonoriensis (fifth primary shorter than ninth). The female, in comparison with the same sex of *richmondi*, lacks the pinkish tinge of the throat, and the dark streaking of the underparts is broader, and extends higher on the throat. The ear coverts are grayish as in *sonoriensis*, rather than buffy as in *richmondi*, but are paler than those of either. The upper parts are about the same as those of the last-named race, and hence darker than in *sonoriensis* — that is, the dark centers of the feathers are broader —, but as the only female at hand is considerably worn, nothing can be told in regard to the lighter margins of these feathers. Measurements of type.—Length (in flesh) 230 mm., wing 122.5, tail 82, exposed culmen 23, tarsus 32, middle toe with claw 23.5.

Remarks.—Three of the males are fully adult, and are of uniform size, but the fourth is a second year, breeding bird, very much under sized. The middle wing coverts are black, and the lesser covers have only a very little red at their bases. The five specimens of *grinnelli* were collected in July, whereas most of the other material used in comparison was taken during the spring, but in reaching conclusions in regard to markings, due allowance has been made for seasonal wear.

As *sonoriensis* has been taken no farther south than the Territory of Tepic, Mexico, and *richmondi* extends at least to eastern Nicaragua, I assume that *grinnelli* was derived from the latter form.

In his notes, A. van Rossem states that San Sebastian is six miles from the Pacific Coast, and lies about in the center of an immense mangrove swamp, which is some sixty miles long by six wide. Near San Sebastian is a large brackish, tule swamp, and in this he saw but seven red-wings, although his stay was of eighteen days duration. The female, which he secured July 22, was engaged in building a nest.

I take pleasure in naming this form after Dr. Joseph Grinnell, who has done so much for western ornithology and ornithologists.



Howell, A. Brazier. 1917. "A New Subspecies of Red-Winged Blackbird from Western Central America." *The Auk* 34, 196–197.

<https://doi.org/10.2307/4072486>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54047>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/4072486>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/86573>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.