

Its range, 'so far as known at present, extends from Patzcuaro, Michoacan, north to within fifty miles of the Arizona border in northern Chihuahua. This covers parts of the Territory of Tepic and of the States of Michoacan, Jalisco, Zacatecas, Durango and Chihuahua.

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## DESCRIPTIONS OF SUPPOSED NEW GENERA, SPECIES, AND SUBSPECIES OF AMERICAN BIRDS.

### I. FRINGILLIDÆ.<sup>1</sup>

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(By permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.)

THE present paper is the first of a series intended for the publication of supposed new forms in advance of the larger work on the birds of North and Middle America upon which the author has been engaged for the past four years, the completion of which must necessarily be long delayed. Only brief diagnoses are here given, detailed descriptions being reserved for the larger work referred to.

Several of the genera included here have usually been placed with the so-called Tanagridæ; but I am fully convinced, after long and careful study, that if it should prove practicable to retain a separate family equivalent, in part, to the usually accepted Tanagridæ, it can only be done by materially restricting its limits. At any rate, it is quite certain that the genera *Pitylus* (restricted to *P. grossus* and *P. fuliginosus*), *Pezopetes*, *Buarremon*, *Arremon*, *Lysurus*, and *Pselliophorus* are true Fringillidæ, and very closely related to such unquestionably fringilline genera as *Cardinalis*, *Pipilo*, *Pyrgisoma*, *Atlapetes*, *Arremonops*, etc. Some doubt is attached to such genera as *Stelgidostomus*, *Heterospingus*, *Mitrospingus*, *Rhodothraupis*, and *Hemithraupis*, which certainly are

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[<sup>1</sup> An author's edition of 100 copies of this paper was issued May 13, 1898.  
—EDD.]



not typically fringilline, at least; but pending a conclusion as to their proper position it is considered best to include them here provisionally.

Genus **Melanospiza.** (Type, *Loxigilla richardsoni* Cory.)

Related to *Euetheia* Reichenbach, but bill relatively much larger and with the subbasal angle of the mandibular tomium produced into a distinct point.

Genus **Brachyspiza.** (Type, *Fringilla capensis* Müller.)

Related to *Melospiza* Baird, but tail shorter, tarsi longer and stouter, and style of coloration very different.

Genus **Myospiza.** (Type, *Fringilla manimbe* Lichtenstein.)

Similar to *Coturniculus* Bonaparte, but tail rounded or double-rounded, with all the rectrices broad and rounded at tips, and tarsus much longer than middle toe with claw.

Genus **Plagiospiza.** (Type, *Aimophila superciliosa* Swainson.)

Similar to *Aimophila* Swainson, but tail shorter than wing instead of longer, and wing much less rounded, the first primary longer than eighth instead of shorter than tenth, and second to sixth primaries longest and nearly equal.

Genus **Incaspiza.** (Type, *Hemophila pulchra* Sclater.)

Similar to *Aimophila* Swainson, in much rounded wing and proportions of feet, but with tail decidedly shorter than wing, maxilla narrower (vertically) than mandible, maxillary tomium without any convexity in middle portion and style of coloration very different. *Coloration*: Back and scapulars plain chestnut, rest of upper parts plain gray; face black; chest and sides grayish; belly and under tail-coverts white or buffy; lateral rectrices chiefly white; bill yellow.

Genus **Rhynchospiza.** (Type, *Hemophila stolzmanni* Taczanowski.)

Similar to the shorter tailed, stouter billed species of *Aimophila* in proportions of toes, form of bill, and much rounded wing, but tail much shorter than wing, nearly even, and nostrils very small, circular, nearly



hidden by latero-frontal feathers. *Coloration*: Head and neck gray with two broad stripes of chestnut on pileum and a narrow postocular stripe of the same; back grayish brown streaked with black; lesser wing-coverts dark chestnut; edge of wing yellow; under parts mostly white.

**Genus Pselliophorus.**<sup>1</sup> (Type, *Tachyphonus tibialis* Lawrence.)

Related to *Buarremon* Bonaparte, but mandibular tomium without distinct subbasal tooth, feathers of forehead and lores stiff and erect, webs of rectrices semi-decomposed terminally, and feathers of tibiae developed into a conspicuous tuft entirely concealing the tibio-tarsal joint.

**Genus Lysurus.** (Type, *Buarremon crassirostris* Cassin.)

Similar to *Arremon* Vieillot, but nostril broader, more rounded, with superior operculum much less developed; wing much more rounded (first primary very much shorter than secondaries, the second about equal to secondaries or but little longer); tail more rounded, almost graduated, with the rectrices broad, though pointed at the tips, the webs semi-decomposed terminally; middle toe relatively longer, the lateral claw falling much short of base of middle claw. (Includes also *Buarremon castaneiceps* Sclater.)

**Genus Serinopsis.** (Type, *Fringilla arvensis* Kittlitz.)

Resembling *Sicalis* Boie, but bill relatively shorter and deeper at base, more compressed terminally, with straighter outlines and more distinctly ridged culmen; wing much longer and more pointed and claws relatively longer and more slender.

**Genus Heterospingus.** (Type, *Tachyphonus rubrifrons* Lawrence.)

Similar to *Tachyphonus* Vieillot, but nasal fossæ densely feathered, concealing the nostrils; tail relatively much shorter, wing more pointed, tarsus shorter (scarcely exceeding middle toe with claw), and sexes alike in color or nearly so in pattern of coloration.

**Genus Mitrospingus.** (Type, *Tachyphonus cassini* Lawrence.)

Related to *Eucometis* Sclater, but bill much longer (nearly as long as head), nostrils very different, wing more rounded, tarsus relatively longer, claws stronger, occipital feathers very short (instead of the reverse), and style of coloration very different.

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<sup>1</sup> From *Ψελλιοφόρος*; *Ψελλιον* = *armilla*.



**Genus Rhodothraupis.** (Type, *Fringilla celæno* Lichtenstein.)

Similar to *Caryothraustes* Reichenbach, but tail much longer (nearly as long as wing) and decidedly rounded; first primary not longer than eighth instead of longer than seventh; tarsus decidedly longer than middle toe with claw, and sexes different in color, though similar in pattern of coloration.

**Genus Hemithraupis.** (Type, *Aglaia cyanocephala* Lafresnaye and D'Orbigny.)

Similar to *Tanagra* Linnæus,<sup>1</sup> but tail much longer (equal to length of wing to tip of secondaries), wing more rounded (first primary shorter than seventh instead of longer than sixth), and rictal bristles much stronger.

**Genus Stelgidostomus.** (Type, *Saltator maxillosus* Cabanis.)

Superficially closely resembling *Saltator* Vieillot, but bill very different, being much shorter and more tumid, with maxillary tomia strongly inflected, the mandibular tomia serrated, especially toward the base, and the inferior surface of the maxilla with a lateral series of sharp, transverse file-like ridges or corrugations.

**Aimophila<sup>2</sup> ruficeps sororia.** LAGUNA SPARROW.

Similar to *A. ruficeps* in coloration of upper parts, but chestnut of pileum somewhat lighter or clearer, supraloral line whiter, and supra-auricular stripe lighter and grayer; smaller than *A. ruficeps scottii*, with back, etc., less ashy with chestnut streaks darker and much narrower, and the under parts much more strongly tinged with buff; differing from *all* the other northern forms of the species in much thicker and relatively shorter bill. Wing, 2.20–2.48 (2.37); tail, 2.40–2.58 (2.49); exposed culmen, 0.45; depth of bill at base, 0.25–0.27 (0.26); tarsus, 0.80–0.81 (0.80); middle toe, 0.55–0.60 (0.58).

<sup>1</sup>The type of *Tanagra* Linnæus is, according to the "process of elimination," *T. episcopus*.

<sup>2</sup>I am at present unable to discover any characters sufficient to separate *Peucea* from *Aimophila*, unless the former be restricted to *P. æstivalis*, *P. botteri*, and *P. cassini*. *Aimophila ruficeps* is connected with the type (*A. ruficauda*) by such intermediate species as *A. mcleodi*, which Mr. Brewster described as an *Aimophila* and Messrs. Salvin and Godman as a *Peucea* (*P. megarhyncha*).



Southern portion of Lower California, in mountains (Laguna; Victoria Mountains).

Type, No. 90,063, U. S. Nat. Mus., ♀ ad., Victoria Mts., Lower California, Feb. 9, 1883; L. Belding.

### ***Aimophila sartorii.* HUATUSCO SPARROW.**

Similar to *A. botterii* but very much darker, the ground color of the upper parts sooty grayish or dark smoke-gray with the darker markings very heavy; under parts less buffy, the chest and sides varying from pale smoky buff to light drab-gray. Length (skins), 5.10-6.10 (5.73); wing, 2.35-2.60 (2.42); tail, 2.25-2.52 (2.42); exposed culmen, 0.48-0.52 (0.50); depth of bill at base, 0.27-0.30 (0.28); tarsus, 0.80-0.87 (0.83); middle toe, 0.62-0.68 (0.64).

Eastern slope of Vera Cruz, Mexico (Huatusco, near Mirador), and south to northern Nicaragua (El Volcan, Chinandego).

Type, No. 44,752, U. S. Nat. Mus., ♀ ad., Huatusco, near Mirador, Vera Cruz, Mexico, July 12; Florentin Sartorius.

This form resembles very closely in coloration "*Ammodramus*" *petenicus* Salvin, but is decidedly larger and the wing less rounded. The relationship is exceedingly close, however, and it would not be surprising should the two prove to be local forms of the same species. *A. petenicus* is certainly not an *Ammodramus*, but, should my view of the impracticability of separating *Peucea* from *Aimophila* prove correct, it should be called *Aimophila petenica*.

Owing to the circumstance that the single Vera Cruz specimen (the type) is in worn plumage, comparison between it and the two Nicaraguan specimens in the Salvin-Godman collection is unsatisfactory. The latter are in fresh plumage, and may be merely winter migrants, though it is very doubtful whether these birds perform more than local migrations.

The Huatusco bird which has been selected as the type is, in part, the *Peucea aestivalis* var. *botterii* of the 'History of North American Birds' (Vol. II, page 38), and, exclusively, the *P. botterii* of the 'Manual of North American Birds' (page 428). The true *P. botterii*, it may be added, is the same species as that treated by American authors generally as *P. mexicana* or *P. arizonæ*, as I have recently been able to determine by comparison of the types of the three supposed forms.



**Atlapetes pileatus dilutus.** CHIHUAHUAN PILEATED SPARROW.

Similar to *A. pileatus* (Wagler) but averaging smaller, with smaller and more slender bill, grayer upper parts, and yellow of under parts paler and duller. Wing, 2.45–2.65 (2.53); tail, 2.35–2.60 (2.50); exposed culmen, 0.40–0.47 (0.44); depth of bill at base, 0.25–0.30 (0.28); tarsus, 0.90–0.95 (0.92); middle toe, 0.61–0.65 (0.63).

Northwestern portion of Mexican plateau (Bravo and Jesus Maria, Chihuahua).

Type, No. 99962, U. S. Nat. Mus., ♂ ad., Jesus Maria, Chihuahua, April 25, 1884; R. R. McLeod.

**Arremonops venezuelensis.** VENEZUELAN STRIPED-CROWNED SPARROW.

Similar to *A. conirostris* (Bonaparte), but decidedly smaller, bill more slender, and color of upper parts of a duller, more brownish, olive-green. Length (skins), 5.85–6.00 (5.92); wing, 2.77–2.83 (2.80); tail, 2.40–2.47 (2.44); exposed culmen, 0.58–0.60 (0.59); depth of bill at base, 0.30; tarsus, 0.99–1.01 (1.00); middle toe, 0.63–0.65 (0.64).

Venezuela (La Guayra; Puerto Cabello; Carupano; Tachira).

Type, No. 119280, U. S. Nat. Mus., Puerto Cabello, Venezuela; received from Count von Berlepsch.

The synonymy of this form is as follows:—

*Embernagra conirostris* (nec *Arremon conirostris* BONAPARTE), SCLATER & SALVIN, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1868, 167 (Caripano, Venezuela).

[*Embernagra striaticeps*.] Subsp. d. *Embernagra conirostris* SHARPE, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. XII, 1888, 763, part (Carupano and Tachira, Venezuela).

**Arremonops richmondi.** RICHMOND'S SPARROW.

Similar to *A. conirostris* (Bonaparte) but much brighter olive-green above, gray of head much deeper, and chest distinctly ash-gray.

Honduras (Segovia River) to Veragua.

Type, No. 126189, U. S. Nat. Mus., ♂ ad., Greytown, Nicaragua, Feb. 16, 1892; C. W. Richmond.

This is the *Embernagra striaticeps* of authors, but not of Lafresnaye, as I have been able to ascertain by examination of the type specimens of the latter, in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History. The latter clearly are referable to the Colombian form known as *Embernagra conirostris* (Bonaparte), to which Panama examples in the U. S. National Museum



also unquestionably belong. A new name being therefore required for the Central American bird, I take pleasure in naming it after Dr. C. W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of the Division of Birds, U. S. National Museum, who procured a series of beautifully prepared specimens in Nicaragua.

**Cyanocompsa concreta cyanescens.** PANAMA BLUE  
GROSBEAK.

Similar to *C. concreta* (DuBus) but averaging smaller (the bill especially), the male more decidedly bluish, the adult female and young less rusty brown. Length (skins) 5.60–6.50 (6.00); wing, 2.90–3.28 (3.11); tail, 2.37–2.75 (2.62); culmen, from base, 0.78–0.89 (0.81); depth of bill at base, 0.60–0.70 (0.66); width of mandible at base, 0.49–0.54 (0.51); tarsus, 0.76–0.87 (0.83); middle toe, 0.55–0.62 (0.59).

Colombia (including Isthmus of Panama) to Venezuela and western Ecuador. (Specimens from Veragua, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and southern Honduras connect the typical Colombian bird with *G. concreta* of southern Mexico, Guatemala, and northern Honduras, the *concreta* type reaching its extreme development in southern Mexico.)

Type, No. 146114, U. S. Nat. Mus., ♂ ad., Panama, 1877; A. Boucard.

This is the *Guiraca cyanoides* of authors, but is not the *Coccyborus cyanoides* of Lafresnaye, as has erroneously been supposed. I have examined the types of the latter, now in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History. The female type is a young example of *Guiraca caerulea*; but the male type represents a very distinct species, of which I have seen specimens from Venezuela, Guiana, and the lower Amazon Valley (Santarem). *Cyanocompsa cyanoides* (Lafresnaye) is a much more brightly colored bird than *C. concreta cyanescens*, the coloration of the male being far more like that of the smaller South American species, *Cyanocompsa cyanea* (Linnæus). The female, however, is very differently colored, being of a deep bistre-brownish or sepia hue, very different from the tawny color of *C. cyanea*.

**Amphispiza bilineata deserticola.** DESERT SPARROW.

Similar to *A. bilineata* (Cassin) but averaging decidedly larger, with upper parts lighter and browner, and the white spot at tip of inner web of lateral tail-feather much smaller. Length (skins), 4.80–5.45 (5.05); wing, 2.45–2.78 (2.58); tail, 2.32–2.69 (2.45); exposed culmen, 0.36–0.42



(0.40); depth of bill at base, 0.22-0.25 (0.24); tarsus, 0.71-0.78 (0.73); middle toe, 0.49-0.55 (0.51); length of white spot on lateral tail-feather, 0.10-0.45 (0.30).

Arid plains from western Texas (west of 103° W. longitude) to coast of southern California (San Diego County, etc.), north to northern Nevada and Utah, south into Chihuahua and Sonora; Lower California?

Type, No. 98884, U. S. Nat. Mus., ♂ ad., Tuscon, Arizona, May 12, 1884; E. W. Nelson.

### ***Amphispiza belli clementæ.* SAN CLEMENTE SPARROW.**

Exactly like *A. belli* (Cassin) in coloration, but larger and with relatively larger bill. Length (skins), 5.20-5.70 (5.50); wing, 2.45-2.72 (2.61); tail, 2.30-2.68 (2.54); exposed culmen, 0.38-0.41 (0.39); depth of bill at base, 0.22-0.23 (0.22); tarsus, 0.79-0.85 (0.80); middle toe, 0.49-0.53 (0.52).

San Clemente Island, southern California.

Type, No. 117612, U. S. Nat. Mus., ♂ ad., San Clemente Island, California, Jan. 25, 1889; C. H. Townsend.

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## NOTES ON THE NESTING OF THE FORK-TAILED PETREL (*OCEANODROMA FURCATA*).

BY JOSEPH MAILLIARD.

AT NINE o'clock on the evening of June 17, 1896, our anchor was dropped at the island of St. Lazaria, a long, narrow rock lying in the mouth of Sitka Bay, Baranoff Island, Alaska. Landing at once, with my two assistants, we found ourselves upon a low bunch of rock between the two higher portions of the island. Here we shot some Glaucous-winged Gulls (*Larus glaucescens*), Violet-green Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus robustus*), Black Oyster-catchers (*Hæmatopus bachmani*), and Tufted Puffins (*Lunda cirrhata*). About ten o'clock we discovered a way of reaching the top of the main portion of the island, and found the summit covered with peat in process of formation, out of which grew a rank sort of coarse grass and salmon-berry bushes, and in some places groves of fir and cedar trees. The highest portion is probably 200 feet above the sea, with perpendicular cliffs almost continuously around





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