

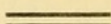
From the series of *hyloscopus* examined I would not consider that it is ever "pure white" below, though always much nearer white than *harrisi*. There is always a slight smoky brown or soiled appearance to the plumage of the breast and belly, quite noticeable in contrast with the Rocky Mountain race. I have never seen a specimen from California that I should call typical *harrisi*, though a few of the more northern skins are rather near that race, and a specimen from Lake County, California (Barrett Mt.) is much nearer *harrisi* than *hyloscopus*.

The habitats of the three western races might be mapped as follows:

Dryobates villosus harrisi.—From British Columbia south to northern California (Barrett Mt.).

D. villosus hyloscopus.—California south to San Pedro Martir Mts., Lower California, east to Chiricahua Mts., Arizona.

D. villosus montanus.—Northern New Mexico, north to Montana and Idaho. Utah (Uintah Mts.).



DESCRIPTION OF A NEW JAY FROM MEXICO.

BY GERRIT S. MILLER, JR.

AN undescribed Jay collected by Mr. W. B. Richardson in the mountains near Bolaños, Jalisco, Mexico, in February, 1889, differs in many ways from *Aphelocoma couchi* Baird, its nearest relative. It may be called

Aphelocoma gracilis, sp. nov.

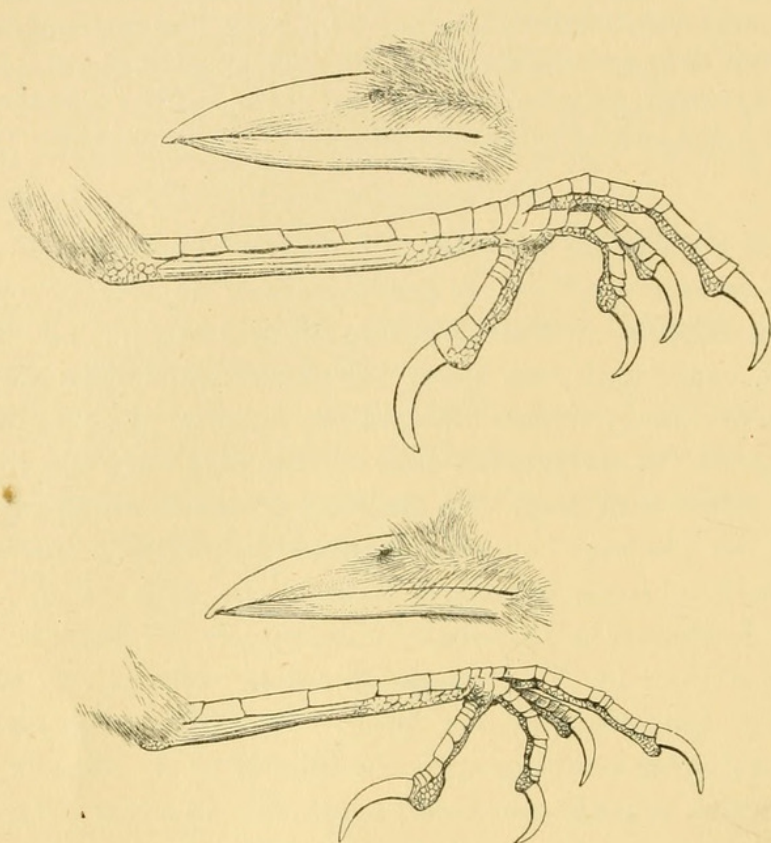
Sp. Ch.—A little smaller than *Aphelocoma couchi* Baird and with disproportionately slender bill and weak feet; color throughout much grayer than in *A. couchi*.

Adult male (Type No. 5658, collection of Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., Sierra Bolaños, Jalisco, Mexico, February 26, 1889. W. B. Richardson collector): Back smoke gray faintly tinged with blue; rump, upper tail-coverts,

pileum, and sides of neck pale glaucous blue; cheeks and auriculars brownish slightly tinged with blue; wings blue of a shade somewhat darker than that of head, the flight feathers brownish on the inner webs and gray beneath; tail like wings, but the feathers showing faint transverse darker bars when held in certain lights, and blue extending over most of inner webs; whole ventral surface of body pale drab gray without trace of blue, darker across chest and on thighs, fading to dirty white on belly and crissum; feet and bill black, the latter marked with pale horn color at tip and along cutting edges from base to region about opposite nostrils.

None of the eleven specimens of *Aphelocoma couchi* that I have seen are near enough to *A. gracilis*, either in size or color, to cause any difficulty in distinguishing the two birds. The blue on the head, wings, tail, and upper tail-coverts is darker and much more intense in *A. couchi* than in *A. gracilis*, while in unworn specimens of the former the blue of the back is only just perceptibly dulled with gray. In the type, however, which was killed in April, the plumage is so much abraded that the color is much grayer than in fresh autumnal skins. The type of *A. gracilis*, taken in February, is apparently unworn, yet the back is noticeably grayer than in the type of *A. couchi*, and entirely different from fresh specimens of the latter. In *Aphelocoma couchi* the cheeks are either concolor with the pileum or so slightly tinged with brown as to make no strong contrast. In *A. gracilis*, on the other hand, the cheeks are noticeably browner than the pileum. The gray of the chest and thighs is in *A. couchi* always strongly tinged with blue (except in much worn specimens), while in *A. gracilis* it is entirely unmixed with this color. The bill of *A. couchi* varies considerably in shape, in immature birds appearing shorter and thicker than in the adults, but never approaches the weak slender bill of *A. gracilis*. In *A. couchi* the bill is entirely deep blue black except at the tip where it is pale horn color. In *A. gracilis*, on the other hand, the cutting edges from the base to near the middle are pale horn color like the tip. No trace of such marking can be seen in any of the specimens of *A. couchi*, although the series represents all ages from the adult to young not wholly moulted from the first plumage. The feet of the two birds differ greatly in size though not in the proportion of the various parts. The accompanying drawings show the

differences between the bills and feet of the two species. They were made by Mr. Frank Müller from the type of *A. gracilis* and an adult male *A. couchi*, the latter taken at Villar, San Luis Potosi.



Aphelocoma couchi is now known to range from Monterey, Nuevo Leon (the type locality), south to Zacatecas and central San Luis Potosi. Over this area the species is very constant in size and color. The more southerly specimens, however, are slightly larger than those taken farther north, while the largest in the series came from Jerez, Zacatecas. The fact that this specimen, taken at a point nearer the type locality of *Aphelocoma gracilis* than any of the others, differs most widely of all from the smaller bird is a strong argument in favor of the specific distinctness of the two forms.

My thanks are due to Mr. Robert Ridgway for the opportunity to examine the original specimens of *Aphelocoma couchi*; and to Dr. C. Hart Merriam for the use of the Jays in the collection of the United States Department of Agriculture.

MEASUREMENTS OF *Aphelocoma couchi* AND *A. gracilis*.*Aphelocoma couchi*.

No.	LOCALITY.	Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Claw of Middle Toe.	Culmen.	From Nostril.	Depth through Nostril.	Ratio of depth to length from Nostril.
4113 ¹	Monterey, Nuevo Leon.	♂ ad.	144	135	39	25	10	29	21.4	10	46.7
4112	" "	♂ ad.	149	136	—	24	10.5	30	22	11	50
372	Villar, San Luis Potosi.	♂ ad.	155	146	41	24	10	30	22.5	10.8	48
373	" " "	♂ ad.	156	146	39	25	10	29	23	11	47.8
365	" " "	♀ ad.	156	145	41	22.5	9.2	29	21	10.4	49.5
358	Mts. near Jesus Maria, San Luis Potosi.	♀ ad.	154	146	42	25.5	9.5	30	23	11	47.8
5659	Jerez, Zacatecas.	♂ ad.	162	150	41	22	9	27	19	10.2	53.7
371	Villar, San Luis Potosi.	♂ juv.	148	141	39.5	23.5	9.5	27.5	21	10	47.6
366	" " "	♀ juv.	151	141	39	24.5	9.8	28	21	10.4	49.5
327	Mts. near Jesus Maria, San Luis Potosi.	♂ juv.	153	148	40	25.5	10.5	28	22	10.4	47.3
Average of 5 adult males.			153.2	142.6	40	24	9.9	29	21.6	10.6	49.24

Aphelocoma gracilis.

5658 ¹	Sierra Bolaños, Jalisco.	♂ ad.	146	138	33	21	8	27	20	8.8	44
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¹ Type.



Miller, Gerrit S. 1896. "Description of a New Jay from Mexico." *The Auk* 13, 34–37. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4068740>.

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