

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTIONS OF FOUR NEW BIRDS FROM MEXICO.

BY E. W. NELSON.

The birds described below were collected by Mr. E. A. Goldman during the spring and summer of 1904 while continuing the work of the Biological Survey in Mexico.

Porzana goldmani sp. nov.

MEXICAN YELLOW RAIL.

Type No. 193,712, adult male, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. From Lerma, Mexico. Collected July 11, 1904, by E. A. Goldman. Original No. 10,994.

Geographic distribution.—Known only from type locality in the Valley of Toluca, Mexico.

Specific characters.—Generally similar to *P. noveboracensis* but darker, the wings, flanks, and rump slaty blackish; white markings on back in the form of transverse spots; bill slenderer.

Description of type.—Superciliary stripe, sides of head and neck dark buffy mottled with narrow blackish edgings to feathers; top of head and nape blackish obscurely streaked with narrow dingy buffy edges of feathers; middle of shoulders streaked equally with black and rather dark buffy; sides of shoulders, scapulars and tertials mainly black edged with dark buffy; the black middle of feathers marked with transverse oblong white spots (usually two on each feather); rump blackish with small white spots; primaries dark slaty; secondaries dark grayish with white areas as in *noveboracensis*; wing coverts blackish with small rounded white spots; chin and throat pale dull buffy shading on lower neck and breast into dark dull buffy with feathers on sides of breast tipped with dusky; belly

dull whitish; sides of body, flanks, thighs, and crissum dull black with spots and bars of white.

One specimen examined.

***Empidonax fulvifrons fusciceps* subsp. nov.**

Type No. 193,713, adult male, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. From Comitán, Chiapas, Mexico. Collected March 29, 1904, by E. A. Goldman. Original No. 10,625.

Geographic distribution.—Highlands of Chiapas and adjacent parts of Guatemala.

Subspecific characters.—In size and color of underparts like typical *fulvifrons*; upperparts darker; crown much darker and strongly contrasted with back.

Four specimens examined; from Comitán, Teopisca, and Tenejapa, Chiapas.

***Arremonops superciliosus chiapensis* subsp. nov.**

Type No. 193,714, adult male, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. From San Bartolomé, Chiapas, Mexico. Collected March 15, 1904, by E. A. Goldman. Original No. 10,533.

Geographic distribution.—Valley of the Chiapas River, Chiapas.

Subspecific characters.—Much like *Arremonops s. sumichrasti* but top of head darker, the median stripe on crown darker and grayer; back dark green as in typical *superciliosus*; distribution of buffy on underparts as in *sumichrasti* but color of a deeper or more creamy shade; size as in *sumichrasti*.

Nine specimens examined.

***Telmatodytes palustris tolucensis* subsp. nov.**

MEXICAN MARSH WREN.

Type No. 194,074, adult male, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. From Lerma, Mexico. Collected July 5, 1904, by E. A. Goldman. Original No. 10,950.

Geographic distribution.—Known only from Toluca Valley, Mexico.

Subspecific characters.—Size less than in *palustris*; black dorsal area averages larger; rufous of back brighter; underparts much more reddish buffy.

Description of type (in worn breeding plumage).—Top of head blackish with traces of a brown median line; middle of back black with well defined white shaft streaks; rump and upper tail coverts rich reddish brown; middle tail feathers dull grayish brown mottled with darker and indistinctly barred with same basally; underparts dull dark reddish buffy (including pectoral area) becoming dingy whitish on chin and throat and middle of abdomen.

Measurements of type.—Wing, 51; tail, 40; culmen, 12; tarsus, 20.

Seven specimens examined, all from type locality.

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FOUR NEW BEARS FROM NORTH AMERICA.

BY C. HART MERRIAM.

Notwithstanding the large number of bears already known from North America, four more appear to require recognition. Three of these are from Alaska; the fourth is a small form of the Black Bear from the desert mountains of eastern Mexico.

***Ursus eulophus* sp. nov.**

Type from Admiralty Island, southeastern Alaska. No. 81,102. Adult male. U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. 1896. Lieut. G. T. Emmons.

Characters.—Size large, equaling the Sitka bear; color said to be very dark brown. Sagittal crest remarkably high anteriorly; frontals extraordinarily elevated posteriorly; rather narrow interorbitally; frontal shield long and high and in a single flat plane sloping strongly upward from anterior third of nasals almost to fronto-parietal suture (not decurved posteriorly); braincase narrowed and compressed anteriorly, passing gradually into sagittal crest; rostrum rather narrow (as in *horribilis*, as contrasted with the broader *sitkensis*); maxillæ long, reaching back into frontals to beyond plane of nasals; interpterygoid fossa long and narrow; molars larger than in the grizzlies, fully as large as in *sitkensis*; lower carnassial slender, especially anteriorly; $\overline{m} 2$ narrower and less rectangular than in *sitkensis*; last lower premolar smaller and thinner than in *sitkensis*; incisors small, as in *horribilis* (very much smaller than in *sitkensis*, particularly the outer incisor).

***Ursus kenaiensis* sp. nov.**

Type from Cape Elizabeth, at extreme west end of Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. No. 128,672. Adult female. U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. 1903. C. A. Lambert.

Characters.—Size large; skull broad, flat and remarkably massive, with exceedingly broad rostrum, not constricted at base, but spreading broadly into zygomata; zygomata broadly spreading; jugal very broad anteriorly; frontals depressed, flattened, low posteriorly; postorbital processes large, blunt, projecting horizontally outward from top of skull; *palate exceedingly broad*; nasals large and broad; anterior nares rather small. Canines small (as in the grizzlies); incisors and molars large. From *Ursus richardsoni*, apparently its nearest relative, it may be distinguished at a glance by larger size, broader palate, and by the form of the temporal ridges, which do not turn abruptly inward behind the postorbital processes. From *kidderi* and *phaenonyx* it differs in greater massiveness; much broader rostrum, palate, and zygomata, and flatter frontals. Compared with *kidderi* the skull as a whole is shorter and broader; the incisors and canines of approximately the same size. Compared with *phaenonyx* the skull is in every way larger, broader, and far more massive; the canines are approximately the same size; the incisors larger.

***Ursus horribilis phaenonyx* subsp. nov.**

Type from Comet Creek (5 miles below head), a tributary of Forty Mile Creek, near Eagle, Alaska. No. 133,231. Old female. U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. July 12, 1903. W. H. Osgood. Original No. 2684.

Characters.—Similar in general to *U. horribilis*, but claws shorter, more strongly curved, and dark blue-black [in *horribilis* long, flattish, and mainly white]. Ears rather short and *densely haired* on both sides. Color of skin dark brown.

Color.—Back and legs very dark brown, almost blackish brown; tips of hairs on back where not worn off grizzled; underparts and muzzle pale brown.

Cranial and dental characters.—Skull similar to that of *horribilis*, but zygomata more spreading, muzzle broader and shorter, especially broad anteriorly; canines heavier; *incisors decidedly larger*.

Measurements of longest (middle) claw of fore foot.—Over curve, 93 mm.; from top of base to tip, 75; from bottom of base to tip, 55.

***Ursus americanus eremicus* subsp. nov.**

Type from Sierra Guadalupe, Coahuila, Mexico. No. 116,952. Adult female. U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. April 21, 1902. E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman. Original No. 15,111.

Cranial characters of female.—Size and general characters as in *amblyceps*, but frontals in the female *depressed* instead of elevated, the face line (in

profile) continuing from end of nose almost to parietals, thus bringing highest part of cranium far back over braincase [in *amblyceps* the highest part is over orbits, on plane of postorbital processes]; frontals flat [in *amblyceps* strongly convex, the sides decurved]; nasals smaller, more wedge-shape, and straight or nearly straight [in *amblyceps* the anterior third is strongly upturned]; rostrum more slender anteriorly; anterior nares narrower; occipitosphenoid length shorter; canines more slender; outer incisors decidedly smaller; upper molars slightly larger, more broadly and squarely truncate anteriorly [in *amblyceps* more rounded and retreating on inner side]. Naked nose pad very long; ears rather long.

Color.—Black, the woolly underfur very dark brown; muzzle dark brown in type specimen (old female), but light brown, almost yellowish brown, in half-grown cub.

Measurements (type specimen).—Total length, 1,290; tail, 66; hind foot, 210.

Remarks.—I have not seen an adult male from Coahuila, but if the animal inhabiting the Davis Mountains, Texas, is the same, the old female has a remarkable skull, the nose strongly pugged, the frontals rising abruptly much higher than in *amblyceps*.

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A NEW COYOTE FROM SOUTHERN MEXICO.

BY C. HART MERRIAM.

Among the specimens recently collected by E. A. Goldman in southern Chiapas, near the boundary of Guatemala, is an undescribed species of Coyote. It is much larger than any heretofore discovered in Mexico and may be known from the following description :

***Canis goldmani* sp. nov.**

Type from San Vicente, Chiapas, Mexico, near Guatemala border. No. 133,204. Adult female. U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. April 25, 1904. E. A. Goldman. Original No. 16,725.

Characters.—Size large—largest of the Mexican species, larger than *lestes* and equal to *latrans* except that the rostrum is not so long.

Color.—Muzzle, top of head, ears, and legs fulvous; face grizzled grayish fulvous; some black hairs in ears; back grizzled buffy gray and fulvous; underfur pale fulvous, much paler than in *vigilis* or *cagottis*.

Cranial characters.—Muzzle rather broad; postorbital processes strongly developed; frontals deeply sulcate; bullæ very large, larger than in any known species; very broad and flattened on outer side; teeth large, those of female about as large as in male *cagottis*, except lower carnassial, which is decidedly smaller than in *cagottis*.

Measurements (of type, adult female).—Total length, 1,220; tail vertebrae, 355; hind foot, 216.

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A NEW SEA OTTER FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.
BY C. HART MERRIAM.

The Biological Survey has recently secured from Geo. M. McGuire, of Santa Barbara, the skeleton of an adult male sea otter killed July 2, 1904, on San Miguel Island, the most westerly of the Santa Barbara or Channel Islands, California. Sea otters were formerly abundant on these islands, but are now exceedingly rare and believed to be rapidly approaching extinction.

Comparison of the skull of this specimen with a series of skulls from Bering Sea (the type locality of *lutris*) shows the California animal to be a well-marked subspecies. It may be known from the following description :

Latax lutris nereis subsp. nov.

Type from San Miguel Island, Santa Barbara Islands, California. No. 133,508. Adult male. U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. July 2, 1904. Geo. M. McGuire.

Cranial characters.—Skull large, broad, and high, with long and high sagittal crest and swollen braincase. Compared with *lutris* the following differences appear: Skull as a whole less flattened, braincase more swollen and rounded, the sides (viewed from above), more convex and swollen, especially behind the constriction; anterior part of zygomata more broadly and squarely expanded; basioccipital forming an angle with basisphenoid; coronoid processes sloping strongly backward; sagittal crest much higher and more decurved posteriorly; inner cusp of large upper premolar (pm 3) elongated along anterior part of inner lobe (instead of conical) and showing a tendency to subdivide into two parts; 1st lower molar broader and more broadly truncate posteriorly.

The specimen in the flesh measured 6 feet in length.



Nelson, Edward William. 1903. "Descriptions of new birds from southern Mexico." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 16, 151–159.

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