

now rapidly becoming extinct on the Wacissa. Every one is shot by being systematically followed up. They are shot for food, and the people — the crackers — consider them “better than ducks”! The bill is also prized and many fall victims for that reason.

Helinaia swainsonii. SWAINSON'S WARBLER.—Breeds very abundantly on the Wacissa, but only sparingly in the hill country. The only nest found, which contained three very heavily spotted eggs, was taken May 7, in the hill country.

Helminthophila bachmani. BACHMAN'S WARBLER.—An extremely rare migrant in this region. I secured but eight specimens, of which five were females. All the males taken were shot while singing, which made me suspect they would breed in the hill country, as all the specimens I took on the Suwannee River, with one exception, were silent.

The mystery is where does Bachman's Warbler breed, for it must breed in some of the Southern States.

Thryothorus bewickii. BEWICK'S WREN.—A common winter and early spring resident. This is one of the commonest Wrens, being found along fenced roads. It sings like a Song Sparrow.

NOTE ON THE PAROQUET (*Conurus carolinensis*).—Formerly very common, but it has entirely disappeared from this region now. Mr. E. G. Kilpatrick, of Waukeelah, told me that he saw a flock of these birds alight in the trees in his yard four years ago, but they soon left.

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Edward G. Kilpatrick of Waukeelah, who assisted me in every possible way in securing specimens, and accompanied me through the Wacissa Wilderness.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW BIRDS FROM THE ISLAND OF MARGARITA, VENEZUELA.

BY CHARLES W. RICHMOND.

DURING July of the present year Lieut. Wirt Robinson, U. S. A., visited the Island of Margarita on a short collecting trip, and obtained about two hundred specimens, representing all the land birds observed there, except *Polyborus* and the two common Vultures. These specimens were sent to the National Museum for identification, and in a preliminary examination of part of the collection the species here described appear to be new. They

are of course nearly related to birds of the mainland of Venezuela, which is distant from the island only about twenty miles. A detailed account of the birds of Margarita may be expected from Lieut. Robinson in the near future.

Amazilia aliciaë, new species.

Type, No. 151,067, U. S. N. M., ♂ adult, Margarita Island, July, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 408.—Forehead, forepart of crown, lores, ear-coverts, cheeks, sides of neck, and under parts brilliant metallic green; nape, under wing-coverts, and axillaries less metallic green, and of a brassy hue; hind crown, wing-coverts (except primary coverts, which have hardly a shade of metallic color), and back metallic reddish bronze, most intense on the latter, and almost disappearing on rump; upper tail-coverts pale chestnut, some of the feathers centred with purplish blue, which is visible only upon disturbing the feathers; under tail-coverts uniform pale chestnut, without any metallic centres to the feathers, and without admixture of whitish feathers; thighs and crissum silky white; flanks with a tuft of downy white feathers, which are normally concealed; wings blackish, with slight bluish reflections; tail blue black; upper mandible black, lower mandible flesh color except at tip, where black. Wing, 2.07; tail (outer feather), 1.27; depth of fork, .18; culmen, .80 inches.

♀ adult, No. 151,068, U. S. N. M., Margarita Island, July, 1895; same collector (No. 483).—Similar to the male, but duller; fore crown and forehead much less brilliant, and not sharply separated from the bronzy shade of hind crown; abdomen mostly dull dusky gray. Wing, 2.04; outer tail feather, 1.24; depth of fork, .16; culmen, .81 inches.

Lieut. Robinson brought back eight specimens of this pretty bird, which is named in honor of Mrs. Robinson. It is closely allied to *Amazilia feliciaë* of the adjacent mainland but is evidently distinct. I have been unable at this time to compare the new species with males of *feliciaë*, but, fortunately, Lieut. Robinson stopped long enough at La Guayra to collect six females of the latter, which are of exceptional interest here, as they were collected at about the same time as those of the new form and are therefore in exactly the same state of plumage. Comparing females then, the new form differ from *feliciaë* in having the posterior part of the crown and back reddish bronze instead of green; in having the rump and upper tail-coverts practically without metallic color; the tail less brilliant, and steel black

instead of blue black; under tail-coverts uniform pale chestnut, without any metallic green or steel blue feathers; the bird is also larger than *A. felicia*. In the series of six females of the latter the under tail-coverts are mixed chestnut and metallic green or steel blue, with some occasional grayish feathers; the upper parts are brassy green in four of the specimens, in another there is a wash of bronze on the edges of the feathers of the back, while in the sixth the back and hind crown are quite as bronzy as in *A. alicia*, but this color extends down on the rump and upper tail-coverts more than in the latter species. The bronzy color on this last specimen of *A. felicia* seems to be due to a stain, or rather to a mechanical change in the structure of the 'metallic' feathers. It is well known that hummers when shot frequently become soiled through the exudate from shot holes in the throat, and the nectar or exudate drying upon the feathers, even in a very diluted state, probably changes the color of the feathers with which it comes in contact. The metallic green crest of a *Pharomacrus* will turn a deep reddish bronze when moistened with water, and the original color is restored upon drying. It is some such accident, I think, which accounts for the bronzy specimen of *A. felicia* mentioned above.

The series of *A. alicia* has been compared with *A. erythronota* and *A. tobaci*, in addition to *A. felicia*, and it is clearly more nearly related to the latter.

The sexes are easily separable in this species, and from its close affinity to the other three forms just mentioned, the same is doubtless the case with them. The glittering green cap of the male, sharply defined from the less brilliant remainder of the crown, is sufficient to separate the sexes without recourse to the other characters mentioned in the description.

Doleromya pallida, new species.

Type, No. 151,069, ♂ adult, Margarita Island, July, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 432.—Similar to *D. fallax*, but much paler below, where pale buffy fulvous; metallic green of upper parts less brilliant and less brassy; size the same. Upper mandible and tip of lower, black; lower mandible flesh color. Wing, 2.41; tail (central feathers), 1.40; exposed culmen, .82 inches.

♀ adult, No. 151,070, U. S. N. M., Margarita Island, July, 1895, same collector (No. 409).—Does not differ from the male. Wing, 2.28; tail (central feathers), 1.34; exposed culmen, .85 inches.

Lieut. Robinson collected nineteen specimens of this species, which I have compared with three specimens of *D. fallax* belonging to the American Museum of Natural History and kindly forwarded to me by Dr. J. A. Allen. They are uniformly paler than the three examples of *D. fallax*, and all, without exception, have pale flesh colored lower mandibles, while those of *fallax* are apparently yellow when fresh, at any rate the American Museum specimens have the appearance of having had yellow lower mandibles in life. There does not appear to be any appreciable variation in the amount of white on the outer tail-feathers in *D. pallida*, and the area occupied by white on these feathers is the same in both species.

In both forms the feathers of the under parts are edged with buff, the less exposed part of the feathers being different shades of fulvous (light in *pallida*, and darker in *fallax*), consequently the more worn the plumage, the darker the birds appear. The majority of specimens of *D. pallida* are in somewhat worn plumage, while the three specimens of *D. fallax* are in quite fresh condition, hence the differences between the two species pointed out above will probably be greater when the two birds are compared in the same condition of plumage.

Cardinalis robinsoni, new species.

Type, No. 151,072, U. S. N. M., ♂ adult, Margarita Island, July, 1895; Wirt Robinson; collector's No. 460.—Similar to *C. phoeniceus* but smaller, with considerably shorter crest. Apparently no difference in color. Wing, 3.26; tail, 3.29; tarsus, .96; culmen, .76; length of crest, 1.17 inches.

The female, of which two specimens are in the collection, differs in the same manner.

All of the five specimens obtained on Margarita are in worn plumage and somewhat bleached. The single female of *C. phoeniceus* at hand is in fresh plumage, and the under parts are deep ochraceous buff, with the middle of the abdomen buff; the two specimens of *C. robinsoni* are pale creamy buff below, slightly

darker ochraceous on flanks and sides of body; this difference of color is due partly, at least, to the worn condition of plumage of the latter.

One of the females of *C. robinsoni* differs from the other, and from the female of *C. phoeniceus*, in having the scarlet vermilion of the crest, under part of wing and tail replaced by ochraceous yellow; otherwise it is the same.

The measurements of our pair of *C. phoeniceus* (from Lake Maracaibo) are: ♂, wing, 3.45; tail, 3.60; tarsus, .94; culmen, .73; length of crest, 1.63 inches. ♀, wing, 3.33; tail, 3.53; tarsus, .97; culmen, .71; length of crest, 1.43 inches.

The specimens of *C. robinsoni* measure: ♂, wing, 3.26; tail, 3.29; tarsus, .96; culmen, .76; length of crest, 1.17 inches. ♂, wing, 3.20; tail, 3.20; tarsus, .95; culmen, .69; crest, 1.13 inches. ♂, wing, 3.20; tail, 3.10; tarsus, .95; culmen, .70; crest, 1.18 inches. ♀, wing, 3.13; tail, 3.06; tarsus, .91; culmen, .69; crest, 1.11 inches. ♀, wing, 3.20; tail, 3.13; tarsus, .99; culmen, .73; crest, 1.25 inches.

DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SUBSPECIES OF CALIFORNIA BIRDS.

BY F. STEPHENS.

Callipepla gambeli deserticola, subspec. nov. DESERT PARTRIDGE.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *C. gambeli* but lighter in color; back olive gray inclining toward ash gray; sides chestnut, sharply striped with white; belly dull white; flanks and lower tail-coverts lightly streaked with brown; occiput russet in the male, drab in the female. Types, No. 4969, ♀ ad., 15 January, 1890, Palm Springs, San Diego Co. (now in Riverside Co.), Cal., alt. 100 ft.; and No. 4938, ♀ ad., 1 January, 1890, Walters, Colorado Desert, Cal., 250 feet below sea level. Both in my collection.

Habitat.—Desert District, from the western end of the Colorado Desert and the middle of the Mojave Desert east through the Colorado Valley.