

Aphelocoma texana.—TEXAN JAY.

Similar to *A. cyanotis* but white superciliary streak more distinct, under parts much paler and browner gray, the lower throat and chest without blue streaks (obsoletely streaked with pale grayish). Differing from *A. woodhouseii* in obsolete streaking of chest and lower throat, much paler and browner gray of breast, etc., and pure white under tail-coverts.

Southwestern Texas, from Concho and Kerr Counties west to the Davis Mts. (Alpine, Ft. Davis, Paisano, etc.).

Type, no. 150507, coll. U. S. Nat. Mus., adult female, near head of Nueces R., Edwards, Co., Texas, Dec. 1, 1894; H. P. Attwater.

TWO SUBSPECIES WHICH SHOULD BE ADDED TO
THE CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

BY EDGAR A. MEARNS.

Mimus polyglottos leucopterus (Vigors).**WESTERN MOCKINGBIRD.**

Orpheus leucopterus VIGORS, Zool. Beechey's Voyage of 'Blossom,' 1839, p. 18 (Pacific coast of North America).

Mimus leucopterus BAIRD, Stansbury's Report, Great Salt Lake, 1852, p. 328.

Geographical Distribution.—Southwestern United States, from the Gulf of Mexico (Texas) to the Pacific Ocean, and southward into Mexico, including all of Lower California; resident in the southern and lower portions of its range, migratory in the northern and higher portions.

Characters.—Similar to but larger than *Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*, with tail relatively rather short (measuring about the same), wings 5 to 10 mm. longer, feet stouter, bill slightly longer and more slender. General color paler than in *polyglottos*, less grayish (more drab), and with the underparts more washed with clay-color; white markings, especially those of the wings, more extended; wing-quills all tipped with white; tertials edged with grayish or brownish white. The greater extent of white on the bases of the primaries is conspicuous during flight; and the two white bands caused by the white tips of the wing-coverts are much broader.

Remarks.— Under the appropriate name of *leucopterus*, the Western Mockingbird was described by Vigors, from specimens collected during the voyage of the ' Blossom,' which visited various ports on the west coast of Mexico and California. He states that none of his specimens were labelled with the exact locality.

Professor Spencer F. Baird next recognized the peculiarities of the Mockingbird of California, which he described,¹ remarking: " It is probably this variety that Vigors had in view when describing *Orpheus leucopterus* from the west coast of America (Zool. Beechey, 1839, 18), although this has the wing 5.75 inches long, instead of 4.50. Should further researches substantiate a specific distinction from both the *polyglottus* and Vigors's bird, the name of *Mimus canadatus* [typographical error for *caudatus*, which name appears on pages xxxv (*sic*) and 987 of the same work] would be very appropriate, in view of the lengthened tail." Baird's name *caudatus* was applied to the Mockingbird of the West by numerous writers, including Xantus, Cooper, Coues, and Ridgway, and was more or less in current usage for about twenty years, after which it was dropped even as a subspecific term, because of the discovery that the tail-pattern could be matched on comparison of eastern with western birds, and that the Mockingbird of Florida possesses a longer tail than that of California. Again, in 1888, Doctor J. A. Allen² gave the true characters of the Western Mockingbird, based on specimens in the Scott collection, from Arizona, where the race has acquired its maximum differentiation.

The characters which I have given are based on an examination of all the specimens in the collections of the United States National Museum and the American Museum of Natural History, in New York. I have also tabulated the measurements of seventy-five specimens of both forms, taken by myself from fresh specimens, collected in the region extending from Georgia and Florida to the coasts of California and Mexico. All of the Texan specimens examined were the western form, not extreme, but easily separated from *polyglottus* by the larger amount of white on the bases of the primaries, and the paler and more drab coloration. Its range, as

¹ U. S. Pacific Railroad Rep., IX, Birds, 1858, p. 345.

² 'The Auk,' Vol. V, April, 1888, p. 160.

shown by specimens in the United States National Museum, extends from old Fort Cobb, Indian Territory, south to Monterey and over the tableland of Mexico to Mazatlan, and even to Tehuantepec City, in the State of Oaxaca, on the west coast of Mexico (specimen No. 59673, U. S. N. M.).

Tyrannus tyrannus vexator Bangs.

FLORIDA KINGBIRD.

Tyrannus tyrannus vexator BANGS, Auk, XV, April, 1898, p. 178 (Merriitt's Island, Indian River, Florida).

Geographical Distribution.—Southern Florida.

Characters.—A series of breeding specimens of this form, collected by the writer during April and May, 1901, in the Kissimmee Valley, southern Florida, emphasizes the characters assigned to it by Mr. Bangs in the original description. The form may be recognized by its stout bill (about 2 mm. broader than that of typical *tyrannus*) short tarsus, robust feet, and the darker and more uniform coloration of the upper surfaces.

Measurements.—Average of three adult males from the Kissimmee Valley, Florida: Length, 219 mm. ; alar expanse, 383; wing, 122; tail, 94; culmen (chord), 18; bill, measured from nostril, 15; tarsus, 18.7; middle toe with claw, 20.8. Average of four adult females from the Kissimmee Valley, Florida: Length, 217; alar expanse, 369; wing, 116; tail, 90; culmen, 18.9; bill from nostril, 14.6; tarsus, 19.4; middle toe with claw, 21.

Nest and eggs.—Set A/3, with both parents (Nos. 12585 and 12586 Mearns collection; all in the U. S. National Museum collection). The nest was placed about 6 meters above the ground, on a side branch of a persimmon-tree which stood beside an 'old river' connecting lakes Cypress and Tohopekaliga, in Osceola County, Florida. It was composed, outwardly, of small sticks and plant-stems, and lined with the wool of sheep. On May 3, 1901, it contained three eggs, similar to those of the common Kingbird, and measuring, respectively, 24.2 by 18.3 mm., 25 by 18.4, and 25 by 18.

Remarks.—This subspecies breeds abundantly in southern Florida where it is known only as the 'Bee Martin.'