

A REVIEW OF THE GENUS *CATHERPES*.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

IDENTIFICATION of the Texas Cañon Wrens has involved a canvass of the entire group, the results of which investigation are presented herewith.

The genus *Catherpes* Baird<sup>1</sup> is a very well-defined one, of which there seem to be five recognizable forms, all, without doubt, subspecies of *Catherpes mexicanus*.

***Catherpes mexicanus mexicanus* (Swainson).**

*Thryothorus mexicanus* SWAINSON, Zool. Illustr. Ser. 2, I, 1829, pl. xi.

*Troglodytes murarius* LICHTENSTEIN, Preis-Verz. Mex. Vögel, 1830, No. 80.

*Thriothorus guttulatus* LAFRESNAYE, Rev. Zool. 1839, p. 99.

*Chars. subsp.*—Largest and darkest, the depth of color especially noticeable on the upper surface.

*Type locality.*—Real del Monte, Hidalgo, Mexico.

*Geographical distribution.*—Tableland of Mexico, excepting the northern portion.

This essentially Mexican race occurs nowhere in the United States, all records to such effect belonging under the other forms.

***Catherpes mexicanus albifrons* (Giraud).**

*Certhia albifrons* GIRAUD, Descr. Sixteen Species North Am. Birds, 1841, p. 31.

*Chars. subsp.*—Similar to *Catherpes mexicanus mexicanus*, but rather smaller, except the bill; and decidedly paler above, the head more grayish.

*Type locality.*—"Texas" [probably northeastern Mexico].

*Geographical distribution.*—States of Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, and probably Tamaulipas, Mexico; north to Texas at the mouth of the Pecos River.

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<sup>1</sup> Pac. R. R. Rep., IX, 1858, p. 356 (type *Thryothorus mexicanus* SWAINSON).

The specimen upon which Giraud based his description of *Certhia albifrons*, although a dark, immature bird, with a small bill, agrees best with the form that enters the United States only along the lower Rio Grande,— a conclusion already announced by Mr. Nelson;<sup>1</sup> but that this type, now in the United States National Museum, came originally from within the present boundaries of Texas, as claimed, may well be doubted, particularly if the results of investigation regarding others of Giraud's reputed "Texas" birds be admitted as negative evidence.

### *Catherpes mexicanus polioptilus*, subsp. nov.

*Chars. subsp.*.— Like *Catherpes mexicanus albifrons*, but paler above and with a much shorter bill.

*Type locality.*.— Deer Mountain, Chisos Mountains, Texas.

*Geographical distribution.*.— From western Texas, through New Mexico, Arizona, and northwestern Mexico to Lower California.

*Description.*.— Type, male adult, No. 168350, U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection; Deer Mountain (opposite Mount Emory to the east), Chisos Mountains, Texas, 6500 feet; H. C. Oberholser. Upper surface grayish brown, becoming rufescent posteriorly, and spotted with darker brown and buffy; rump and upper tail-coverts chestnut; wings fuscous irregularly barred and margined externally with light chestnut; tail pale chestnut, with narrow black bars; ill-defined superciliary stripe dull whitish; cheeks, lower part of auriculars, throat, and jugulum white; abdomen chestnut, sparingly dotted with darker brown.

Specimens from New Mexico, Arizona, and Lower California are, as a rule, somewhat darker than those from Texas, and though evidently verging more or less toward *punctulatus*, apparently belong here.

Variation, both seasonal and individual, is great in both *polioptilus* and *conspersus*. Young birds of these races seem to be darker than adults.

### *Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus* Ridgway.

*Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus* RIDGWAY, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. V, 1882, p. 343.

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<sup>1</sup> Auk, XV, 1898, p. 160.

*Chars. subsp.*—Similar to *Catherpes mexicanus polioptilus*, but decidedly darker above, and of smaller size.

*Type locality.*—Forest Hill, Placer County, California.

*Geographical distribution.*—California (excepting the southeastern part), Oregon, and southern Washington (Almota).

### *Catherpes mexicanus conspersus* Ridgway.

*Catherpes mexicanus* var. *conspersus* RIDGWAY, Amer. Nat. VII, Oct. 1873, p. 602.

*Chars. subsp.*—Resembling *Catherpes mexicanus polioptilus*, but smaller (except the bill); paler and more rufescent above, particularly on the head.

*Type locality.*—Fort Churchill (southeast of Wadsworth), Nevada.

*Geographical distribution.*—Wyoming and Colorado, west to Nevada and southeastern California.

Average millimeter measurements of males of the five forms of *Catherpes* are as follows :

No. of specimens	Name	Wing	Tail	Exposed culmen	Tarsus	Middle Toe
5	<i>Catherpes mexicanus mexicanus</i>	65.8	56.2	22.2	19.7	15.1
2	<i>Catherpes mexicanus albifrons</i>	62.8	53.8	24.3	18.5	14.3
5	<i>Catherpes mexicanus polioptilus</i>	63.4	54.6	20.7	19.1	13.7
5	<i>Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus</i>	59.9	50.4	19.1	18.3	13.6
5	<i>Catherpes mexicanus conspersus</i>	59.6	52.1	20.4	17.5	13.2

## A SYNOPSIS OF THE GENUS *PSALTRIPARUS*.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

THE genus *Psaltriparus*, though by Dr. Gadow not considered separable from *Acredula*,<sup>1</sup> is, nevertheless, an easily recognizable group. As commonly accepted it comprises the few small species of Paridæ treated below.

<sup>1</sup> Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., VIII, 1883, p. 54.