

TWO NEW BIRDS FROM THE CHISOS MOUNTAINS, TEXAS

BY HERBERT W. BRANDT

THE rich fauna of the Chisos Mountains still continues to furnish ornithological surprises. During a short trip to this region in central-western Texas, in the spring of 1937, it was the writer's good fortune to obtain specimens of two apparently new subspecies of birds, descriptions of which are herewith presented. The writer is indebted to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser for assistance in the preparation of these descriptions, and to the U. S. Biological Survey, to the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan, to Dr. Max M. Peet, and to Dr. George M. Sutton, for the use of comparative material.

Vireo huttoni carolinae subsp. nov.

CHISOS VIREO

Type.—Adult male, No. 2048, collection of Herbert W. Brandt; Boot Canyon, altitude 7000 feet, Chisos Mountains, Brewster County, Texas, May 10, 1937; Herbert W. Brandt.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Vireo huttoni stephensi* Brewster, from Arizona and southwestern New Mexico, but much darker above and rather darker below. Resembles *Vireo huttoni mexicanus* Ridgway, from southern and central Mexico, but averages smaller, the upper parts much more grayish (less olive greenish), and the lower parts lighter, less olive greenish (more grayish).

Measurements.—Adult male: wing, 63–69 (average, 66.7) mm.; tail, 48.5–55 (52.2); exposed culmen, 9.3–12 (9.9); tarsus, 18.5–20.5 (19.4); middle toe without claw, 9.3–10.5 (9.8).

Geographic distribution.—From the Chisos Mountains, Texas, south to southern Coahuila and southwestern Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Remarks.—Comparison of thirty-five specimens of this vireo, mostly from the Chisos Mountains, Brewster County, Texas, with adequate series of specimens from Arizona and Mexico, shows clearly that this bird differs sufficiently to warrant recognition in nomenclature. Birds from the Mexican States of Coahuila and Tamaulipas are slightly intermediate between this new race and *Vireo huttoni mexicanus* of central Mexico, but they are nevertheless decidedly nearer the present form. Birds from southwestern New Mexico are, however, referable to *Vireo huttoni stephensi*, of Arizona.

It is with great pleasure that I dedicate this new subspecies of one of the delightful inhabitants of the Chisos Mountains to my wife, Carrie McGregor Brandt, who has been my companion on many a field trip.

Sitta carolinensis oberholseri subsp. nov.

CHISOS NUTHATCH

Type.—Adult male, No. 2061, collection of Herbert W. Brandt; Boot Canyon, altitude 7000 feet, Chisos Mountains, Brewster County, Texas, May 11, 1937; Herbert W. Brandt.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Sitta carolinensis nelsoni* Mearns, of the Rocky Mountains of the United States, but with bill and wing both shorter; the upper parts darker; and the lower surface rather darker, more grayish (less purely white). Differs from *Sitta carolinensis mexicana* Nelson and Palmer, in having the wing shorter; the upper parts rather darker, more purely gray; and the lower surface much paler and brighter (less buffy, brownish, or grayish).

Measurements.—Adult male: wing, 85.5–91 (average, 88.1) mm.; tail, 44.5–48.5 (47.2); exposed culmen, 16.5–19 (17.9); tarsus, 17–19 (18.2); middle toe without claw, 13–14 (13.6).

Geographic distribution.—Chisos Mountains, Texas, south to southern Coahuila, Mexico.

Remarks.—Fourteen examples of this new race have been available for comparison with allied forms. Birds from Sierra Guadalupe in southern Coahuila, Mexico, are not typical, verging somewhat toward *Sitta carolinensis mexicana* in their paler upper surface and rather larger size, but they are decidedly nearer the Chisos Mountains bird. Specimens from the Davis Mountains, Texas, and southern New Mexico, are intermediate between *Sitta carolinensis oberholseri* and *Sitta carolinensis nelsoni*, but are nearer the latter.

I take the opportunity of inscribing this new nuthatch to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, whose work on the birds of Texas is well known.

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