

## A NEW BLUE BUNTING FROM TAMAULIPAS

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AMONG the birds collected by John B. Semple and the authors in Mexico during February and early March, 1938, is a small series (five adult males, one subadult male, and two adult females) of *Cyanocompsa parellina* from the vicinity of Victoria and Gomez Farias, Tamaulipas, which represents a brightly colored, *small-billed*, undescribed race which we propose to call

***Cyanocompsa parellina lucida* subsp. nov.**

*Type*.—Adult male, G. M. S. field catalogue No. 8078; Arroyo de la Presa, six miles north of Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico, February 26, 1938; George M. Sutton.

*Subspecific characters*.—Wholly unlike *Cyanocompsa parellina dearborni* Miller and Griscom (from Nicaragua and Yucatan) and *P. c. indigotica* Ridgway<sup>1</sup> (from Colima, Guerrero, Oaxaca, etc.) in being *small-billed*. Closer, therefore, to *C. p. parellina* (Bonaparte) (from Vera Cruz), and to *C. p. beneplacita* Bangs (from Nuevo Leon and extreme western Tamaulipas), but male *brighter throughout* than in either of these races, the general tone of the under parts in particular being decidedly bluer (less purplish), the rump lighter, and the blue of the crown extending more evenly over hind neck to back. Female apparently much as in *beneplacita*, and therefore paler, duller, and less rufescent brown than in typical *parellina* from Vera Cruz. Since we have but two females of *lucida*, differing somewhat in general tone *inter se*, it is impossible for us to offer any statement concerning differences between average female *lucida* and average female *beneplacita* at the present time. In any event male birds of the two forms are strikingly unlike.

*Measurements*.—Male: wing, 69.5–72.5 (average, 70.5) mm.; tail, 54–57 (average, 55.7); exposed culmen, 9.5–11 (average, 10.6); tarsus, 18.5–22 (average, 19.6).

*Range*.—So far as is known, the lowlands of southern interior Tamaulipas, Mexico, from Gomez Farias north to the general vicinity of Victoria.

*Remarks*.—The type locality of *Cyanocompsa parellina parellina* is Alvarado, Vera Cruz; that of *C. p. beneplacita* is Santa Leonor, Tamaulipas. This Santa Leonor, one of the late Frank B. Armstrong's collecting stations, is said by Phillips (Auk, 28: 67, 1911) to be located "in the hill region west and north of Ciudad Victoria," presumably not far from the Tamaulipas-Nuevo Leon state-line. So close to this 'hill region' is the district in which we did our collecting, that we had expected all our *Cyanocompsa parellina* to be of the 'Santa Leonor' race. It was perfectly apparent from comparison with a toptotypical male specimen of *beneplacita* (Carnegie Museum No. 84792), however, that our birds were not of that race. Our failure to find Santa Leonor thus far on the maps, and the striking dissimilarity of our Gomez Farias and Victoria birds from the toptotypical 'Santa Leonor'

<sup>1</sup> *Passerina sumichrasti* Ridgway (from Oaxaca) has been shown to be a synonym of *Cyanocompsa parellina indigotica* Ridgway by Todd (Auk, 40: 68, 1923).

specimen mentioned above lead us to suspect that Santa Leonor may possibly not be so close to Victoria as available information would lead us to believe. In any event it is well to bear in mind that *benepiacita* is not intermediate between *parellina* and *lucida*. It is apparently the dullest of all races, *lucida* (insofar as male specimens are concerned) the brightest.

That male *lucida* and *dearborni* are much alike in color is instantly apparent. The bright coloration and small bill of *lucida* give it the appearance of being intermediate between *dearborni* and *parellina*, though its range scarcely justifies such a concept.

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