

A New Species of *Geospiza* Collected by the Hopkins-Stanford Expedition to the Galapagos Islands.

BY ROBERT E. SNODGRASS AND EDMUND HELLER.

Geospiza heliobates, new species.

Type.—Adult male, No. 4186, Leland Stanford Junior University Museum; Mangrove swamp at Tagus Cove, Albemarle Island, Galapagos Archipelago, June 24, 1899.

Range.—Mangrove swamps of Albemarle and Narborough Islands, Galapagos Archipelago.

Specific characters.—Very similar to *Geospiza pallida*, resembling it in coloration, but having a smaller bill—the culmen being 16 mm. or less in length while in *G. pallida* it is 17 mm. or more in length.

Description of the type.—Above dark brown with an olive tinge on the rump, all of the feathers of the dorsum with narrow pale olive-grayish edgings. Wing and tail feathers lighter, more smoky-brown. Lores, sides of head and underparts dirty buffy-gray, brownish-buff on the sides and flanks. Lores spotted with brown. Feathers of the breast and sides with dark brown central areas forming spots of the same color. Tips of the greater and the middle wing-coverts rather indistinctly brownish-rufous, forming two inconspicuous cross bands. Under wing-coverts grayish; under tail coverts brownish-buff with pale grayish edgings. Under surface of wing and tail feathers grayish brown. Bill black. Feet dark brown. Length 123 mm., wing 72, tail 48.5, culmen 16, gonys 8, width of bill at base 6.5, depth of bill at base 9, tarsus 21.5.

Adult female.—Female specimens having the plumage very much worn are almost identical in coloration with the males, but generally have fewer and smaller spots below. Above the plumage is blackish on the head, almost pure olive-brown on the back, with the central areas of the feathers darker. Wing and tail feathers dark brown with olive-buffy edgings.

This species inhabits exclusively the mangrove swamps of Albemarle and Narborough Islands of the Galapagos Archipelago, being found in the swamps all along the east shore of Narborough, and in the swamps on Albemarle at Tagus Cove, Elizabeth Bay and Villa Mil.

We have fourteen adult males, twelve adult females, two immature males and six immature females taken in January, February, March, April and June, 1899.

MEASUREMENTS OF *Geospiza heliobates*.

| L. S. J. Univ. Mus. No. | Locality. | Sex. | Length. | Wing. | Tail. | Culmen. | Gonys. | Width of bill at base. | Depth of bill at base. | Maxilla from nostril. | Tarsus. |
|-------------------------|---------------|------|---------|-------|-------|---------|--------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 4186 | Albemarle Id. | ♂ | 123 | 72. | 48.5 | 16. | 8. | 6.5 | 9. | 10.3 | 21.5 |
| 4161 | " " | ♂ | 126 | 70. | 48.5 | 16. | 8. | 7. | 8. | 11. | 21.5 |
| 4226 | " " | ♂ | 133 | 71.5 | 45. | 15.5 | 8.5 | 6.5 | 8. | 10.5 | 23.5 |
| 4266 | " " | ♂ | 127 | 69. | 39. | 16. | 8. | 6.5 | 8. | 10.5 | 21.5 |
| 4177 | " " | ♀ | 112 | 70. | 42. | 14.5 | 8. | 6.7 | 7.7 | 10. | 21. |
| 4213 | " " | ♀ | 142 | 70. | 42.5 | 16.5 | 8.7 | 6.7 | 8. | 11. | 21.7 |
| 4213 | " " | ♀ | 136 | 68. | 41.5 | 15. | 8.5 | 6. | 7.5 | 10. | 21. |
| 4242 | " " | ♀ | 120 | 70. | 45. | 16. | 8.5 | 7. | 8.7 | 10. | 22. |

An Outing for Owls' Eggs.

BY PROF. P. M. SILLOWAY, LEWISTON, MONT.

WITH the genuine egg-crank, the first oological excursion of the season is a red-letter day, provided that it results in tangible additions to one's cabinet. As I glance at the seven eggs of the Western Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus subarcticus*) reposing

in their downy trays as the first fruits of another oological season, I note the 16th of March, 1901, as one that will be readily recalled among an egg-crank's reminiscences. True, sets of the Western Horned Owl are neither especially rare nor difficult to secure, but when