

THE SITKAN RACE OF THE DUSKY GROUSE

By H. S. SWARTH

(Contribution from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California)

THE DUSKY GROUSE of southeastern Alaska has heretofore passed under the name of *Dendragapus obscurus fuliginosus* (Ridgway), but examination of adequate material shows it to be sufficiently different from that subspecies to merit a separate appellation. The distinctive characters of the race have been noted before. Grinnell (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 5, 1909, p. 204) remarks upon the "rich hazel" coloration of the female Alaskan grouse as "the extreme manifestation of *fuliginosus* characters". The present writer, comparing a series of grouse from Vancouver Island with others from Alaska, comments upon certain "conspicuous differences of coloration" (Swarth, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 10, 1912, p. 21). Recent study of additional material from the northwest confirms the existence of these differences, emphasizing the desirability of affixing a name to the race from southeastern Alaska.

There is no material available from the type locality of *Dendragapus obscurus fuliginosus*, "Cascade Mountains, at foot of Mt. Hood, Oregon" (A. O. U. Check-List, 1910, p. 138), but birds from Vancouver Island have been assumed to be representative of that subspecies. There are in this Museum seventeen skins of *Dendragapus obscurus fuliginosus* from Vancouver Island. There are also seven skins from the mountains of northwestern California that are to be referred to *fuliginosus*. Of the Alaskan subspecies there are twenty-eight specimens available.

***Dendragapus obscurus sitkensis*, new subspecies**

Sitka Grouse

Type.—Female adult; no. 9788, Mus. Vert. Zool.; Kupreanof Island, 25 miles south of Kake Village, at southern end of Keku Straits, southeastern Alaska; April 29, 1909; collected by H. S. Swarth; original no. 7267.

Diagnosis.—Most nearly like *Dendragapus obscurus fuliginosus*. Adult male not appreciably different from the male of *D. o. fuliginosus*. Adult female and immature of both sexes, as compared with those of *fuliginosus*, much more reddish in general coloration. This color feature affects practically all the plumage except some limited areas, as the slaty-colored abdominal tract, the chin and throat, and the unmarked and generally concealed portions of the remiges and rectrices. The predominant color dorsally is close to pecan brown (Ridgway, *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*, 1912, pl. 28). Individual feathers are barred with black and brown, and are brown tipped. On head and neck brown predominates, the narrow black bands being almost entirely hidden. Upper tail coverts and central rectrices are conspicuously of this reddish brown color. Breast and sides are mostly pecan brown and black. There are conspicuous white spots on sides of breast and flanks. Tarsus brown.

Female *fuliginosus*, in comparison, is colored as follows: The upper parts are a duller brown with a great deal of black showing through and with the brown everywhere sprinkled with black or gray. There are no pure reddish brown areas as in *sitkensis*. The neck above is predominantly grayish; upper tail coverts and remiges are mostly grayish. Breast and sides are mostly gray and black, with very little reddish. Feathers on sides of breast are dull brownish, mottled with black and tipped with white. Flanks are mostly grayish. Tarsus gray.

Distribution.—This grouse inhabits parts of the Sitkan district of southeastern Alaska. Specimens are at hand from the following islands of the Alexander Archipelago: Admiralty, Baranof, Chichagof, Kupreanof, Etolin, Mitkof, and Wrangell. (For details of distribution see Swarth, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 7, 1911, pp. 56, 155, map, fig. 2.)

Remarks.—Female grouse from island localities in southeastern Alaska are uniformly of the reddish coloration described. There are two specimens at hand, an adult male and an adult female, from Glacier Bay, the only mainland point represented. These apparently are to be referred to *sitkensis*, but the female is appreciably less red than any of the island birds.

A form of dusky grouse is known to occur on the Queen Charlotte Islands, which lie midway between Vancouver Island and the Alexander Archipelago (Osgood, N. Am. Fauna, 21, 1901, p. 42), but whether *fuliginosus* or *sitkensis* I do not know. I have seen no specimens from those islands.

Berkeley, California, December 17, 1920.

FURTHER NOTES ON BIRDS OBSERVED NEAR WILLIAMS, ARIZONA

By ALEXANDER WETMORE

IN LATE WINTER and early spring of 1907 the writer made a collection of birds at Williams in northern Arizona, and later published observations on this work in which were given notes on 40 species (Kansas University Sci. Bull., vol. IV, no. 19, Sept., 1908, pp. 377-388). During the summer of 1918, I was in Williams again from July 6 to July 17, and, though engaged in writing certain reports, had opportunity during morning and evening of the long summer days to make observations on the bird life and to do some collecting. The list of birds observed as given herewith is far from exhaustive but supplements the notes published previously as it enumerates many of the breeding birds to be found in the vicinity. Advantage has been taken of the present opportunity to review the collection of skins made in this region in 1907 and to make certain changes in subspecific identifications in accordance with present day views in this ever shifting subject. In certain cases, however, it has been deemed inadvisable to take up the matter of subspecific forms.

The town of Williams is placed at the base of Bill Williams Mountain. A series of broken hills covered with yellow pine, scrub oaks, and mountain mahogany lie south and west of the village at the base of the mountain, while on the north is a level area forming part of the Coconino Plains. Zonal conditions about the town may be described as Transition, with Canadian zone on the mountain above. The boreal elements of the latter are found in north gulches at a comparatively low altitude. The upper Sonoran zone spreads over the flats to the north and is found to the west in descending the mountain below Supai. As may be imagined there had been considerable change in local conditions during the years that had elapsed since my last work here. The surrounding country had been divided into small ranches, with considerable areas under cultivation and more of the pine timber had been cut away. Some of the more notable changes brought about in the bird life are noted in the list that follows.

A number of birds seen during late winter and early spring in 1907 were not found in summer in 1918. These are enumerated here to complete the list given below. Following are the additional species:

Buteo b. calurus, *Sphyrapicus v. nuchalis*, *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*, *Asyndesmus lewisi*, *Otocoris a. leucolaema*, *Aphelocoma woodhousei*, *Cyanocephalus*