

ture, never again be at hand. The material is as much lost as is the dodo. Is it not time for many of us collectors and preparators to about face, and be scientific and efficient in action as well as in aspiration and reputation?

Denver, Colorado, March 4, 1922.

NOTES ON THE AMERICAN PINE GROSBEAKS

WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SUBSPECIES

By ALLAN BROOKS

SOME ten years ago I received from Mr. C. deB. Green several pine grosbeaks that he had taken near Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands. These were quite unlike any of the North American pine grosbeaks I had seen and I identified them as *Pinicola enucleator flammula* Homeyer. When in Washington in November, 1920, I had the opportunity of examining the series of that subspecies from the type locality in the national collection, and it was obvious that the Queen Charlotte bird was a distinct subspecies, quite the best differentiated of all the American forms.

I have refrained from describing it for a number of reasons, chiefly in the hopes of increasing my series, which had been reduced to three skins. Over a dozen have passed through my hands, however, besides a number of others seen in life which I did not shoot, as Mr. Green wished to take their eggs. As there does not seem any immediate probability of acquiring further material I shall describe the subspecies herewith.

Pinicola enucleator carlottae. new subspecies Queen Charlotte Pine Grosbeak

Type.—Male, red adult, no number, collection of Allan Brooks; Masset, Graham Island, Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia; June 2, 1920; Allan Brooks, collector.

Subspecific characters.—Smallest and darkest of all the American subspecies; tail much shorter than in the other American races. Red of male deeper and more scarlet (less of a carmine); yellow of females and old males darker and suffusing the entire plumage more or less, except the center of belly, lower tail coverts, and under wings and tail.

Description.—Red male (type): Distribution of colors as in red males of this genus, the red nearest the "nopal red"; the interscapular feathers with dark brown centers; scapulars "dark mouse gray"; belly and flanks "mouse gray"; wings and tail "fuscous black", outer edges of all the feathers, except tertials, "mars orange"; white markings of wings much restricted, the two bars on coverts tinged with rose. The edgings to tertials very narrow and grayish; lower tail coverts edged with whitish, their centers "deep mouse gray".

Iris brown. upper mandible black, lower dark brownish gray; feet brownish black. Measurements (average of two males): Length (skins) 193 millimeters, wing 109, tail 79.5, culmen 14.5, depth of bill at base 10.5, width of mandible at base 9.3, tarsus 20.5.

Female: Coloration as in females of the genus, but the yellow areas more extensive and the color much darker. Yellow of head nearest to "orange-citrine" but more red, of rump and upper tail coverts, brighter and more yellow; the breast, flanks, and interscapulars overlaid with a strong wash of "orange-citrine", and the feathers of wings and tail, except tertials, edged with same; tertials edged with ash gray; chin buffy;

ventral region "mouse gray", lower tail coverts the same edged with paler. White bars on wings very restricted, the centers of all the wing and tail feathers "fuscous black". Wing 108, tail 82, culmen 13.5, depth of bill at base 10.5, width of mandible 9, tarsus 20.5. [Colors in quotation marks from Ridgway's *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*, 1912.]

It will be seen that while the bill in *carlottae* is proportionately large and strongly hooked, it is not nearly up to the dimensions of that of *flammula* as given by Ridgway. Probably the Queen Charlotte bird more closely approaches true *enucleator* from western Europe than any of the American subspecies.

In conjunction with the foregoing descriptions I have carefully gone over my entire series of pine grosbeaks, some thirty in all not counting these very distinct Queen Charlotte birds. The result makes me hope that someone with plenty of material at his disposal will review the group.

All the specimens that I have sent back to Washington have been identified by Dr. Oberholser as *montana*. These include winter specimens from the interior of British Columbia and one breeding bird from the coastal slope of the Cascades (international boundary). The former I took for *alascensis*; they seemed to agree with specimens from the Cariboo district (central British Columbia), identified by the late William Brewster as such.

This winter (1921-'22) we have had in the southern interior of British Columbia an invasion of very large, purely colored birds, the grays as pale as, or paler than, in eastern Canadian *leucura*, the rose-pink of the males sometimes covering the greater portion of the lower surface. These must be *alascensis*, as the bill proportions agree with Ridgway's description. But Ridgway, the describer of both *alascensis* and *montana*, indicates by the measurements he gives that the latter is the larger of the two, not only in the bill but in average dimensions. The breeding birds that we get in southern British Columbia are very much smaller than these winter birds, nor is the bill longer or larger in any way.

A small series of winter taken birds from Edmonton, Alberta, agree exactly with these large winter birds from British Columbia. Neither series is very different from eastern (Ontario) birds. The westerners are a little larger, perhaps, but the Ontario birds seem to suggest the inclusion of two different types. One lot is larger with heavier and more strongly hooked bill, and the red males are more purplish and with dark centers to the feathers of breast. The other eastern form, the commoner, is smaller, more pink, the colors more uniform, and the bill smaller and less hooked.

The red males of *Pinicola* I regard as birds of the year, and I doubt if the red plumage is held for more than one year. The succeeding plumage may be the reddish one figured as the immature male in Bird-Lore (vol. 14, 1912, no. 6). This plumage, where the yellows on head and rump are replaced by dull red, is common to both sexes and is only occasionally seen. A still rarer type of plumage in the male is where the rose-red is replaced by salmon-pink, probably a freak like the yellow types of *Carpodacus*.

The proportion of red males in *Pinicola* is much smaller than in *Loxia* or *Carpodacus* and is probably not more than one in three of breeding birds. The proportion of red males in collections may be higher, but this is obviously due to the fact that collectors will take a red male in preference to a gray bird in nearly all cases. One will often see a flock of a dozen or more birds without

a single red male among them; this rarely, if ever, occurs with *Loxia*, or *Carpodacus*. Of five breeding pairs seen in the season of 1920, only one was a red male. In the others the sexes were indistinguishable.

Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, March 3, 1922.

THE ALEUTIAN ROSY FINCH

By G. DALLAS HANNA*

WITH ONE PHOTO

THE RANGE of the Aleutian Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte griseonucha*) is rather extensive, since it has been found from Kodiak Island west through the Aleutian Islands as far as the Commander group, 1000 miles away. It is also found on the Pribilof and the Mathew groups, 200 and 400 miles, respectively, farther north. The species has always been extremely rare wherever I have met with it, except on the Pribilof, or Fur Seal, Islands. When I landed there in 1913 it was nesting in the village and on the cliffs in considerable numbers.

The beautiful song of the male was new to me then, and it seemed the most attractive feature of the desolate place. It is excelled by the song of no other species on these islands, and is rivalled there only by that of the Alaska Longspur and of the Pribilof Snow Bunting.

The annual cycle of the Aleutian Rosy Finch possesses considerable interest because of several unique features. A convenient starting point in an account of it would be August 31, when the last birds have hatched out and practically all have flown. The autumnal molt then begins, and with this the beautiful song is replaced by a rather commonplace chirp of ordinary finch character.

These birds gather in loose flocks, even in the height of the breeding season; in the fall the flocks become larger and more compact. It is no uncommon sight in fall or winter to find fifty birds feeding on a single patch of "poochkie" (*Heraculum*) heads, and during periods of especial abundance I have seen as many as a hundred at a time. Although the seeds of many plants are eaten, those of the "wild parsnip" compose by far the greater part their diet. These seeds are well filled with oil, being similar in that respect to sunflower seeds, and must provide much fuel, to enable the birds to withstand the vigorous Arctic gales so common in that latitude.

There is very little change in the coloration of the adults with the assumption of the winter plumage, and the young of the year are indistinguishable from the older birds by late fall. One of the most striking results of the change of season from summer to winter is in the color of the mandibles. In summer these are dead black, but winter turns them to a brilliant lemon yel-

*Contribution from the California Academy of Sciences.