

(*Otocoris alpestris merrilli*), at Kane Springs, Imperial County, California; orig. no. 135, now no. 42004, collection of Louis B. Bishop.

On November 12, 1928, I secured, with a single shot, an adult male Merrill Horned Lark, orig. no. 281, now no. 43772, collection of Louis B. Bishop, and an adult male Saskatchewan Horned Lark (*Otocoris a. enthymia*), orig. no. 282, now no. 43771, collection of Louis B. Bishop; four miles southeast of Rosamond, Los Angeles County, California. I am indebted to Dr. Louis B. Bishop for the identifications of the specimens.—JACK C. VON BLOEKER, JR., *Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, California, February 10, 1930.*

A New Race of Red-winged Blackbird from Costa Rica.—The identity of the red-winged blackbirds breeding in northwestern Costa Rica has always been a matter of uncertainty. Carriker (*Birds of Costa Rica*, 1910, p. 826) tentatively assigned them to *sonoriensis*, but only provisionally, for no females were then available. During the past year Mr. Austin Smith, the well known collector of Costa Rica birds, made a special effort to secure a representative lot of red-wings and as a result he sent to the Dickey collection at the California Institute of Technology a series of 15 skins consisting of 7 males, 6 females and 2 juveniles. In addition, the authorities of the Carnegie Museum courteously sent for examination the 7 males collected by Carriker in 1906. As might have been expected, these all prove to belong to an undescribed race, the most southerly of the forms of *Agelaius phoeniceus*. I therefore propose the name of

Agelaius phoeniceus costaricensis subsp. nov.

Type.—Female adult, no. 28893, collection of Donald R. Dickey; Bebedero, Guanacaste, Costa Rica; June 16, 1929; collected by Austin Smith.

Subspecific characters.—Most like *Agelaius phoeniceus grinnelli* A. B. Howell, of El Salvador, but wing and tail shorter; coloration of females darker brown above and more sooty (less grayish) on lower abdominal region and under tail coverts.

Range.—Fresh and tide water marshes about Bebedero near the head of the Gulf of Nicoya, northwestern Costa Rica.

Remarks.—Although in the coloration of the underparts there is very close similarity among the females of *sonoriensis*, *megapotamus*, *grinnelli* and *costaricensis*, they may easily be segregated into two groups by the relative darkness of the upper parts. The paler-backed forms, *sonoriensis* and *megapotamus*, are in turn readily separable one from the other by size, *sonoriensis* being decidedly the larger as well as slightly the paler of the two. The two members of the darker-backed group, *grinnelli* and *costaricensis*, are separable on the same basis, *grinnelli* being larger and slightly paler than *costaricensis*.

The differences between *grinnelli* and *costaricensis*, although obvious, are relatively slight, and were the distribution continuous there would be little point in recognizing two races. However, the two permanently resident colonies are separated from each other by some 300 miles and furthermore by the interposition of a third form having no very close resemblance to either.

		Breeding adult males				
	Wing	Tail	Culmen from base	Depth at base	Tarsus	Middle toe minus claw
8	<i>grinnelli</i> 120.0-126.0 (123.6)	90.0-96.5 (92.7)	24.0-27.5 (25.4)	11.7-12.5 (12.2)	29.4-32.0 (31.0)	22.2-24.3 (23.2)
14	<i>costaricensis</i> 114.0-122.5 (118.2)	85.0-94.5 (90.3)	23.0-26.3 (24.3)	11.6-12.7 (12.4)	30.1-31.8 (30.6)	21.1-23.0 (22.1)
		Breeding adult females				
7	<i>grinnelli</i> 94.0-99.0 (95.6)	68.0-78.5 (71.5)	19.6-22.3 (21.3)	10.0-10.7 (10.3)	26.5-28.0 (27.5)	19.1-20.4 (19.5)
5	<i>costaricensis</i> 90.0-92.5 (91.4)	62.0-70.0 (66.3)	19.8-21.0 (20.5)	9.8-10.5 (10.1)	25.6-26.9 (26.1)	18.4-20.0 (18.8)

—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, January 28, 1930.*