

All of them were in riparian growth, chiefly willows, cottonwoods, walnuts, and giant mesquites, which grow along the small stream, a fork of the Altar River which at its headwaters in Arizona is known as Bear Creek.

This colony of Thick-billed Kingbirds seems to be isolated from its nearest neighbors by 300 miles, for the species reappears again only in extreme southeastern Sonora, where it is not uncommon along streams in the Arid Tropical Zone. Wright found no trace of it at any of the several intervening localities where he worked, nor have Chester Lamb, W. W. Brown, myself, and several other collectors detected it.

A careful inspection of nine northern specimens shows several departures from the race *pompalis* which make a separate name for them desirable. I propose

*Tyrannus crassirostris sequestratus* new subspecies  
Northern Thick-billed Kingbird

*Type*.—Breeding adult male, no. 28580 Dickey Collection; Rancho La Arizona, Sonora, Mexico, altitude 3200 feet; collected June 11, 1929, by J. T. Wright.

*Subspecific characters*.—Compared with *Tyrannus crassirostris pompalis* Bangs and Peters of southern Sonora, upper parts darker and grayer; wing coverts with light edgings narrower and nearly obsolete; posterior under parts paler yellow; bill very slightly shorter but decidedly deeper (10 per cent) throughout its length.

*Range*.—Known only from the type locality.

*Remarks*.—The describers of *pompalis* were misled, in one respect, by the notorious fading to which many of Frazar's skins are subject. Recently collected specimens of that race are slightly darker and grayer dorsally than *crassirostris*, not paler and grayer as originally supposed. It also has a slightly more highly arched culmen than *crassirostris* and seems to be in every respect a race intermediate between *crassirostris* and *sequestratus*.

I examined Swainson's type of the nominate race when at Cambridge, England, in 1933 and found it to be a typical Bullock skin, flattened, distorted, and almost devoid of stuffing. It is so faded by the passage of over a hundred years as to be worthless for color comparisons. The measurements taken at the time are: wing, 128 mm.; tail, 96; exposed culmen, 27.4. No indications of locality are on the tag other than "Bullock Mexico." It is a female to judge by the degree of primary emargination. Since Swainson originally named *crassirostris* from "the warm districts of Mexico" and later (Phil. Mag., n. s., 1, 1827:368) listed it as inhabiting "Maritime and tablelands," it would appear that the selection, as a restricted type locality, of Acapulco, Guerrero, by Bangs and Peters (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 68, 1928:306) is an excellent one. Indeed it may well be the actual type locality, for there is good, though not conclusive, evidence that Bullock was at one time in Guerrero. I refer to the type of *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* Swainson which is also a Bullock skin and very definitely of the Guerrero race (see Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 52, 1939:15).

It may be well to emphasize that kingbirds with green or olive backs and yellow underparts change color very rapidly after the annual molt. The backs become gray with little color tint in a very few months. The yellow underparts become much paler, sometimes in the present species almost creamy white. Post-mortem change seems to be rather different, in that extremely old skins undergo a general paling of the entire plumage. It goes without saying that reasonably recent skins in comparable plumage must be used in making color distinctions.

*Measurements*.—There seem to be no differences whatever in the wing and tail lengths of *pompalis* and *sequestratus*. In the following table of bill measurements (extremes and averages), sex has been disregarded, as in this respect I can detect no differences between males and females.

	9 <i>sequestratus</i>	15 <i>pompalis</i>
Exposed culmen	25.3–26.8 mm. (26.1)	25.5–28.0 mm. (27.2)
Depth of bill at nostril	10.5–11.5 (11.1)	9.8–10.5 (10.0)

—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California at Los Angeles, July 3, 1941.*

**Racial Determination of Bewick Wrens in the Western Great Basin Region.**—Bewick Wrens are of scattered occurrence north of latitude 38° on the east side of the Cascade-Sierran axis and are common in only a few localities. Southward from southern Mono County, California, and Esmeralda County, Nevada (Linsdale, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936:92), the Desert Bewick Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii eremophilus*) is encountered regularly as a breeding bird. The more northern occurrences of the species in California and Nevada in summer have been allocated to the race

*Thryomanes bewickii drymoecus*, the San Joaquin Bewick Wren: West Walker River, 10½ miles south of Yerington, 4500 feet, Lyon County, Nevada (Linsdale, *loc. cit.*); 4 miles northwest of Red Rock P. O. and 8 miles southwest of Ravendale, Lassen County (Grinnell, Dixon and Linsdale, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 35, 1930:331); Surprise Valley, Modoc County (Mailliard, Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., ser. 4, 16, 1927:333); Sugar Hill and Cedarville, Modoc County (Grinnell, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 11, 1915:159). Swarth (Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., ser. 4, 6, 1916:71) and Linsdale have either suggested or implied that these birds might be racially distinct from *drymoecus*. In 1932, Oberholser (Sci. Publ. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist., 4:8) named the Bewick Wren from the Warner Valley of Oregon, which valley is adjacent to the Modoc region of California. The characters given in comparison to *drymoecus* are, as regards color, essentially those mentioned by Swarth. In essence, the birds of the Modoc-Warner region are less rufescent above and hence are duller or grayer. They are strikingly darker than *eremophilus*. Review of the material from northeastern California convinces me of the propriety of recognizing a race from that section under Oberholser's name *atrestus*.

This conclusion has been supported by study of four additional skins from western Nevada collected by Mr. J. R. Alcorn. Three of these birds were taken in the vicinity of Fallon, Churchill County, March 3, June 3 (juvenile), and June 22; one was taken March 24, 2 miles southwest of Yerington, Lyon County. Also, a winter-taken individual of this race from the Truckee River canyon, thirty miles east of Reno, submitted for identification by Mr. James C. Savage, has been examined.

In Oregon, Gabrielson and Jewett (Birds of Oregon, 1940:455) indicate the occurrence of Bewick Wrens westward from the Warner Valley to the Klamath Basin, the upper Rogue River valley and the Siskiyou Mountains, and Oberholser includes all wrens of this species west to Gold Hill and Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon, in the race *atrestus*, although explaining that birds from Klamath Falls westward are not typical. Wrens from the Rogue River valley in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology seem to me to belong with *drymoecus* and to suggest intergradation between this race and *calophonus* to the north. *Atrestus* thus is viewed by me as a Great Basin race, extending as far as the Klamath Lake basin (no. 81397 Mus. Vert. Zool.), and from southern Lake County, Oregon, south through Modoc and eastern Lassen counties of California, and through western Nevada to Lyon County. *Drymoecus* therefore does not occur in western Nevada and northeastern California.

Heretofore Bewick Wrens have not been reported as summer residents north of Klamath County on the east side of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon. It was with much surprise, therefore, that I found a singing male, this past summer, at a point 7 miles northwest of Sisters, 3300 feet, in Deschutes County. The bird (no. 81699 Mus. Vert. Zool.) was taken on June 15 in a tangle of brush at the edge of a meadow. Previous to collecting it was watched for several minutes as it gave every evidence of being established on a breeding territory. The testes measured 8 mm. in length. Somewhat unexpectedly this wren proved not to be *atrestus*, but a typical *calophonus*, matching in detail members of this race from the Columbia River west of Portland. Here then was an outpost, across the mountains, of the dark, ruddy race typical of the humid coast belt.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, August 11, 1941.*