

## Ninth in the Fuertes print series

[The original thrasher watercolor was published as the frontispiece in Bird-Lore, Volume XVIII, September-October, 1916, Number 5. The accompanying text (page 311) is entitled Fortieth Paper, and is by editor Frank M. Chapman. It is reprinted here in its entirety.]

### Notes on the Plumage of North American Birds

By FRANK M. CHAPMAN

**Sennett's Thrasher** (*Toxostoma longirostre sennetti*, Fig. 1).—Sennett's Thrasher is a Texan race of the Mexican Long-billed Thrasher (*T. longirostre*) and is probably the form from which our Brown Thrasher has been derived. It is not so rufous above, and the bill is longer and more curved than in our Thrasher, but the resemblances in plumage, habit and song between the two are so strong that we are warranted in believing them to be representative of each other.

The sexes are alike in color, and the limited seasonal changes in color are due chiefly to wear and exposure.

**San Lucas Thrasher** (*Toxostoma cinereum*, Fig. 2).—The sexes are alike in color in this species, and the slight seasonal variations in plumage are due to wear and fading. The juvenal plumage is browner above and more finely streaked below. Among our Thrashers, this species is distinguished by the width of the white marks at the ends of the tail-feathers.

Two races of the San Lucas Thrasher are known. Both are confined to Lower California, one (*T. c. cinereum*) being found in the Cape region, the other (*T. c. mearnsi*) to the west-central coast in the vicinity of San Quentin Bay.

To update the nomenclature, *Toxostoma longirostre* is now called simply Long-billed Thrasher, and the race *sennetti* would be called Sennett's Thrasher only by those who cling to the honorably-retired separate vernacular names for subspecies. San Lucas Thrasher has

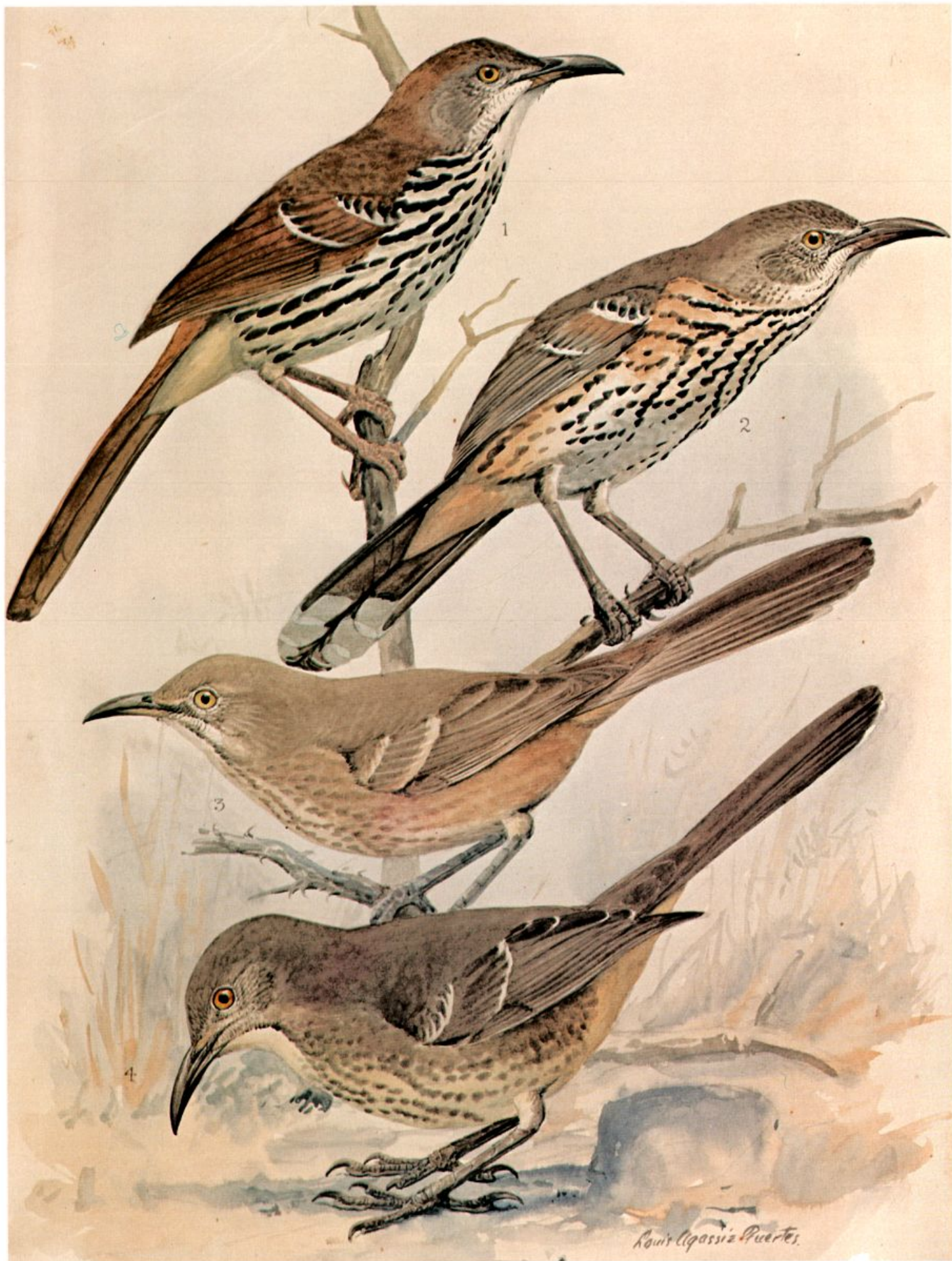
**Bendire's Thrasher** (*Toxostoma bendirei*, Fig. 3).—As with the preceding species, the sexes in Bendire's Thrasher are alike in color, and the small amount of seasonal change is occasioned by wear and fading. In very worn plumage the wing-bars are not evident and the spots on the under parts are barely observable.

**Curve-billed Thrasher** (*Toxostoma curvirostre*, Fig. 4).—As with other Thrashers, the sexes in this species are alike in color, and but little variation in plumage occurs through the year. In worn summer dress the wing-bars and spots on the underparts are not evident. The nestling has the lower back and rump decidedly browner, the markings on the underparts more streaked than in the adult. The tail-feathers have ill-defined brownish tips which seem to fade quickly, leaving the feathers merely paler at the ends and, in Palmer's Thrasher at least, with no trace of white.

Two races of this species are found in the United States, both being mainly restricted to our Mexican border. The Curve-billed Thrasher (*T. c. curvirostre*) occurs from southeastern New Mexico to the lower Rio Grande Valley, and southward; Palmer's Thrasher (*T. c. palmeri*), from southwestern New Mexico and west-central Arizona southward. There are two additional races in Mexico.

been renamed Gray Thrasher. Bendire's Thrasher retains that name, as does the Curve-billed Thrasher. In other respects Chapman's text is contemporary. The birds are here shown approximately two-thirds actual size.

—Robert Arbib



Louis Agassiz Puertes.