

A RACE OF YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT FROM THE TROPICAL ZONE OF SOUTHERN SONORA

BY A. J. VAN ROSSEM

YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS from the Tropical Zone of Sonora, south of the established breeding range of the species in Lower California, Arizona, and northern Sonora have been difficult to obtain, and during the past nine years I have been able to find only 9 which are either certainly or very probably breeding birds. All were taken in the months of June and July, six of them in the Mayo River Valley, one at Agiabampo on the Sonora-Sinaloa boundary and two from Pilares in the Bavispe River Valley. They are in the L. B. Bishop, Dickey, Hachisuka, University of Michigan, and W. J. Sheffler collections. These have been compared with series of the Long-tailed Chat from many localities which range from Coahuila on the east, west to California, Oregon, Washington, Lower California, Idaho, Arizona, and northern Sonora, and there is obvious reason to name the Tropical Zone breeding race. This may be known as

Icteria virens tropicalis subsp. nov.

TYPE.—Breeding male adult, 31942 Dickey collection; Tesia, Sonora, Mexico, June 19, 1937; collected by A. J. van Rossem.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Resembling *Icteria virens auricollis* (Lichtenstein) of the Mexican Plateau and western North America but size smaller; tail approximately equal to wing instead of longer; dorsal coloration, particularly on rump, upper tail coverts, and wing margins, grayer and more ashy (less greenish); ear coverts blacker. Nine adult males of *tropicalis* measure: wing, 72-77 (75.0)mm.; tail, 70-79 (74.8)mm.

RANGE.—The Arid Tropical Zone of southern Sonora, north in the Bavispe River Valley to about 30° 30' N. Winter range unknown.

REMARKS.—In the various series examined there are some readily apparent geographic tendencies which, eventually, it may be desirable to recognize by name. Specimens from the region from Coahuila westward to southern Arizona, and northern Sonora (south to Guaymas) are characterized by a slightly greener dorsal coloration, decidedly more grayish flanks and brighter, more golden yellow anterior underparts. It is with this type that Lichtenstein's three (apparently breeding) Mexico City co-types in the Berlin Museum belong. Pacific coast specimens from Lower California northward, and eastward at least to Idaho in the interior, are grayer dorsally, are duller and darker yellow below, and have distinctly darker and browner flanks. Should it prove desirable to allow this distinct tendency a name there is available, of course, Lawrence's *longicauda*.

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