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DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW BIRDS FROM
WESTERN TEXAS

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In the course of preparing a detailed report on the birds of the Guadalupe Mountain region of western Texas, a study undertaken jointly by the Bureau of Biological Survey and the Louisiana State University, it becomes evident that two species are not referable to any known geographical races. Careful analysis of the material at hand reveals differences sufficient to justify their taxonomic distinction. The following diagnoses will serve to differentiate the two subspecies.

***Aimophila ruficeps tenuirostra* new subspecies**

GUADALUPE MOUNTAIN ROCK SPARROW

Subspecific characters.—This well-marked race resembles both *Aimophila ruficeps scotti* (Sennett)¹ and *Aimophila ruficeps eremoeca* (Brown),² but the bill is decidedly smaller and more slender than in either of those races and the upper parts, including the crown, are distinctly darker. In measurements it is similar to *scotti*, the wing being shorter than in *eremoeca*.

Type.—Adult male: No. 3334, Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology; Guadalupe Mountains, Culberson County, Texas; McKittrick Canyon, altitude 5,500 feet; January 3, 1939; George H. Lowery, Jr. (original number 1293).

Measurements.—Adult male:³ wing, 66.2-66.9 (average, 66.5) mm.; tail, 70.6-73.8 (72.1); exposed culmen, 10.9-11.7 (11.4); tarsus, 19.4-20.3 (19.9). Adult female:⁴ wing, 62.0-63.5 (average, 62.7) mm.; tail, 65.0-67.8 (66.6); exposed culmen, 11.3-11.9 (11.6); tarsus, 20.0-20.1 (20.1).

¹ Sennett, *The Auk*, 5, 1888, p. 42.

² N. C. Brown, *Bull. Nuttall Orn. Club*, 7, 1882, p. 26.

³ Four specimens.

⁴ Three specimens.

Range.—Guadalupe Mountain region of western Texas; limits of range imperfectly known.

Specimens examined.—Eight, all from the type locality.

Remarks.—In unworn winter plumage this new race is characterized by less gray upper parts, the streaks on the back being rather broad and dark chestnut in color. In any plumage, however, it can be readily distinguished by its small slender bill.

***Amphispiza bilineata opuntia*⁵ new subspecies**

FRIJOLE DESERT SPARROW

Subspecific characters.—Resembling *Amphispiza bilineata bilineata* (Cassin),⁶ but decidedly larger, with the upper parts slightly grayer and the white spot of the outermost tail feather much smaller. From *Amphispiza bilineata deserticola* (Ridgway),⁷ it differs in having the upper parts distinctly grayer with but a faint tinge of brown and in averaging larger in size.

Type.—Adult male; No. 342085, Biological Survey collection, United States National Museum; Guadalupe Mountains, Culberson County, Texas; 10 miles east of Frijole, altitude 4,800 feet; January 2, 1939; Thos. D. Burleigh (original number 5458).

Measurements.—Adult male:⁸ wing, 68.0-69.2 (average, 68.4) mm.; tail 62.4-65.5 (63.4); exposed culmen, 10.2-11.0 (10.6); tarsus, 17.8-20.0 (18.8). Adult female:⁹ wing, 65.0-66.2 (average, 65.5) mm.; tail, 54.5-61.0 (60.1); exposed culmen, 10.0-10.8 (10.3); tarsus, 18.3-19.0 (18.7).

Range.—Guadalupe Mountain region of western Texas; limits of range imperfectly known.

Specimens examined.—Eleven from the type locality and one from El Paso, Texas.

Remarks.—On the basis of a single specimen from El Paso, Texas, it appears that this new race is the breeding form at this extreme western edge of that State. Unfortunately this one specimen, a male, was taken during the middle of February and may merely represent the race occurring there during the winter months. Specimens from Van Horn, Texas, at the southwestern edge of Culberson County, and from Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas, are referable to *deserticola*, although they approach *bilineata* in measurements.

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⁵ From *Opuntia*, the generic name of the cane cactus, in which without exception the nest of this new sparrow has been found.

⁶ Cassin, *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 5, 1850, p. 104.

⁷ Ridgway, *The Auk*, 15, 1898, p. 229.

⁸ Nine specimens.

⁹ Three specimens.