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No. 15

A NEW SAVANNAH SPARROW FROM MEXICO

By SIDNEY CAMRAS

While examining the Savannah sparrows in Field Museum with reference to the recent revision by Peters and Griscom, I found four summer specimens from west-central Chihuahua, where the species was not known to breed. The birds were unlike any of the North American forms, and agreed most closely with descriptions of *brunnescens*, the race of south-central Mexico. Shortly afterwards, Mr. A. J. van Rossem visited the Museum and, upon examining the specimens, suggested that comparison with *brunnescens* might show that they represented a new subspecies. This comparison has been made, through the courtesy of the authorities of the United States Biological Survey and Field Museum, who arranged a loan of the Survey's series of *brunnescens*. The Chihuahua birds prove to be different and may be called

Passerculus sandwichensis rufofuscus subsp. nov.

Type from Babicora, Chihuahua, Mexico. No. 13076 Field Museum of Natural History. Adult female. Collected June 15, 1902, by G. F. Breninger.

Diagnosis.—Nearest to *Passerculus sandwichensis brunescens* Butler, but with the brownish tones brighter throughout and the black markings heavier. Distinguishable from all the members of the genus by its bright coloration.

Range.—Known only from the type locality.

Measurements.—Two males: wing (chord) 70.0, 71.2; tail 49.7, 50.0; tarsus 20.5, 20.5; exposed culmen 11.1, 10.7; depth of bill 5.9, 6.0. Two females (type in parentheses): wing (chord) (64.5), 65.0; tail (45.5), 43.8; tarsus (20.4), 20.0; exposed culmen (11.1), 10.0; depth of bill (5.8), 5.9.

Remarks.—Exactly how the new race differs from the recently described *wetmorei* van Rossem, of Guatemala, can only be deter-

mined by direct comparison, but from the dorsal similarity of *wetmorei* and *alaudinus* Bonaparte (i.e. *bryanti* Ridgway) the present form must be lighter and brighter in coloration.

The long tail ascribed to *brunnescens* by Oberholser (Sci. Pub. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist., 1, p. 110) on the basis of the measurements published by Ridgway is not supported by my measurements, which are as follows:

	Males	Wing	Tail
<i>brunnescens</i>	15	70.69	48.31
<i>nevadensis</i>	17	69.45	48.43
<i>anthinus</i>	14	71.82	50.46

The discovery of a bird geographically between *brunnescens* and *nevadensis* and yet showing no signs of intergradation is rather unexpected. Where the new bird meets *nevadensis*, from which it is so distinct, if it does so at all, would be very interesting.

Through the courtesy of Professor C. W. G. Eifrig, two specimens of *brunnescens* in fresh breeding plumage, lent to him by the Carnegie Museum, have been examined. Miss Ruth Trimble has kindly furnished the data of several other Mexican Savannah sparrows in the Carnegie Museum. Dr. H. C. Oberholser and Mr. R. T. Moore also have sent information for which I am grateful.

Thanks are particularly due to Mr. van Rossem, who examined the material upon which this paper is based, and supplied much information on types and relations of members of this group.

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