

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW ABEILLE'S GROSBEAK FROM TAMAULIPAS.
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Among the most interesting specimens obtained by the John B. Semple Ornithological Expedition to northeastern Mexico (January 27 to March 6, 1938) are three adult Abeille's Grosbeaks (two males and a female) which were collected by the authors on March 4, not far from the Sabinas River in the vicinity of Gomez Farias, Tamaulipas, and which apparently represent an undescribed race. This race we propose to call

Hesperiphona abeillii saturata, subsp. nov.

Type.—Adult male in unworn plumage, U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 342075 (Biol. Surv. collection); Rio Sabinas, near the village of Gomez Farias, southwestern Tamaulipas, Mexico, March 4, 1938; collected by Thomas D. Burleigh.

Subspecific characters.—Dullest and most olive-gray of the races of *Hesperiphona abeillii*. Males much less yellow both above and below than in *H. a. abeillii* (Lesson); duller and more olive-gray than in *H. a. cobanensis* Nelson; and darker, olive-backed rather than brown-backed, and considerably shorter-tailed than in *H. a. pallida* Nelson. Females duller throughout than in straight *abeillii*; duller and grayer than in *cobanensis*; and darker, greener-backed, and shorter-tailed than in *pallida*.¹

Range.—So far as is known, the "hill country" of southwestern Tamaulipas. Probably occurs also in southern Nuevo Leon and eastern San Luis Potosi.

Remarks.—Compared with three male and three female *H. a. abeillii* from Huachinango,² Puebla, our three birds are noticeably dull, the males being more olive (less yellow) both above and below, and more extensively black on the throat; the female being *gray* rather than buffy white on the throat, darker throughout the underparts, and much less yellowish-olive on the back. As for *cobanensis*, a form originally described as "brighter"

¹ The tail of Nelson's type measures 63 mm.; in two female *pallida* at hand the tail measures 69 and 71.

² Spelled Huachinango and Huachunango in Nelson's original description of *H. a. pallida* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 41, 1928, 155). Spelled Huanchinango and Huachinango on the labels of six E. A. Goldman specimens at hand.—G.M.S.

even than *abeillii*, Dr. Harry C. Oberholser has been good enough to compare our series with Nelson's type (from Coban, Vera Paz, Guatemala) and he reports our birds as "certainly not of that form, being much duller and more grayish."

The characters of *pallida* have given us trouble. This race was named from a single specimen, a female. The type (from Jesus Maria, Chihuahua) is at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Sending our three birds on, we asked Mr. James L. Peters to compare them for us. This Mr. Peters graciously did, reporting as follows: "The type of *pallida* is a worn breeding female taken in June, very brown above, not a particularly good skin, and most of the feathers are gone off the lower back . . . Your birds are definitely not *abeillii*, but you will have to see more material to tell whether they may be referred to *pallida* or represent another form."

"More material" we finally obtained from Mr. Robert T. Moore, of Pasadena, California, who courteously sent on six specimens, three males and two females from Sinaloa (June and July), and a single male from Chihuahua, all of which we assume to be *pallida*. The last-named bird of the series is decidedly the brightest of the males; but it is also in the freshest plumage, having been collected in May.

Our three Tamaulipas birds are strikingly different from these Sinaloa and Chihuahua *pallida*. They are darker, and green-backed rather than brown-backed. They are definitely shorter-winged and considerably shorter-tailed. In our male *saturata* the tip of the inner web in the two outermost pairs of rectrices is distinctly white, whereas in every male *pallida* at hand the tail is wholly black. The gray tertials and proximal greater coverts are much darker in our three *saturata* than in any of the *pallida* at hand. Our single female *saturata* is darker and more olive-brown below than any of the three Sinaloa females, but less extensively black on top of the head, the crown patch terminating at the occiput, whereas in the two Sinaloa females the whole of the nape and back of the neck are black. This reduction in the amount of black in the crown-patch may possibly be a characteristic of subadult plumage; the fact nevertheless remains that this single Tamaulipas female is much darker, on the whole, than either of the Sinaloa females.

MEASUREMENTS.

MALES.				
	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Tail</i>	<i>Exposed Culmen</i>	<i>Tarsus</i>
3 <i>abeillii</i>	101-106 (104)	62-66 (64.6)	21-21.5 (21.1)	20-22 (20.8)
2 <i>saturata</i> ¹	104, 101	62, 65	21, 21	21.5, 21
4 <i>pallida</i>	108-112 (110)	69-71 (70.5)	20-21.5 (20.6)	20-21.5 (20.6)
FEMALES.				
3 <i>abeillii</i>	101-103 (101.6)	61-63 (62)	19.5-21 (20.1)	21-22 (21.1)
1 <i>saturata</i>	101	61	20	20.5
2 <i>pallida</i>	107, 108	69, 71	20.5, 21	20.5, 20

¹ First measurement throughout series is of type specimen