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## THE RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD OF YUCATÁN

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IN his revision of the Icteridae in 1866, John Cassin<sup>1</sup> commented on the more slender bill and "some other slight differences" that characterize specimens of *Agelaius phoeniceus* from Yucatán and remarked that these birds "may be distinct." Later workers ignored Cassin's comment or, after 1897, referred Yucatán specimens to *Agelaius phoeniceus richmondi*, described by Nelson from Veracruz. A series of specimens which we have received from the north coast of Yucatán demonstrates clearly that *Agelaius phoeniceus* is represented there by a well-marked race. It may be called

*Agelaius phoeniceus pallidulus*, new subspecies

TYPE.—University of Michigan Museum of Zoology No. 108415; adult female; Yucatán, 3 km. south of Progreso; March 17, 1940; collected by Angel Chang.

CHARACTERS.—Like *Agelaius phoeniceus matudae* Brodtkorb,<sup>2</sup> but larger; bill, especially in the male, more slender and attenuate; culmen more rounded, less angular, in cross section.

<sup>1</sup> John Cassin, "A Study of the Icteridae," *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 1866, p. 10.

<sup>2</sup> Described from the valley of the Río Usumacinta in Tabasco and Campeche. Pierce Brodtkorb, "New Birds from Southern Mexico," *Auk*, 57(1940): 548.

Female: lighter below, because of narrower dark streaks; buffy breast band lacking.

Like *Agelaius phoeniceus richmondi* Nelson, but larger; bill much more slender and more rounded in cross section (especially in the male). Female: very much paler and less buffy.

Like *Agelaius phoeniceus megapotamus* Oberholser, but slightly smaller; bill much more slender and more rounded in cross section. Female: dark streaks on underside narrower.

TABLE I  
MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETERS OF THE YUCATÁN RED-WINGED  
BLACKBIRD AND RELATED SUBSPECIES\*

Males		
	Wing	Tail
<i>pallidulus</i> .....	109.5-117.0 (114.5) [19]	84.5-93.5 (87.7) [ 5]
<i>matudae</i> .....	112.0-113.0 (112.5) [ 2]	82.0-85.0 (83.5) [ 2]
<i>richmondi</i> .....	105.5-117.5 (111.2) [13]	78.0-89.5 (83.8) [13]
<i>megapotamus</i> .....	110.0-121.0 (114.7) [ 9]	84.0-93.0 (87.2) [ 9]
<i>floridanus</i> † .....	107.5-119.0 (113.2) [26]	76.5-92.5 (86.2) [26]
<i>bryanti</i> .....	114.0-121.0 (117.0) [ 6]	86.0-93.0 (89.3) [ 6]
Females		
	Wing	Tail
<i>pallidulus</i> .....	92.0-93.5 (92.9) [ 5]	65.5-69.0 (68.1) [ 4]
<i>matudae</i> .....	90.5-92.5 (91.4) [ 7]	65.5-72.0 (68.7) [ 7]
<i>richmondi</i> .....	87.0-92.0 (90.0) [ 5]	67.0-72.5 (68.3) [ 5]
<i>megapotamus</i> .....	91.5-98.0 (95.1) [ 8]	66.0-75.0 (70.9) [ 8]
<i>floridanus</i> † .....	89.0-96.5 (93.2) [18]	65.5-74.5 (70.2) [18]
<i>bryanti</i> .....	93.0-95.0 (93.5) [ 7]	66.0-73.0 (68.2) [ 7]

\* Average measurements of the specimens in each series are given in parentheses. The number of specimens in each series is given in brackets.

† Measurements taken from A. H. Howell and A. J. van Rossem, "A Study of the Red-winged Blackbirds of Southeastern United States," *Auk*, 45 (1928): 162-63.

Like *Agelaius phoeniceus floridanus* Maynard, but bill slightly longer and more slender, less flattened and less angular at the base of the culmen. Female: somewhat paler above; less broadly streaked with brown below; chin and throat paler—less pink or buff.

Like *Agelaius phoeniceus bryanti* Ridgway, but somewhat smaller; bill, especially of male, more slender and pointed, and

more rounded in cross section. Female: usually much more narrowly streaked with brown below; throat less streaked; less buff above.

MEASUREMENTS.—The wing and tail measurements of the Yucatán Red-wing and the adjacent subspecies are given in Table I. Some of the specimens studied are omitted from one or both columns of the table because of worn or damaged flight feathers.

RANGE.—The north coast of Yucatán. We have examined specimens from Progreso (9 males, 4 females), Río Lagartos (13 males, 1 female), and San Felipe (2 males, 1 female).

REMARKS.—During our brief experience with the Yucatán Red-wing in life, we noted that the song of the male was much shorter than that of typical *phoeniceus* of the northern United States.

For the use of important comparative material we are indebted to the authorities of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Carnegie Museum, the Chicago Natural History Museum, the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the U. S. National Museum and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History.

