

Article XIX. — DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SUBSPECIES OF *COLYMBUS DOMINICUS* LINN.

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The specific names, *dominicus*, and its variant *dominicensis*, have been applied to the small Grebe, which ranges from the Greater Antilles and southern Texas southward to Patagonia, but it appears upon comparison of Cuban with continental examples, that at least two mainland forms of this bird deserve recognition by name. For one, from Matto Grosso, Brazil, I propose the name *Colymbus dominicus brachyrhynchus*; for the other, from Lower Rio Grande, Texas, the name *Colymbus dominicus brachypterus*. They may be distinguished from *C. dominicus* and from each other by the following descriptions:

***Colymbus dominicus brachyrhynchus*, subsp. nov.**

Char. Subsp. — Similar to *Colymbus dominicus* Linn., but with the bill much shorter and more slender, and with less fuscous on the sides and flanks.

Description of Type. (No. 34872, Coll. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., male, Chapada, Matto Grosso, Brazil, Sept. 19, 1883. Collected by H. H. Smith.) — Head and neck all around plumbeous, the crown greenish; the throat black, some of the feathers tipped with whitish; back fuscous with slight greenish reflections; wing-coverts, tertials, and exposed part of outer primaries fuscous; basal portion of inner web of first primary white, the white increasing in extent on each succeeding feather until it wholly occupies the seventh to the thirteenth feathers, when it decreases and is replaced by fuscous; neck fuscous, upper breast washed with brownish, paler on the sides; sides and flanks washed with fuscous, rest of underparts silvery white, through which shows the fuscous bases of the feathers. Wing, 4.02; tarsus, 1.25; middle toe, 1.82; culmen, .72; depth of bill at nostril, .25 in.

Description of Female, No. 34873, Chapada, Matto Grosso, Brazil, Sept., 1883. — Similar to the male but whiter below and slightly smaller. Wing, 3.75; tarsus, 1.12; middle toe, 1.65; culmen, .65; depth of bill at nostril .21 in.

The small size of the bill is the chief distinguishing characteristic of this race, this member being only about two thirds as long as in *Colymbus dominicus*.

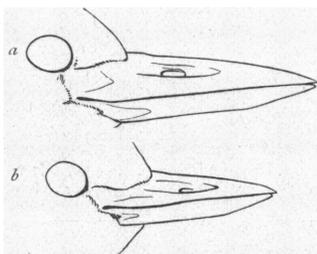


Fig. 1. a. Bill of *Colymbus dominicus*. b. Bill of *C. d. brachyrhynchus*. Both natural size.

***Colymbus dominicus brachypterus*, subsp. nov.**

Char. Subsp. — Similar to *Colymbus dominicus* Linn., but with shorter wings and bill, less fuscous on the sides and flanks, and whiter underparts.

Description of Type. (No. 11, Coll. George B. Sennett, male, Lomita Ranch, Lower Rio Grande, Texas, April 27, 1878. Collected by George B. Sennett.) — Head and neck all around plumbeous, the crown greenish; the throat black, some of the feathers tipped with whitish; back fuscous with slight greenish reflections; wing-coverts, tertials, and exposed part of outer primaries fuscous; basal portion of inner web of first primary white, this white increasing in extent on each succeeding feather until it wholly occupies the seventh to twelfth feathers, when it decreases and is replaced by fuscous; neck slaty, breast washed with brownish, fainter on the sides; sides and flanks washed with fuscous; rest of underparts silvery white, through which the darker bases of the feathers show only slightly. Wing, 3.80; tarsus, 1.25; middle toe, 1.78; culmen, .82; depth of bill at nostril, .30 in.

Description of Female, No. 12, Collection of George B. Sennett, Lomita, Texas, April 27, 1878. — Similar to the male, but whiter below and slightly smaller. Wing, 3.78; tarsus, 1.10; middle toe, 1.62; culmen, .68; depth of bill at nostril, .25 in.

This, the northern continental form of *Colymbus dominicus*, is to be distinguished from *dominicus* by its whiter underparts, smaller bill, and shorter wing; while from *C. d. brachyrhynchus* it may be known by its larger bill, shorter wing, and whiter underparts.

A specimen from Panama is to be referred to this race, while one from Ecuador agrees more nearly with *C. d. brachyrhynchus*. A table showing the bill and wing measurements of males of the three forms is appended:

NAME.	No.	Locality.	Wing.	Culmen.	Depth of bill at nostril.
<i>C. dominicus</i>	46174	Cuba.	4.15	1.01	.32
".....	57299	"	4.10	1.05	.35
<i>C. d. brachyrhynchus</i> ..	34872	Matto Grosso, Brazil.	4.02	.72	.25
<i>C. d. brachypterus</i>	11 G. B. S.	Lomita, Texas.	3.80	.82	.30
".....	601 G. B. S.	Hidalgo, Texas.	3.70	.85	.28

List of specimens examined: Cuba, 4; Brazil, 2; Ecuador, 1; Panama, 2; Jalapa, Mexico, 1; Lower Rio Grande, Texas, 21.¹

¹ From the collection of George B. Sennett, to whom I am indebted for the use of this material.