Certhia albibrons, Girard, B. Texas, t. 18 16.

Supra nigro-brunnens, pileo obscuriore; dorso tuto et cervicis lateribus albo nigroque stellato; cauda rufa nigro angustae transflasciata, supra caudalibus rufis nigro maculatis; alis fusce nigro obsolete transflasciatis; subitus guttura tuto albo, pectore rufo, ventre brunneo punctulis nigris albidis terminatis notato; rostro obscure conico, mandibulae basi albicante; pedibus nigris. Long. tota 5-5, alas 2-5, caudae 2-1, tarsi 0-8, rostri a rictu 1-1. (Descr. exempl. ex Tehuantepec. Mus. nostr.)

*Hab.* South-western parts of Central North America, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Texas, &c. 12 13.—Mexico 15, Tepic (Grayson 10), Guadalaxara (Grayson 10, Dugès 11), Guanajuato (Dugès 11), Real del Monte (Morgan 1), Rio Coahuayana (Xantus 7), Mirador (Sartorius 7), Yuatepec (Deppe, Mus. Berol.), valley of Mexico (White 5, le Strange, Sumichrast 9), Oaxaca (Botteri 3), State of Vera Cruz (Sumichrast 9), Santa Efiegenia, Tehuantepec (Sumichrast).

Specimens of this Wren from America north of Mexico have been separated from the Mexican bird by Mr. Ridgway as a geographical race under the name of *Catherpes mexicanus*, var. conspersus 12; the differences observable between the two being stated to be the greater curvature of the bill of the northern bird, the head and neck above being thickly marked with white spots, the colours of the under surface more blended, as well as other minor points. The validity of these distinctions is confirmed by Dr. Coues 13, and, we have no doubt, indicate that the northern bird is fairly constant in its characters. But when Mexican examples are compared, we find great diversity both in the size of the bill and in the coloration of the plumage. A specimen from Sallé’s collection from Southern Mexico is barely distinguishable from one of Mr. Henshaw’s specimens from Arizona, whilst a Tehuantepec example exhibits all the characters attributed by Mr. Ridgway to the true *C. mexicanus*. We possess other Mexican specimens which are intermediate, having the bill of the southern bird and the plumage of the northern. It would seem, then, that *C. mexicanus* is a variable species in Mexico, but that in the northern parts of its range it is more constant in its characters.

The Mexican bird was first described by Swainson in 1829 1 from specimens obtained at Real del Monte. Two years afterwards Lichtenstein named Deppe’s birds as *Troglodytes murarius* 14, under which name the specimens still stand in the Berlin Museum. Again, in 1839, Lafresnaye renamed it *Thriothorus guttulatus* 15; and, lastly, in 1841, Giraud included it amongst his sixteen birds of Texas, under the title of *Certhia albibrons* 16. All these names apply to the Mexican race.

In North America *C. mexicanus* is usually found in the canions of the south-western portion of the United States, which form so characteristic a feature in the physical geography of that district; and from this, its favourite resort, it is called the Cañon Wren 13. But it by no means only frequents such barren localities, being also found about walls and houses, where its familiar habits make it a general favourite 8 12. Its song is described as a series of loud clear notes, uttered in a simple descending scale 13.