Hab. North America, Texas, Arizona.—Mexico, plains of Colima (Xantus 34), Los Nogales, Sonora (Kennerly 8), Guanajuato (Dugès), Orizaba (Botteri 1), Mirador, Huatusco (Sartorius), Atlisco (Boucard 2), Putla (Rébouché).

We have the types of Zonotrichia botterii, Scl., of Coturniculus mexicanus, Lawr., and of Peucaea astivalis, var. arizone, Ridgw., before us, six other specimens from various parts of Mexico, and one from Fort Brown, Texas—ten specimens in all. Judging from the variations observable in these examples, we do not hesitate to pronounce them all of one species. The extent to which the edgings of the dorsal feathers are worn makes a great difference in the appearance of the back, the older the plumage the darker this portion becomes through the abrasion of the lighter edging of the feathers. The darkest specimen is one sent us by the authorities of the Smithsonian Institution from Mirador; this is a little darker than the type of P. botterii. P. mexicana comes next in the series, then follow specimens mostly from Orizaba, and the lightest in colour are the type of P. astivalis arizone, the Fort Brown example, and two from Mexico (Putla and Atlisco). All these four were shot in June, and their plumage is comparatively fresh.

There is a slight divergence on the part of P. astivalis arizone in that the dark stripes of the crown are more restricted to the anterior portion and those of the back are more circumscribed, but the difference is not considerable.

P. botterii was described by Mr. Selater from a specimen obtained by the late Mateo Botteri near Orizaba, where he resided many years, and other specimens have from time to time been obtained in the same district. It is to this species, doubtless, that Sumichrast refers, under the name P. cassini, saying that it is resident in the temperate region of the valley of Orizaba.

Mr. Ridgway has recently written on this subject, urging that Coturniculus mexicanus, Lawr., and Zonotrichia botterii, Scl., are distinct species; but with the types of both birds before us, we are confident that this view cannot be maintained, for the difference between them is quite inappreciable. The dark aberrant specimen from Mirador, in the U. S. National Museum, has been the cause of this opinion of Mr. Ridgway's, it having done duty as a normal P. botterii. It will be seen in the paper referred to that P. astivalis arizone and the bird called P. mexicana are considered distinct species, though we here put them together, drawing our limits of variation rather wide.

We have, as already stated, specimens of both birds before us, but a larger series may show that our present view is wrong; the geographical distribution of the birds is, however, in our favour. Mr. Ridgway will doubtless review the question, with our assurance that C. mexicanus and Z. botterii are inseparable.

The relationship of P. botterii to P. astivalis is close, the difference consisting in the latter bird being darker, with the head and neck deeper rufous; beneath, the plumage is much greyer, P. botterii being here of an ochre colour, especially on the chest and flanks.