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### DESCRIPTIONS OF SUPPOSED NEW BIRDS FROM WESTERN NORTH AMERICA AND MEXICO.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

#### *Psittac ula cyanopyga pallida*, new subspecies.

SUBSPEC. CHAR.—Similar to *P. cyanopyga*, but with the bill rather stouter, the green of the upper parts duller and more ashy, that of the lower parts lighter and yellower.

♂ *ad.* (No. 14,389, collection of W. Brewster, Alamos, Sonora, Mexico, March 8, 1888; M. Abbott Frazar). Apple-green, darker and somewhat olivaceous on the crown, occiput, nape, back, and wings, tinged faintly with ashy on the sides of the neck, nape, and back; rump and outer webs of greater wing-coverts deep, shining, turquoise blue; axillaries and under wing-coverts a lighter shade of the same; outer webs of all except the outer four primaries and both webs of most of the secondaries tinged with verditer blue. Basal half of both mandibles horn color, terminal half yellowish white; wing, 3.50; tail, 1.57; bill: length from nostril, .53; greatest depth of upper mandible, .27; greatest depth of lower mandible, .33 inch.

♀ *ad.* (No. 14,390, collection of William Brewster, Alamos, Sonora, Mexico, March 8, 1888; M. Abbott Frazar). Wholly lacking the blue on wings, axillaries and rump; otherwise precisely like the male. Wing, 3.50; tail, 1.65; bill: length of culmen from nostril, .55; greatest depth of upper mandible, .25; greatest depth of lower mandible, .32 inch.

Twelve specimens of this form, all taken the same day from the same flock, differ very constantly, in respect to the characters above pointed out, from five examples of *P. cyanopyga* in the National Museum. Of the latter, three are from Mazatlan, one from Jalisco, and one from Manzanilla Bay.

***Empidonax pulverius*,\* new species.—SIERRA MADRE FLYCATCHER.**

SPEC. CHAR.—Similar to *E. cineritius* Brews., but much larger, the bill slenderer, the coloring of the under parts darker and more uniform.

♂ *ad.* (No. 14,387, collection of W. Brewster, Pinos Altos, Chihuahua, Mexico, June 23, 1888; M. Abbott Frazar). Above faded, somewhat grayish hair-brown, the pileum and nape tinged with olive, the forehead decidedly grayish, the feathers of the crown with dark brown centres; wings and tail dark hair-brown (almost clove-brown on the wings), the outer webs of the outer tail feathers brownish white to the shaft excepting at the tip, the secondaries and inner primaries narrowly, the greater and middle wing-coverts broadly, tipped (and near the apices margined also) with brownish white; bend of wing, under wing-coverts, crissum, flanks, and a narrow space on the centre of the abdomen pale yellow; remainder of under parts nearly uniform dull brownish gray, with a tinge of yellowish olive, most pronounced on the jugulum and middle of the breast, apparently wanting on the middle of the throat (the darkest colored area beneath) which with the nearly concolored sides of head and neck is scarcely lighter than the back. The eye is encircled by a well-marked white or whitish ring, interrupted by a dusky space on the upper eyelid. Lower mandible wholly straw-yellow. Wing, 2.93; tail, 2.60; tarsus, .62; length of culmen: from base, .53; from feathers, .44; from nostril, .36; width of bill at nostril, .20 inch.

♀ *ad.* (No. 14,388, collection of W. Brewster, Pinos Altos, Chihuahua, Mexico, June 6, 1888; M. Abbott Frazar). Similar to the male, but the entire upper parts tinged slightly with olive; the under parts lighter, with the entire abdomen and flanks pale brownish yellow, the throat with some whitish, the ring around the eye continuous and broader. Wing, 2.80; tail, 2.47; tarsus, .65; length of culmen: from base, .55; from feathers, .40; from nostril, .30; width of bill at nostril, .19 inch.

*Habitat.* Sierra Madre Mountains of Chihuahua (Pinos Altos), Mexico.

Although this Flycatcher has a bill nearly as narrow, proportionately, as average specimens of the *E. obscurus* group, and a general coloring quite as dark as *E. hammondi*, the dark extreme of that group, its wholly yellow under mandible and general, albeit very faint, yellowish tinge beneath attest its closer affinity with the yellow-billed *Empidonaces* of the *flaviventris-difficilis* type, with which it is connected through the intermediate form *cineritius*. It is impossible, however, to regard it as a subspecies of *difficilis*, for I have perfectly typical specimens of both *pul-*

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\* *Pulverius* = dust-colored.

*verius* and *difficilis* taken in late June at Pinos Altos where both unquestionably breed in close proximity, if not in the same thickets. The specific distinctness of *pulverius* from *cineritius* is less certain but probably not open to much doubt. My series of *pulverius* includes seven adults — five males and two females — all collected at Pinos Altos in June. Of these, the male above described represents the dark\* or gray extreme, the female the opposite light or yellowish extreme. The variations in size are trifling. The wings of the other five birds measure respectively ( $\delta$ ) 2.98; ( $\delta$ ) 2.94; ( $\delta$ ) 3.04; ( $\delta$ ) 2.95; ( $\text{♀}$ ) 2.75 inches.

**Empidonax griseus**, new species.—GRAY FLYCATCHER.

SUBSP. CHAR.—Nearest *E. obscurus*, but larger and much grayer, the bill longer, the basal half of the lower mandible flesh colored in strong contrast to the blackish terminal half.

$\delta$  ad. (No. 16,889, collection of W. Brewster, La Paz, Lower California, Feb. 5, 1887; M. Abbott Frazar). Above, with sides of head, neck, jugulum, breast, and body, smoke-gray, darkest and somewhat brownish on the crown, palest and decidedly ashy on neck, sides of jugulum, and breast; lores and forehead mixed with whitish; a narrow, nearly pure white ring encircling the eye; wings and tail hair-brown, the upper wing-coverts and all the quills, except the seven outer primaries, broadly tipped and edged with ashy white, which also forms a conspicuous border on the outer webs of the outer pair of tail feathers, not extending quite in to their shafts, however; under wing and tail coverts, crissum, and middle of abdomen, breast, and throat clear, but slightly ashy, white interrupted over a narrow space on the upper part of the breast by a band of smoke-gray, rather lighter than that of the sides of the breast which it connects, Wing, 2.77; tail, 2.45; tarsus, .72; length of culmen: from base, .62; from feathers, .45; from nostril, .40; breadth of bill at nostril, .21; breadth midway between nostril and tip, .12 inch.

$\text{♀}$  ad. (No. 16,900, collection of W. Brewster, La Paz, Lower California, Feb. 11, 1887; M. Abbott Frazar). Colored like the male, but smaller. Wing, 2.60; tail, 2.19; tarsus, .70; length of culmen: from base, .60; from feathers, .44; from nostril, .36; breadth of bill at nostril, .18; breadth midway between nostril and tip, .13 inch.

*Habitat.* Lower California (La Paz, Triunfo, San Josè del Cabo), Arizona (?), and southern Sonora, Mexico (Alamos).

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\* This specimen is in rather worn breeding plumage, whereas the female, although a breeding bird, is in nearly perfect plumage, a fact which doubtless has much to do with the difference between them.

My series of this form is large, comprising no less than sixty-five specimens from Lower California, and thirteen from Alamos in western Mexico. Among these there is surprisingly little individual variation in respect to the characters above pointed out, although the general coloring varies considerably with season. Autumnal birds have the upper parts faintly olivaceous, the under parts suffused with pale yellow, but the deepest colored specimens do not at all closely resemble the much darker and browner *E. obscurus*. The peculiar coloring of the under mandible is not subject to seasonal variation but, on the other hand, it is not uniform, some specimens having only the extreme tip dark, while in others the yellowish is confined to the basal fourth of the mandible. Only one bird in the entire series has the lower mandible unicolorous (light brown) from base to tip. On the whole the generally large size and especially long, slender bill are probably the best characters of *E. griseus*.

Turning now to *E. obscurus*, I find—among some fifty specimens from various parts of the western United States—much variation in coloring and excessive variation in the size and shape of the bill. Examples from southern Arizona and New Mexico are the lightest and grayest, and have the longest and narrowest bills. In some the bill is colored as in *E. griseus*; indeed several approach the latter very closely and are probably referable to it. Nevertheless *E. griseus* seems to be quite as distinct from *E. obscurus* as is the latter from *E. hammondi*. Indeed the material before me furnishes a series, apparently unbroken and very nicely graduated, connecting the largest, grayest specimen of *griseus* on the one hand, with the smallest, most olivaceous examples of *hammondi* on the other, the middle links of the chain being the specimens referable to *obscurus*. In almost any other group—save perhaps the Juncos—such a series would be conclusive proof of specific identity; but among *Empidonaces* forms shown by differences of habits, color of eggs, etc., to be perfectly distinct, are so often difficult of separation in the dried skin that ornithologists have learned to regard extremely slight peculiarities of form or color as good specific characters. Hence it is probably wisest to let the birds just mentioned stand, at least for the present, as full species.

In this connection a question of synonymy occurs, *viz.*, the possible necessity of using the name *obscurus* for the bird which I have

christened *griseus*. *Tyrannula obscura* of Swainson was based on a Flycatcher from Mexico, which is described (Philos. Mag. 1827, p. 367) as "Above olive gray, beneath yellowish white; wings short, brown, with two whitish bands; tail brown, even, the outer feather with a pale yellow margin. Length,  $5\frac{1}{4}$ ; bill, nearly  $\frac{1}{10}$ ; wings,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ; tail, 2.50; tarsi,  $\frac{6}{10}$ ." With this description Baird—not without evident hesitation and the provisional proposal of another name—identified\* a bird which most subsequent writers have followed him in calling *Empidonax obscurus*. It is evident, however, that Swainson's diagnosis applies more nearly to *E. griseus*, which is grayer above, yellower beneath (in autumn), and longer billed than the *E. obscurus* of Baird. The bill of *griseus*, however, does not, in the most extreme examples before me, reach anything like .70 inch in length, while the wing is longer than 2.50 and invariably much longer than the tail, exceeding it by fully one quarter of an inch in the majority of specimens. The under parts, also, are never plain, the breast and sides being distinctly grayish at all seasons. These discrepancies have seemed to me of sufficient importance to warrant the assumption that the name *obscurus* cannot be safely taken for the Flycatcher which I have called *griseus*. Obviously it can serve no longer for Baird's bird which must stand hereafter as *E. wrightii*.†

**Melospiza lincolni striata**, new subspecies.—FORBUSH'S SPARROW.

SUBSP. CHAR.—Similar to *M. lincolni*, but with the superciliary stripe and entire upper parts more strongly olivaceous, and the dark streaks, especially on the pileum, back, and upper tail-coverts, coarser, blacker, and more numerous.

♂ (No. 14,391, collection of W. Brewster, Comox, British Columbia, Sept. 8, 1888; E. H. Forbush). Above dull, slightly brownish olive; wings and tail faded clove-brown; all the upper coverts and most of the quill and tail feathers, as well as the feathers of the crown, bordered outwardly with chestnut, this broadest and richest on the inner secondaries, palest on the primaries and tail feathers, reduced to the narrowest possible margin on the feathers of the crown; entire upper parts streaked and spotted with black, most coarsely and thickly on the pileum, back, and upper tail-coverts where the light ground color is confined to the edges of the feathers and occupies much less than half of the total exposed surface of the plumage; middle and greater wing-coverts with buffy tips and black

\* Pac. R. R. Rep. Vol. IX, p. 200.

† Baird, l. c.

(concealed) inner webs; middle pair of tail feathers with broad, black, shaft stripes extending from base to tip; superciliary stripe and sides of neck grayish olive, streaked (finely and sparsely on the superciliary stripe. more sharply on the neck) with blackish; lores dusky; sides of head below the eye rusty olive; a well defined malar stripe and a broad band across the chest tawny buff; sides, flanks, anal region, and under tail-coverts lighter and duller buff; remainder of under parts white; throat, breast, sides, flanks, and under tail-coverts streaked sharply with black; the malar stripe bordered above by a short, black line, below separated from the white of the throat by a broader as well as longer stripe of nearly confluent black spots; there is also a very distinct black line extending about half an inch back from the posterior corner of the eye; bill dark horn color, lighter at base of lower mandible; tarsi and feet light brown. Wing, 2.35; tail, 2.23 inches.

♀ (No. 14,392. collection of W. Brewster, Comox, British Columbia, Sept. 8, 1888; E. H. Forbush). Differing from the male above described only in having the chestnut edging on the feathers of the crown a trifle broader, the olivaceous of the upper parts, especially of the superciliary stripe, stronger, the white of the throat tinged with buffy. Wing, 2.30; tail, 2.23 inches.


Lincoln's Finch has been repeatedly cited as a good example of a 'hard and fast' species, which, although of wide distribution, is not subject to geographical variation. The specimens above described, with another male taken at the same place and season, show, however, that it has not been able to resist the potent modifying influences of the Northwest Coast Region. These influences have worked in quite the usual way, deepening the normal ground coloring and broadening and intensifying the normal markings. The differences are well marked and easily recognized. Indeed in a series of nearly one hundred specimens of *lincolni* from various parts of North America and Mexico I have found only three which approach the new form at all closely. Two of them may be referable to it, one coming from the Victoria Mts., Lower California (L. Belding, Feb. 20, 1883), the other from the Kowak River, Alaska (July 20, 1885). The third bird is labelled simply "Missouri River, 1843." If not a straggler from the Northwest Coast — by no means an impossibility — it represents a depth of coloring and coarseness of markings at once extreme and exceptional in *lincolni verus*.

*Euphonia godmani*,\* new species.—GODMAN'S EUPHONIA.

SP. CHAR.—Most nearly like *E. minuta*, but larger, the bill much

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\*To Frederick DuCane Godman.

stouter, the yellow patch on the pileum broader and paler, all the secondaries and most of the primaries with the inner web<sup>1</sup> ely white; less white on the abdomen.

♂ *ad.* (No. 51,515, collection of U. S. National Museum, Mazatlan, Mexico, March, 1868; Ferdinand Bischoff). Forehead and fore part of crown pale yellow; rest of upper parts (including the exposed surfaces of the closed wings and tail), sides of head, including the lores and a narrow space above the eyes, chin, throat, jugulum, and neck all around, glossy violet, mixed with steel blue on the lower back, scapulars, and wing-coverts, and nearly or quite clear steel blue on the primaries, secondaries, and tail feathers; under wing-coverts, crissum, and under tail-coverts white, just perceptibly tinged with yellowish; tibiae whitish; rest of under parts rich chrome yellow, the feathers of the abdomen with much concealed white; inner webs of the outer and next to outer pair of tail feathers white from the base to within about .08 inch of the tip; third pair of feathers with a short white stripe confined to the margin of the inner web; all the other feathers wholly dark; first primary with a narrow white margin on the basal half of the inner web; second primary with this white margin occupying nearly half the inner web for two thirds its length; third primary with the white extending nearly to the shaft on the basal third of the feather, thence tapering to nothing on the margin just half an inch short of the tip; all the remaining primaries, as well as the secondaries (but not the tertials which are wholly dark colored), with the entire inner web white to the shaft for about two thirds of the distance from base to tip. Wing, 2.29; tail, 1.36; length of bill along culmen from base, .40; length of bill from feathers, .26; depth of bill at nostrils, .19; width of bill at rictus, .25 inch. Bill (in dried specimen) nearly white at base, shading towards the tip into dark horn color.

*Habitat.* Coast region of western Mexico (Mazatlan and Alamos).

In addition to the type, which belongs to the National Museum, I have before me another specimen, similar in every way (excepting that the bill is wholly dark horn color save for a small light space near the *tip* of the lower mandible), taken by Mr. Frazar at Alamos, Sonora, Mexico, March 16, 1888. This bird measures: wing, 2.21; tail, 1.44; length of culmen from concealed base, .35; length of culmen from feathers, .25; depth of bill at nostril, .19; width of bill at rictus, .25 inch.

Although Mr. Ridgway considers this new species most closely allied to *E. minima*, the only other member of the genus which similarly combines a white crissum with a yellow forehead, I cannot help thinking that it will prove to be nearer *E. affinis*. I have not been able, it is true, to compare the latter with *god-*

*mani*, but judging from descriptions the only important differences are that *affinis* has a yellow crissum, a narrow black, frontal band and no decided purplish except on the throat and head. (“*Atr. cærulea, capite et gutture paulo purpurascenrioribus; fronte anguste nigra.*”)\* In the size and shape of the bill the two appear to agree closely. The bill of *minima*, on the other hand, is very much slenderer than in *godmani*, and this difference seems to me of more importance than color, especially as the crissum of *godmani* is tinged slightly with yellow, a fact which indicates probable variations in this character.

**Progne subis hesperia**, † new subspecies.—WESTERN MARTIN.

**SUBSP. CHAR.**—Female differing from female *subis* in having the abdomen, anal region, crissum, and under tail-coverts pure white, nearly or quite immaculate, the throat, breast, flanks, forehead, fore part of crown and nuchal collar grayish white, the feathers of the back and rump conspicuously edged with grayish or pale brown, the bend of the wing and the under wing-coverts mottled profusely with whitish. Male indistinguishable from the male of *subis*.

♂ *ad.* (No. 15,394, collection of W. Brewster, Sierra de la Laguna, Lower California, June 4, 1887; M. Abbott Frazar). Entire plumage dark purplish blue; wings and tail black glossed with purple; the under surface of the shafts of all the wing and tail feathers broccoli-brown; feathers of crissum whitish at base. Wing, 5.56; tarsus, .57; tail, 2.07; culmen from nostril, .32 inch.

♀ *ad.* (No. 15,395, collection of W. Brewster, Sierra de la Laguna, Lower California, June 4, 1887; M. Abbott Frazar). Forehead, crown as far back as posterior corner of eyes, and nuchal collar brownish white; wings and tail slaty black with a faint purplish gloss; the under shafts of all the quills broccoli brown as in the male; remainder of upper parts dark purplish, all the feathers, including the scapulars, conspicuously tipped with brownish white; beneath ashy white, the chin, jugulum, and throat slightly tinged with smoke-gray, the breast with much concealed slate-gray, only the tips of the feathers being white, the flanks nearly pure slate; most of the feathers of the under parts with shaft lines of slaty, but these so fine that they are nowhere very conspicuous, while on the anal region and crissum they are nearly wanting; under wing-coverts and feathers of bend of wing beneath broadly tipped with white. Wing, 5.44; tarsus, .61; tail, 2.83; culmen from nostril, .34 inch.

*Habitat.* California (Ojai Valley) and Lower California (Sierra de la Laguna).

\*Biol. Centr. Am. Vol. I (Aves), p. 258.

†Hesperius = western.



As will be seen from the above description the characters upon which this subspecies is based are presented solely by the female, all the males (thirty in number) in my Lower California series being, as far as I can discover, absolutely inseparable from eastern males of *P. subis*. The differences in the females of the two forms are sufficient, however, to afford excellent subspecific characters. Female *subis* is essentially unicolorous above—although some specimens show traces of a brownish nuchal collar and are more or less grayish on the forehead. Beneath it has the throat, jugulum, sides of body, and most of the breast dull slaty or brownish, the feathers of the anal region and crissum with broad slaty centres, while the only approach to an immaculate white area is a small patch on the middle of the abdomen. The under wing-coverts are always, as far as I have seen, plain dark slate, although there is usually a little whitish on the bend of the wing. Described in equally general terms the female of *hesperia* may be said to have the forehead, fore part of crown, nuchal collar, and entire under parts ashy white, the darker markings and shades described in detail above being only apparent on a critical examination. My series of *hesperia* contains two spring males in a plumage about intermediate between that of the females of *subis* and *hesperia*; they are evidently young birds in the second year. Mr. Batchelder has two females from the Ojai Valley, California, which are practically identical with my Lower Californian specimens.

***Compothlypis pulchra*, new species.—BEAUTIFUL PARULA.**

SPEC. CHAR.—Most nearly like *C. nigrilora*, but with the white wing-bands broader (sometimes fused into a single broad, white patch), the white spots on the tail nearly twice as extended, the outer web of the outer tail feather margined with white, the yellow beneath extending further back on the abdomen, the sides and most of the flanks, as well as the throat and breast, strongly tinged with orange brown.

♂ *ad.* (No. 14,379, collection of W. Brewster, Hacienda de San Rafael,\* Chihuahua, Mexico, May 8, 1888; M. Abbott Frazar). Above of the same ashy blue or blue gray color as *C. americana* with a bright olive green dorsal patch precisely as in that species; wings and tail generally similar to those of *americana* but with even more white, this on the

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\* This Hacienda, according to Mr. Frazar, is on the direct road from Alamos (Sonora) to Jesus Maria (Chihuahua), just inside the western boundary of the Province of Chihuahua. It is situated just below the oak belt in a semi-tropical region.

greater wing-coverts extending back nearly to the tips of the overlapping middle coverts and forming an almost confluent wing-patch; white on the tail about twice as extensive as in *americana*, edging the outer web of the outer feather from the base nearly to the tip, occupying the inner web of this feather to the shaft for a space half an inch in length, and the inner web of the next feather for a space one quarter of an inch in length; sides of head as in *C. nigrilora*, the eyelids and lores equally black, "this color extending as a narrow, frontal line to meet its fellow across base of culmen, and also reaching back to invade the auriculars on which it shades through dusky to the general bluish"; under wing and tail coverts, crissum, and extreme posterior part of abdomen, and flanks, white, remainder of under parts rich chrome yellow, tinged with brownish orange on the throat, jugulum, breast, sides, and fore part of the flanks; throat and jugulum bordered on each side by a white line, broadest at its posterior extremity, narrowing to nothing on the sides of the throat. Wing, 2.30; tail, 1.75; culmen from nostril, .29 inch.

♀ *ad.* (No. 14,380, collection of W. Brewster, Hacienda de San Rafael, Chihuahua, Mexico, May 14, 1888; M. Abbott Frazar). Similar to the male, but smaller; the general coloring paler; the lores slaty, not black, the throat scarcely tinged with orange, the wing-bands narrower and not merged. Wing, 2.10; tail, 1.61; culmen from nostril, .29 inch.

This beautiful Warbler, of which Mr. Frazar has sent me no less than thirty-two specimens, all taken at the same place and season as the types above described, is evidently most nearly related to *C. nigrilora*, with which it agrees perfectly in respect to the black lores and eyelids and the slaty auriculars. In at least two respects, however, — the extent of the white spots on the tail and the decided brownish orange tinge of the throat, breast, and sides—it presents a curious approach to *americana*, but the white on the tail is even more extended than in *americana*, while the orange beneath is considerably paler. Its only point of marked resemblance to its nearest geographical allies, *insularis* and *graysoni*, is the extension of the yellow of the under parts over most of the abdomen. There is some variation in this respect, however, as well as in the amount of white on the wings. In fact only a few specimens have the wing-bars actually fused as in the type of the male. The white line bordering the sides of the throat and jugulum is evidently inconstant also, for it is found in only three or four of my specimens.

*Dendroica nigrifrons*, new species.—BLACK-FRONTED WARBLER.

SPEC. CHAR.—Male similar to *D. auduboni* but with the forehead and sides of the crown and head nearly uniform black, the interscapulars so

coarsely spotted that the black of their centres exceeds in extent the bluish ashy on their edges and tips, the black of the breast patch wholly unmixed with lighter color. Female with the general coloring, especially on the head, darker than in female *auduboni*; the dark markings of the breast and back coarser and more numerous; the entire pileum, including the yellow crown patch, spotted finely but thickly with slaty black.

♂ *ad.* (No. 14,381, collection of W. Brewster, Pinos Altos, Chihuahua, Mexico, June 5, 1888; M. Abbott Frazar). Forehead, sides of crown, sides of head generally, and fore back black, the feathers of the forehead and superciliary line from the nostrils to the occiput, as well as the interscapulars, edged with bluish ashy, so narrow and faint on the forehead and superciliary line as to be discernible only on the closest inspection; a portion of both eyelids white; hind back, nape, and sides of neck dull bluish ash, everywhere spotted or streaked with black; rump pale lemon yellow; middle of crown, chin, throat, and a patch on each side of the breast gamboge yellow; a patch of black unmixed with any lighter color occupies the remainder of the breast, extending backward from its point of junction with the yellow of the throat .90 of an inch in the middle and 1.50 on the sides; middle of abdomen, crissum, under tail-coverts, and flanks ashy white, the flanks streaked with black; wings as in *auduboni*, tail similar to that of *auduboni* but with the white more restricted. Length,\* 5.75; extent,\* 9.62; wing, 3.12; tail, 2.34 inches.

♀ *ad.* (No. 14,382, collection W. Brewster, Pinos Altos, Chihuahua, Mexico, June 5, 1888; M. Abbott Frazar). Above dull ashy tinged with hair-brown on the pileum, nape, and back. Interscapulars with large, central black spots varying in shape from broad lanceolate to ovate; hind back similarly but less coarsely marked; nape immaculate; entire pileum, including a central yellow crown patch, sharply but rather finely streaked and spotted with dark slaty; wings and tail marked and colored as in female *auduboni*; rump chrome yellow; beneath ashy white, the throat (but not the chin or jugulum) and a small patch on either side of the breast pale canary yellow, the flank tinged with wood-brown; entire breast spotted coarsely with black, the spots occupying the centre of the feathers near their tips, and varying in shape from cordate to broad ovate. Length, 5.75; extent, 9.50; wing, 3.10; tail, 2.35 inches.

♂ *juv. first plumage* (No. 14,383, collection W. Brewster, Pinos Altos, Chihuahua, Mexico, July 13, 1888; M. Abbott Frazar). Above broccoli-brown variegated with grayish, the feathers everywhere with broad central stripes of dull black; sides of head plain hair-brown; tail as in adult male; exposed surface of folded wing uniform with back, the concealed (inner) webs of the quills clove-brown, the coverts dark slaty, the outer edges of the greater coverts, and both webs of the middle coverts tipped and edged with rusty white, forming two conspicuous but widely separated bars; beneath ashy white, tinged faintly with buffy, the entire plumage,

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\*Measurements of fresh specimen by Mr. Frazar.

including that of the throat, abdomen, and under tail-coverts thickly and coarsely streaked with dull black; under wing-coverts and lining of wings buffy white, without spots; eyelids buffy white; throat tinged with faint yellow but no yellow on crown, rump, or sides of breast.

*Habitat.* Sierra Madre Mountains (Pinos Altos) of Chihuahua, Mexico.

This Warbler is perhaps the most beautiful and interesting bird discovered by Mr. Frazar in Mexico. It is evidently closely allied to *D. auduboni*, so closely in fact that the two may prove to intergrade. No indications of such intergradation are afforded, however, by my large series of *auduboni* from western Mexico, all the specimens of which appear to be typical. Of *D. nigrifrons* Mr. Frazar took only five examples, including the three above described; the remaining two being an adult male (wing, 3.10; tail, 2.30 inches) and a young bird in first plumage, both shot at Pinos Altos, July 13, 1888. The former is closely similar to the type, but has the nape less spotted and the black of the head a trifle duller.

***Thryophilus sinaloa cinereus*, new subspecies.—ASHY WREN.**

**SUBSP. CHAR.**—Similar to *T. sinaloa*, but the bill stouter, the upper mandible dark instead of light horn color, the general coloring above deeper and browner, that of the underparts, especially the breast and sides, more ashy.

♂ *ad.* (No. 14,385, collection of W. Brewster, Alamos, Sonora, Mexico, March 28, 1888; M. Abbott Frazar). Above dark sepia, the rump, upper tail-coverts, tail, and outer edges of the wing quills decidedly rusty; tail feathers with about twelve narrow, transverse, black bands, less than one third the width of the light interspaces, the terminal three broken and ill-defined, all the others sharp and distinct; outer two primaries with plain drab edges; outer edges of all the other wing quills with blackish, transverse spots or short bars about half the width of the light interspaces; superciliary line and throat white; middle of abdomen ashy white; both throat and abdomen with fine, indistinct, dusky spots sparsely distributed; crissum and under tail-coverts white, barred heavily with black; breast and sides light hair-brown with a grayish tone, the middle of the breast lighter, yet decidedly grayish, the flanks still darker with a rusty tinge; sides of head mottled black and white, the black bordering both edges of each feather, the white forming a broad shaft stripe; lores dusky; bend of wing and under wing-coverts white mottled with dusky; upper mandible (in dried specimen) dark (slaty) horn color; lower mandible flesh color, slightly dusky at tip; legs and feet flesh color tinged with brown. Length, 5.75; extent, 8.00; wing, 2.45; tail, 2.14; length of culmen from nostril, .42; depth of bill at nostril, .17 inch.

♀ *ad.* (No. 14,386, collection of W. Brewster, Alamos, Sonora, Mexico, March 6, 1888; M. Abbott Frazar). Closely similar to the male but smaller. Length, 5.25\*; extent, 7.25\*; wing, 2.07; tail, 1.70; length of culmen from nostril, .42; depth of bill at nostril, .16 inch.

This form is so very nearly allied to *T. sinaloa* that I should not have ventured to separate it had I not had an opportunity to make a direct comparison of the twenty-four specimens† collected by Mr Frazar with seven examples of *sinaloa* (including Baird's type) in the National Museum. Of the latter four are labelled "Mazatlan," two "Plains of Colima," and one simply "Sinaloa." All seven have the upper mandible scarcely darker than the lower and of a very light horn color whereas in my birds, without a single exception, it is very dark slaty horn color in sharp contrast to the flesh colored under mandible. The coloring of the upper parts of my specimens is variable and in some examples not appreciably different from that of Baird's type although my lightest, reddest extremes are very much duller or darker above than the lighter birds in the National Museum series of *sinaloa*, while all my specimens, without exception, have the under parts, especially the sides and flanks, considerably duller and grayer. The distinct barring of the tail shown by both types of *cinereus* is a feature subject to excessive variation in my series at large and evidently quite worthless as a diagnostic character.

In general terms the differences which separate *Thryophilus sinaloa cinereus* from *T. sinaloa verus* may be said to be closely parallel to, and of about the same constancy and value as those which distinguish *Troglodytes ædon aztecus* from *T. ædon verus*.

Grayson describes‡ the eggs of *T. sinaloa* as "usually five in number and marked with small specks of a brownish color." All of the sixteen eggs (representing four sets of four eggs each) taken by Mr. Frazar are plain bluish white without the slightest trace of spots or other marking.

***Polioptila nigriceps restricta*, new subspecies.—BLACK-FRONTED GNAT-CATCHER.**

SUBSP. CHAR.—Similar to *P. nigriceps* but with the black of the pileum

\*These measurements taken by Mr. Frazar from the fresh specimen.

† Of these five were taken at Alamos, Sonora, in February and March; the remaining nineteen at Hacienda de San Rafael, Cihuahua, in May, 1888.

‡ *Memoirs Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.* Vol. II, Part III, No II, p. 268.

restricted to the forehead and fore part of the crown, the hind crown and occiput concolor with the back, the black of the lores mixed with bluish ash.

♂ *ad.* (No. 14,384, collection of W. Brewster, Alamos, Sonora, Mexico, March 7, 1888; M. Abbott Frazar). Above light blue-gray; beneath white, nearly pure over the middle of the abdomen and throat, tinged elsewhere with bluish gray, especially on the flanks and sides which are only a few shades lighter than the back; forehead and crown to about .20 inch behind the eye lustrous black; lores mixed black and gray, the former predominating; entire lower eyelid and a small spot on the upper eyelid white; outer tail feather white, except basally for a little less than one third of the outer web and one half of the inner web; next feather with the white reaching nearly to the base on the outer web and on the inner web .85 inch back from the tip; the third feather with the white extending back about two thirds of the length of the shaft on the outer web, .43 inch on the inner web. The fourth feather is missing but in another specimen it, also, is narrowly white-tipped. The tail, with the exception of the white areas just described, is black. The wings are clove-brown with a broad outer margin of whitish on the inner secondaries. Wing, 1.87; tail, 2.11; culmen from nostril, .31; tarsus, .72 inch.

*Habitat.* Southern Sonora (Alamos), Mexico.

All of the seven black-capped Gnatcatchers collected by Mr. Frazar at Alamos agree closely with the specimen just described and differ from two Mazatlan specimens (one of them Baird's type) of *nigriceps* in the characters above mentioned. There is some variation in the amount of black on the pileum, but this seems to be due to differences of age only, four of the seven specimens being in full breeding plumage. None of them have the black extending much further back than in the type. All have the lores more or less mixed with gray, and in two specimens (both, however, immature) the gray predominates over the black. The type of *nigriceps*, as Baird has said (*Rev. Am. Birds*, p. 69), has the entire under parts, including the flanks, white, but it is in very worn plumage, while my birds are in fresh feathering, a fact which may account for this seeming difference. Three female Gnatcatchers taken at Alamos with the males just mentioned are probably of the same form, although they differ from female *cærulea* only in having the tarsi rather longer and stouter and the lores lighter colored. One of them has the lores, as well as a distinct superciliary stripe, nearly pure white and hence agrees closely with *P. bilineata*.