

RESTORATION OF AN AUDUBONIAN FORM OF
GEOTHLYPIS TRICHAS TO THE AMERICAN
AVIFAUNA.

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MORE than a year ago while comparing specimens of the genus *Geothlypis*, one in particular arrested my attention as being materially different from any in my collection, and from any I had seen. It is numbered 442 and was taken by myself at Big Lake George, Florida, March 18, 1886. I carried it to Mr. Ridgway, who, after comparing it with the series in the Smithsonian, declared it different from anything he had seen, and probably a new race, but advised me to say nothing concerning it until I secured more of the same variety. In accordance with his counsel I visited Florida in December of the past year for the purpose of securing as many as possible, and although unable to reach the scene of the first capture, I was successful in finding the bird abundant in Putnam County in the vicinity of Palatka, and was fortunate in obtaining seven more; three males and four females, all of which (the males) were nearly exact counterparts of the type with the exception of one immature male referred to later. On reaching Washington I submitted the entire series of eight to Mr. Ridgway, and with the assistance of Dr. Stejneger, compared them a second time; we found them differing considerably from the true *trichas* in possessing the larger size and more extended yellow beneath of *occidentalis*, together with an extremely narrow and paler ashy band behind the mask, and from *occidentalis* by the paler yellow throat and less orange of *trichas*. Audubon (Orn. Biog., Vol. I, 1832, p. 124, pl. 24) describes an *immature* specimen of the Yellow-throat taken in Mississippi, to which he gives the name *Sylvia roscoe*, and afterwards refers it to *trichas*: the description tallies almost exactly with mine above mentioned, while specimens in the Smithsonian collection from the Gulf States and Mississippi Valley agree closely with mine, thus leaving little room for doubt that it is a valid race between *Geothlypis trichas* and *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*. I therefore have the pleasure of restoring a long neglected form to the American fauna, giving to it the name *Geothlypis trichas roscoe* (Aud.).

Geothlypis trichas roscoe.—Male adult: above, including tail, dark olive-green tinged with a rich dark yellow, feathers in highly colored specimens being tipped with light brown; frontal shield of black reaching well up onto crown, covering entire face, with narrow stripe over eye and reaching far down on the neck; ashy stripe *exceedingly narrow* and pale. Underparts rich gamboge yellow, tinged with brown in winter specimens, and reaching well down to and including vent and under tail-coverts, but becoming lighter near median line; flanks of a rich chocolate brown varying in intensity with age. Female differing from *trichas* both in size and intensity of color. Length of wing (skin), 2.13; tail, .244; bill, .50; tarsus, .75 inch. Upper and lower mandible black; iris brown; tarsus and feet flesh color. Intermediate in habitat and characters between *trichas* and *occidentalis*, but combination of characters peculiar and constant over a very wide area.

Habitat: in summer Mississippi Valley, north to Wisconsin, Minnesota, etc.; in winter Gulf States including Florida.

The single 'chip' of this bird, uttered at intervals, while partaking of the general characters is louder and harsher, while the songs of those heard in March were unmistakably clearer and stronger than any yet ascribed to *trichas*.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Supplement to the A. O. U. Code of Nomenclature and Check-List of North American Birds.*—The Supplement to the A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds, mentioned in the last number of 'The Auk' (Vol. VI, p. 81) as in preparation, has now been completed and issued, forming an octavo pamphlet of 23 pages, uniform in style and typography with the 'Code and Check-List.' As explained in the Preface, it consists "of the tenable species and subspecies, genera and subgenera, added since the publication of the Check-List, together with any necessary eliminations and valid changes in nomenclature made since the Check-List was issued . . . The Supplement here presented records the ruling of the Committee on about one hundred distinct questions, involving additions to the Check-List or changes in its nomenclature. Besides this, the Committee con-

*Supplement | to the | Code of Nomenclature and Check-List | of | North American Birds | adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union | Prepared by | a Committee of the Union | — | New York | American Ornithologists' Union | 1889.—8vo, pp. 23.