

SOME NEW RACES OF BIRDS FROM EASTERN  
NORTH AMERICA.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

A GREAT many of the common or conspicuous birds of eastern North America were for the first time brought to the light of science through Catesby's fine plates and careful descriptions, and a little later received binomial names from Linnæus, often based solely upon Catesby's magnificent work. The type locality of all these is southern South Carolina. It is with such species that I have principally to deal in the present paper, and it becomes often a matter of difficulty to determine whether the original name shall be restricted to the northern or the southern subspecies, as southern South Carolina is in many instances neutral ground; the greater differentiation of the species taking place both to the north and to the south,—that is in peninsular Florida, and again north of the lower Austral zone.

In nearly every instance a bird whose breeding range along the Atlantic tier of States extends over two or more of the principal faunal zones separates off into tenable subspecies in accordance with the zones which it covers. In a few cases three subspecies are recognized, as with the Hairy Woodpecker and the Purple Grackle; but usually the breeding range of a species is not extensive enough to admit of more than two valid geographical races.

The three life areas potent in modifying the birds of eastern North America are the Boreal, the Austral, and the Floridian,<sup>1</sup> though the minor divisions of these more important faunal areas often have an effect, though lesser, upon a species.

In studying the races of our eastern birds one must of course be sure one has breeding individuals, as migrants of many of the northern forms are found in winter associated with the southern

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<sup>1</sup> I use this name for the Tropical belt of south Florida and lower part of lower Austral zone in Florida, as the range of the peninsular forms peculiar to Florida usually extends north beyond tropical limits.

forms in Florida and Georgia. Thus Bluebirds taken in northern Florida in winter are often individuals of the northern form, as are most of the Great-crested Flycatchers, and Kingbirds found there in early spring. With birds that are non-migratory, or whose wanderings extend over a limited area, one need be less careful in this particular; but even then it is better to compare only breeders. A rather interesting case in point was one I noticed at St. Mary's, Georgia, where, on the great salt marsh in early April, there were two lots of Seaside Finches. One was the dark colored breeding bird of the region, conspicuous in the drier short grassed parts of the marsh and the patches of rush, in full song and worn breeding plumage. The other consisted of northern birds, in winter plumage, songless, and skulking about the long grass at the edges of the creeks. The two lots kept as much removed as if they bore each other no relationship.

There are more races of eastern birds worthy of separation than are included in the present batch, but those I deal with here are such as have been particularly brought to my notice in work that I have done in the field during the last few years.

I have had ample material to work with and have been able to examine skins from nearly every place I have wished to see them from. Besides the comparatively small but carefully chosen collections Mr. W. W. Brown, Jr., and I have made in Georgia and Florida, in the last few years, I have had access to the private collection of William Brewster, Esq., and that of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, both containing enormous series of eastern birds from very many important localities. Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., Esq., has also sent me specimens from his collection that I particularly desired to see.

All measurements are in millimeters and were taken with dividers.

***Haliaeetus leucocephalus washingtoni* (Aud.), subsp. rest.**

WASHINGTON'S EAGLE.

*Type locality*, Henderson, Kentucky. *Subspecific characters*. Size much larger than *H. leucocephalus leucocephalus*; bill proportionately more slender; upper mandible more abruptly curved downwards at tip.

## COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENTS.

Name.	Locality.	No.	Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Exposed culmen.
<i>H. washingtoni.</i>	South Hancock, Maine.	19,805 <sup>1</sup>	♀ ad.	606.3	279.4	94	70
<i>H. leucocephalus.</i>	Fort Myers, Fla.	44,245 <sup>1</sup>	♀ ad.	541.5	238.3	91	66.6

(These measurements give but a faint idea of the actual differences in bulk of the two Eagles.)

REMARKS.—The Washington Eagle occupies the whole of northeastern North America north of the lower Austral zone. The southern Bald Eagle occurs only in the lower Austral zone (Fla., Ga., S. Car., La., etc.).

The two eastern races of the Bald Eagle were clearly seen by Baird, who, however, supposed *washingtoni* to be the more southern, while in reality it is the northern form. Since Baird's time *washingtoni* has sunk, wholly without cause, into synonymy. The peculiar scaling of the tarsus and foot of Audubon's figure was either an accident in drawing or was abnormal. Audubon's figure shows the character of bill of *washingtoni* admirably as does Catesby's that of the southern form, true *leucocephalus*.

No one familiar with these two birds in life can have failed to notice the great difference in size between them. The little fellows that breed in Florida and Georgia are often scarcely larger than Red-tailed Hawks and hardly need comparison with the magnificent Eagle of the north. There is also a difference in habits. The Florida Eagle is a noted Duck catcher, pouncing upon them in the water, and the appearance of an Eagle on the wing is enough to drive all the Ducks scuttling in every direction from a bay or creek that he is approaching.

The Washington Eagle never, so far as I know, attempts to catch a Duck, contenting himself with fish or carrion. The Ducks know this and allow him to pass over them as unnoticed as a

<sup>1</sup> Coll. of Wm. Brewster, Cambridge, Mass.

Fish Hawk. Mr. C. H. Townsend<sup>1</sup> has lately described the Sea-Eagle of Alaska as a new subspecies. He made his comparisons wholly with true *leucocephalus*, entirely ignoring *washingtoni*. His bird is but slightly larger than *washingtoni*, though it may differ in some other characters enough to entitle it to stand as a subspecies.

**Ceophlœus pileatus abieticola**, subsp. nov. NORTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER.

*Type* from Greenville, Maine, ♀ adult, No. 3008. Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected Nov. 7, 1895, by C. H. Goldthwaite.

*Subspecific characters.* Much larger than *Ceophlœus pileatus pileatus*; bill longer, of about the same breadth; tarsus longer; all the white markings more extensive; black color less sooty, more brownish or grayish black, feathers of sides more extensively tipped and barred with white.

COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENTS.

Name.	Locality.	No.	Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Exposed culmen.	Breadth of bill at nostril.
<i>C. pileatus.</i>	Fort Myers, Florida.	44,155 <sup>3</sup>	♂ ad.	224	149	32.8	48	16
" "	" " "	44,154	♀ ad.	221	144	33	42.6	15
<i>C. abieticola.</i>	Greenville, Maine.	(Type) 3,008 <sup>2</sup>	♂ ad.	232	159.4	31	52.2	16
" "	Lake Umbagog, Maine.	11,986 <sup>3</sup>	♀ ad.	228	161	32.2	52	14.8

REMARKS. — Linnæus based his *Picus pileatus* on Catesby and Kalm. Taking Catesby as the best authority, southern South Carolina must be considered the type locality of the species, and birds from this region are as extreme of the southern race as those from Florida. *C. pileatus abieticola* is still to be found in

<sup>1</sup> Proc. Biol. Soc. of Washington, Vol. XI, pp. 145-146, June 9, 1897.

<sup>2</sup> Coll. of Wm. Brewster.

<sup>3</sup> Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs.

considerable numbers in the primeval forests of northeastern North America, from Massachusetts north, but is of course extirpated over much of its former habitat. I think it still, however, meets the range of *C. pileatus pileatus*, and specimens from the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia are very good intermediates, though nearer *abieticola* than typical *pileatus*.

**Colaptes auratus luteus**, subsp. nov. NORTHERN FLICKER.

*Type* from Watertown, Mass., ♂ adult, No. 830, Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected May 2, 1879, by E. A. and O. Bangs.

*Subspecific characters.* Size larger than *C. auratus auratus*; bill proportionally shorter, straighter, less curved. Colors much paler throughout; the brown of back and gray of top of head several shades lighter; black bands on back narrower and less conspicuous; under parts more washed with yellow — much less black and white; shafts, etc., a much brighter yellow.

COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENTS.

Name.	Locality.	No.	Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Exposed culmen.	Breadth of bill at nostril.
<i>C. auratus.</i>	Enterprise, Fla.	30,017 <sup>2</sup>	♂ ad.	145.	92.	27	35.	9.
" "	East Peninsula, opp. Micco, Fla.	3,014 <sup>1</sup>	♂ ad.	142.2	97.4	26	34.	8.6
" "	" " " "	3,017	♂ ad.	148.	98.8	26	35.	9.
<i>C. luteus.</i>	Chatham, Canada.	41,835 <sup>2</sup>	♂ ad.	156.	104.	29	34.6	9.4
" "	" "	41,834	♀ ad.	154.	101.	28	32.	9.
" "	Watertown, Mass.	830 (Type)	♂ ad.	159.	105.	29	35.2	9.4

REMARKS. — Linnæus based his *Cuculus auratus* wholly upon Catesby. The bird from southern South Carolina I have not seen, but birds from McIntosh Co., Georgia, differ but little from Florida specimens. Specimens from northern North Carolina and Virginia are referable to subspecies *luteus*, which extends from thence northward to Canada.

The differences between the two eastern races of the Flicker were very clearly pointed out by Dr. Merriam as long ago as

<sup>1</sup> Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs.

<sup>2</sup> Coll. of Wm. Brewster.

1874,<sup>1</sup> and it is the greatest wonder they have never been recognized by name till now.

**Tyrannus tyrannus vexator**, subsp. nov. FLORIDA KING-BIRD.

*Type* from Merrit's Island, Indian River, Florida, ♀ ad., No. 1780, Coll. of G. S. Miller, Jr., collected May 13, 1886, by C. J. Maynard.

*Subspecific characters.* Size of *T. tyrannus tyrannus*, bill very much broader; tarsus slightly shorter and stouter; color of back usually darker and not so gray. In *T. tyr. tyrannus* the top of head is black and back is dark gray. In *T. tyr. vexator* the whole back is but little lighter in color than the head, and there never is the marked contrast in the colors of head and back seen in *T. tyr. tyrannus*.

Name.	Locality.	No.	Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Exposed culmen.	Breadth of bill at nostril.
<i>T. tyrannus.</i>	Wayland, Mass.	705 <sup>2</sup>	♀ ad.	112.	83.2	18.	17.4	8.
<i>T. vexator.</i>	Merrit's Island, Fla.	1,780 <sup>3</sup>	♀ ad.	112.4	79.	17.4	17.6	9.8

REMARKS.—The name of the eastern Kingbird is considered to date from Linnæus's Xth Edition. Linnæus, however, based his bird principally upon "The Tyrant" of Catesby. Catesby, while he may have included the eastern Kingbird in his account of "The Tyrant," figured under that name another species.

The first author who gave the eastern Kingbird unconfused with other species is, as far as I can ascertain, Pennant, where in his 'Arctic Zoology,' on page 384, the "Place" is given as in New York and the date of arrival is said to be April. Pennant mentions the white-tipped tail and his description is clear and free from confusion with any other species.

<sup>1</sup> American Naturalist, Vol. VIII, p. 88, 1874.

<sup>2</sup> Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs.

<sup>3</sup> Coll. of Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.

Gmelin, under *Lanius tyrannus*, refers to Pennant, but all his other references relate to either composite or underterminable species. It is therefore best to consider the type locality of the Kingbird to be New York.

The Florida form is easily recognized by its large bill, and is abundant in the breeding season throughout peninsular Florida. The northern bird, however, is extremely common in Florida in April, as it passes through on its spring migration, and one must wait till these northern migrants have gone and the birds that breed in Florida have begun nesting in order to be sure to get there only specimens of *T. tyrannus vexator*.

The birds that breed on Cumberland Island, Georgia, are extremes of the Florida form as are also breeding birds from other parts of Georgia. I have seen no surely breeding birds from South Carolina, but undoubtedly *vexator* is the form that does breed there.

***Myiarchus crinitus boreus*, subsp. nov. NORTHERN CRESTED  
FLYCATCHER.**

*Type* from Scituate, Mass., ♂ ad. (one of a breeding pair), No. 713, Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected June 28, 1883, by E. A. and O. Bangs.

*Subspecific characters.* Size larger than *M. crinitus crinitus*; bill very much smaller; colors about the same.

COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENTS.

Name.	Locality.	No.	Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Exposed culmen.	Breadth of bill at middle of nostril.
<i>M. crinitus</i> .	New Berlin, Fla.	3,001 <sup>1</sup>	♂ ad.	106	91	21	20	10.4
" "	Miami, Fla.	14,324 <sup>2</sup>	♂ ad.	101	90	22	20	10.2
<i>M. boreus</i> .	Scituate, Mass.	(Type) 713 <sup>1</sup>	♂ ad.	109	94	22	18.6	8.6

<sup>1</sup> Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs.

<sup>2</sup> Coll. Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.

REMARKS.—Linnæus's *Turdus crinitus* is based wholly upon Catesby, and the type locality of the species is therefore southern South Carolina.

Breeding Crested Flycatchers from South Carolina and Georgia, though intergrades, are much nearer the southern extreme, and the northern form is the one to properly receive a new subspecific name.

In the north *M. crinitus boreus* is rare or of local distribution, although it reaches southern Canada. A good many pairs breed every year in the neighborhood of the town of Scituate, Massachusetts, for which reason I have selected that place for the type locality of the subspecies. It is also a regular, though somewhat local breeder in other parts of Massachusetts.

The principal character that separates *M. crinitus crinitus* and *M. crinitus boreus* is the different bill. This, however, is alone sufficient to always distinguish the two races, the enormous swollen bill of the birds that breed in Florida and Georgia being in marked contrast to the small slender bill of the bird of the north-eastern United States.

***Sitta pusilla caniceps*, subsp. nov. FLORIDA BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH.**

*Type* from Clear Water, Hillsboro Co., Fla., ♀ ad., No. 3021, Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected March 25, 1874, by C. J. Maynard.

*Subspecific characters.* Size smaller than *S. pusilla pusilla*; bill larger; top of head much lighter brown, the feathers tipped and edged still

MEASUREMENTS.

Name.	Locality.	No.	Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Exposed culmen.	Breadth of bill.
<i>S. pusilla.</i>	Statesville, N. C.	3,019 <sup>1</sup>	♀	64.	30.	13.4	13.	3.8
" "	" "	3,020	♀	66.8	32.	13.6	13.2	3.8
<i>S. caniceps.</i>	Clear Water, Fla.	3,021	♀	60.	27.4	13.	13.4	4.
" "	" " "	318	♀	61.	30.	12.6	13.6	4.

<sup>1</sup> Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs.



lighter—often grayish;<sup>1</sup> loreal and post-ocular streak dark brown, in marked contrast to color of top of head; white spot on nape usually less extensive; underparts slightly darker, more plumbeous.

REMARKS. — *Sitta pusilla caniceps* is wholly confined to peninsular Florida. Specimens from St. Mary's, Ga., are rather nearer the more northern subspecies, true *pusilla*, while the one skin I have examined from Screven Co., Ga., is true *pusilla*. The Florida form, though widely distributed over lower Florida, is not a very common bird anywhere, not nearly so common as true *pusilla* is in the Carolinas. I have examined a large number of skins from many localities, the southernmost of which are Miami on the east side and Clear Water on the west side of the peninsula.

**Parus (Lophophanes) bicolor floridanus**, subsp. nov.

FLORIDA TUFTED TITMOUSE.

*Type* from Clear Water, Hillsboro Co., Fla., ♂ adult, No. 3021, Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected March 29, 1874, by C. J. Maynard.

*Subspecific characters.* Size smaller than *P. bicolor bicolor*; tail shorter; bill larger; color of top of head and upper parts of neck duller—less ashy; crest much shorter.

COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENTS.

Name.	Locality.	No.	Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Exposed Culmen.	Breadth of bill.
<i>P. bicolor.</i>	Salt Sulpher Springs, W. V.	344 <sup>2</sup>	♂	82	70.6	20.4	10.8	4.6
" "	Statesville, N. C.	315	♂	82.2	71	21	10.4	4.4
" "	" "	317	♀	81.4	70	19.8	10.4	4.6
<i>P. floridanus.</i>	Clear Water, Fla.	3,021	♂	75	64.2	19.4	11.4	4.6
" "	Enterprise, Fla.	5,248 <sup>3</sup>	♂	77	65	20.4	11.2	4.8

<sup>1</sup> This lighter tipping and edging to the feathers is apparently not due to fading or wearing; it gives a pale variegated appearance to top of head, very different from the clear brown seen in *S. pusilla pusilla*.

<sup>2</sup> Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs.

<sup>3</sup> Coll. of Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.

REMARKS.—The geographic ranges of the two races of the Tufted Titmouse are the same as those of the Brown-headed Nuthatch. The Florida form is confined to the peninsula and intergrades with true *bicolor* in southeastern Georgia. Like the Nuthatch, it is not a very common bird.

***Sialia sialis grata*, subsp. nov. FLORIDA BLUEBIRD.**

*Type* from Miami, Dade Co., Florida. No. 14258, ♂ ad., Coll. Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass. Collected March 9, 1871, by Maynard & Henshaw.

*Subspecific characters.*—Size of *S. sialis sialis*; bill larger and stouter; tarsus and foot larger; color of upper parts clearer blue, less purple. In *Siala sialis sialis* about smalt blue, and in *S. sialis grata* about French blue.<sup>1</sup>

COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENTS.

Name.	Locality.	No.	Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Exposed culmen.	Breadth of bill at middle of nostril.
<i>S. sialis.</i>	Belmont, Mass.	226 <sup>2</sup>	♂ ad.	101.	63	20.2	11.4	5.
" "	Brookline, Mass.	3,006	♂ ad.	101.2	65	20.6	11.6	5.
" "	" "	3,007	♀ ad.	98.	58	20.8	11.	4.6
<i>S. grata.</i>	Miami, Fla.	14,258 <sup>3</sup>	♂ ad.	100.6	66	21.6	12.2	5.
" "	" "	14,247	♂ ad.	99.4	64	22.	12.4	5.4
" "	" "	14,265	♀ ad.	98.2	61	22.	13.	5.6

REMARKS.—Linnæus based his *Motacilla sialis* on Catesby and Edwards. Although Catesby mentions seeing Bluebirds in several places, Bermuda, Maryland, etc., we must of course assume that the bird he figured came from southern South Carolina.<sup>4</sup> The birds of this region, as also those that breed in east-

<sup>1</sup> These blues are hard to define exactly owing to the sheen of the feathers, and to the varying shades of the color when the skin is turned in different lights.

<sup>2</sup> Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs.

<sup>3</sup> Coll. of Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.

<sup>4</sup> It is evident that Linnæus took his description wholly from Catesby's plate, perpetuating the error of coloring of Catesby's figure, in his discription.

ern Georgia, are intergrades, but those that I have seen are rather nearer the northern extreme than the Florida extreme, and I have therefore given the new name to the form inhabiting South Florida. Another reason that has induced me to do this is that the northern form never gets so far south as Miami in its winter migration while it is extremely common in winter in South Carolina; therefore the northern extreme can easily be got at the type locality of the species, while the Florida form stands apart by itself. The Museum of Comparative Zoölogy is fortunate in possessing a fine series, including both breeding and winter specimens of the Florida Bluebird, collected in 1871 by Messrs. Maynard and Henshaw, mostly at Miami — a point so far south that it represents the form in its extreme.

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## GENERAL NOTES.

**Brünnich's Murre** (*Uria lomvia*) at **Ottawa, Canada.** — On the 12th December, 1897, large numbers of this bird passed the city on the way South. The flight continued nearly the whole day. Quite a number of the birds were shot. — G. R. WHITE, *Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.*

**Ross's Gull** (*Rhodostethia rosea*) on **Bering Island.** — In my 'Ornith. Expl. Comm. Isls. and Kamtsch.' (1885), p. 315, I enumerated Ross's Gull among the birds of Kamchatka with some hesitation and without giving it a number since Saunders had queried the statement of Verreaux that the two specimens in the museum at Mayence actually came from that country. At the same time I pointed out that there was no improbability *per se* in the alleged locality being correct. I am now in position to affirm that this species occasionally straggles as far south on the Asiatic coast as Bering Island off the coast of Kamchatka. Last summer Mr. N. Grebnitski kindly presented me with a fully adult female of Ross's Gull obtained on Bering Island December 10, 1895. It is now in the U. S. National Museum, No. 162785. This is a very interesting addition to the avifauna of the Commander Islands. — LEONHARD STEJNEGER, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**The Scarlet Ibis — A Correction.** — In 'The Auk,' XIV, 1897, p. 316, is a record by the present writer of the Scarlet Ibis taken in 1897 in the Arkansas Valley in Colorado. This was given on the authority of the