

A NEW CENTRAL AMERICAN FLYCATCHER.¹

BY A. J. VAN ROSSEM

IN going over some Guatemala material in the Dwight Collection in the American Museum of Natural History, Dr. Dwight called our attention to the fact that the bright green *Empidonax* which has currently passed as *salvini* did not agree with the original description of that form. Later examination of the type of *salvini* and of all other material available in the U. S. National Museum shows that Dr. Dwight was correct in his contention and that the common form resident from Chiapas to Nicaragua has heretofore been without a name. It is with particular pleasure that we name this bird for Dr. Dwight.

***Empidonax flavescens dwighti*, subsp. nov. DWIGHT'S
FLYCATCHER.**

Type.—Male adult, no. 18,463, collection of Donald R. Dickey; Los Esesmites, Chalatenango, El Salvador, C. A.; altitude 8,000 feet; Upper Tropical Zone; February 26, 1927; collected by A. J. van Rossem; original no. 11,326.

Subspecific characters.—Resembles *Empidonax salvini* Ridgway (not of authors), but coloration in general brighter and more yellowish green (less olive); orbital ring broken instead of complete; wing bands yellowish green instead of buffy. Resembles *Empidonax flavescens* Lawrence in having the orbital ring broken on the upper eyelid by a wedge of green about 2½ mm. wide, but differs in having the color throughout purer green, and in lacking entirely the ochraceous or fulvous wash on the chest.

Range.—Resident in the highlands from Tumbala, Chiapas, Mexico, south through Guatemala and El Salvador to San Rafael del Norte, Nicaragua. In El Salvador it is resident throughout the year in the Upper Tropical Zone.

Remarks.—The misconception which has existed in this connection probably arose from the fact that the description of *Empidonax salvini* in the 'Birds of North and Middle America'² was based almost certainly on a specimen of *dwighti* instead of on the type of *salvini*. This discrepancy is obvious if comparison

¹ Contribution from the California Institute of Technology.

² U. S. National Museum Bulletin 50, pt. 4, 1907, p. 582.

is made between the original description¹ and the description in 'Birds of North and Middle America'. As far as we now know the type of *salvini* remains unique.

The difference between *flavescens* of Costa Rica and *d Dwighti* as represented by Chiapas, Guatemala and El Salvador specimens, is striking, and on the basis of the material examined, we would consider them specifically distinct. Only the fact that Dr. Hellmayr states² that three skins from San Rafael del Norte, Nicaragua are intermediate, influences the writers to treat them as conspecific. On the other hand we are by no means convinced that *flavescens* and *d Dwighti* (*salvini* of authors) should be regarded as subspecies of *Empidonax difficilis* Baird.

Specimens examined.—*Empidonax salvini*: the type. *Empidonax flavescens flavescens*: Costa Rica: many specimens, including the type. *Empidonax flavescens d Dwighti*: Mexico: Chiapas, Tumbala, 1. Guatemala: Coban, 1; Volcan San Lucas, 4; Volcan Agua, 1; Finca Sepur, 2; Tecpam, 1. El Salvador: Los Esesmiles, 5, including the type; Mt. Cacaguatique, 7; Volcan Santa Ana, 8. Total 30.

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¹ Ibis, 5th Ser., 4, October, 1886, p. 459.

² Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser. 13, pt. 5, 1927, p. 214, footnote.