

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SUBSPECIES OF THE PRAIRIE
WARBLER, WITH REMARKS ON TWO OTHER
UNRECOGNIZED FLORIDA RACES.

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PENINSULAR Florida has been a popular collecting ground for nearly a century, with the result that several of the large museums in the United States contain large series of Florida birds. With few exceptions, however, these specimens were collected in winter and early spring, and actual breeding specimens of the smaller land birds have been unavailable for study until quite recently.

Beginning in 1918, during a number of trips, I made special efforts to secure breeding specimens of certain species, particularly from southern Florida, and the series gathered during this period has made possible the discrimination of a number of local races, some of which have already been named, though not currently recognized.

The Prairie Warbler is a common breeder on the coasts of Florida, living almost exclusively in the mangrove swamps—a very different habitat from that which it occupies in the Middle States.

The race may be characterized as follows:

***Dendroica discolor paludicola* subsp. nov.**

FLORIDA PRAIRIE WARBLER.

Type.—Female adult, No. 261961 U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey collection); collected May 22, 1918, on Anclote Key, by Chas. H. M. Barrett; original number, 52.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Dendroica d. discolor* but upperparts (especially in females) more grayish (less greenish) and with chestnut markings of the back less pronounced and sometimes lacking; black streaks on underparts averaging smaller; bill, tail, and tarsus longer; wing slightly shorter.

*Description of type*¹ (♀ in breeding plumage).—Upperparts grayish olive, the crown washed with oil yellow and the back faintly flecked with walnut brown; superciliary stripe, sub-orbital patch, and most of underparts lemon yellow, shading to citron yellow on abdomen; sides of breast marked with a few blackish streaks; wings and tail fuscous, the middle wing coverts

¹ Colors from Ridgway, 'Color Standards and Nomenclature,' 1912.

narrowly tipped with grayish white, the three outermost tail feathers with large white terminal patches.

Variation.—Some females have the head and back warbler green, the interscapulars faintly marked with chestnut spots.

Adult male (breeding plumage).—Upperparts varying from warbler green to yellowish olive, the interscapulars sometimes marked with small spots of chestnut or bay; underparts lemon chrome or Strontian yellow, the sides and flanks more or less marked with black streaks.

Measurements.—Average of 17 adult males: Wing, 55.9 (54–59); tail, 49.7 (47.5–52); exposed culmen, 10.5 (10–11.5); tarsus, 19.7 (18–21). Average of 7 adult females: Wing 54.2 (52–57); tail, 48.1 (47–50); exposed culmen, 10.4 (10–11); tarsus, 19 (18–20).

Range.—The Florida Prairie Warbler breeds in the mangrove swamps along the coast of the peninsula, north at least to Anclote Keys on the west coast and to New Smyrna on the east coast. Specimens have been examined from the following localities: Anclote Key, 8 (May 21, 22); Pass-a-Grille, 1 (May 13); Sand Key (near Clearwater), 1 (May 20); Seven Oaks (Old Tampa Bay), 1 (March 29); Passage Key, 1 (May 10); Naples, 1 (March 10); Caxambas, 5 (March 29, 31); Cape Sable, 2 (March 27, 30); Biscayne Bay, 9 miles east of Florida City, 1 (June 15); Key West, 1 (March 29); Canaveral, 1 (April 19); Turtle Mound, 1 (May 19); Coronado Beach, 2 (May 23); New Smyrna, 1 (May 21); Fernandina, 1 (April 22).

I have never seen the bird in the interior, but Mr. Oscar E. Baynard tells me that it nests at Micanopy and Zephyr Hills in myrtle bushes around the borders of wooded sloughs.

***Dendroica pinus florida* (Maynard).¹**

FLORIDA PINE WARBLER.

Acquisition of a series of 10 adult male specimens of the Pine Warbler from Royal Palm Hammock and vicinity in January and June, 1918, showed clearly that a well marked race exists in southern Florida, characterized by decidedly longer bill and more yellowish (less greenish) coloration of the head and back. Since then an additional series of 24 breeding specimens has been examined, including the cotypes of *Pinacantor vigorsii florida* Maynard and several specimens from near the type locality of that race (Samsula, Orange City, Zellwood).

Specimens from central Florida, including those from the type region of *florida*, are intermediate in both color and length of bill between typical *pinus* from the Middle States (type locality, Pennsylvania) and the long billed form of southern Florida. On the whole, however, they appear to be nearer to the southern race, to which Maynard's name may therefore be applied.

¹ *P[inacantor] v. [igorsii] florida* Maynard, Directory Birds East. No. Amer., p. 244, 1906; cotypes from Deep Creek (♂) and Enterprise (♀).

The range of this form, so far as determined, is from about latitude 29° (Volusia, Lake, and Citrus Counties) southward to Homestead and Long Pine Key, in the southern Everglades.

Measurements of 11 adult males from southern Florida (Miami, Homestead, Royal Palm Hammock, Long Key) are as follows: Wing, 71.2 mm. (69-74); tail, 52.5 (49.5-56); exposed culmen, 13.2 (12.5-14). Average of 3 adult females from same localities: 66.7 (65-70); 50 (49-51.5); 12.3 (11.5-13).

Thirteen males of typical *pinus* (Pennsylvania to South Carolina) show an average bill measurement of 11.2 (10.5-12), the wing and tail agreeing closely with the Florida race. The type (♂) of *florida* from Deep Creek, has a bill measuring 12 mm., while 7 males from the vicinity of the type locality give the same average.

***Sitta pusilla caniceps* Bangs.¹**

FLORIDA BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH.

Comparison of a large series of *Sitta pusilla* from Florida with a similar series from Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas shows that the Florida birds have the gray color of the back slightly paler and the head distinctly paler brown; the wing averages decidedly shorter (as pointed out by Ridgway in "Birds of North and Middle America"); the bill is practically the same size (not larger, as stated by Bangs).

Measurements of 18 adult males from Fort Myers and Tarpon Springs are as follows: Wing, 62 (60-63.5); exposed culmen, 13.7 (13-14.5).

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¹ Auk, vol. 15, p. 180, April, 1898; type from Clearwater, Fla.