

Oreoscoptes montanus. Sage Thrasher. A pair of Sage Thrashers are this year breeding within a mile of the village of Okanagan Landing, an extension northward of some 75 miles from their nearest colony (White Lake, Osoyoos district). The locality which they have chosen is void of sage-brush and their nest must be in a rank growth of the weed known as "tumbling mustard."—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, July 16, 1925*.

A Note on the Fanning Island Warbler.—The Fanning Island Warbler (a member of the Family *Sylviidae*) seems to have been first recorded by Dr. Thomas H. Streets, who, in the *American Naturalist* for 1877, p. 69, after giving an account of the native parrot of this group of islands, remarks: "The only other land bird found on Washington Island belonged to the *Passeres*. It was a fly-catcher-like bird. As many of these as were seen were procured." The specimens mentioned were lost, according to Streets, in some unaccountable way after their arrival at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, and no mention is made of the species in Bulletin 7 of the U. S. National Museum, published in 1877, in which is given a complete account of the specimens secured by the expedition in question.

In the *Ibis* for 1883, page 44 (plate 2), Tristram recorded a similar bird from Fanning Island, and named it *Acrocephalus pistior*. In the catalog of Tristram's collection published in 1889 (page 152) the types for this species are listed as two specimens, male and female, taken on Fanning Island in 1881 by T. V. Arundel.

During work in the Fanning Group in 1924, Mr. Harold Kirby, Jr., collecting for the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, secured two skins of this rare species, now, through a division of the genus *Acrocephalus*, known as *Conopoderas pistior* (Tristram), which have been sent to me for examination. I have seen one other specimen, one taken on Fanning Island by Dr. S. C. Ball for the Bishop Museum of Honolulu. The two collected by Mr. Kirby bear the following data: female, Fanning Island, June 23, 1924, and male, Washington Island, summer, 1924. Both seem to be adult. The first mentioned, in fresh feather, with molt not quite completed, measures as follows: wing 77.3 mm., tail 62.7, culmen from base 17.8, tarsus 29.2; the second, in slightly worn plumage, has the wing 76.8, tail 60.0, tarsus 28.0 (culmen broken so that length of bill may not be taken).

These two skins agree in color with Tristram's original description and plate. The skin from Fanning has extensive whitish margins on the wing feathers, whitish tips on the rectrices, and whitish to pale olive buff tips on feathers of back, hindneck and crown. In the bird from Washington Island the pale margins on the dorsal plumage are much more restricted, and the bill appears more slender. Apparent difference in color may be due to season, as the plumage is somewhat worn. Birds from the two islands are treated here as identical though in view of the extensive subspecific, as well as individual, variation found in the genus in other island areas, notably the Tuamotu Group, it will be well for anyone with suitable opportunity to secure small series from each of the two islands in question for more critical comparison than the scanty material at hand permits.

Conopoderas pistior in its gray coloration differs rather decidedly from any of its congeners, which, as a rule, are more warmly colored, and it carries to an extreme in this direction a tendency found somewhat indicated in the browner, buffier *C. kingi* Wetmore of Nihoa Island, and the extinct *C. familiaris* (Rothschild) of Laysan.

Mr. H. S. Swarth has called my attention to the name *Tartare arundeli* applied to a warbler of this group in a curious work by Emmanuel Rougier entitled, "Ile Christmas South Seas (Oceania) Coconuts, Birds, Fishes, etc.," printed in 1914 by L. Watel, Brioude. This name, which occurs on page 140, is a nomen nudum, and refers to the warbler of Christmas Island, south of the Fanning Group, a bird known properly as *Conopoderas aequinoctialis* (Latham).—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., June 4, 1925*.