

The eggs were three in number and the weights in grams, 10.69, 10.24, and 9.11. This seems to be the second set of eggs taken in California, the first being a set of two eggs collected by M. French Gilman, June 3, 1894 (Condor, 4, 1906:85). The eggs are larger than those of the Whitney Elf Owl,



Fig. 83. Flammulated Screech Owl. Note dark eyes.

Micropallas whitneyi whitneyi (average weight of 50 eggs, 7.31 grams), and much smaller than those of our local Pasadena Screech Owl, *Otus asio quercinus* (average weight of 52 eggs, 17.59 grams).—WILSON C. HANNA, Colton, California, September 4, 1941.

Black-billed Cuckoo in Idaho.—On the morning of July 10, 1941, at my camp on Slide Gulch on the Middle Fork of the Boise River in Boise County, Idaho, I was awakened by the call of a cuckoo. The call originated from a thicket of bushes near by, and as this was the first cuckoo I had heard in the state, I determined to collect it. The bird could not be located in the thicket, but soon it flew into a tall cottonwood tree by camp and finally into a small bush near the river, where it resumed its calling. There I saw the bird as it perched motionless and was able to collect it.

Upon skinning the cuckoo, it was noted that the ova and oviduct were enlarged, the largest ovum being 11 mm. in diameter. Expecting a California Cuckoo, I was surprised to note certain points of difference. Final identification as the Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) was made at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. This skin is no. 1814 in my collection.

I have been unable to find previous records of the occurrence of this species in breeding condition west of the Rocky Mountains. Its range must therefore be extended to include the western portion of the state of Idaho.—M. DALE ARVEY, Boise Junior College, Boise, Idaho, September 12, 1941.

Further Notes on Some Southwestern Yellowthroats.—A number of years ago (Condor, 32, 1930:297-300) I gave a summarized review of the yellowthroats of southern California, southern Arizona, and Sonora. Since that time a large amount of additional material has been seen, but in spite of this I have no further comment to make concerning the races *Geothlypis trichas scirpicola* of southern California and *Geothlypis trichas chryseola* of southern Arizona and northern Sonora, save in minor detail. A re-examination of *scirpicola* fails to show any significant differences between the coastal and lower Colorado River valley colonies, a fact that is noteworthy, considering the differences usually shown by plastic species in these two areas. Specimens of yellowthroats from the Colorado River region are often deceptively pale, particularly those taken in spring and summer, but

such pallor is not evident in winter and can safely be attributed to intense sunlight or to an alkaline environment, or both. The range of *chryseola* is more extensive in southern Arizona than was previously known; it includes the Altar and Santa Cruz River valleys and also the upper Bavispe River valley in northeastern Sonora, from which specimens have been examined from the San Bernardino Ranch on the Mexican boundary (U. S. Nat. Mus.) and Pilares (Univ. Mich.). These slight range extensions were predictable, however, from previously known distribution.

In discussing yellowthroats from the extreme southwestern Tropical Zone (*op. cit.*, p. 298), of Sonora, little basis was found for positive conclusions. Most of the specimens were not distinguishable from *Geothlypis trichas modesta* from San Blas, Nayarit, and everything was included under that name, although with the observation that they were a variable lot. With recently collected specimens at hand this supposed variability is seen to be due to the fact that two distinct races were involved, one, *modesta*, which is confined to tidal marches, and one that differs materially in size, color, and proportions, which occurs on fresh water streams inland. The characters of this latter race, together with further comment, are given below.

Geothlypis trichas riparia new subspecies

Mayo Yellowthroat

Type.—Breeding adult male, no. 31945 Dickey Collection; Tesia, Mayo River, Sonora, Mexico, altitude 200 feet; collected June 22, 1937, by A. J. van Rossem and Robert Hannum.

Subspecific characters.—Ventral coloration of both sexes similar to that of *Geothlypis beldingi beldingi* of southern Lower California; dorsal coloration like that of *Geothlypis trichas scirpicola* of southern California, but pileum slightly grayer and frontal band and superciliary stripes in adult males slightly tinged with pale yellow; bill notably larger in size than in any of the previously described western races of *trichas* and about equal to that of *Geothlypis trichas melanops* of southcentral Mexico. Differs further from other western races of *trichas* in that the tail is equal to the wing instead of shorter; in this respect the proportions are as in *G. t. melanops*, *G. b. beldingi* and *G. b. goldmani*.

Range.—Riparian growth in the Mayo River valley and, in winter at least, the Yaqui River valley in southern Sonora.

Remarks.—The relationships of several yellowthroats are obscure, but short of a generic revision they cannot be further clarified. There seem to be various group combinations of size, color, and proportions but each one of these overlaps into others, so that no fixed limits can be set in any direction. The ranges of all members of the *trichas* complex are complementary and it is a perfectly simple matter to "prove" intergradation throughout the series by playing leap-frog without regard for intervening forms. For instance, it is not in the least a difficult task to prove *beldingi* a race of *trichas* by picking out almost any character and following it through *goldmani*, *melanops*, *riparia*, *chryseola*, *scirpicola*, etc. It is, indeed, rather surprising that such a course has not been advocated. The unfortunate Ipswich Sparrow is a comparable case in point. These remarks are not intended to be sharp-pointed; they are made to emphasize the need of a revision of the genus *Geothlypis* based on something other than undiluted systematics, and I suggest as a foundation for such a revision the study of Miller's recent treatment of the genus *Junco*.

To return to the local scene, it seems to be fairly well established that *modesta*, in Sonora at least, is strictly an inhabitant of coastal marshes. It is found in scrubby mangrove and other salt water associations from the Sinaloa boundary north to Kino and Tepopa bays, which latter localities mark the northern limit of mangroves and the narrow strip of Arid Tropical Zone along the coast. Incidentally, I have re-examined the two specimens of *modesta* formerly recorded (*op. cit.*, 298-299) from Lower California and reaffirm their identification. As has been mentioned previously, *sinuosa* of the San Francisco Bay region and *modesta* are much alike in color and are distinguishable chiefly by the slightly longer tail and larger bill of the latter. One is moved to speculate whether *modesta* and *sinuosa* are remnant colonies of a former, more general, salt marsh distribution, or whether similar environments have produced similar color characters.

Measurements of various races of *trichas* are to be found in the previous publication cited and need not be repeated here. Those of *riparia* are as follows: 5 adult males; wing, 55-56 mm.; tail, 55-56; exposed culmen, 12.0-12.6 (12.3); 3 adult females; wing, 50-53; tail, 50-54; exposed culmen, 12.0-12.5 (12.2).—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles, August 20, 1941.*

Western Grasshopper Sparrow at Grand Canyon, Arizona.—On June 28, 1941, Ranger Mark Wisner picked up a dead Western Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savaannarum bimaculatus*) near the Kolb Studios situated at the edge of the south rim of the Grand Canyon, in Grand Canyon National Park. The nearest habitat at all suitable for a grasshopper sparrow is a small grassy