

## MEETING FOR BUSINESS, JULY 25, 1843.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

The Report of the Corresponding Secretary was read and adopted.

The Committee to whom was referred the following paper, reported in favor of its publication in the Proceedings of the Academy.

*Descriptions of two Species, supposed to be new, of the Genus Tyrannula Swainson, found in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. By William M. & Spencer F. Baird, of Carlisle, Pa.*

For the first of the species hereafter described, we propose the name of *Tyrannula flaviventris*, the bright yellow colour of the lower parts constituting a striking feature. The other we have named *Tyrannula minima*, it being the least of all our North American *Tyrannulæ*.

The similarity in colour and size between a number of our small tyrant fly-catchers being very great, we have deemed it best to send with the specimens of the two described, skins of *T. acadica*, and *S. Traillii*, species which most nearly resemble them. By a comparison of the four, the distinctive features of each will at once be perceived.

*Tyrannula flaviventris*, (nob.)

*Specific Characters.* Above deep greenish olive, beneath bright sulphur yellow, sides and fore part of breast olivaceous. Tail emarginate. Third and fourth primaries longest. Bill brownish yellow beneath.

*Description of a Male.*

*Form, &c.* Body rather stout. Bill broad and the sides convex. Tarsus longer than the middle toe. Wings rounded; third primary longest, fourth slightly shorter, second one line shorter than third, and two lines longer than fifth, first shorter than fifth, but longer than sixth. Tail emarginate and slightly rounded.

*Colour.* Bill above dark blackish brown, beneath light yellowish brown. Feet brownish black. Plumage of the upper parts deep greenish olive, crown of the head rather darker, the feathers having their centres dark brown. A narrow ring round the eye pale yellow. Lower tail coverts, abdomen, and linings of the wings, bright sulphur yellow, deepest on the

abdomen. Sides of the body, forepart of the breast, and sides of the neck, olive, lighter than the back, and inclining to yellowish on the throat. Primaries and tail feathers dark brown, the former bordered with grayish, and the latter with olive like the back. The lower row of lesser wing coverts and the secondary coverts darker, tipped with pale yellow, that colour forming two bands across the wing. Secondaries darker than the primaries, and edged with pale yellow.

Length 5 inches 4 lines; extent 8 inches 8 lines; folded wing 2 inches 9 lines.

The sexes are similar in colour, but the *female* is generally rather smaller.

*Observations.* This strongly marked species will at once be distinguished from every other by the deep yellow of its under parts. It resembles *T. acadica* of Gmelin (*querula* of Wilson) somewhat in form, but *acadica* by comparison will be found to be a larger bird, lighter olive above, and very pale yellow beneath. The tail of *acadica* is even or slightly rounded, in this species emarginate.

We have no specimen of *T. pusilla*, of Swainson, but upon comparison with the description in Swainson and Richardson's *Zoology of North America*, (so favourably known for accuracy,) it appears to differ in the colour of the upper parts, *pusilla* being "intermediate between hair brown and oil green;" our species is of a decided olive green; the front of *pusilla* is "hoary;" in our species dark brownish olive; the bands on the wing grayish white; in our species pale yellow; "throat and breast" of *T. pusilla* "pale ash gray;" in this species the throat is yellow, and the breast olive tinged with yellow.

This species was first observed in the spring of 1840, near Carlisle, Pennsylvania. During every succeeding spring since, it has been seen in greater or less numbers, and several specimens procured each year. Its habits are much like those of the other species of this genus; it frequents low thickets near small streams, is seldom found in large woods like *T. acadica*, or *T. virens*, and is a very unsuspecting bird, allowing persons to approach within a short distance. It probably goes further north than Pennsylvania to breed, having never been observed after the latter part of May or beginning of June.

*Tyrannula minima*, (nob.)

*Specific characters.* Above dark grayish olive, breast light ash gray, abdomen and lower tail coverts yellowish white. Tail emarginate. Second and third primaries longest, first longer than sixth. Bill horn colour beneath.

*Description of a Male.*

*Form, &c.* Body rather slender. Bill smaller than the other species of the genus. Tarsus slightly longer than the middle toe. Second primary

longest, third nearly equal, and rather longer than fourth, fifth one line shorter than fourth, first intermediate between fifth and sixth. Tail emarginate and slightly rounded.

*Colour.* Bill dark blackish brown above, pale horn color beneath. Feet black. Plumage of the upper parts dark grayish olive, crown somewhat darker, rump lighter and inclining to grayish. A narrow ring round the eye grayish white. Fore part of breast, sides, and sides of the neck light ash grey, middle of throat white, rest of the lower parts very pale yellow or yellowish white. Primaries and tail feathers wood brown, the former narrowly, and the latter broadly edged with olive. Lower row of lesser wing coverts and the secondary coverts darker, tipped with dirty white, that colour forming two bands across the wings. Secondaries also dark, like the greater wing coverts, and broadly edged with yellowish white.

Length 5 inches, 2 lines. Extent 8 inches, 3 lines. Folded wing  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

No perceptible difference as to colour or size between the sexes.

*Observations.* This species will be recognized by its size, its slender form making it the smallest of our North American Tyrannulæ. In colour it most resembles *T. Traillii*, of Aud., but it is a much smaller bird, being nearly three-fourths of an inch shorter. *T. Traillii* has the breast and sides of the neck olivaceous; in this species light ash gray; the tail also of *T. Traillii* is even.

It differs from *T. pusilla* (comparing with the description of Swainson and Richardson as before) in having the wings more pointed, the second and third primaries being longest, and the first longer than the sixth; while in *pusilla* the third and fourth are longest, and the first shorter than the sixth. The upper tail coverts of *pusilla* are uniform in colour with the back; in our species lighter: *pusilla* has the front "hoary;" in this species dark. The lower parts of *pusilla* are pale sulphur yellow, "approaching to siskin-green;" in our species yellowish white: the under mandible of *pusilla* is yellowish brown; of this species horn colour. From the figure in the *Fauna Boreali-Americana*, *pusilla* appears to be a stouter bird, much deeper in colour beneath and having a broader bill. Its smaller size, and darker colour above, will distinguish it from *T. acadica* (being two-thirds of an inch shorter,) which species has also longer and more pointed wings, a much larger bill which is light brown beneath, and an even tail.

This species was first observed and procured in May, 1839, near Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Since then numbers have been observed and shot on every succeeding spring. Like the preceding, (*T. flaviventris*,) this bird does not frequent deep forests, but is found among the scattering trees which border our streams. It is rather shyer than *T. flaviventris*, and does not, like that species, seek dense thickets. It also, most probably, goes further north to breed, as after the last of May it is no longer to be seen. It visits us from the south in the latter part of April, generally making its appearance about a week before *T. flaviventris*.

## NEW BUSINESS.

Mr. George R. Gliddon informed the Academy that he had recently received a letter from his father, John Gliddon, Esq. U. S. Consul in Egypt, dated Cairo, 18th June, 1843, expressing regret that the Egyptian Society had been unavoidably obliged to delay the answers to the geological queries addressed to them by a Committee of the Academy. These queries had been submitted to a special committee of scientific members, by whom it was discovered that they had been met (though under different arrangement) in a dissertation which Dr. Figari (a distinguished Italian naturalist, &c. and member of the Society) is preparing to be read and presented at the next general meeting of the Society, expected to take place on the 1st of July, and which would be published forthwith. Copies would be sent to the Academy with an official communication. Mr. Gliddon also stated that a copy of M. Linant's (chief engineer in the Pasha's service) Memoir on Lake Mæris, just published by the Egyptian Society, had been sent to the Academy, and would be presented as soon as received.

## ELECTION.

The Hon. and Rev. William Herbert, of Manchester, England, was elected a Correspondent of the Academy.

x See Figari et Rousson: L'Exploration  
Scientifique de l'Égypte sous le règne de Moham-  
med Ali. 8<sup>vo</sup> Cairo 1895.  
b. n. No. 1489. Purchased Nov. 1, 1910.

Linant's Memoire is in the Monatsb. Ges. Erdk.  
Berlin, II, 1845, pp. 175-183.  
The series is not in the Library  
6, 17, 14