

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

GYROSTACHYS SIMPLEX IN VIRGINIA.

Many years ago I found a large number of plants of this orchid near Fort Myer, Alexandria County, but the station has long been destroyed. On September 28, 1904, I found three plants in a pine wood in Fairfax County above the Great Falls. The above seems to be the first record of this small species for the State and the most southern.—*William Palmer.*

ZOSTEROPS FLAVISSIMA MCGREGOR, PREOCCUPIED.

Dr. C. W. Richmond writes me that the above name employed by me for the silver-eye of Cagayancillo Island, P. I., (Bulletin Philippine Museum, No. 4) is preoccupied. Hartert used the same name for a species from Binongka Id., Tukang-Besi group, southeast of Celebes (Novitates Zoologicae, X, April 20, 1903, p. 29). As the Philippine bird requires a new name, it may be called *Zosterops richmondi*.—*Richard C. McGregor, Manila, P. I.*

A CORRECTION OF BARROWS' RECORD OF COCCYZUS PUMILUS FROM CONCEPCION DEL URUGUAY.

In the *Auk* for 1884 (Vol. 1, p. 28) W. B. Barrows notes the capture of three cuckoos at Concepcion del Uruguay, one on December 11, one on December 30, and the third on January 22, 1880. The first two he refers to *Coccyzus pumilus* Strickland (No. 117 of his list) and the last to *Coccyzus cinereus* Vieillot (No. 119 of his list).

I have lately examined these skins, preserved in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and find that they all belong to *Coccyzus cinereus*. The December specimens are adults in perfectly characteristic plumage. The January skin is a young bird in a plumage that differs from that of the adult in the same manner that young of other species of *Coccyzus* differ from their parents. In wing and tail measurements it agrees with the

adults; the bill, however, is much smaller. The tail has the general indistinctness of marking peculiar to immature examples of *Coccyzus*; the wing feathers are narrowly edged and tipped with rusty; the throat and chest are plain ashy; the lower sides, flanks and under tail coverts are strongly washed with dull tawny-ochraceous. In one rather interesting point this specimen is peculiar—the outer pair of rectrices fall 18 mm. short of the other feathers, giving the tail a more fan-shaped and therefore more normal appearance than in the adult, which has a square tail.

It would have been, perhaps, hardly worth while to make this correction here had not Sclater, on Barrows' record alone, included *Coccyzus pumilus* in his Argentine Ornithology (Vol. II, p. 39), remarking that "the species was only previously known to occur in Venezuela and Colombia." In the Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum, Vol. XIX, 1891, p. 313, Shelley includes in his synonymy, under *Coccyzus pumilus*, a reference to Barrows' record, but does not allow that record to affect the distribution of the species, the habitat of which is given as "The Island of Trinidad,\* Venezuela and Columbia."—*Outram Bangs*.

#### ON A SUPPOSED CONTINENTAL SPECIMEN OF SOLENODON.

There is in the Museum of Comparative Zoology a specimen of *Solenodon* that was sent in alcohol (entire and apparently fresh when immersed in the spirits) from the Isthmus of Darien, in 1871, by the late Dr. G. A. Maack. Twenty years later, on the strength of this specimen, Prof. Samuel Garman in his review of Flower and Lydekker's "An Introduction to the Study of Mammals Living and Extinct" † said: "We find *Solenodon* restricted to Cuba and Hayti though also found in Central America." This published statement brought forth for a time no end of comment, and Professor Garman defended himself by saying that there was the specimen and that there could be no question of its genuineness. In time the controversy died a natural death, and even Garman's statement that *Solenodon* occurs in Central America is probably now forgotten. Fearing, however, that one day the question was sure to be mooted again, I took the *Solenodon* out of its jar, skinned it, removed the skull and compared it with all available material. This I did with the utmost care, because if *Solenodon* does still occur on the continent—as does not seem altogether unreasonable in the light of recent discoveries ‡—it surely must be different from either of the island species with which we are familiar.

The specimen in question proved indistinguishable in any way from Cuban examples, but, wishing another opinion than my own, I sent it to Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., who agreed with me that it unquestionably belonged

\* Neither Léotaud nor Chapman give this bird as found in Trinidad, and I therefore doubt its occurrence there. See Chapman, Bull. Am. Mus. of Nat. Hist., Vol. VI, 1894, pp. 10-11, as to numerous birds wrongly attributed to the island.

† *The Nation*, No. 1381, Dec. 17, 1891, p. 477.

‡ The discovery of a Capromys-like rodent in the mountains of Venezuela—*Procapromys geaji* (Pousargues)—is not less astonishing, and much in the same line, as would be the existence of a *Solenodon* on the continent.