

PROCEEDINGS  
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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SWALLOW FROM THE  
WESTERN UNITED STATES.

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Comparison of topotypes of *Tachycineta thalassina* Swainson\* with the Violet-green Swallow of the United States shows the two forms to be different. The latter is described below.

***Tachycineta lepida* sp. nov.**

NORTHERN VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW.

*Type*.—No. 133,522, U. S. National Museum. ♂ ad. collected June 9, 1894, at Campbell's ranch in the Laguna Mountains (Coast Range), 20 miles north of Campo, in San Diego County, California, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original Number, 11,014.

*Characters*.—Similar to *Hirundo thalassina* Swainson, but smaller, with the violet or "lilac" of the back replaced by bottle green, and the green of the rump and upper tail-coverts replaced by violet of a shade between the violet and Indian purple of Ridgway's color manual, the patterns being exactly reversed in the two forms. In winter, the proximal secondaries are broadly edged with white, which is not the case in the winter specimens of *Tachycineta thalassina* examined.

*Description of type* (♂ ad).—Length, 134 mm.; alar expanse, 310; wing, 118; tail, 50; culmen (chord), 6.2; tarsus, 11.2; middle toe with

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\*Philos. Mag., n. s., I, p. 366, No. 6, 1827, ("Table land; Real del Monte, by Mr. Morgan.")

claw, 13.7. The folded wing, in the recently-killed specimen, extended 13 mm. beyond the tail. Top of head parrot green. Nape with a narrow collar of Indian purple. Whole of back bottle green, faintly glossed with violet when viewed in a certain light. Rump and upper tail-coverts, violet, shaded with plum-purple. Wing and tail quills, black, strongly glossed with indigo above, their under surfaces slate-gray; wing-coverts violet, edged with parrot green. Two white patches on the rump, one on each side; these, in life, are brought close together so as to form an apparently continuous white band across the rump. Under surface all white, except the flight-feathers, this extending to the hind neck and ear-coverts. Iris brown. Bill, brownish black. Feet, dark brown; claws, black.

*Adult female*.—Similar to the male, but smaller, with color much duller, the white of ear-coverts and hind neck much mixed with brownish gray.

*Young*.—Similar to the same stage of *Tachycineta bicolor* (Vieillot) but with feathers of lower parts grayish beneath the surface; easily distinguished by its smaller bill.

*Comparison*.—Adult male, No. 143,516, U. S. National Museum collection, taken on Mt. Popocatepetl, Mexico, February 23, 1893, by E. W. Nelson, a typical example of *Tachycineta thalassina* (Swainson), measures as follows: wing, 127 mm.; tail, 58; exposed culmen, 5.6; tarsus, 11; middle toe with claw, 15. The whole back is of a color intermediate between Indian purple and violet, changing to green if viewed in a certain light. The rump and upper tail-coverts are bottle green.

*Geographic range*.—Western United States, from the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, north to British Columbia and Alaska, (breeding throughout this range) south, in winter, to Guatemala and Costa Rica.

*Remarks*.—Breeding birds of the present form from Arizona and northern Mexico suggest—by larger size and occasional green feathers in the rump and upper tail-coverts—but by no means prove intergradation with *Tachycineta thalassina*. I am indebted to Dr. Louis B. Bishop for specimens collected by him on the Yukon River, in July, 1899. These are small, an adult male measuring: Wing, 112 mm.; exposed culmen, 5.