

Patinella Dall. Foot with a scalloped frill interrupted only in front;
gills as in *Patella*. $\frac{0}{3(2-1-2)3}$

Nacella Schumacher. Foot frilled; gills very small in front; shell peculiar; lateral teeth all bidentate. $\frac{0}{3(2-1-2)3}$

B. Branchial cordon interrupted in front.

a. Sides of foot smooth. *Helcion*.

Helcion Montfort. Third laterals posterior, bidentate. $\frac{0}{3(1-2-2-1)3}$

Helcioniscus Dall. First laterals anterior. $\frac{0}{3(2-1-2)3}$

Patina Gray. Third laterals posterior, denticulate; shell peculiar.
 $\frac{0}{3(1-2-2-1)3}$
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Metoptoma Phillips. Posterior edge emarginate or waved.
Fossil in Carboniferous of Great Britain.

JANUARY 22, 1882.

ON TWO RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE NORTH AMERICAN BIRDFAUNA, BY L. BELDING.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

1. *Motacilla ocularis*, Swinhoe. (Ibis, 1860, p. 55).

This species, which is the common East-Asiatic species, has been taken at La Paz, Lower California, by Mr. Belding, who secured a single adult specimen in winter plumage, on the 9th of January, 1882. It was undoubtedly a straggler, but it seems incredible that it could have found its way there across the broad expanse of the Pacific Ocean. On the other hand, it is difficult to conceive by what other means it could have reached a locality so far from its natural habitat, not being known from any part of the Pacific coast of North America, even in Alaska, although specimens have been obtained at Plover Bay, Siberia. In eastern Asia it occurs in winter as far south as Amoy, where it was first discovered by Mr. Swinhoe.

This species much resembles *M. alba* of Europe, having like it a gray back, but differing in having a large white patch covering both rows of wing-coverts, and in having a distinct post-ocular streak of black, running into the black of the occiput.

2. *Dendroica vieillotii bryanti*, Ridgway.

(*Dendroica vieillotii* var. *bryanti* RIDGW. Am. Nat., vii, 1873, p. 606; B. B. & R., Hist. N. Am. B., i, 1874, p. 218.—*Dendroica vieillotii* SALVIN & GODMAN, Biol. Centr.-Am. Aves, i, 1879, 125, part.)

This species, described originally from Yucatan, Honduras, and Matatlan, was found to be quite common at La Paz, in January, 1882, by

Mr. Belding. He sends two specimens, an adult male and female, which agree closely with Mazatlan examples. These western specimens all differ appreciably from eastern ones (from Yucatan and Honduras) in the darker shade of chestnut on the head and in some other less important characters, but until I have seen more specimens I do not venture to separate them.

The group to which this species belongs is an exceedingly difficult one on account of the great amount of variation with locality. A recent examination of a large series of specimens from various localities strongly suggests the probability of the existence in Middle America and the West Indies of but a single species of "Golden Warbler" besides *D. astiva*, but this broken up into numerous local races more or less distinct from one another. According to this view, *D. petechia*, *D. capitalis*, and other West Indian races, *D. aureola*, of the Galapagos, *D. vieilloti*, and the present bird would all represent merely local variations of a single species, the difference being appreciable chiefly, if not only, in fully adult males, and consisting in the varying amount of rufous on the head and under parts. So far as the material in the National Museum collection is concerned, the distinctions between the present bird and the true *D. vieilloti*, pointed out in the descriptions above cited, hold good, and I must therefore, for the present at least, beg to dissent from the opinion of Messrs. Salvin and Godman (in Biol. Centr.-Am. Aves, i, p. 125) that *D. bryanti* cannot be separated from *D. vieilloti*.

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THE TAXONOMIC RELATIONS AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SWORD-FISH FAMILY, XIPHIIDÆ.

By G. BROWN GOODE.

The following essay toward a reformulation of the characters by which the members of the sword-fish family are classified is the outcome of a systematic study of this group of fishes, a detailed statement of which, together with an account of the sword-fisheries of the world, are given in full in a forthcoming report of the United States Fish Commission. The views of the writer having been somewhat modified since reading the proof-sheets of the report just referred to, the portion relating to the classification of the group has been rearranged and is here presented. The views of Dr. Lütken, of the Zoological Museum, Copenhagen, as expressed in his recent work entitled "Spolia Atlantica", have received a careful consideration in the preparation of these notes, and have, to a considerable extent, been adopted.

As Dr. Lütken has pointed out, the genus *Xiphias*, to which the common sword-fish belongs, cannot, as has hitherto been customary, be regarded as the central type of the family, but must be considered an