

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GEOTHYLPIS FROM BROWNSVILLE,
TEXAS.

BY

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In The Auk for July, 1891 (p. 316), Dr. J. A. Allen records the capture of a bird at Brownsville, Tex., which he identified as *Geothlypis poliocephala palpebralis* (Ridgw.), and he also mentions a specimen in Mr. Sennett's collection taken at Aldema, Tamaulipas, on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. I have not had an opportunity to compare the specimens referred to with the type of *G. palpebralis*; but the National Museum has recently received from Dr. Wm. L. Ralph five adult males and one adult female of a form of the *G. poliocephala* group, collected at Brownsville in April and May, 1893, and therefore presumably identical with the specimens mentioned by Dr. Allen.

It requires but a glance, however, to show that these specimens are not *G. palpebralis*, which is entirely yellow beneath, while all the Brownsville birds have the sides, flanks and anal region—some of them much the greater portion of the under surface of the body—pale dull buffy, in marked contrast with the clear yellow color of the throat, etc. In this respect they do, however, agree very closely with the type of *G. poliocephala* Baird (from Mazatlan, Mexico), and, were it not for certain constant differences of coloration and proportions, might be considered the same. Since these constant differences do exist, it becomes necessary for me to recognize the Brownsville birds as representing a local or geographical form, which may be characterized as follows:

Geothlypis poliocephala ralphi, subsp. nov.

Geothlypis poliocephala palpebralis (RIDGW.) ALLEN, Auk, July, 1891, 316 (nec *Geothlypis palpebralis* RIDGW.).—A. O. U. Check List (Fourth Suppl., 1892), No. 682.1.

SUBSP. CHAR.—Similar to *G. poliocephala* Baird, but larger (the bill especially), upper parts grayer (the tail particularly), and the edge of the wing and under tail coverts much paler yellow.

HAB.—Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Type, No. 129348, ♂ ad., Brownsville, Texas, May 4, 1893. Presented by Dr. Wm. L. Ralph.