

Vireo caymanensis, sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—(♂ Coll. C. B. Cory, No. 6273.) Upper parts dull olive, brightest on the rump and upper tail-coverts; crown darker than the back, showing a slight brownish tinge; underparts dull yellowish-white, faintly tinged with olive on the sides and flanks; upper throat dull white; a dull white superciliary stripe from the upper mandible; a stripe of slaty brown from the upper mandible passing through and back of the eye; quills dark brown, narrowly edged with dull green on the outer webs, most of the inner feathers showing a white edging on the basal portion of the inner webs; tail dull olive brown, the feathers showing green on the edges; upper mandible dark; lower mandible pale; feet slaty brown.

Length, 5.40; wing, 2.75; tail, 2.25; tarsus, .75; bill, .52.

HABITAT. Island of Grand Cayman, West Indies.

Several specimens of *Seiurus noveboracensis* were received from Grand Cayman, having been taken there in August. A few birds were also sent from Little Cayman; they were *Polioptila carulea* (Linn.), *Dendroica dominica* (Linn.), *Vireo calidris barbatulus* (Cab.), *Euethia olivacea* (Gmel.), *Elainea martinica?* (Linn.), *Tyrannus dominicensis* (Gmel.), and a *Zeniada*. The latter appears to be somewhat different from *Z. spadicea*, but a larger series is necessary to determine if the comparatively slight differences are constant. It is of a somewhat paler brown, and shows a decided slaty tinge on the flanks; the metallic reflections on the feathers of the neck appear different in color, being paler and less in extent. It is possible that the two birds are not separable specifically, but in case future investigation should prove them to be distinct I would propose the name of *Zenaida richardsoni* for the Little Cayman bird.



ADDITIONS TO THE CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS OF KANSAS.

BY N. S. GOSS.

THE following observations have been made, and notes gathered, since the publication, May 1, 1886, of my 'Revised Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas':

Podilymbus podiceps (*Linn.*). PIED-BILLED GREBE.—June 8, 1886, I found these birds breeding in a pond in Meade County. I shot a young bird about two-thirds grown and saw several others, and caught a glimpse, in the rushes, of an old bird followed by little chicks, not more than a day or two old.

Phalaropus tricolor (*Vicill.*). WILSON'S PHALAROPE.—June 8, 1886, I found three pairs of these birds breeding on marshy ground, bordering a slough or pond of Crooked Creek, Meade County, and I therefore enter the species as an occasional summer resident in Western Kansas; quite common throughout the State during migration. Nest on the ground, usually on hummocks, quite deeply excavated, and lined with leaves from the old dead grasses; eggs, three or four—usually four; ground color, cream to ashy drab, rather thickly but irregularly blotched with varying shades of brown to black. The female is larger and brighter in color than the male, but from limited observations of the birds I am led to think certain writers are mistaken in reporting that the females arrive first and do all the courting, but leave the work of nest-making, incubation, and the rearing of the young to the males. I have never been so fortunate as to find either of the birds upon the nest; but certainly, both appear equally watchful and solicitous, circling around and croaking as one approaches their nests, or near their young (grayish little fellows that leave the nest as soon as hatched). The earliest arrival noticed in the State was at Neosho Falls, April 29, 1879. In this flock, as in all others seen at or about the time of their arrival, the sexes appeared to be about equally divided, and I am inclined to think further examination will prove the birds to be joint workers in the hatching and rearing of their young. With a view to removing all doubts, I trust all naturalists who are so fortunate as to be upon their breeding grounds during the breeding season will carefully note and report their observations.

Ægialitis nivosa (*Cass.*). SNOWY PLOVER.—Summer resident on the salt plains along the Cimarron River, in the Indian Territory, the northern limits of which extend across the line into southwestern Comanche County, Kansas. Quite common; arrives about the first of May; begins laying the last of May. Nest, a depression worked out in the sand; eggs, three, 1.20 × .90, pale olive drab, approaching a light clay color, with a greenish tint, rather evenly and thickly marked with irregularly-shaped

ragged-edged splashes and dots of dark or blackish brown. (See Auk, III, 1886, p. 409.)

Colinus virginianus texanus (*Lawr.*). TEXAN BOB-WHITE.—This bird is entered in the A. O. U. 'Check-List' as "Hab. Southern and Western Texas, north to Western Kansas." On receipt of the 'List', I wrote to Mr. Robert Ridgway, a member of the committee that prepared the list, to know when and where in the western part of the State the birds had been taken. In reply he says: "*Colinus virginianus texanus*, as a bird of Kansas, rests on two specimens, adult females, in the National Museum, labelled, respectively, No. 34425, Republican Fork, May 27, 1864, Dr. Elliott Coues, U. S. A.; and No. 34425, same locality, date, and collector. (See Hist. N. Am. B., III, p. 474.) These specimens agree exactly with typical examples of *texanus* as compared with *virginianus* proper." Since the early settlement of the State I have known through report of military men and hunters that Bob-whites were occasionally seen on the Cimarron River. I never met with them there, and had taken it for granted that they were *C. virginianus*; but as the birds were found in Western Kansas long before our Bob-whites, in following up the settlements, reached the central portion of the State, I am now inclined to think further examination may prove the western bird of the plains to be variety *texanus*, and that they reached that portion of the country by following north on the old military trails. I have written to several persons in that region for specimens, but as yet have no reply.

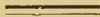
Empidonax pusillus traillii (*Aud.*). TRAILL'S FLY-CATCHER.—Mr. George F. Brenninger, Beattie, Marshall County, has kindly sent me for examination a nest containing three eggs, taken July 17, 1886, in a thick second growth of timber, on the bank of a small creek at Beattie, and writes that he found in the same vicinity quite a number of nests. The earliest found, with a full set of eggs, was June 14. In the Goss Ornithological Collection is a female which I shot at Neosho Falls, July 26, 1881, and I have occasionally noticed the birds during the summer months, and have no doubt but they will prove to be quite a common summer resident. I congratulate Mr. Brenninger on the find, and thank him for calling my attention to it. The nests are usually placed in upright forks of the small limbs of trees and bushes, from four to ten feet from the ground. A rather deep

cup-shaped nest, closely resembling in form and make-up the nest of *Dendroica aestiva*. Composed chiefly of small stems or twigs from plants, and flaxen fibrous strippings from the same, with a few scattering blades of grass, and here and there an occasional feather, and lined thickly and rather evenly with fine hair-like stems from grasses; eggs, three and four. Dimensions of the three eggs sent, $.70 \times .55$, $.70 \times .55$, $.69 \times .55$; and of a set of four eggs taken June 17, 1881, at Galesburg, Illinois, $.72 \times .55$, $.72 \times .55$, $.72 \times .54$, $.70 \times .54$; color, cream white thinly spotted and speckled with reddish brown, thickest around large end.

Spizella monticola ochracea Brewst. WESTERN TREE SPARROW.—Mr. William Brewster, in "Notes on some Birds collected by Capt. Charles Bendire, at Fort Walla Walla, Washington Territory" (Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. VII, Oct. 1882, p. 225), under the head of "species and varieties calling for special consideration" (p. 228), gives a full description of this form from a careful examination and comparison of the Fort Walla Walla specimens with specimens of the typical eastern bird, deciding that the differences in coloration and markings were sufficient to rank it as a variety of *S. monticola*, and naming the bird the Western Tree Sparrow, *S. monticola ochracea*. He gives its habitat as "Western North America, east to Dakota, north to Arctic Ocean; Alaska." At Wallace, on the 14th of October, 1883, I shot several Tree Sparrows, and thought at the time that they were somewhat paler in color and different from specimens I had taken in the eastern part of the State; but on comparison I reached the conclusion that they were the young birds of the year, and gave the matter no further thought until I noticed the bird entered in the A. O. U. 'Check-List' as occurring in "Western Kansas." I at once wrote to Mr. Brewster for typical specimens of both this and the eastern bird, which I received through his friend, Mr. Arthur P. Chadbourne, of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Just before receiving the specimens, I killed (October 25, 1886), three of the birds in Cheyenne County (north-west corner of the State). I now find, on comparing the specimens, that all the western birds, and a female in the Goss Ornithological Collection, taken November 22, 1878, at Neosho Falls, are in every respect similar in color to Mr. Chadbourne's specimen, labelled *S. monticola ochracea*, Ellis, Kansas, January,

1886. The specimens examined from Eastern Kansas are nearly all the true *S. monticola*, the coloration being fully as rich and deep as that of the eastern specimen taken in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, December 1, 1882. I therefore enter the Western Tree Sparrow as a winter resident; abundant in Middle and Western Kansas, and not uncommon in the eastern portion of the State. The western specimens, however, that I have examined, were all captured in the fall or early winter, and I should be led to think it possible upon further examination, especially of the birds in their spring plumage, might prove the paler form to be the immature winter dress, were it not for the fact that Mr. Brewster, in making his examination, had before him not only his own large collection, but that in the National Museum, which must have embraced specimens taken at different seasons of the year.

Turdus ustulatus swainsonii (*Cab.*). OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.—June 6, 1886, I saw several of these birds in the timber skirting Crooked Creek, in the northern part of Meade County. They were probably migrants, but the date is so late in the season that I think it worthy of mention.



LIST OF THE MIDSUMMER BIRDS OF THE KOWAK RIVER, NORTHERN ALASKA.

BY CHARLES H. TOWNSEND.

As my 'Notes on the Natural History of Northern Alaska,' forming part of the 'Report of the Arctic Cruise of the U. S. Revenue Steamer *Corwin*,' recently ordered to be published by Congress, will probably be several months in the hands of the Public Printer, a list of the birds I found in those high latitudes may be acceptable to the readers of 'The Auk.'

The Kowak was explored by a party sent out from the 'Corwin,' in 1885, in charge of Lieut. J. C. Cantwell, consisting of Lieut. Cantwell, myself, two seaman, and several Eskimo guides. We were on the river from the first of July until the last of August, and were the first white men to reach the head-