

246. *Sialia arctica*. MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD.—An irregular visitor in fall and winter in the foothills of the Catalinas, which is the only point where I have observed them. In the winter of 1885-86 they were abundant in large flocks, feeding on the seeds of the mistletoe and the hackberry tree. This was the only season when they were present in numbers, and the only other reference in my notes to the species is in the same locality on December 15, 1884, when a flock of fifteen birds were noted, and were all that were seen.

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## A DESCRIPTION OF AN APPARENTLY NEW SPECIES OF *TROCHILUS* FROM CALIFORNIA.

BY J. AMORY JEFFRIES.

*Trochilus violajugulum*, sp. nov.

SP. CHAR. (♂ *ad.* Type No. 1616 of my collection). Upperparts metallic green and gold becoming dull on the forehead; gorget violet with a tendency to steel blue at the feather tips; chin and line between gorget and eyes dull; a dull gray belt across breast behind gorget. Sides dull metallic green; flanks less green, the feathers being tipped with brown; ventral median line dullish. Wings dark with an obscure purple glow; an imbricated buff line along the anterior edge of the manus; coverts dull metallic green. Primaries broad to tip, that of the first curved back, graduated in length from first to last. Tail slightly forked; feathers broad, except the last pair, which are abruptly narrow and linear; shafts of the outer pair forming, at the junction of the first and second third, an abrupt angle of 25°. Middle feathers and base of second pair metallic green; rest dark with a distinct purple hue. Under tail-coverts white with metallic green central spots.

Length about 3.60; wing, 1.82; tail, 1.18; bill about .75.

*Habitat.* Santa Barbara, Cal.

This specimen was shot April 5, 1883, in a bushy field at the base of the flower belt, well up the foothills. The distal end of the upper mandible was shot away.

The bird is roughly like a *T. anna* without a crown patch or ruff, and with violet for sapphire. The tail is of the same type as in *T. anna*, but smaller, and the angle spoken of is less than 25° instead of 33°, so that in the closed tail the outer pair of feathers overlap instead of crossing as in *T. anna*. This peculiar

angle of the shaft in *T. anna* is not mentioned in the description nor shown in the cuts of the tail, being concealed by the coverts. It seems to be peculiar to my specimen and the Anna Humming-bird.

From *T. alexandri* it is distinguished by its larger size, broad primaries, and all the peculiarities of the tail.

As but one specimen was procured, it might be a hybrid possibly between *T. alexandri* and *T. lucifer*, but this is highly improbable, as it lacks the ruff and crown patch of one, and has a different wing and tail from either. It is more of a step between *T. alexandri* and *anna*, but it lacks the crown patch and ruff of the latter, and the gorget is violet; from *alexandri* the differences have already been pointed out. The primaries are broader than in either.

In short, it seems to be a perfectly distinct species, standing between *T. anna* and *T. alexandri*.

I have named it *violajugulum*, from *viola*, violet, and *jugulum*, the throat.

I am indebted to Mr. Ridgway for kindly comparing my specimen with the Washington collection.

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## BIRD NOTES FROM LONG ISLAND, N. Y.\*

BY WILLIAM DUTCHER.

CONCENTRATION of effort, whether applied to business pursuits or the study of zoölogy, is the surest road to success. It was, therefore, with this idea in view, that I decided many years since to confine my ornithological studies and collecting to a limited area. Having a natural bent toward the seashore and water-fowl I saw, presented in Long Island, a field that could not be equalled for diversity of topography and definiteness of surroundings. Situated as it is on the debatable line between the Alleghanian and Carolinian Faunæ, it is like the territory between two contending armies, subject to incursions from both parties. Stragglers from the icy north visit its shores that shortly before have been visited by wanderers from the tropics. Up-

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