

## A NEW VIREO FROM CALIFORNIA.

BY F. STEPHENS.

**Vireo vicinior californicus**, subsp. nov.

## CALIFORNIA GRAY VIREO.

Darker than *Vireo vicinior* Coues. Above grayish-plumbeous, middle and greater wing-coverts, secondaries, tertials, and outer web of outer tail-feathers more or less edged with grayish white. Wing and tail of equal length. Nest not pensile, and not built in thorny bushes.

For many years I have thought the California Gray Vireo varietally distinct from the form that breeds east of the Colorado River, and I now venture to describe it as such. The difference in climate of the breeding habitats of the two forms is sufficient to account for their differentiation. I feel inclined to give the new form specific rank, as I am unacquainted with any intermediate specimens, and from the nature of the country intervening between the breeding range of the two forms I should not expect to find such, since that region is so barren that the species does not occur at all.

The most prominent difference between the two forms is the darker color above, combined with the greater amount of whitish edging on wing and tail, in the California form.

A comparison of a nest and set of four eggs taken ten miles east of Riverside, California, on April 26, 1889, and now before me, with the description given by W. E. D. Scott in 'The Auk' (Vol. II, Oct., 1885, pp. 321-326) of nests and eggs obtained by him in Arizona, indicate that my nest is smaller, especially in inside diameter, and that my eggs are longer in proportion. This nest was about four feet from the ground, and is composed of dry outside parts or fibres of a flax-like plant, gray in color, and is lined with the fine, dry, yellowish-colored stems of 'six weeks grass.' Width of nest outside, 3 inches; inside, 1 3-4 inches; depth outside, 2 3-4 inches; inside, 1 3-4 inches. The eggs measure  $.73 \times .57$ ,  $.74 \times .55$ ,  $.74 \times .55$ , and  $.77 \times .53$  inch. Their colors are similar to those of *V. vicinior* described by Scott.

Each of the three nests that I have found was similarly situated in the middle of thick bushes, growing thickly among others of their kind on the slopes of mountains, forming the hundreds of thousands of acres of brush land, known locally as 'chaparral' or 'chemise,' which is the sole habitat of *Virco vicinior californicus*. I find this variety only between the altitudes of 2000 and 4000 feet, principally from 3000 to 3500. They appear early in April, and are gone by September. Probably two broods are raised.

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## A STUDY OF THE GENUS *DENDRORNIS* AND ITS SPECIES.

BY D. G. ELLIOT.

Among the difficult groups in ornithology, the Dendrocolapidae occupy a prominent position, and the species of the genus *Dendrornis* are not the least puzzling of its members. These bear, as a rule, so close a resemblance to each other, that at times, from descriptions alone, it is impossible to determine exactly which species may be under consideration, and ornithologists have frequently been obliged to transmit their material to those who have access to the types, in order that their examples might be correctly named. Fully aware of the difficulties that other naturalists have had to contend with in their work on this genus, I should never have attempted its revision, had I not been able to obtain a large number of the type specimens described from time to time, and so to have a tangible, indisputable starting point, from which to base my conclusions. Of the thirty-one forms, that have been named as belonging to this genus, I have procured no less than fourteen types, and among the other examples in my possession are some that have been compared and identified with the types of other species by ornithologists who have paid especial attention to these perplexing birds.

My material consists of one hundred and seventy-seven specimens, obtained from the following sources: the Boston