

start, the Black-and-White Warbler. The Yellow Warbler appears at New Orleans from further north about the middle of July, and by the last week of the month Yellow Warblers are present by hundreds. Even when appearing in waves in the spring, the Yellow Warblers are always restricted in their numbers at that season. As for the Black-and-White Warbler and the Redstart they are rarities at New Orleans in spring. Not so after the first of August. They are always to be found in reasonable numbers in the woods after that date and sometimes in large numbers. The Tennessee and Magnolia Warblers do not agree with the foregoing in being particularly early fall migrants, but they do agree in being the most abundant of our birds in the fall, and among the rarest in spring. The time of their arrival in fall approximates September 20.

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## THE CORRECT NAME OF THE PACIFIC DUNLIN.

BY S. A. BUTURLIN.

WHEN publishing, in 1902, Part I of my 'Limicolæ of the Russian Empire,' it was not without much hesitation that I proposed to give a new name to the Fantail Snipe of East Siberia,<sup>1</sup> as Vieillot's old one, *Scolopax sakhalina*, was a very suggestive one. But Vieillot's 'Nouveau Dictionnaire' was not to be found in Russia (not even in the Academical Library), and as H. Seebohm, R. B. Sharpe and others quote "*Sc. sakhalina*" invariably with a "?", I preferred to give a new name to the East-Siberian Snipe.

Through the extreme kindness of Mr. Charles W. Richmond,

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<sup>1</sup> *Scolopax (Gallinago) gallinago raddei* nests from Yenesei eastward; differs from *Sc. (G.) gallinago* Linn. in having more white on the wing-lining and axillaries; the chest not so mottled with brown; feathers of the upper parts somewhat more mottled with rufous; the sandy buff edges of the scapulars and the feathers of the upper back much broader, some .08-.16 inch broad; pale central stripe along the crown also broader.

of the U. S. National Museum, Washington, I received afterwards (*in litt.*) a copy of Vieillot's description. As the work is rare; it is better to quote fully.

“LA BÉCASSINE SAKHALINE, *Scolopax sakhalina*, Vieill., (pl. 85 d'un ouvrage russe publié par Sakhalin), se trouve en Russie. Elle a le dessus de la tête, du cou, des ailes et de la queue d'un fauve rougeâtre varié d'un grand nombre de taches brunes; le tour du bec et la gorge blancs et bruns; la poitrine de cette dernière couleur, mais uniforme; les côtés du ventre, les plumes de l'anus et le bord des grandes pennes alaires blancs; le bec et les pieds bruns.” (Vieillot, *Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.*, III, 1816, p. 359.)

“Breast uniformly brown” cannot possibly be intended for a Fantail Snipe (*Gall. gallinago* Linn. or subsp.), and is a gross exaggeration even for a Solitary Snipe (*G. solitaria* Hodgs. et. subsp.). Amongst Palæarctic waders only to the Dunlin (*Tringa* or *Pelidna alpina* Linn. et subsp.) the above description applies better. The including of the Dunlin in one genus with snipes is not to be wondered at, as Pallas (*Zoogr.*, 1811, II, p. 176) did the same.

Vieillot's description, however, is none too good, though plainly referable to the Dunlin; so it was necessary to inquire the source of his information, “un ouvrage russe publié par Sakhalin.” Scientific books of Natural History or Travel previous to 1816 (date of Vieillot's work) were rarely published in the Russian language, but I tried in vain to trace Mr. Sakhalin, a name of a Russian writer or artist quite as unknown to my friends as to myself.

At last I thought of Gray's splendid work, and my friend M. N. Michaylowsky has sent me the following quotation (from St. Petersburg. Akad. Library) from Gray's *Gen. Birds*, III, 1849, p. 283. “? 25. *G. sakhalina* (Vieill.) *N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.* iii, 359, *Krust. Voy. t.* 86.”

Here Vieillot's somewhat vague original quotation of a “Russian work by Mr. Sakhalin” is rendered quite clear, as the name of the gallant Captain Krusenstern, first Russian circumnavigator of the Globe, is well known to all interesting themselves in Natural Science. The copies of the original (Russian) edition of his

'Voyage' are very rare, but Mr. Af. Al. Illyne in St. Petersburg most kindly sent me a copy.

The text (Russian) is in three small quarto volumes, issued, Vol. I in 1809, Vol. II in 1810, and Vol. III in 1812. The first two contain the Narrative of the voyage round the World in 1803, 4, 5 and 6, and the third contains some of the scientific results. The botanical and zoölogical results were intended to be published in Vol. IV (see Vol. III, pp. iii and iv), but unfortunately it was never published. From pp. iv and 7 of Vol. I we know that plates of natural history objects were drawn by Dr. Tilesius of Leipsic, the naturalist of the expedition.

To the text is adjoined a big in-folio Atlas of XCVIII Plates, issued in St. Petersburg in 1814 and bearing the following title:

Atlas | zur | Reise um die Welt | unternommen auf Befehl | Seiner  
Kaiserlichen Majestät | Alexander der Ersten | auf den Schiffen Nadesha  
und Neva | unter dem Commando | des Capitans von Krusenstern. | St.  
Petersburg. | 1814.

Curiously enough, Gray must have quoted Tab. 86 by a lapsus calami (or a typographical error),— as Vieillot also quoted Tab. 85: Tab. LXXXV of Krusenstern's Atlas represents a Wagtail (perhaps *M. leucopsis* Gould) and a Titmouse, and Tab. LXXXVI is a bad figure, that I take for a young *Heteractitis brevipes* Vieill. (it is termed "*Tringa meleagris*" on the plate, or "Die Braune Weispunctierte Meerlerche").

But Plate LXXXIV represents very well the type of Vieillot's description; it is a fairly accurate, natural size (I presume) figure of the Pacific Dunlin in breeding dress, with the typical, for the Pacific form, pure white band across the chest, above the black patch. The wing is 121 mm. (4.76 inch) long, and the culmen 38.5 mm. (1.51 in.); in the right upper part of the Plate the bill is drawn as seen from above and nearly 1.5 : 1 of the natural size (55.5 mm.); the outlines are clearly those of the Dunlin bill, only it is made too straight. The bird on the plate bears not only a Russian name,<sup>1</sup> but also "*Tringa Variiegata* oder der Bunte Sachalinische Strandlaufer"; it is stated also that the plate is by Dr. Tilesius ("Tilesius p: Petroff sc:").

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<sup>1</sup> Indicating that the bird is from the island Saghalien.

I am quite satisfied now, that *Tringa alpina* var. *americana* Cassin, B. N. Amer., p. 719 (1858), *Pelidna pacifica* Coues, Pr. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad., p. 189 (1861), and the much earlier *Scolopax sakhalina* Vieillot, N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., III, p. 359 (1816), are only synonyms of *Tringa variegata* Tilesius, Atlas Krusenstern. Reis., Pl. LXXXIV (1814).

I think that Tilesius's name must be accepted for the Pacific Dunlin,<sup>1</sup> as *Tringa variegata* of Gmelin (Sys. Nat., I, p. 674, 1788) is not a *Tringa* at all, but (being a synonym of his *Tringa virgata*, *ibid.*) a type of quite a distant genus of waders: *Aphriza* Audubon (1839). But those who consider that Gmelin's *Tringa variegata* invalidates Tilesius's name must accept Vieillot's name and call the Pacific Dunlin *Tringa (Pelidna) alpina sakhalina* (Vieill.).

I add to this note an accurate photograph (nearly 1:1.4 nat. size) of Tilesius's Plate.

1903, Oct. 7,

Russia, Esthonia, Wesenberg.

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AN ABNORMAL BILL OF *MELANERPES*  
*PORTORICENSIS.*

BY B. S. BOWDISH.

*Plate XI.*

ON JUNE 27, 1901, I shot a male *Melanerpes portoricensis* from a tree in a coffee plantation on a hillside near Mayaguez, P. R. The specimen is No. 177842 of the National Museum collection and was loaned to me for the purpose of making illustrations and measurements.

This bird, which was in company with an apparently quite nor-

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<sup>1</sup>And it should stand as *Tringa (Pelidna) alpina variegata* Tilesius, as it is only subspecifically distinct. I must add, that I see no reasons for even subgenerically dividing Duniins, Knots, Purple and Curlew Sandpipers, etc.