

(May 31, 1917). On May 30, 1917, from Alexandria to Fredericksburg we did not record it. This species was heard south of Petersburg for a short distance, and from this vicinity (1918, Camp Lee) Mr. Harper wrote me that he and Mr. Holt recorded it as well. The above notes would indicate a much wider range in Virginia than that given by the author of 'The Birds of Virginia, 1913' (p. 224).—A. H. WRIGHT, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

The Dickcissel in Virginia.—On May 31, 1917, in the outskirts of Richmond, Va., Dr. H. H. Knight and I discovered a fine singing male beside the road in what looked to be a real estate development tract. We were following the main auto route from Washington into Richmond. I was attracted to it by first seeing it — my first live Dickcissel; while Dr. Knight recognized the sound as a reminder of his home country (Missouri). This record is published because the author chanced to see a note a few months ago (Wilson Bulletin) by an ornithologist of Virginia to the effect that he had not seen the Dickcissel in Virginia for twenty years.—A. H. WRIGHT, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

***Piranga erythromelas* versus *Piranga olivacea*.**—Since the discovery that *Fringilla rubra* Linnæus (Syst. Nat., ed. 10, I, 1758, p. 181) is the Summer Tanager instead of the Scarlet Tanager, the latter has passed under the name *Piranga erythromelas* (Vieillot). There seems, however, to be an earlier name for the Scarlet Tanager in *Tanagra olivacea* Gmelin (Syst. Nat., I, ii, 1789, p. 889). This is based on "l'Olivet" of Buffon (Hist. Nat. Ois. [original edition], IV, 1778, p. 269); the "Olive Tanager" of Pennant (Arctic Zool., II, 1785, p. 369, No. 238); and the "Olive Tanager" of Latham (Gen. Synop. Birds, II, pt. 1, 1783, p. 218, No. 4); and the habitat given as "Cayenna et Noveboraco." The diagnosis given by Gmelin is as follows: "*T. olivacea, gula et pectore flavis, abdomine albo, remigibus reetricibusque fuscis margine albis.*" This diagnosis is almost a literal translation, though somewhat abridged, of the descriptions given by Pennant and Latham, both of which latter are essentially the same. In fact, Latham refers to Pennant's then unpublished 'Arctic Zoology,' and Pennant in this work cites Latham's account. A comparison of the diagnosis given by Gmelin and the descriptions of Latham and Pennant with a peculiar transition plumage of the Scarlet Tanager, and their descriptions of their female Olive Tanager with the female Scarlet Tanager, leaves no doubt at all of their entire agreement.

This peculiar transition plumage above mentioned seems to be little known, probably because of its brief duration and consequent rarity in collections. It is a stage, alike in both sexes, between the juvenal and the first autumn plumages, in which the juvenal feathering of the entire upper parts is retained, but on the anterior lower surface the streaked condition of the juvenal stage has been replaced by olive yellow; while the abdomen has lost so much of its yellowish tinge that at superficial glance it looks white.

The descriptions given by both Pennant and Latham were based on speci-

mens from New York in Mrs. Blackburn's collection, taken, as practically all her New York specimens were, near Hempstead, Long Island. It is of interest in this connection to note that both Pennant and Latham apparently had some suspicion that their Olive Tanager was the female of the Scarlet Tanager, and their reasons for describing it as a separate species are given in the following footnote by Pennant in Latham's work (Gen. Synop. Birds, II, pt. 1, 1783, p. 218): "From their being found at this last place [New York], and my having such authority for describing both sexes, I must conclude that the species is distinct; otherwise I should have suspected it to have been the female of the last described [Scarlet Tanager]." In the description of the female of the "Olive Tanager," there is the information, omitted by Gmelin in his diagnosis, that the "under sides of the body [are] pale yellow," which is the *chief* difference between the adult female of *Piranga erythromelas* and the transition plumage described above. It is, therefore, evident that the male of Gmelin's *Tanagra olivacea* is the Scarlet Tanager in this odd-looking transition plumage; and its female the adult female of the Scarlet Tanager.

Gmelin, Latham, and Pennant all cite "l'Olivet Buff." as a synonym, and for this reason include Cayenne in the habitat, but the description given by Buffon, based on a specimen from Cayenne, is possibly not of the female Scarlet Tanager. At least, if it is, the alleged locality is probably wrong, since the species is not known to occur in the Guianas. At any rate, this description of Buffon does not figure at all in the diagnosis given by Gmelin, by Latham, or by Pennant; hence in determining the identity of *Tanagra olivacea* it may be disregarded as a possibly erroneous synonym.

From the above discussion it appears that the technical name of the Scarlet Tanager, now *Piranga erythromelas* (Vieillot), should become *Piranga olivacea* (Gmelin), and its type locality, Hempstead, Long Island, New York.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

The Tanagrine Genus *Procnopis* Cabanis.—*Tangara* (formerly *Calliste*, *Calospiza*) is by far the largest genus of Tanagers, comprising about sixty distinct species. These exhibit great diversity in coloration and vary considerably in the form of the bill, but in other respects they agree rather closely.

On the one hand they are allied to the slender-billed genera *Chlorochrysa* and *Tanagrella* and on the other hand to the small-billed genus *Procnopis*. Of the latter Sclater (Cat. Birds Brit. Museum, XI, p. 93) remarks "This little group of three species comes very close to *Calliste*, but has a shorter and wider bill and rather longer wings in proportion." The difference in the size and form of the bill between *Procnopis* and the majority of species of *Tangara* is very marked. Unfortunately for the standing of *Procnopis*, however, there are certain species of *Tangara* that in the form of the bill agree essentially with the members of the former group. This is particularly the case with *T. nigroviridis*, which in its small but wide, depressed bill, with weak lower mandible and short gonys, is very similar to *Procnopis*.