

*leucura* and *eschatosus*, respectively; and my two male birds, while slightly heavier than any *eschatosus* weighed by Van Tyne, were obviously not nearly heavy enough for *leucura*.

To Robert B. Lea, who took the photographs upon which the illustrations are based, and to Dwain W. Warner, who carefully checked the measurements of the five specimens, I hereby extend my thanks.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

**The specific name of the Olive Warbler.**—Through some curious oversight, it appears to have escaped observation for over a hundred years that *Sylvia olivacea* Giraud, 1841, is precoccupied by *Sylvia olivacea* Vieillot, 1817 (*Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat.*, nouv. éd., 11: 105—*ex* Levaillant, *Ois. Afr.*, 3: pl. 125, fig. 2). There is no escape from the necessity of finding a new name for Giraud's bird.

Vieillot cited two different birds under the name *Sylvia olivacea* on the same page of the *Nouveau Dictionnaire*. The first of these is *Motacilla olivacea* Gmelin [*Syst. Nat.*, 1 (2): 964, 1788] although credited to Latham (*Ind. Orn.*, 2: 532, 1790) who first assigned it to the genus *Sylvia*. I am unable to identify this bird, ostensibly from Ceylon, and I can find no authority who has ever succeeded in doing so. In fact, except for a few authors of very early date, I can find no reference to it. In view of the scanty basis for Gmelin's name—a wretched drawing and a few lines of discussion in Peter Brown's *Illustrations of Zoology*: 33, pl. 14, 1776—it may be as well to leave it unidentified. In such uncertainty it will preoccupy the specific name *olivacea* only in the genus *Motacilla* where no conflict is evident.

This is not true of Vieillot's second *Sylvia olivacea*, based on Levaillant. This appears to be the African species more recently called *Camuroptera brachyura* (Dr. James P. Chapin kindly informs me) by certain authors who were possibly confused by the two usages of *Sylvia olivacea* on the same page of Vieillot and inclined to adopt line priority (for which there is now no justification under the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature). It appears certain that this second *Sylvia olivacea* of Vieillot is quite valid but in any case it precludes the usage of the same name by Giraud.

The next available name for Giraud's species is *Sylvia taeniata* Du Bus [*Bull. Acad. Roy. Sci. Lettr.* . . . Belg., 14 (2): 104, 1847—"le Mexique"] and the species in question must, therefore, be known as *Peucedramus taeniatus*. There is no question as to the specific assignment of the name. The problem arises only in respect to the subspecific assignment.

The type (an obvious male) is still extant in the Royal Natural History Museum of Belgium, in Brussels. Through the kindness of Dr. R. Verheyen of that institution and of Captain Jean Delacour who undertook to compare the type with examples of the different subspecies (except the smallest of them, *micrus*), it is possible to suggest the restricted application of the name *taeniatus*.

In measurements (wing, 72 mm.; tail, 51), the type is smaller than "*olivaceus*" and *arizonae* and larger than *micrus*, agreeing with the minimum of *jaliscensis* and the average of *aurantiacus*. It is an old mounted bird and greatly faded, and in its present condition agrees best, according to Captain Delacour, with *jaliscensis*. If allowance is made, however, for considerable fading that must have taken place during the last century, I believe that assignment to *aurantiacus* is more strongly indicated.

Bonaparte (*Consp. Avium*, 1: 309, 1850) cites "*Sylvicola taeniata Dubus* . . . Esq. *Orn. figura, ex Mexico m. S. Pedro, Oxaca*" [sic]. According to Sherborn (*Index Anim.*), the figure of this bird appeared on plate 28. This was published about 1850,

apparently without accompanying text which was not supplied beyond plate 20. I have not seen plate 28 but presume it is like the first twenty plates (kindly lent by the Museum of Comparative Zoology) in having no localities given on it. It is possible, therefore, that Bonaparte obtained his citation of San Pedro, Oaxaca, from Du Bus, himself. Most of the birds described from México by Du Bus were sent to the Brussels Museum by Ghiesbreght and at least two of them (*Euphonia elegantissima* and *Cyanocorax unicolor*) were definitely reported in the Esquisses from "San Pedro, près de Oaxaca." There is every probability, therefore, that the type of *Sylvia taeniata* also came from San Pedro, although which one of the localities of that name in Oaxaca is not certain.

The birds of Chiapas have been identified by authors as *aurantiacus*; those of Vera Cruz are "*olivaceus*." Oaxaca lies between these other two states. Since the type of *taeniata* is too small to be referred to the Vera Cruz form but agrees with *aurantiacus* in measurements, its identity with *aurantiacus* is again indicated.

I suggest, therefore, that *Peucedramus olivaceus aurentiacus* Ridgway, 1896, should bear the name *Peucedramus taeniatus taeniatus* (Du Bus). This still leaves the subspecies "*olivaceus*" without a name. I propose, therefore, the name *Peucedramus taeniatus giraudi* as a new name for *Sylvia olivacea* Giraud (not of Vieillot, ex Levaillant), Descr. Sixteen New Species N. A. Birds: 16, pl. 7, fig. 2, 1841—"Texas" = Las Vegas, Vera Cruz, México. The other subspecies will be known as *Peucedramus taeniatus taeniatus*, *P. t. arizonae*, *P. t. jaliscensis*, and *P. t. micrus*, respectively.—J. T. ZIMMER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

**Rufous Hummingbird at sea.**—On March 28, 1944, while the aircraft carrier on which I was stationed was approximately one hundred miles west of San Diego, California, and approximately seventy miles south of San Nicolas Island, the nearest land, a male Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) flew aboard the ship. He remained within a few feet of me for several minutes and was observed perched on an iron railing on the catwalk as well as in flight before he left the ship. The late Dr. Clinton G. Abbott of the San Diego Museum informed me that he knew of no other instance of this species being observed so far at sea and urged that this account be published after the end of hostilities.—GILBERT S. RAYNOR, *Manorville, Long Island, New York.*

**Mourning Warbler trapped and banded during a blizzard.**—During the first hard snow storm of this last winter in the vicinity of Keuka College, on March 2, 1947, I was watching the birds at a feeding tray of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Bingham. To my surprise a warbler came to the suet on a tray suspended from the ceiling of the porch about two feet from the window. Mrs. Bingham and I checked the markings while the bird, which appeared in good health, fed. It was olive above and pale yellow below, including the under tail-coverts. There was a dark gray wash on the head which extended under the throat.

By fortunate coincidence, I had arranged to have students of my class in bird study come in to watch a bird bander, Malcolm Leach, of Penn Yan, trap and band birds that afternoon. Not long after the traps had been placed, the warbler came from the willow trees in a near-by ravine into a spruce tree a few feet from the tray, then into a trap on the floor of the porch.

In hand, the bird showed no streaks on the breast and no eye-ring, and the under tail-coverts were half as long as the tail. The darker feathers on the head made us confident it was a Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphus*).

Mrs. Bingham said she had seen the bird earlier the previous week, and reported