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100 Years Ago in The Auk



From "Restoration of an Audubonian form of *Geothlypis trichas* to the American avifauna" by E. M. Hasbrouck (1889, *Auk* 6: 167)

"More than a year ago while comparing specimens of the genus *Geothlypis*, one in particular arrested my attention as being materially different from any in my collection, and from any I had seen. It is numbered 442 and was taken by myself at Big Lake George, Florida, March 18, 1886. I carried it to Mr. Ridgway who, after comparing it with the series in the Smithsonian, declared it different from anything he had seen, and probably a new race, but advised me to say nothing concerning it until I secured more of the same variety. In accordance with his counsel I visited Florida in December of the past year for the purpose of securing as many as possible, and although unable to reach the scene of the first capture, I was successful in finding the bird abundant in Putnam County in the vicinity of Palatka, and was fortunate in obtaining seven more; three males and four females, all of which (the males) were nearly exact counterparts of the type with the exception of one immature male referred to later. On reaching Washington I submitted the entire

series of eight to Mr. Ridgway, and with the assistance of Dr. Stejneger, compared them a second time; we found them differing considerably from the true *trichas* in possessing the larger size and more extended yellow beneath of *occidentalis*, together with an extremely narrow and paler ashy band behind the mask, and from *occidentalis* by the paler yellow throat and less orange of *trichas*. Audubon (*Orn. Biog.*, Vol. I, 1832, p. 124, pl. 24) describes an immature specimen of the Yellow-throat taken in Mississippi, to which he gives the name *Sylvia roscoe*, and afterwards refers it to *trichas*: the description tallies almost exactly with mine above mentioned, while specimens in the Smithsonian collection from the Gulf States and Mississippi Valley agree closely with mine, thus leaving little room for doubt that it is a valid race between *Geothlypis trichas* and *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*. I therefore have the pleasure of restoring a long neglected form to the American fauna, giving to it the name *Geothlypis trichas roscoe* (Aud.)."