The Pacific Coast Yellowthroats.

By Joseph Grinnell.

Geothlypis trichas scirpicola—new subspecies.

Tule' Yellowthroat.

Subsp. Char.—Similar to *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*, but brighter colored and larger throughout, with especially longer tail. Twenty-five males from the Pacific slope of Los Angeles County measure in inches: Wing, 2.18 (55 mm.) to 2.37 (60.3 mm.) averaging 2.25 (57 mm.); tail, 2.22 (56 mm.) to 2.52 (64 mm.) averaging 2.35 (60 mm.). Prevalent primary formula in unabraded specimens, 4-3-5-2-6-1-7-8 or 4-3-2-5-1-6-7-8.

Type—♂ ad.; No. 2217, Coll. J. G.; El Monte, Los Angeles County, California; March 20, 1897; Collected by J. Grinnell.

Habitat—Permanently resident in the fresh-water tule beds of the southern coast district of California.

Geothlypis trichas sinuosa—new subspecies.

Salt Marsh Yellowthroat.

Subsp. Char.—Similar to *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*, but dorsally and laterally darker in color, and size much less. Thirteen males from the marshes of San Francisco Bay measure: Wing, 2.02 (51 mm.) to 2.15 (54.6 mm.) averaging 2.10 (53 mm.); tail, 2.08 (52.6 mm.) to 2.23 (56.6 mm.) averaging 2.16 (55 mm.). Prevalent primary formula in unabraded specimens, 4-3-2-5-1-6-7-8 or 3-4-2-5-1-6-7-8.

Type—♂ ad.; No. 4270, Coll. J. G.; Palo Alto, California; May 31, 1900; collected by J. Grinnell.

Habitat—Permanently resident about the salt marshes of San Francisco Bay and vicinity.

Remarks—A third form occurs abundantly in parts of California during the spring and fall migrations. It appears at Pasadena during the latter part of April, often after the resident yellow-throats are caring for nearly fledged young. This migratory race is evidently the form summering on the Pacific slope from Central California to British Columbia, and has been named *Geothlypis trichas arizela* by Oberholser (Auk XVI, July 1899, p. 257). The birds obtained at Pasadena in April, were found in the brush along the foothills far from water, and were in company with the Tolmie, Townsend, Calaveras and Pileolated Warblers, Warbling Vireos, Western Flycatchers and many other migrating species. The specimens secured are somewhat smaller than *scirpicola* and *occidentalis* and yet considerably larger than *sinuosa*, their average measurements being: Wing, 2.18 (55 mm.); tail, 2.28 (58 mm.). The wing is more pointed than in either of the others, the primary formula being 2-3-4-5-1-6-7-8 or 3-2-4-5-1-6-7-8. *Arizela*, therefore, is the migratory race, moving south in winter to Lower California, Sinaloa and Tepic (*fide* Oberholser, l. c.).

I find it difficult on account on the variations due to age and season to assign color characters to any of our Yellowthroats. *Scirpicola* is the brightest and deepest colored of all, the yellow of the under parts being more extended posteriorly and having a hint of an orange tint, while the upper parts are brighter brown or green according to age or wear; in these respects, as well as in size, showing a pronounced tendency toward *beldingi* of Lower California. *Occidentalis*, as judged from Arizona examples, is palest, while the diminutive *sinuosa* is decidedly the darkest. The width of the frontal black and vertical white bands varies in different individuals, but as a rule it is narrowest in *arizela* and *sinuosa*.

It is of interest to note the correspondence in characters of certain bird races occurring on the marshes of San Francisco Bay and on those of Southern California. The former locality produces the small *Melospiza melodia pusillula*, *Am-*

modramus sandwichensis bryanti and *Geothlypis trichas sinuosa;* while from the southern marshes come the larger *Melospiza melodia cooperi*, *Ammodramus sandwichensis beldingi* and *Geothlypis trichas scirpicola*. It is also notable that the races of *Geothlypis trichas* occurring on the Pacific Coast are to a remarkable degree paralleled by those of the Atlantic Coast (See Palmer, Auk XVII, July 1900, pp. 216–242.)

In bringing together the material on which this paper is based, I am indebted for the loan of specimens to Messrs. F. S. Daggett, H. S. Swarth, W. O. Emerson and T. J. Hoover.

Some Rare Birds in Los Angeles Co., Cal.

PHOEBE (*Sayornis phœbe*). On Feb. 14, 1901, I secured a male of this species near San Fernando. Not feeling certain as to its identity and having no specimens of my own with which to compare it, I sent it to Washington, where it was identified as *S. phœbe* by Dr. Chas. W. Richmond.

Slate-colored Sparrow. (*Passerella i. schistacea*). A female sparrow taken by myself at Millard's Canyon on Feb. 11, 1901 is identified, also by Dr. Richmond, as belonging to this subspecies. One other, also a female, taken by myself at Los Angeles and recorded by Grinnell in his 'List of Birds of the Pacific Slope of Los Angeles Co.,' is I believe, the only one heretofore recorded from this part of the state. Another sparrow, a male, taken at Los Angeles Nov. 24, 1900 is described by the same authority as the last, as intermediate between *Passerella iliaca* and *P. i. schistacea*. This bird is rather sparsely spotted underneath, the throat and abdomen being immaculate, and the spots are of a brighter fox red than in the case of *P. i. schistacea* or *P. i. unalaschcensis*.

Flicker. (*Colaptes auratus*). I secured an adult female of this species at Los Angeles on Feb, 20, 1901. It was feeding in a pepper tree in company with several Red-shafted Flickers and was rather wild, in fact I had considerable difficulty in getting close enough to it to get a shot.

Besides these stragglers from the north and east, I have seen all through the past winter birds more or less common in the higher mountains, but rare or unknown at an altitude as low as the city of Los Angeles. On Nov. 14, 1900 I shot a female Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*); on Feb. 2, 1901 a female Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) and on Feb. 18 a male Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis*). All these birds were feeding in pepper trees and within 50 yards of the same place. For the last two months Cassin's Purple Finch (*Carpodacus cassini*) has been quite abundant, feeding in pepper and willow trees. Nearly all that I have seen have had the plumage of the lower parts badly stained and gummed together, being often nearly black on the throat and breast.

Last week, April 15, I saw a flock of about two dozen Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) feeding in some tall mustard, clinging to the top of the stems. I shot three and when I passed the spot several hours later the flock was still busily feeding. The three that I shot had their crops filled with plant lice, with which the wild mustard seed is covered. It struck me as rather an unusual diet for these birds. H. S. SWARTH.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 22, '01.

Harry R. Taylor made an interesting take on April 14 of White-tailed Kite ½. We say "interesting," inasmuch as Mr. Taylor mentions that his pulse registered 140 beats per minute when he reached *terra firma!* Verily the spirit of olden days has not forsaken H. R. T!