

The Subspecific Status of the Hutton Vireo of Vancouver Island.—The latest critical comments upon the Hutton Vireos of the Northwest Coast portion of the general range of *Vireo huttoni* were published almost simultaneously twelve years ago by two authors: Oberholser (Auk, 39, 1922, pp. 77-78) and Grinnell (Condor, 24, 1922, pp. 32-33). These students, arriving at their conclusions independently, were in agreement that *Vireo h. obscurus* Anthony, based on a specimen from Beaverton, Oregon, must be synonymized under *V. h. huttoni* Cassin, originally named from Monterey, California. But not quite such accord was shown as to disposal of the name *V. h. insularis* Rhoads, named from Victoria, Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

In this last regard, Oberholser (*op. cit.*, p. 78) made the following statements: "Unfortunately for the status of *Vireo huttoni insularis*, none of the Vancouver Island or other British Columbia specimens can be satisfactorily separated from California birds from the region about San Francisco Bay. The male type of *Vireo huttoni insularis*, from Victoria, British Columbia, and another specimen from the same locality, appear at first sight to be somewhat darker both above and below than California examples, but this apparent difference is readily traceable to some accidental soiling of the plumage. These facts, together with the lack of any differences shown by other specimens from Vancouver Island, take away all the present claim that *Vireo huttoni insularis* has for recognition as a subspecies." Grinnell (*loc. cit.*) stated: "Hutton Vireos from Vancouver Island are notably rare in collections. In the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology there are but two, both from Victoria. Both are dark as compared with Monterey *huttoni*; but both look to me to be smoked. I wouldn't care to rest the case for or against *insularis* on this scanty material. But before this name is given formal recognition by the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature, perfectly fresh, unfaded material should be available in fair quantity."

It happens that Major Allan Brooks has long been interested in this question—of the status of the Vancouver Island Hutton Vireos; and as a result, despite the apparent scarcity of the birds, he has now assembled a fair series. Out of this series he lately forwarded to me eight specimens, selected as not smoked or stained and hence of positive significance, with the suggestion that I look at them critically and report my findings. These specimens are before me at this writing, and I find them to show unquestionably darker, especially greener, tone of coloration dorsally and laterally, than specimens in corresponding condition of plumage from Oregon and California. However, I can detect no peculiarities in measurements or proportions.

In detail, the Brooks birds were collected in the months of December, January and March, at Comox, Nanaimo and Craig's, Vancouver Island. There can be no question that they are free from any adventitious discoloration and that they are unworn and unfaded. In a selected example, no. 3541, Brooks coll., from Comox, January 20, 1920, the back is nearest Dark Greenish Olive (of Ridgway, 1912, pl. XXX), as contrasted with near Deep Olive (the same, pl. XL) in no. 30488, Mus. Vert. Zool., from Seaside, Monterey County, California, of date January 12, 1919. While I am quite able to see a tendency toward the "sooty suffusion" remarked by Rhoads, my own eye receives the greatest impression of a more intensified greenness in all of the Vancouver Island birds. This is so well marked and so uniform a feature, in comparison with the southern populations, that I have no longer any hesitation in adjudging the Vancouver Island population of Hutton Vireos to represent a recognizable race, *Vireo huttoni insularis*.

Incidentally, one bird in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology from the Puget Sound region of Washington (no. 37080, South Tacoma, taken by J. H. Bowles, December 7, 1906) is very near, if not identical with, some of the Vancouver Island birds, and points toward a range for *insularis* possibly inclusive of the Olympic Peninsula and some adjacent territory. But available and pertinent material is too meager for the settling of this point.

It turns out, then, that Rhoads' original comments (Auk, 10, 1893, pp. 238-241) upon the Vancouver Island race which he named were, both nomenclaturally and ecologically, peculiarly appropriate.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 15, 1934.*

Nesting of the Pacific Evening Grosbeak in the Vicinity of Echo Lake, Eldorado County, California.—Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina brooksi*) made their appearance in the Echo Lake region during the summer of 1934 on June 22. Arriv-