

yellow; edges of all the quills dull greyish-white; secondaries with a faint patch of light brownish-grey on the outer web toward the end; middle tail-feathers greyish-brown, the rest blackish-brown, the outer with an oblique white space, including, from the tip, a considerable portion of the inner web, and more than two-thirds of the outer; the next with a white patch at the end; lower parts paler than the upper; lower tail and wing-coverts broadly tipped with dull white, some of the inner wing-coverts white.

Female, $8\frac{1}{4}$, wing, $4\frac{1}{2}$.

Columbia River.

GENUS IV.—CULICIVORA, *Swains.* GNAT-CATCHER.

Bill of moderate length, depressed at the base, rapidly attenuated, becoming very slender toward the end; upper mandible with the ridge distinct, the tip extremely narrow and deflected, the edges overlapping, the notch distinct, but very small; lower mandible with the angle of moderate length, the ridge narrowed toward the end, the edges inclinate, the tip acute. Nostrils oblong, exposed. Head ovate; neck short; body slender. Feet of moderate length, tarsus longer than the middle toe, extremely slender, with the upper scutella indistinct; toes very small, extremely compressed; hind toe proportionally very large; outer adherent at the base. Claws well arched, extremely compressed, laterally grooved, acute. Plumage very soft and blended. Wings of moderate length, concave; the first quill about a third of the length of the second, fourth longest, third and fifth little shorter. Tail long, slender, much rounded.

THE BLUE-GREY FLYCATCHER.

† CULICIVORA CERULEA, *Lath.*

PLATE LXX.—MALE AND FEMALE.

This diminutive lively bird is rendered peculiarly conspicuous by its being frequently the nurse or foster-parent of the young Cow Bunting, the real mother of which drops her egg in its nest. A few individuals of this species remain in Louisiana during spring and summer, and breed there; but the



Blue-grey Flycatcher?

Black Walnut. Juglans nigra

1. Male. 2. Female.

greater number proceed far eastward, and spread over the United States, although they are not common in any part.

The Blue-grey Flycatcher arrives in the neighbourhood of New Orleans about the middle of March, when it is observed along the water-courses, flitting about and searching diligently, amidst the branches of the Golden Willow, for the smaller kinds of winged insects, devouring amongst others great numbers of moschettoes. Its flight resembles that of the Long-tailed Titmouse of Europe. It moves to short distances, vibrating its tail while on wing, and, on alighting, is frequently seen hanging to the buds and bunches of leaves, at the extremities of the branches of trees. It seldom visits the interior of the forests, in any portion of our country, but prefers the skirts of woods along damp or swampy places, and the borders of creeks, pools, or rivers. It seizes insects on wing with great agility, snapping its bill like a true Flycatcher, now and then making little sallies after a group of those diminutive flies that seem as if dancing in the air, and cross each other in their lines of flight, in a thousand various ways.

When it has alighted, its tail is constantly erected, its wings droop, and it utters at intervals its low and uninteresting notes, which resemble the sounds *tsee, tsee*. It seldom if ever alights on the ground, and when thirsty prefers procuring water from the extremities of branches, or sips the rain or dew-drops from the ends of the leaves.

Its nest is composed of the frailest materials, and is light and small in proportion to the size of the bird. It is formed of portions of dried leaves, the husks of buds, the silky fibres of various plants and flowers, and light grey lichens, and is lined with fibres of Spanish moss or horsehair. I have found these nests always attached to two slender twigs of willow. The eggs are four or five, pure white, with a few reddish dots at the larger end. Two broods are reared in a season. The young and old hunt and migrate together, passing amongst the tops of the highest trees, from one to another. They leave the state of Louisiana in the beginning of October, the Middle States about the middle of September. I have seen some of these birds on the border line of Upper Canada, along the shores of Lake Erie. I have also observed them in Kentucky, Indiana, and along the Arkansas River.

In the plate is represented, along with a pair of these delicate birds, a twig of one of our most valuable trees, with its pendulous blossoms. This tree, the *black walnut*, grows in almost every part of the United States, in the richest soils, and attains a great height and diameter. The wood is used for furniture of all sorts, receives a fine polish, and is extremely durable. The stocks of muskets are generally made of it. The black walnut is plentiful in all the alluvial grounds in the vicinity of our rivers. The fruit is contained in a very hard shell, and is thought good by many people.

BLUE-GREY FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa cærulea*, Wils. Amer. Orn., vol. ii. p. 164.

SYLVIA CÆRULEA, Bonap. Syn. p. 85.

BLUE-GREY SYLVAN FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa cærulea*, Nutt. Man., vol. i. p. 297.

BLUE-GREY FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa cærulea*, Aud. Orn. Biog., vol. i. p. 431.

Upper parts bright blue, deeper on the head, paler on the tail-coverts; a narrow black band on the forehead, extending over the eyes; wings brownish-black, margined with blue, some of the secondaries with bluish-white; tail glossy black, the outer feather on each side nearly all white, the next with its terminal half, and the third with its tip of that colour; lower parts greyish-white. Female similar, but with the tints duller, and the black band on the head wanting.

Male, $4\frac{1}{2}$, $6\frac{1}{2}$.

From Texas northward. Abundant. Migratory.

THE BLACK WALNUT.

JUGLANS NIGRA, *Willd.*, Sp. Pl., vol. iv. p. 456. *Pursh*, Flor. Amer., vol. ii. p. 636. *Michx.* Arbr. Forest. de l'Amer. Sept., vol. i. p. 157, pl. 1.—MONECIA POLYANDRIA, *Linn.*—TEREBINTHACEÆ, *Juss.*

This species belongs to the division with simple, polyandrous male catkins, and is distinguished by its numerous ovato-lanceolate, subcordate, serrated leaflets, narrowed towards the end, somewhat downy beneath, as are the petioles; its globular scabrous fruits, and wrinkled nuts. The leaves have seven or eight nearly opposite pairs of leaflets. The male catkins are pendent. The fruits are sometimes from six to eight inches in circumference, the kernel brown and corrugated, and, although eaten, inferior to the common walnut. The bark of the trunk is thick, blackish, and cracked; the wood of a very dark colour.



Blue-grey Flycatcher?

Black Walnut. Juglans nigra

1. Male. 2. Female.



Audubon, John James. 1840. "The Blue-grey Flycatcher, *Culicivora coerulea*, Lath. [Pl. 70]." *The birds of America : from drawings made in the United States and their territories* 1, 244–246. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.319183>.

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