

BLACK-THROATED GREY WOOD-WARBLER.

SYLVICOLA NIGRESCENS, *Townsend*.

PLATE CXIV.—MALES.

This is another of the interesting species discovered and named by Mr. TOWNSEND, who informs me that it is called "*Ah Kah a qual*" by the Chinook Indians; that it is abundant in the forests of the Columbia, where it breeds and remains until winter; and that the nest, formed externally of fibrous green moss, is generally placed on the upper branches of the oak, suspended between two small twigs. Mr. NUTTALL's notice respecting it is as follows:—"This curious species, so much resembling *Sylvia striata*, was seen to arrive early in May; and from its song more regularly delivered at intervals, in the tops of deciduous-leaved trees, we have little doubt but that they breed in the forests of the Columbia. On the 23d of May I had the satisfaction of harkening to the delicate but monotonous song of this bird, as he busily and intently searched every leafy bough and expanding bud for larvæ and insects in a spreading oak, from whence he delivered his solitary note. Sometimes he remained a minute or two stationary, but more generally continued his quest for prey. His song, at short and regular intervals, seemed like '*t shee 't shay t shaitshee*', varying the feeble sound very little, and with the concluding note somewhat slenderly and plaintively raised."

SYLVIA NIGRESCENS, *Black-throated Grey Warbler*, Jour. Acad. Nat. Sc. Philadelphia, vol. vii. p. 191.

BLACK-THROATED GREY WARBLER, *Sylvia nigrescens*, Aud. Orn. Biog., vol. v. p. 57.

Wings of moderate length, with the outer three quills nearly equal, the second longest, the first shorter than the fourth; tail slightly rounded and emarginate. Male with the upper parts bluish ash-grey, the middle of the back and tail-coverts streaked with black; the upper part of the head and neck, the loreal space and cheeks, and the fore part of the neck, with a small portion of the breast, black; a band from the nostril to near the eye, yellow; a band over the eye, and another from the lower mandible along the side of the neck, white; breast and abdomen white, the sides tinged with grey, and streaked with black; wings blackish-brown, with two white bands formed by the tips of the secondary coverts and first row of small coverts; quills

edged with light grey; tail blackish-brown, the two outer feathers on each side almost entirely white, the next with a white patch on the inner web.

Male 5, wing $2\frac{8}{12}$.

Columbia river. Migratory.

THE BLACK-THROATED BLUE WOOD-WARBLER.

SYLVICOLA CANADENSIS, Linn.

PLATE XCV.—MALE AND YOUNG.

I have met with this species in every portion of the Southern and Western States, where, however, it is seen only in the early part of spring and in autumn, on its passage to and from its summer residence. In South Carolina it arrives about the 25th of March, and becomes more abundant in April; but it has left that country by the 10th of May. During its stay there, it keeps in deep woods, where it may be seen passing among the boughs, at a height of from ten to twenty feet from the ground.

Proceeding eastward, we find it more numerous, but residing only in the depths of the morasses and swampy thickets. I saw many individuals of the species in the Great Pine Forest of Pennsylvania, after which I traced it through the upper parts of the State of New York into Maine, the British Provinces, and the Magdeleine Islands, in the Bay of St. Lawrence. In Newfoundland I saw none, and in Labrador only a dead one, dry and shrivelled, deposited like a mummy in the fissure of a rock, where the poor bird had fallen a victim to the severity of the climate, from which it had vainly endeavoured to shelter itself.

I am indebted to the generous and most hospitable Dr. MACCULLOCH of Halifax for the nest and eggs of this Warbler, which had been found by his sons, who are keen observers of birds. The nest is usually placed on the horizontal branch of a fir-tree, at a height of seven or eight feet from the ground. It is composed of slips of bark, mosses, and fibrous roots, and is lined with fine grass, on which is laid a warm bed of feathers. The eggs, four or five in number, are of a rosy tint, and, like those of most other *Sylvia*, scantily sprinkled with reddish-brown at the larger end. Only one brood is raised in a season. The young, when fully fledged, resemble their



Black-throated Grey Wood-Warbler.
Males.



Audubon, John James. 1841. "Black-Throated Grey Wood-Warbler, *Sylvicola nigrescens*, Townsend. [Pl. 94]." *The birds of America : from drawings made in the United States and their territories* 2, 62–63. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.319207>

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