

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW VIREO.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

The vireos of the *bellii* type from southwestern Texas, though in certain respects intermediate between *Vireo bellii bellii* and *Vireo bellii pusillus* seem to be sufficiently distinct from either to require a name. In view of this they may be called

***Vireo bellii medius*, subsp. nov.**

Chars. subsp..—Similar to *Vireo bellii bellii*, but paler, more grayish above; paler and much less extensively yellow below.

Geographical distribution..—Southwestern Texas, and immediately adjacent portion of Mexico.

Description..—Type, adult male, No. 168275, U. S. N. M., Biological Survey Collection; Boquillas, Texas, May 24, 1901; H. C. Oberholser. Head and nape brownish gray; back and scapulars dull grayish olive green, the rump rather brighter; wings and tail fuscous, margined exteriorly with olive, the former crossed by two distinct dull white bars; lores grayish white; sides of head and neck pale brownish gray; underparts white, washed with yellowish across the breast; flanks and sides of body pale olive yellow; under tail-coverts yellowish.

The differences between this race and true *bellii* are most evident in the much more grayish head, the decidedly darker back, and in the restriction of the yellow of the flanks and sides—the middle of abdomen and breast being almost pure white. In size there appears to be no material difference. From *Vireo bellii pusillus* it may be distinguished by its darker, less uniform upper surface, the back being distinctly olive

green in contrast to the head and nape; the much more yellowish flanks and sides; the rather less purely white under surface; and the decidedly shorter tail.

Specimens to the westward in the range of *Vireo bellii medius* indicate intergradation with *pusillus*, and taken in connection with hardly typical examples of the latter from extreme western Texas, show pretty conclusively that to *pusillus* there belongs a trimomial name.

Average millimeter measurements of five specimens of each of these three forms are as follows:

Vireo bellii bellii (Kansas and Illinois): wing, 55.6; tail, 45.8; exposed culmen, 10; tarsus, 18.5; middle toe, 9.8.

Vireo bellii medius (Texas): wing, 54.1; tail, 46.3; exposed culmen, 9.7; tarsus, 18.5; middle toe, 9.4.

Vireo bellii pusillus (California): wing, 54.6; tail, 49.6; exposed culmen, 9.3; tarsus, 18.9; middle toe, 9.9.



Oberholser, Harry C. 1903. "Description of a new Vireo." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 16, 17–18.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/19609>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/94405>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Internet Archive

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.