**Polioptila.**


Supra plumbeo-cærulea, fronte et superciliis nigris, loris, capitis lateribus et corporo subitus albis cinereo tinctis; occulorum ambitu albo; alis fusco-nigris, remigibus et tectribus sordide cinereo limbatis, secundaris intimis late albo marginatis; cauda nigræ, rectrices utrinque extimæ parte exposita alba, proximæ dimidio apicali albo, tertia utrinque albo terminata; rostro et pedibus nigris. Long. tota 4-5, alae 2-1, caudæ 2, rostri a rictu 0-6, tarsi 0-75. (Descr. maris ex Lanquin, Vera Paz. Mus. nostr.)

♀ mari similis, sed paulo cinerascentior, fronte et superciliis nigris absentibus. (Descr. fem. ex Dueñas, Guatemala. Mus. nostr.)

**Hab.** Middle region of United States 7 9.—Mexico 11 (*le Strange*), Mazatlán (*Grayson* 5), Tamaulipas and Colima (*Couch* 3), Cordova (*Sallé* 17), Jalapa (*de Oca* 2 12), Oaxaca (*Boncard* 13 14), Tonila (*Xantus* 5), Santa Efigenia and Juchitan, Tehuantepec (*Sumichrast* 6), Merida, Yucatan (*Schott* 4); *Guatemala*, Retalhuleu, Escuintla, Dueñas 15, summit of Volcan de Agua 15, San Gerónimo, Tactic, Coban, Lanquin, savannas of Peten (*O. S. 8* F. D. G.).—**Cuba** 10; **Bahamas** 7.

*Polioptila caerulea* was well known to the old writers of the last century, having formed the subject of plate 302 of Edwards’s ‘Gleanings of Natural History,’ published in 1760, under the name of “The Little Blue-grey Flycatcher,” subsequently called *Motacilla caerulea* by Linnaeus 1. It is a familiar species in the United States during the summer, where it arrives early in April and remains till September. Dr. Coues, to whom the bird is well known, has given a full account of its habits in the neighbourhood of Washington in the breeding-season, and described its nest and eggs 9. Its winter quarters are to be found in Mexico and Guatemala, all records of its occurrence in the former country having been made in the autumn, winter, or early spring months. In the latter country we only found it between September and March. The earliest record of its appearance is given by Prof. Sumichrast, who observed it on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in August, whilst it came under our notice at Retalhuleu in September. March seems to be the month of its departure from the south; we have a specimen shot at Lanquin in that month, but none later. In Texas Dr. Merrill says it is abundant during the migration; but here a few remain to breed 8. In Guatemala it is a very common bird nearly everywhere, its restless pursuit of insects rendering its presence almost certain to be detected wherever it is found. Stems, branches, and leaves of trees and shrubs are all searched with the greatest diligence, so that the movements of the bird soon catch the eye of one on the look-out for such objects.

The great range in altitude at which *Polioptila caerulea* is found in Guatemala is somewhat surprising; we observed it in the stunted bushes which grow on the crater of the Volcan de Agua, at a height of 12,300 feet above the sea, and also at Retalhuleu, which is not more than 900 feet, a difference of 11,400 feet! and this in places that are almost within sight of each other.