


Supra olivaceus, pileo cinerascence utrince fusco marginato, superciliis sordido albis, loris et stria utrince rectali fuscis; subitus albidus, hypochondriis et crissos vix olivaceo tinctis; rostro et pedibus corneis. Long. tota 6-0, alae 3-2, caudae 2-35, rostri a rictu 0-85, tarsi 0-75. (Deser. maris ex Panama. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. NORTH AMERICA, Florida—PANAMA, Lion-Hill Station (M'Leannan).—VENEZUELA; GUIANA; ANTILLES, Cuba, Jamaica, San Domingo, Windward Islands generally.

This species is a well-known inhabitant of most of the West-Indian Islands, having been figured as long ago as 1751 by Edwards from specimens obtained in the island of Jamaica. Upon this figure Linnaeus founded his description. Vieillot also described it from San-Domingo specimens, giving it the name of altiloha. The Cuban representative of this form has sometimes been admitted to specific rank under the name of V. barbatula; so also have those of the Lesser Antilles in several instances been provided with names; but, after examining a considerable series, it seems to us that the points of difference are too slight and unstable to admit of any separation being satisfactorily made.

The presence of this Vireo in Continental America has only recently been ascertained. M'Leannan in 1864 sent us a single specimen from Panama which we referred to this species. This is the only one we have seen from Central America; and the correctness of its determination was questioned by Prof. Baird. But we have now obtained authentic specimens both from Merida and San Esteban in Venezuela, and from Bartica Grove in British Guiana (the latter sent us by Mr. Whitely); and neither do these nor does our Panama specimen differ from the Jamaican bird. Moreover it has now become much more probable that the description by Vicomte DuBus of a bird from Ocaña in Colombia as Vireosylvia frenata was based upon an individual of V. calidris captured in its winter quarters. Messrs. Newton and Mr. Ober both suspected that the birds observed in St. Croix and Dominica were migrants, arriving in the spring, remaining to breed, and departing again before winter; and on this point we have recently the positive testimony of Mr. Edward Newton, now residing in Jamaica, who assures us that V. calidris is certainly a migratory species in that island. The presence of the species on the continent of South America is thus satisfactorily explained; and we include V. calidris in this work without further hesitation. The fact, too, of this bird being migratory lessens very much indeed the probability of there being any distinct island forms.

* Nat. Hist. B. iii. p. 121, t. 121. f. 2.