STELGIDOPTERYX.

Stelgidopteryx, Baird, Birds N. Am. p. 312 (1858); Rev. Am. B. i. p. 312.

The American Rough-winged Swallows were usually placed in the genus Cotile prior to Prof. Baird's separation of them, first as a subgenus in 1858, and afterwards as a genus in 1865. Their general colour-resemblance to C. riparia probably led to this arrangement. Prof. Baird, however, pointed out that not only was the outer web of the primaries roughened by the barbs of the feather being pointed and recurved, but that the nostrils opened upwards without any overhanging membrane. These characters seem enough to separate Stelgidopteryx from the rest of the American Swallows.

Prof. Baird indicated five species of this genus in his 'Review of American Birds,' but these, we think, ought to be reduced to three, S. fulvipennis being, in our opinion, not separable from S. serripennis, and S. fulvigula and S. uropygialis being young and adult of the same bird. We thus have:—a North-American species, S. serripennis, which spreads over Mexico and Central America as far as the State of Panama; S. uropygialis, which is found in Central America as far north as Costa Rica, and thence extends over the northern parts of South America; and, lastly, S. ruficollis, which is found in Brazil and Bolivia, and northwards to the Amazons valley and Eastern Ecuador.

S. serripennis is a fairly well defined species; but the limits between S. uropygialis and S. ruficollis are not so definite.

1. Stelgidopteryx serripennis.


Murino-brunnea, alis et cauda nigrantibus, secundaria extus albo tenuissime limbatis, subitas dilutior, gula et ventre medio sordide griseis, illa aliquando rufescenti tinctor, crissio albo; rostro et pedibus nigrantibus. Long. tota 4'7, alae 4'6, caudae 2'3, rostri a rictu 0'55, tarsi 0'4. (Deser. maris ex Dueñas, Guatemala. Mus. nostr.)

Av. hornul. pectore rufescenti, secundaria extus et alarum tectricibus rufescendentibus differt. (Deser. exempl. ex Dueñas, Guatemala. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. North America (except N.E. States) from Canada and British Columbia southwards 11, Texas 7.—Mexico, Nuevo Leon (Couch 4 8), valley of Mexico (Le Strange), Cordova (Sallé 3), Orizaba (Botteri 3 14), Jalapa (de Oca 12 14), State of Vera Cruz