

distinguishing it from *S. cinerea* all break down ; for the vertical feathers of the head of some of our northern specimens have white at their bases, just as in southern ones ; the wing-coverts are tipped with dusky white, and the under surfaces of the two forms are not to be distinguished in colour.

*Serphophaga cinerea* was described in 1844 by Strickland from a specimen said to have come from Chili<sup>1</sup>, probably a wrong locality ; but the species has a wide range throughout the Andes from Bolivia northwards to the valley of the Cauca. Missing the Isthmus of Panama, it reappears in the more mountainous parts of that State and in Costa Rica. It frequents the highland forests up to an elevation of 5000 and 10,000 feet, for Tschudi records it from the Sierra de Tarma (10,000 feet), Fraser from Cuenca (8200 feet), and Salmon from Envigado (5500 feet), but it is also found, according to Jelski and Stolzmann, at a low level in the environs of Lima<sup>9</sup>.

Its habit of living near running streams has been recorded by several travellers. Fraser speaks of it as hopping from stone to stone in the Gualaquiza river, and Boucard, who observed it at Naranjo in Costa Rica, says it lives along the streams and sits on the stones lying in or near the water just in the manner of *Sayornis aquatica*. Stolzmann also speaks of its having the same habits in Peru. The last-named traveller found its nest towards the end of June attached to the extremity of a bough, to which it was suspended over the surface of the water. The nest was composed almost exclusively of moss and lined with feathers, and fixed by its lower surface to the branch. Salmon also found its nest, which he does not describe, but says the eggs are creamy white<sup>7</sup>.

### MIONECTES.

*Mionectes*, Cabanis in Tschudi's Fauna Per. p. 147 (1845) (type *Muscicapa straticollis*, d'Orb. & Lafr.) ; Sci. Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xiv. p. 111.

*Mionectes* is the first of our genera which is placed in the "Elaineinæ" by Mr. Sclater, but the rictal bristles, though shorter than in most of the "Platyrhynchinæ," are quite obvious, and the structure of the bill is similar to that of the genera we have just discussed.

The genus itself is a neotropical one spread over the greater part of South America as far as South Brazil on the one hand and Southern Mexico on the other. Of the two sections into which the four species of *Mionectes* are now divided, *M. olivaceus* reaches Costa Rica and *M. oleagineus* Southern Mexico, both being also found in the southern continent.

The general plumage of the members of *Mionectes* is olivaceous, with the abdomen either yellowish or cinnamon. The bill of *M. olivaceus* is rather elongated and compressed, the sides converging gradually to the tip, the width at the gape being considerably less than half the length of the tomia, the culmen is nearly straight for the greater part of its length and then curves abruptly to the tip ; the nostrils are open,