

which is the most southern part of the range of this species, Mr. Hudson says that it is a summer visitor<sup>4</sup>. It is shy and solitary, and flits about the upper foliage of the trees, uttering a sorrowful monotonous note.

The nest is placed in a bush or low tree and built of various soft materials compactly woven together, and the inside lined with feathers or vegetable down. The eggs are four in number, of a pale cream-colour with large well-defined spots of dark red.

### 5. *Myiobius capitalis*. (Tab. XL. fig. 1.)

*Myiobius capitalis*, Salv. P. Z. S. 1864, p. 583<sup>1</sup>; Nutting & Ridgw. Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. vi. p. 403<sup>2</sup>.

*Mitrephanes capitalis*, Scl. Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xiv. p. 220<sup>3</sup>.

Supra olivaceus; capite cinereo; loris albidis; alis et cauda obscure fuscis, illis distincte fulvo limbatis: subtus gula albida; pectore obscure fulvo; abdomine et subalaribus flavidis: rostro obscure corneo; pedibus corylinis. Long. tota 4.5, alæ 2.5, caudæ 2.2, tarsi 0.6, rostri a rictu 0.6. (Descr. exempl. typ. ex Tucuriqui, Costa Rica. Mus. nostr.)

*Hab.* NICARAGUA, Los Sabalos (*Nutting*<sup>2</sup>); COSTA RICA, Tucuriqui (*Arcé*<sup>1</sup>).

Until recently the single specimen sent us from Tucuriqui in Costa Rica by Arcé was the only one known. Mr. Nutting has since obtained a second at Los Sabalos in Nicaragua, which he found in dense forest. The bird has no near allies in the genus *Myiobius*, but its resemblance in some respects to *Mitrephanes aurantiiventris* suggested to Mr. Ridgway that it should be placed in *Mitrephanes* rather than *Myiobius*.

We do not concur in this view, and believe that it would be better to leave it where it was originally placed. *Mitrephanes* as here understood contains two perfectly congeneric species, distinguishable by their distinct crests and long, deeply-forked tails. Neither *M. capitalis* nor *Empidonax atriceps* possess either of these characters.

Though both *M. capitalis* and *Mitrephanes aurantiiventris* occur at Tucuriqui in Costa Rica, it is probable that the former belongs to the lowlands and the latter to the uplands, and that they meet here at the opposite extremes of their vertical range.

## PYROCEPHALUS.

*Pyrocephalus*, Gould, Zool. Voy. Beagle, iii. p. 44 (1841) (type *Muscicapa rubinea*, Bodd.); Scl. Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xiv. p. 211.

In its coloration *Pyrocephalus* stands alone amongst the Tyrannidæ, no other members of the family having the brilliant red breast and head which distinguish *P. rubineus* and its allies.

Mr. Sclater includes four species in the genus, but *P. mexicanus* is hardly separable from *P. rubineus* and the status of *P. obscurus* is not very satisfactory, as it is not improbably only a dark form of the common *P. rubineus*. The fourth is the *P. nanus* of the Galapagos Islands—a dwarf form of the mainland bird.

The bill is moderately stout, the length of the tomia being rather more than twice the width at the rictus, the sides converge gradually to the tip; the nostrils are open