

section Tyranninæ of the Family. Writers on North-American birds assign to it a similar position, but Mr. Sclater considers *Sayornis* to belong to the South-American Fluvicolinæ; but he employs Cabanis's name *Empidias* for *E. fuscus* (= *E. phæbe*), and places it at the other end of the Family after *Myiarchus*. We do not see our way to following this arrangement, and prefer to place *Sayornis* near *Myiarchus* and *Empidonax* rather than with the strictly terrestrial Fluvicolinæ. At the same time we admit that *Sayornis* and *Ochthoeca* have characters in common.

*Sayornis* in its wide sense contains three groups of species—one consisting of *S. saya*, the type of the genus, the second *S. nigricans* and two other species, *S. aquatica* and *S. cineracea*, the third *S. phæbe*. All these species frequent places near streams of water, the group of *S. nigricans* being especially partial to river-banks, where they sit on stones on or close to the margin and take their insect food from near the surface of the water. All the species have similar nesting-habits and lay white or slightly spotted eggs.

*Sayornis saya* has a somewhat flattened bill, rather broad at the base; the culmen is nearly straight for most of its length and then curves suddenly to form the terminal maxillary hook; the nostrils are covered with strong bristles and the rictal bristles are also very fully developed; the tarsi are short and the feet feeble; the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th primaries are nearly equal and longest in the wing, the 1st = 6th; the tail is very slightly forked, =  $\frac{6}{7}$  wing, < 4 tarsus.

### 1. *Sayornis saya*.

*Muscicapa saya*, Bp. Am. Orn. i. p. 20, t. 2. f. 3 (1825)<sup>1</sup>.

*Tyrannula sayii*?, Sw. Orn. Draw. t. 70<sup>2</sup>.

*Sayornis sayus*, Baird, Mex. Bound. Surv., Zool., Birds, p. 9<sup>3</sup>; Dresser, Ibis, 1865, p. 473<sup>4</sup>; Sumichrast, Mem. Bost. Soc. N. H. i. p. 557<sup>5</sup>; Baird, Brew., & Ridgw. N. Am. B. ii. p. 347<sup>6</sup>; Lawr. Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 4, p. 25<sup>7</sup>; Sennett, Bull. U. S. Geol. Surv. v. p. 404<sup>8</sup>; Perez, Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. ix. p. 154<sup>9</sup>.

*Sayornis saya*, A. O. U. Check-list N.-Am. B. p. 233<sup>10</sup>; Ridgw. Man. N. Am. B. p. 336<sup>11</sup>.

*Theromyias sayi*, Cab. & Heine, Mus. Hein. ii. p. 68<sup>12</sup>.

*Tyrannula pallida*, Sw. Phil. Mag. new ser. i. p. 367<sup>13</sup>.

*Sayornis pallida*, Scl. P. Z. S. 1857, p. 204<sup>14</sup>, 1859, p. 366<sup>15</sup>; Cat. Am. B. p. 200<sup>16</sup>; Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xiv. p. 32<sup>17</sup>; Dugès, La Nat. i. p. 141<sup>18</sup>.

Griseo-fusca; capite summo et tectricibus supracaudalibus obscurioribus; cauda nigricante; alis fuscis, tectricibus majoribus et secundariis extrorsum sordide griseo limbatis: ventre et crisso pallide cinnameis; subalaribus pallide cervinis: rostro et pedibus nigris. Long. tota 6.5, alæ 4.0, caudæ 3.2, rostri a rictu 0.8, tarsi 0.8. (Descr. exempl. ex urbe Mexico. Mus. nostr.)

*Hab.* NORTH AMERICA, western portion from the plains to the Pacific<sup>11</sup>, Texas<sup>4 8</sup>.—MEXICO, Nuevo Larido and Topochico (*F. B. Armstrong*); Caretas, La Mula, Chupadero in the State of Chihuahua (*W. Lloyd*), Santa Isabel, Espia (*Kennerly*<sup>3</sup>), Plains of San Luis Potosi (*Richardson*), Tablelands (*Bullock*<sup>13</sup>), Guanajuato (*Dugès*<sup>18</sup>), valley of Mexico (*le Strange*), Hacienda Eslava, Culhuacan, Mexicalcingo,