

Originally described from a Cordova specimen, with which others from Jalapa, Orizaba, Cofre de Perote, &c. agree. They are all rather darker than examples from the valley of Mexico, Oaxaca, and the Sierra Madre of North-western Mexico, the latter having been described by Mr. Brewster as *M. p. tenuirostris*.

The difference of colour is extremely slight, but follows the usual rule where the birds of Eastern Mexico, with its greater rainfall, are rather darker than those from the drier plateau and the western sierras. The difference in the size of the bill is hardly appreciable in the series before us. In the series obtained by Mrs. Smith in the months of July and August in the Sierra Madre del Sur are light and dark coloured birds as well as young in their first plumage.

In Guatemala *M. phæocercus* is common in the oak-forests lying at an elevation of 4500 feet and upwards, and is one of the most characteristic species of these woods. We never met with its nest or eggs.

## 2. *Mitrephanes aurantiiventris*.

*Mitrephorus aurantiiventris*, Lawr. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. viii. p. 174<sup>1</sup>, ix. p. 114<sup>2</sup>; Salv. Ibis, 1869, p. 315<sup>3</sup>; P. Z. S. 1870, p. 198<sup>4</sup>; v. Frantz. J. f. Orn. 1869, p. 308<sup>5</sup>.

*Mitrephanes aurantiiventris*, Scl. Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xiv. p. 219<sup>6</sup>.

*Mitrephorus phæocercus*, Lawr. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. ix. p. 114<sup>7</sup>.

Præcedenti similis, sed supra magis olivaceus, abdomine medio aurantiaco distinguendus. (Descr. exempl. ex Irazu, Costa Rica. Mus. nostr.)

*Hab.* COSTA RICA, Tabacales<sup>1</sup>, La Palma<sup>2</sup>, Candelaria (v. *Frantzius*<sup>2 5</sup>), Tucurriqui (*Arcé*), Irazu (*Rogers*), Dota<sup>2</sup>, Barranca (*Carmirol*); PANAMA, Volcan de Chiriqui, Chitra, Calovevora<sup>4</sup>, Calobre (*Arcé*).

The specimens of this species differ considerably from each other in the colouring of the top of the head, some being much darker than others; but this variation seems to be due to individual, seasonal, or perhaps sexual characters.

*M. aurantiiventris* is closely allied to the bird of the Mexican and Guatemalan highlands, *M. phæocercus*, but appears to frequent places lying at a lower level, descending in some cases as low as 2000 feet above the sea. It is a common bird both in Costa Rica and the State of Panama, but its nest and eggs still remain unknown.

## EMPIDONAX.

*Empidonax*, Cabanis, J. f. Orn. 1855, p. 480 (type *E. pusillus* (Sw.)); Scl. Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xiv. p. 221.

*Empidonax* is one of the most complex genera of the Tyrannidæ as regards the differential characters of some of its species, comparable in this respect to the Old-World genus *Phylloscopus*. Several distinguished American ornithologists have paid great attention to *Empidonax*, and descriptions, "keys," and all such aids to