

A New Race of Wood Pewee from Mexico

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The breeding Wood Pewees of the southwestern Mexican State of Guerrero have been called *Contopus richardsonii richardsonii* by Griscom (2); *C. r. sordidulus* by Ridgway (5) and Blake (1); *C. virens sordidulus* by Hellmayr (3). In identifying the W. W. Brown collection of Guerrero birds at the California Academy of Sciences, I found myself in disagreement with all of these authorities. The Guerrero bird is:

Contopus sordidulus griscomi new subspecies

Subspecific characters.—Breeding adults paler and grayer on breast and flanks, whiter on throat, paler and more olivaceous on back and crown than either *C. s. veliei* or *C. s. sordidulus*; smaller-billed than *C. s. peninsulæ*; much paler both dorsally and ventrally than *C. s. saturatus*; paler both dorsally and ventrally, with a darker mandible, and with a relatively shorter tail than *C. virens*. Fall immatures slightly paler and grayer than *C. s. veliei*; definitely paler, less blackish, than *C. s. saturatus*; and definitely paler and grayer, less brownish, than *C. s. sordidulus*. Wing length averaging shorter than in *C. s. saturatus*, *C. s. veliei*, and *C. s. peninsulæ* but longer than in *C. s. sordidulus*. Tail, as measured by length beyond longest upper tail covert, averaging longer than in *C. s. peninsulæ*, shorter than in *C. s. veliei* and *C. s. saturatus*, and similar to *C. s. sordidulus*. Bill, best measured as length from nostril, smaller than in *C. s. peninsulæ*, *C. s. veliei*, and *C. s. saturatus*, and similar to *C. s. sordidulus*.

Type.—California Academy of Sciences, adult male, taken May 9, 1951, at Chilpancingo, Guerrero by W. W. Brown. Wing 86 mm., tail 61 mm., bill from nostril 9.2 mm., tail beyond longest upper tail covert, 29 mm.

Range.—Known only from Chilpancingo and Cuapongo, Guerrero. Specimens examined varied in collection dates from April 1 to August 2. Winter specimens not seen, but presumably winters in South America. Specimens intermediate between this race and *C. s. veliei* and/or *C. s. sordidulus* have been examined from Nayarit, Sinaloa, Michoacan, Zacatecas, and Durango.

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Remarks.—The comparisons of adults were made with May, June, and July specimens; of immatures with July through October specimens. For measurements of the wing and tail length, see Tables I and II. On many adult specimens I made seven measurements. Length of

TABLE I.

Measurements in millimeters of the chord of the wing of May, June, and July adults. Averages in parentheses.

	♂'s	♀'s
Guerrero, 17 ♂ and 23 ♀ <i>C. s. griscomi</i>	82-88 (84.6)	77-82 (79.3)
Arizona exclusive of southeastern corner, 25 ♂ and 18 ♀ <i>C. s. veliei</i>	82-90 (86.7)	80-84 (82.6)
Texas, Utah, Idaho, British Columbia, Oregon and California, 19 ♂ and 15 ♀ <i>C. s. veliei</i>	84-89 (86.8)	80-84 (82.3)
Chiapas, eastern Guerrero, and eastern Zacatecas, 2 ♂ and 1 ♀ <i>C. s. sordidulus</i>	82-84 (83.0)	78
Southeastern Arizona and northwestern Chihuahua, 18 ♂ and 12 ♀ intermediates	83-90 (86.3)	77-85 (81.1)
Durango and Zacatecas, 4 ♂ and 1 ♀ intermediates	83-87 (84.2)	81
Sinaloa, Michoacan, and Nayarit, 5 ♂ and 4 ♀ intermediates	84-90 (87.4)	80-83 (81.2)
Alaska and British Columbia, 3 ♂ <i>C. s. saturatus</i>	84-88 (85.3)	
Southern Baja California, 2 ♂ <i>C. s. peninsulæ</i>	86-86 (86.0)	

TABLE II

Measurements of the tail in millimeters, as measured by length beyond longest upper tail covert. Averages in parentheses. May, June and July adult males only.

Guerrero, 2 <i>C. s. griscomi</i>	29-32 (30.5)
Sinaloa, Nayarit, Durango, Michoacan, Tamaulipas, and Nuevo Leon, 8 intermediates	29-34 (31.0)
Southeastern Arizona, 11 intermediates	28-34 (31.5)
Arizona exclusive of southeastern corner, 17 <i>C. s. veliei</i>	29-34 (31.9)
Texas, Utah, Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia, 13 <i>C. s. veliei</i>	31-34 (32.9)
Baja California, 2 <i>C. s. peninsulæ</i>	26-28 (27.0)
Northeastern Guerrero, 1 <i>C. s. sordidulus</i>	29

bill from nostril, length of tail beyond longest upper tail covert, and wing length showed definite but not particularly significant geographical variation. Length of tail, exposed culmen, primary 7 minus primary 10, and primary 9 minus primary 4 (these last 2 designed to measure roundedness of the wing) did not show definite geographical variation. The measurements given in Tables I and II were all taken by myself except for those from Arizona, most of which were made by Allan R. Phillips. I have followed Phillips and Parkes (4) in rejecting the name *richardsonii* and substituting therefor the specific name *sordidulus* and subspecific name *veliei*.

Synopsis of the Western Wood Pewees of Mexico

- Contopus sordidulus veliei*.—Breeds in northern Baja California, Sonora, Coahuila, Tamaulipas, and Nuevo Leon; a common migrant farther south. Paler than *saturatus* and *sordidulus*, but darker than *griscomi* and *peninsulæ*.
- C. s. peninsulæ*.—Breeds in southern Baja California. As pale as *griscomi*, but distinguishable from that and all other races by the larger bill.
- C. s. griscomi*.—See above.
- C. s. sordidulus*.—Breeds in extreme eastern Zacatecas (Lulu), Hidalgo, Puebla, Vera Cruz, northeastern Guerrero (Taxco), Morelos, Oaxaca, and Chiapas. Darker than the preceding races, especially on the crown, and also browner in the immature plumage.
- C. s. saturatus*.—The Alaskan race occurs fairly commonly in western Mexico as a migrant, as noted by Van Rossem (7). Specimens examined were: Near Zacatecas City, Zacatecas, September 22, 1955; Chilpancingo, Guerrero, September 11, 1944, October 17, 1938, May 1, 1945, August 19, 1937. Darker, blacker than all other races.
- C. s. veliei* x *sordidulus* x *griscomi*.—The Wood Pewee population of southeastern Arizona, southeastern Sonora, and Chihuahua was named *placens* by Van Rossem (6 and 7). I have, in the past (Webster and Orr, 8 and 9), recognized *placens*, adding Durango and western Zacatecas to the breeding range of the race, although I was well aware that southeastern Arizona birds are difficult to distinguish, even in series, from those of California. And, unfortunately, the type locality of *placens* is in Arizona. In view of the two well-marked races now recognized in southern Mexico, it now seems more sound to regard this area as one of intergradations and to relegate *placens* to the synonymy of *veliei*.

Specimens Studied

- C. s. veliei*: British Columbia, 15; Oregon, 7; California, 65; Idaho, 3; Utah, 4; Brewster County, Texas, 7; Guerrero, 12 (April); Chiapas, 1 (April); Tres Marias Ids., 1 (May 5, 1897); Michoacan, 1 (April); Vera Cruz, 1 (April).

- C. s. veliei*, intermediate toward *sordidulus* and/or *griscomi*: South-eastern Arizona, 10; northwestern Chihauhau, 5; Nuevo Leon, 1; Tamaulipas, 1.
- C. s. griscomi*, intermediate toward *sordidulus* and/or *veliei*: Durango, 4; western Zacatecas, 2; Nayarit, 6; Sinaloa, 3; central Michoacan, 2 (Patzcuaro).
- C. s. griscomi*: Guerrero, 62 (April, 21; May, 26; June, 10; July, 4; August, 1).
- C. s. sordidulus*: Eastern Zacatecas, 1; Hidalgo, 1; Pueblo, 1; Chiapas, 1; northeastern Guerrero, 1 (Taxco).
- C. s. peninsulae*: Baja California, 2 (Sierra de Laguna).
- C. s. saturatus*: Alaska, 4; British Columbia, 4; Arizona, 1 (September); Zacatecas, 1; Guerrero, 4; New Mexico, 1 (August).

This list includes only the material studied at the California Academy of Sciences and Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in 1955-56 and at Hanover College in the fall of 1956. In addition, series of Arizona and Sonora *veliei* and of Baja California *peninsulae* and a few southern Mexico *sordidulus* had previously been examined.

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