

an inordinate appetite for pelican eggs. Young pelicans grow fast, and while they cannot fly for two months, they can swim expertly at a much earlier period. If it were not for the gulls, Molly Island would be a rather solemn and quiet nesting ground, for the old pelicans never make a sound and even the young have only a low grunt.

The White Pelican gets his prey by scooping up fish as he swims along; often a school is driven before him into a sheltered cove where a sudden rush and a violent plunge secures a pouch full. A White Pelican is said never to dive, yet on at least one occasion while riding along the shore of the Yellowstone River I saw one do that very thing. He did not drop from the air with a mighty splash as a Brown Pelican would have done, but plunged forward and down from the river surface after the manner of a grebe. He went clear under the surface, but I could not say whether or not he caught his fish. This bird does not use his pouch to hold fish in, but gulps them down as fast as caught; still the pouch does serve to strain the fish from the water. Sometimes I have seen a pelican rob a fish-duck when that bird incautiously fished too near.

This Yellowstone colony bids fair, under government protection, to maintain its size indefinitely. While the mortality is high among the young birds, enough reach maturity to a little better than maintain the number. Pelicans are hardy birds, and their greatest danger is from the encroachments of civilization. Here on Molly Island they seem to be secure, for they are too far from the regular tourist route to be molested often. Almost all of the pelicans are infested with a tapeworm (*Dibothrium cordiceps*) in the intestinal tract. Here the parasite lives and discharges its eggs out into the waters of the lake to be eaten by the trout, who become the unwitting hosts of the worms in their larval, or intermediate stage. And of course the consumption of the trout by the pelicans completes the circle and permits the larvae to develop. However, these parasites do not destroy the pelican nor even affect his health to an appreciable extent.

A third bird that I have noted on Molly Island is the Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*). I have seen small flocks there twice, both times in late May, the birds with the black cap and the coral-red bill of the breeding season. But, unfortunately, I have never been able to determine positively that these terns nested on the islets, although I believe they do.

Summerville, South Carolina, March 31, 1917.

A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *GEOTHYLPIS BELDINGI*

By HARRY C. OBERHOLSER

THE Belding Yellow-throat, *Geothlypis beldingi* Ridgway, is a rather uncommon bird in collections. Occurring, as it does, only in the southern portion of the peninsula of Lower California, its development into two subspecies would seem hardly probable, but such is now seen evidently to be the case. During the course of the identification of specimens of *Geothlypis* in the Biological Survey collection, the writer's attention was called to the very conspicuous differences between individuals of this species from the Cape San Lu-

cas region and those from the central portion of the Lower California peninsula. On further comparison the latter prove to represent a remarkable new subspecies, which I take pleasure in dedicating to Mr. Edward A. Goldman, who, with Mr. E. W. Nelson, collected the type series.

***Geothlypis beldingi goldmani*, subsp. nov.**

CHARS. SUBSP.—Similar to *Geothlypis beldingi beldingi*, but male with the upper surface much duller, more brownish or grayish (less yellowish) throughout; crown behind the black mask largely or wholly grayish or whitish instead of yellow; yellow of under parts somewhat lighter and confined to throat and breast; lower abdomen white or whitish, instead of usually deep yellow, as in *Geothlypis beldingi*; sides and flanks paler and more grayish. Female similar to the female of *Geothlypis beldingi*, but upper parts and sides of head paler, more grayish (less yellowish); yellow of lower parts paler and less extensive, confined to throat and upper breast, the abdomen being dull whitish, slightly or not at all washed with yellow; sides and flanks paler, more grayish.

DESCRIPTION.—Type, adult male, no. 196026, U. S. Nat. Mus.; San Ignacio, Lower California, Mexico; October 7, 1905; E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman; original number, 11766. Sinciput, lores, ocular region, cheeks, auriculars, and a narrow line extending diagonally downward and backward to the sides of the throat, black, forming a conspicuous mask; behind this a narrow line of pale grayish mixed with whitish and a little lemon yellow, and on the post-ocular region with lemon chrome; occiput and cervix brownish olive, verging toward sepia, with a mixture of fine streaks of lemon yellowish, these most conspicuous on the occiput, and resulting from the largely yellow bases of the feathers, which are incompletely covered by the brownish tips; back and scapulars dull citrine, washed with brownish or grayish; rump similar but lighter and somewhat more grayish; upper tail-coverts of the same color as the back, but paler and of a clearer shade of citrine; tail dark citrine, the inner margins of the rectrices more brownish; wings dark hair brown, the quills and coverts edged with citrine; sides of neck posterior to the grayish band similar in color to the cervix, but less mixed with lemon yellow; anterior lower parts chrome yellow, paling to lemon chrome on the middle of the upper abdomen; lower abdomen dull yellowish white; under tail-coverts basally wax yellow, terminally between wax yellow and old gold; sides and flanks isabella color; thighs between tilleul buff and drab gray; edge of the wing lemon chrome; under wing-coverts dull grayish white, washed with lemon chrome.

MEASUREMENTS.—Male:¹ Wing, 61.5-65.5 (average, 63.5) mm.; tail, 64-70 (66); exposed culmen, 12.5-14.3 (13.5); tarsus, 23-25 (24); middle toe without claw, 15-17 (15.7).

Female:² Wing, 59-63.5 (average, 60.6) mm.; tail, 60-65.5 (62.1); exposed culmen, 13-13.5 (13.2); tarsus, 21.5-23 (22.2); middle toe without claw, 14-15.2 (14.4).

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—Central Lower California, from San Ignacio to Comondu.

REMARKS.—This very distinct and unexpected subspecies is most readily distinguished from *Geothlypis beldingi beldingi* by the whitish crown band, the less yellowish upper parts, and whitish abdomen of the male; and the less yellowish upper surface, and paler, less extensive yellow of the lower parts in the female. Birds from San Ignacio, which represent the northern limit of its

¹Seven specimens, from San Ignacio and Comondu, Lower California.

²Three specimens, from San Ignacio and Comondu, Lower California.

range, are, as would be expected, most extreme in their characters. Two males and two females from Comondu, some distance south of San Ignacio, are intermediate between *Geothlypis beldingi goldmani* and *Geothlypis beldingi beldingi*, the females being more like the latter than are the males, which are but slightly different from *Geothlypis beldingi goldmani*. As a whole the Comondu birds are certainly referable to the northern race. The species has apparently not been found between Comondu and La Paz, Lower California, but *Geothlypis beldingi beldingi* probably ranges northward at least two-thirds of the way to Comondu.

The type of *Geothlypis beldingi*¹ is an adult male without date, taken at San José del Cabo, in the Cape San Lucas region of Lower California. It is very richly colored above and below, and is similar to most of the series of the southern race examined; hence this name must apply to the Cape San Lucas form.

There is some individual variation in *Geothlypis beldingi goldmani* in the extent of the yellow on the lower parts; also of that on the crown: in two adult males there is no yellow to speak of on the crown behind the black mask; and these specimens, with their pale grayish or whitish crown bands, look very much like some forms of *Geothlypis trichas*, though their large size, more richly yellowish upper parts, and greater amount of concealed yellow on the occiput and on the whitish post-ocular region separate them at sight from all the forms of *Geothlypis trichas*.

The present new subspecies seems to be chiefly resident, inhabiting a restricted area in Lower California, as the only evidence of its occurrence in the Cape San Lucas region is an apparently immature female (No. 89807, U. S. Nat. Mus.), taken at San José del Cabo by Mr. L. Belding on January 21, 1883.

Detailed measurements, in millimeters, of the adult specimens examined in the present connection are given below.

¹*Geothlypis beldingi* Ridgway, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., v, September 11, 1882, p. 344.

MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETERS OF SPECIMENS OF *Geothlypis beldingi goldmani* COLLECTED
BY E. W. NELSON AND E. A. GOLDMAN

U. S. Nat. Mus. No.	Sex	Locality	Date (1905)	Wing	Tail	Exposed culmen	Tarsus	Middle toe without claw
196026 ¹	♂	San Ignacio, Lower California	Oct. 7	64.0	65.5	14.0	25.0	16.0
196028	♂	" "	"	61.5	64.0	12.5	23.5	15.5
196027	♂	" "	"	63.5	65.0	13.5	24.8	15.3
196030	♂	" "	Oct. 8	65.5	68.0	13.3	23.0	15.7
196031	♂	" "	"	63.5	66.0	14.3	23.5	15.0
196032	♂	Comondu, Lower California.	Nov. 8	65.0	70.0	13.0	25.0	17.0
196034	♂	" "	Nov. 9	62.0	64.0	13.5	23.8	16.0
196029	♀	San Ignacio, Lower California	Oct. 7	59.5	60.0	13.2	23.0	15.2
196033	♀	Comondu, Lower California	Nov. 8	63.5	65.5	13.0	21.5	14.0
196035	♀	" "	Nov. 9	59.0	61.0	13.5	22.3	14.0

¹Type.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 28, 1917.