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THE SEQUENCE OF PLUMAGES AND MOULTS OF THE PASSERINE BIRDS OF NEW YORK

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[Plates I to VII]

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## I. INDOOR STUDY OF MOULT

**Fundamental Principles**

The moulting of birds is a subject so complicated, so extensive, and so difficult of study, that it is not surprising to find it wrapped, even to-day, in dense clouds of ignorance which obscure the true principles underlying it. Doubts have arisen even in the minds of those who have come nearest to the truth, because they have been unable to explain certain seasonal discrepancies in the plumage of birds, and theories have sprung up and flourished. Theories not founded on facts, must necessarily fall to pieces when the truth is known, and the present paper sets forth a number of indisputable facts derived from personal investigations, which, rightly interpreted, will explain not only the problems of moult and plumage, but also the theories of those whose published opinions differ widely from my own. It is my present purpose to demonstrate the principles dominating the plumages and moults of no less than one hundred and fifty North American species of the great order *Passeres* or Perching Birds, and at the same time indicate the wider application of these principles, which the study of other groups leads me to believe prevail among all species of birds modified only by circumstances.

The fundamental facts of moult have been grasped so imperfectly by some observers, that much theorizing about color changes has taken the place of actual information upon the seasonal variations of birds' plumages, and much superficial work has been done, although some excuse for it may be found in the existing lack of suitable specimens for study. The folly of guessing at age or sex from plumage characters is exemplified in many collections, and museum collections especially contain many undated specimens, which are positive hindrances rather than helps in settling vexed questions of moult. Worse than all is the great dearth of birds actually in process of moult. My own collection remedies, in a measure, all these defects, for the subject of moult has interested me for many years and I have devoted much time to securing moulting birds, the sex of



which has been determined by dissection, and the age, when possible, by osteological characters. I have obtained several thousand of such birds and studied them before they were skinned, and also prepared hundreds of young birds in early stages of plumage. Among large series of the commoner species, I have birds taken every month in the year and oftener, so that not only are all the successive plumages illustrated, but in many species all the intermediate transition stages. Gaps in some of my series that a lifetime of field work might not fill have been bridged to a certain extent through the kind assistance of friends. The extensive collections in the American Museum of Natural History have been put at my disposal by Doctor J. A. ALLEN and Mr. F. M. CHAPMAN. Mr. WILLIAM BREWSTER has accorded me like privileges with his private collection and Mr. ROBERT RIDGWAY has furnished me with birds from the collection of the United States National Museum, while Mr. CHARLES F. BATCHELDER, Mr. WITMER STONE and Mr. WILLIAM PALMER have all furnished me with specimens to throw light on obscure points.

Equipped with such material, it has been possible for me to tread safely where others have slipped, and possessing in it a key which fits locks hitherto unopened, I have endeavored to use it to the best advantage. There may be little that is quite new in these pages, for many have traversed the subject before me, but no one has taken just my point of view, and my work has been on absolutely independent lines. Nothing whatever has been taken at second hand, and every statement is fortified by specimens to prove its truth. No previous attempt has been made to link together the successive plumages of so many species, and yet this very linking together of isolated facts affords the only highroad by which we may arrive at a true understanding of plumage or of moult. Specimens are isolated facts, and hundreds of them taken at the wrong season may prove nothing, while one taken at the proper time may prove everything, provided the principles of moult are understood. Quality and not quantity of material for study determines its value.

Moult and plumage truly go hand in hand; moult a vital process at definite intervals for the production of new feathers,

plumage an assemblage of feathers produced by one or more moults; and the underlying principles or laws by which every moult and every plumage may be explained are the following:

1. Every species has a definite series of plumages and moults.
2. Moult is periodical feather growth.
3. Moult is complete or incomplete.
4. Moult is modified by age, sex and individual.
5. Plumage is renewed by moult.
6. Plumage is modified by wear.

This is the whole matter in a nutshell—no “undiscovered law of nature,” no “restoration,” no “rejuvenation” of feathers, no “repigmentation,” in fact, no “aptosochromatism,” what is left of it being represented by the good Anglo-Saxon word *wear*. The only question to ask in order to solve a plumage is: When did each feather grow? Could anything be simpler? Every feather develops with a definite color and pattern which it retains modified only by wear until the next moult. This is the A B C of it and only those ignorant of facts can maintain the contrary, and assert that a feather once grown can rebuild or re-color itself. A mature feather is acknowledged by physiologists (and by everyone except those with theories) to be a completed appendage of the skin, cut off from vital connection with the body and incapable of any but destructive changes. I shall show that regenerative processes occur only by moult in some of the very species that have been exploited as undoubted examples of abnormal color change without moult, and I hope to protect other species that as yet have escaped the imputation. The highroad to such conclusions is not an easy one to travel, but those who will begin at the beginning and follow me will find it everywhere avoiding the pitfalls of doubt, that end in blind theories, and leading straight to an understanding of the significance of plumage.

### **Determination of Age by Osteological Characters**

One of the first essentials in the study of moult, and one hitherto almost wholly disregarded, is the ability to distinguish an

old bird from a young one. The plumage is, of course, a guide in many species, when we know which is which, but it is surprising how little is actually known of autumnal plumages, especially of adults. Fortunately until a young bird is five or six months old, immaturity may be recognized among Passerine species by a very simple osteological character, and one requiring no microscope for its demonstration. I have made constant use of it for a dozen years past and doubtless others have done the same, but as yet I have never seen any explanation of it. It is simply this,—the prominent frontal bones of the young bird are thin and transparent showing the brain beneath, while those of the adult are thicker and flecked with little whitish dots, which show even better as black dots, when, with the brain removed, the skull is held up to the light. As the skull of the young bird ossifies, with the advance of the season, it assumes the adult characters, the dotted area of ossification creeping irregularly from behind forward and from the sides upward, until perhaps a couple of transparent spots anteriorly may be all that is left to show immaturity. When these disappear this valuable diagnostic feature is, of course, lost. The dots mark the ends of slender branching columns of bone that partly fill the open space between the two tables of the mature skull, and bind them together. Mutilation, or the infiltration of blood or fluid from the brain, may obscure the dotted appearance, but it is usually obvious at a glance.

This progressive ossification is scarcely perceptible in any New York species before the end of October, and seems to be completed in the frontal bones about two months later. The migrants that press further south seldom show more than the beginning of the process for they have nearly all departed by the middle of October. Resident species, such as the Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*), and early nesting species, may complete the ossification before the middle of December; early broods of the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza fasciata*) at about the same time, late ones a month later; and late nesting species, such as the Cedar Bird (*Ampelis cedrorum*) and Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*), often as late as February. Many of our winter visitors arrive with skulls incompletely ossified; the Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpes-*

*tris*) being one of the earliest (early in December), and the Tree Sparrow (*Spizella monticola*) one of the latest (early in January), to complete the ossification. These dates are approximate, but they throw some light on a neglected page of bird study that I now turn for the first time. The late ossification of other bones should be mentioned in passing, but most of them require such careful examination as to preclude their ready use in determining the age of the bird.

The bearing all this matter has on the question of moult is this: if, when a species departs south in the autumn, we know exactly the plumage of the adult and exactly that of the young bird, it is far easier to interpret the changes that have taken place in each when they return in the spring, for the amount of moult and the amount of wear varies according to age. The new aspect of the plumage may be entirely due to wear, to moult, or to a combination of the two. A method has been suggested for telling old from young in the fall by the presence of sheaths on the primaries in adults and their absence in young birds, because the latter do not usually moult these feathers in assuming fall dress, but it fails both in young birds that *do* renew the primaries, and in old birds that often show moult elsewhere after the primaries have lost their sheaths.

### **Wear or Feather Disintegration**

Some of the effects of this complex process are illustrated on **plates I, II, IV, VI and VII**, where a change in the shape and color of feathers is produced by loss of substance, generally at their margins. The destructive influences to which feathers are exposed may best be summed up under the word *wear*, which means a great deal and should be thoroughly understood in studying the relation of plumages and moults. The chief factors concerned in wear are abrasion and fading, which always go hand in hand the one mechanical disintegration, the other chemical decoloration, but there are a number of minor factors which modify their effects. The age of a feather, its position, its structure, its color and the habits of the bird, are all matters that

modify wear. The longer a feather is exposed to the bleaching of the elements and to the effects of mechanical abrasion, the more ragged in appearance it becomes, and the older it is the more rapid becomes its disintegration ; so that plumage showing perhaps comparatively little wear during the winter, will rapidly become tattered during the few months of the breeding season.

Much of the abrasion is not due to external causes but to the attrition of the feathers themselves one upon another. This may be observed, for instance, upon the nape of the neck where from the constant movements of the head the feathers become much worn. The wing coverts, tertiaries and scapularies also show markedly the effects of opening and closing the wings. The feathers of the anterior parts of the body however seem to suffer from contact with leaves and grasses while the bird is gathering its food and the flight feathers of some species show marked wear depending also of course upon their habits. It is in all of these ways that *position* modifies wear.

Another minor factor affecting wear and a very important one is *structure*. The large strong remiges and rectrices by their compactness, as well as the long-barbed abdominal feathers by their yielding quality, both suffer less from abrasion than those of intermediate weight and stiffness. The weaker feathers, too, of young birds are peculiarly liable to abrasion, aided no doubt by the clumsy efforts at locomotion of the birds themselves. Even the remiges and rectrices are less resistant than those of the adult, the borders being less compactly rounded out and the pigment deficient.

The *color* of a feather is another factor of considerable importance in determining its wear, and it is well to bear in mind that color may be due to pigment, to optical effects produced by structural interference with rays of light or to a combination of the two. As a matter of fact, black or iridescent feathers are most resistant to wear, other things being equal, while certain buffs and browns yield most rapidly.

The pale contrasting borders and the paler areas of the feathers of many species tend to decolorize and disintegrate as far as the adjacent dark portions. There are many striking

illustrations of this among them, the Meadow Lark (*Sturnella magna*) (plate II, fig. 17) the Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*) (plate II, fig. 3) the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Habia ludoviciana*), and many others where bars and spots of light color become singularly eroded during the breeding season.

Buff or pale-tinted edgings of dark colored feathers, producing in the plumage a veiled effect, are acquired by many species at the time of moult both in the spring and in the autumn and seem to owe their deciduous character as much to their color as to their structure. I have examined hundreds of such feathers under the microscope and can find little evidence that they wear down to the black or other darker color, because at this point an "interlocking" or strengthening of the barbules takes place as has been stated and even figured. No such conditions regularly prevail, for the black color often extends distally far beyond the point where the barbules cross and often the breaking off of the barbs either does not reach the black, or on the other hand, the black may be involved to a considerable extent, as for instance in the Meadow Lark (plate II, fig. 14). It is significant, however, that each overlying feather tip should reach only to the limits of the black area of the feather: beneath, leaving its pale margin wholly exposed to wear. Veiled species are the rule in autumn and the loss of feather edgings produces remarkable color changes in the plumage, although there is no actual pigmentary change in the individual feathers, an important difference to be noted. By wear alone the brown Snowflake (*Plectrophenax nivalis*), for instance, becomes entirely black and white in the breeding season and the brown young of the Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) assumes a black breeding dress. In these and many other species the actual shape of the individual feathers is changed but always by destruction of their substance. It is equally true that whatever pigmentary color change takes place in a feather there is always destruction of color, never a recoloration. I find no slightest exception, the apparent exceptions being optical delusions. In proof of one such delusion I need cite but two species: the

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) and the American Cross-bill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) figured on **plate VII** which shows at a glance what has occurred. Ordinarily in most species, wear removes the barbs, bit by bit, so that each terminates in a V formed by the barbules on either side. In the case of these two as well as other species, the barbs of certain feathers are blunt and heavy and the barbules are gradually lost, leaving them bare. Such barbs are apparently brighter red than when the grayish barbules between them produce an effect that to the eye is pinkish. This is the "brightening" that has also been observed in certain Finches, for instance the Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria*) and its allies, but it is not "repigmentation" nor even "recoloration." The red color is in the barbs when the feather grows in the autumn and the eye is simply deceived.

There is still another factor that modifies wear,—the *habits* of a species or of the individual. Birds that live from morning till night in the air, like the Swallows, the Flycatchers, the Vireos and some of the Warblers, suffer little wear from outside sources while Sparrows and other grass-loving species, are prone to become exceedingly ragged in a very short time. No better examples can be cited than the Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*), the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) and the Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) all of which species, by clinging to harsh reeds and grasses, rapidly fray out even the resistant remiges and rectrices, thus, perhaps, necessitating two complete moults annually, although there are other species, such, for instance, as the Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*), which have but one, although they are apparently exposed to the same amount of wear.

The subject of wear is a large one and its possibilities are by no means exhausted, although many writers have already discussed it most minutely, but there is need of getting beyond the narrow field of a microscope focused on single parts of single feathers. To base theories on pigment granules and exuding pores is perhaps simpler than to prove that color and pattern were present when the feather first grew and yet those who have

been masters of microscopic technique have sometimes signally failed to grasp the rudiments of wear, let alone those of moult.

It would seem to be an easy matter to determine the age of a feather by the amount of wear, but as a matter of fact it is not. All of the factors I have mentioned must be taken into consideration. Minute and careful study, not only of single feathers, but of many feathers, the whole plumage in fact, is necessary in order to reach conclusions. Even then, in some cases, one must make comparison of many birds in order to eliminate individual irregularities. It is not difficult to say that a feather is not new, but without some corroborative evidence, aside from the feather itself, it is not easy to estimate whether it has been worn, let us say a couple of months, or perhaps three times as long. A dark feather growing at the side of a light one shows far less wear in a given time, and in the same way remiges and rectrices of young birds, compared with those of adults, show much more wear, but it is only possible to prove this by knowing that all of these feathers grew at the same time of the year. Hence the importance of knowing the autumnal plumage of both young and old birds in order to estimate wear. On a correct estimate often hinges the question of a moult that may have occurred in southern latitudes during the winter months.

It is, however, quite possible to reach intelligent conclusions in many cases without other aid than the naked eye, although a lens magnifying ten or fifteen diameters achieves better results.

## II. PROCESS OF MOULT

The moult of a bird is a physiological process, whereby new feathers grow periodically to replace the old ones. The whole plumage may be renewed or only a part of it and the moult periods must not be confounded with occasional new growth at any time and anywhere to replace feathers accidentally torn out. There are two seasons of moult peculiar to the adults of most of our Passerine species, one in all species which is complete following the breeding season, and one in some species, which is usually incomplete, preceding it. The first, the post-nuptial, re-



stores the worn-out plumage, the second (when it is not suppressed), the pre-nuptial, adorns birds for the nuptial season. In a few of our species the latter moult is complete, usually the wings and tail are not involved, and often the renewal is limited to a sprinkling of new feathers here and there, so limited, in fact, that it sometimes becomes a difficult matter to draw the line between a moult and the regular tendency, in nearly all species, at this season, to the renewal of a few feathers. A limited, or suppressed, pre-nuptial moult is peculiar to many females, while the males may undergo an extensive renewal, and young birds of some species undergo a pre-nuptial moult once, that is apparently not repeated another year. There are also several moults peculiar to young birds before they even acquire feathers of adult structure, and many species need to pass through at least two moults besides those of the first summer before the plumage becomes wholly of the pattern and color of the adult. With all of these possibilities it is easy to understand, I think, why the moult has been considered complicated. In reality it is the resulting plumages that are perplexing rather than the moults by which they have been produced. Closely allied species may not moult alike but it is evident that subspecies follow in the footsteps of the parent stock.

On account of certain irregularities and peculiarities in the moult of young birds, I have deemed it best to describe first the process of moult as it occurs in the adult and take up that of the young bird later.

### **Protective Sequence in Feather Loss.**

The feather loss at the time of a moult is so compensated for by feather gain that but few birds lose either the power of flight or the protection of their plumage. The plan on which a moult proceeds is a perfectly definite one although often much modified and obscured. Old feathers or rows of feathers tend to remain until the newcomers adjacent have matured sufficiently to assume their function, when the old fall out and their places are taken by the new which develop from the same papillæ. How

the old feather is pushed out by the new, so to speak, is a matter for microscopic study and a subject by itself, but it usually falls when the follicle of the new is barely visible to the naked eye as a bluish spot beneath the skin.

The systematic replacement of areas of feathers shows most obviously in the wings where not only do the remiges fall out one after another in definite sequence and almost synchronously from each wing, but the greater coverts are regularly replaced before the fall of the secondaries beneath them, the lesser coverts before the median and even in the rows of the lesser coverts alternation seems to be attempted. Furthermore the under wing coverts are usually replaced after the moult of the upper surface of the wings is completed (regularly so in young birds) the row nearest the quills of the remiges following the more distant. On the body the protective sequence is less obvious, but the moult regularly begins at fairly definite points in the feather tracts radiating from them in such manner that the outer rows of feathers where the tracts are widest and the feathers of their extremities are normally the last to be replaced. The tail coverts, too, precede the rectrices which fall on either side in pairs, the outer protecting in a measure the inner ones. If this sequence is borne in mind many supposed discrepancies will nicely adjust themselves, and exceptions will be individual and in no wise mar an evident and far reaching plan of moult.

The important part that the blood-supply plays in this plan appears to have been quite overlooked, nor have I had opportunity to fully investigate it. I may say, however, that the radiation of the moult from given points corresponds very closely to the distribution of the superficial arteries, beginning where the main trunks come to the surface and ending with their ultimate ramifications.

#### **Advance of Moult in the Feather Tracts.**

Reference to **plate III**, will give some idea of how the *pterylae* or feather tracts are distributed in a Passerine bird. The subject photographed is a young American Robin (*Merula migratoria*)

five days from the egg, the tracts being the same as in the adult. The only way to get any idea of how a moult proceeds is to appreciate the fact that it begins almost simultaneously at a number of points in the different tracts and advances independently from each of them. This is why a bird seems to be moulting at irregular spots all over. There is, as might be expected, a good deal of individual irregularity in the growth of new feathers, but when each tract is studied separately, each will be found to have a definite plan of development which in its turn fits into the general scheme of the process we call the moult. There is far more symmetry in all this than would be imagined from the study of a few specimens and the moult may well be likened to a flood tide which gradually spreads over the different islands of feathers found on a bird's body. It is important to note that the tide of moult may pass by certain feathers which later succumb to it so that a few new ones are always to be expected on the body very near the points where the moult began. What is more important yet, certain feathers or groups of feathers are often entirely passed by and persist old and worn until another period of moult. This suppression is the rule at the prenuptial moult, especially in young birds and females, but rarely occurs at the postnuptial period. When such feathers are of a different color from those of the new plumage surrounding them, they are very conspicuous, but may usually be recognized as belonging to a previous plumage by their frayed and faded appearance. Young birds are most apt to fail to renew these stray feathers, often whole patches of them, particularly when the adult plumage is brilliantly colored, as for instance, in the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) or Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*). It would seem that the tide of moult fails to rise or exhausts itself sooner in the young bird than in the adult, consequently the young of some species pass their first breeding season in a plumage adorned with only a few new feathers colored like those of the adult. This is true of the species just mentioned, and the Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) and Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*), are also other good examples. When only a few new feathers are assumed they are confined chiefly to the

head and chin with stray ones here and there on the other feather tracts. The process of moult begins at the usual points and is then checked, producing the mottling of different colored feathers so obvious in species with contrasting plumages. Whenever a complete moult occurs either in young or old, left-over feathers are the exception probably because functional activity is called into full force, but when a partial moult takes place, as it does in many species prior to the breeding season, parts only of the feather tracts are renewed, and left-over feathers abound. They are valuable landmarks, and more will be said of them later for they are the chief prop of the theory of "color change without moult."

Whenever a complete moult is about to take place the first tract to show activity is usually the alar, and the fall of the innermost or proximal primary is the starting signal closely followed by the feathers of the breast on either side at a point posterior to the forking of the ventral tract into its lateral branches. Very shortly, new feathers appear among the interscapularies, the scapularies and the greater wing coverts, and usually a little later the feathers of the forehead, occiput, throat, lesser wing coverts and tail coverts begin to be renewed. The moult of each tract is traced elsewhere so it will suffice to say here that as a rule the moult of the wings is completed before that of the body and that there are some pretty definite spots on each where the last evidences are to be found. The latest feathers of the alar tract are the inner secondaries (excluding the tertiaries which are earlier), the under surface of the wing and the humeral surfaces. On the head the latest feathers of the new dress are regularly found in the postauricular region, on the nape and at the nostrils; on the back at the expansion of the dorsal tract, and at the anterior extremity of the humeral tracts; and on the ventral tract at the chin, at the lateral forking, at the wide part of the lateral branches and at the sides of the unfeathered central portion of the abdomen.

The down feathers that clothe the so-called featherless spaces (*apteria*) keep pace with the contour feathers adjacent, but usually are later. Other modified feathers, such as filoplumes, semi-

plumes or bristles, moult along with the contour feathers with which they are associated. In adults there is regularity in the development of the tracts all bearing a fairly definite time relation to each other but in young birds an outbreak of moult in any of the tracts earlier or later is less unusual.

A knowledge of the distribution of the feathers of each tract, their relative numbers and arrangement is indispensable in following their successive growth, but it is not possible in the present paper to go too deeply into the niceties of pterylographical differences. Other writers, notably Nitzsch, have discussed them and mapped out the feather tracts of various species. It is well to remember that among our Passerine species contour feathers grow on all the tracts, a small part of the alar and caudal tracts furnishing the remiges and rectrices respectively. It is well to observe that these too are contour feathers—a fact that some writers overlook. They are renewed in adults but once in twelve months as a rule and no oftener in most young birds but there are exceptions among a number of species. The body feathers of a great many species are renewed twice a year in both old and young.

1. **Alar or Wing Tracts** (*Pterylæ alares*). The power of flight depends upon the remiges of these tracts, and until they have reached maturity after the moult regularly subsequent to the breeding season, there appears to be little or no attempt at migration on the part of most birds, some of the Flycatchers, Swallows and, perhaps, a few others, being marked exceptions. As flight then, is the first object to be attained, it is not surprising the moult should begin where it does near the middle of each wing with the fall of the respective innermost or proximal *primary*. In nine-primaried species it is the ninth as usually counted, omitting the one aborted, and the tenth when ten are found. The upper *primary coverts* fall with or a little after the primaries to which they belong and are almost never moulted independently of the primaries. As soon as a primary falls the follicle or envelope containing the new forming feather pushes into view, often reaching one quarter the length of the old feather and a diameter exceeding it by one half before the

feather itself breaks from the apex. The follicle is pulpy, dark and bluish in appearance owing to the developing feather within, the quill of which, after it is grown, remaining pulpy until one or two of the adjacent quills have reached maturity. The remains of the follicle persist in the form of a scaly sheath at the base of each quill until several of the new feathers are fully grown and often much longer. This development of the new feather is not peculiar to the primaries, but is true of every other feather on a bird. Before, however, the follicle of the proximal primary has opened, the primary adjacent regularly falls, closely followed by its upper covert. It probably falls at very nearly the same time as the proximal in many cases and even in advance of it in a few, as may be inferred from the relative length of the two new feathers, but as a rule the order is the one indicated. Both are out of their follicles before the next adjacent, and its covert falls, and this is followed in order by the more distal primaries one after another. At no time is a gap left of more than one or two whole feathers at most and perhaps one or more partly grown so that a Passerine bird is never much hampered in its flight.

From the examination of specimens it is impossible to determine the exact time required for a complete renewal of this most important row of flight-feathers which is usually the first to be affected by the moult in adults although outstripped in development by some of the other areas. I should estimate the time at about one month or probably a little longer. In extensive series of a few species, I find that the period between the earliest date of a specimen showing loss of the proximal primary and the earliest date of a specimen showing the distal primary fully grown varies between a month and six or eight weeks.

The primaries are rarely moulted more than once in a year. Adults and year-old birds at the end of the breeding season both male and female always renew them. In a few species, all the primaries are again renewed by moult in the winter or early spring. Young birds of a few species moult these feathers in acquiring their autumnal or first winter dress, but the majority retain them until the moult following the first breeding season.

Some few young birds however have the peculiarity of renewing only the outer or distal four or five at the prenuptial moult. This partial moult is easily overlooked particularly in worn spring specimens. The Indigo Bunting (*Cyanocephalus cyaneus*) and Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) are examples of this peculiarity.

Primaries are almost never left over—if any moult takes place in this series all are involved except as just indicated. Whenever they undergo a moult so do their upper coverts with rare exceptions and as the latter fade and wear more than the primaries they are often a key to the age of the bird, in the young differing more in color from those of the adult than do the primaries themselves. Occasionally one or more of the primary coverts is left over until the next moult. Primaries show the least wear of any feathers when compared with others grown at the same time. Their compact structure and deep pigmentation make them unusually resistant.

The *secondaries* are always six for each wing in the species under consideration, it being desirable to recognize the three proximal feathers of this series as *tertiaries*. Coincidentally very nearly with the fall of the fifth or sixth primary the first or outermost of the secondaries is lost, followed in succession by the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth or proximal, the preceding feather usually reaching a considerable length before the next in the series is moulted. There seems to be some irregularity in the loss of the inner members which are replaced more rapidly than are their predecessors, but the innermost falls at very nearly the same time as the outermost primary so that the moult appears to begin near the middle of the remiges and proceed evenly in either direction.

Whenever there is a complete moult of the primaries there is also one of the secondaries and there seems to be few exceptions to this rule in young or old although the outer primaries as already explained may be moulted when no renewal occurs among the secondaries. The secondaries are never renewed as a series without moult of the primaries preceding their moult.

The three *tertiaries* of each wing which, from their position,

appear to be only inner secondaries, do not as might be expected, follow their sequence of moult. The middle one falls with or even before the distal secondary, and in spite of some irregularity the three are almost always grown in advance of the inner secondaries. The middle feather is the first to be lost, followed by the innermost, and this in turn by the outermost, which often acquires complete maturity before the adjacent secondary, the sixth, falls out.

The tertiaries follow in their moult most frequently, perhaps, the example of the adjacent body plumage, but are very irregular, individuals of the same species acting in defiance of what might be expected of them. Some adults regularly renew them at the prenuptial moult when the body plumage is renewed, but even these birds may replace only one or two feathers and asymmetrically in either wing. Young birds are still more irregular and old feathers frequently persist in one bird and not in another of the same species, as may be seen in the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Habia ludoviciana*), or Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) and many others. When young birds acquire plumage of adult structure in the early autumn of their first year, the tertiaries are often replaced by others so similar in color, pattern and structure, that it is very difficult to be sure of their moult, unless they are caught in the act. As they moult quickly, it is not always easy to do this, and as they wear quickly it is easy to mistake their age. Sometimes a precocious young bird acquires one or two of adult color that are not normally due until a later moult. It is doubtful if such feathers, when assumed in the autumn, are again renewed in the spring.

The moult of the *alulae*, the feathers on the "thumb" of each wing usually follows the example of the wing coverts, most frequently being renewed when they are, but often not. The three larger feathers fall with or a little after the proximal primary. The proximal feather falls first, sometimes the middle one, followed by the distal. The smaller feathers which act as coverts are earlier and related in moult to those of the carpo-metacarpal region adjacent. The *alulae* are quite irregular and are moulted by some individuals of a species and not by others.



The row of *greater coverts*, usually eleven in number for each wing, lie directly over the secondaries and tertiaries, but do not, like the primary coverts, follow the moult of the remiges beneath them. They usually reach full development before feather loss fairly begins in the series beneath them; and do not fall out regularly but many of them at about the same time, the inner feathers, however, being a little later than the others. This row sometimes begins to fall before the inner primary is lost, especially in young birds, usually very soon after. They are more frequently renewed than are the tertiaries when a moult of the body plumage occurs and often are renewed only in part. At the prenuptial moult the inner members only may be renewed and one here and there so that a curious alternation of old and new feathers results, some of the Warblers and Tanagers illustrating this point to perfection. The outer members of the series are the ones most frequently left over and the contrast in color is often striking, especially when precocious young birds assume a few of adult pattern and color.

The *median coverts*, eight in number for each wing, do not begin to fall as a rule until the greater coverts on one side of them and the lesser coverts on the other have been largely renewed. Like all of the minor wing series this one falls out irregularly, the tendency being for the outer members to be replaced earlier. They are renewed whenever the other coverts show moult and may like them be left over here and there until a later moult. Young birds of the Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) may, for instance, have a red band of these feathers across an otherwise greenish wing.

The *lesser coverts* or cubital coverts clothing what are often inappropriately called the "shoulders," are very small feathers in several rows, usually about five, so easily disarranged that it is difficult to follow their sequence in renewal. They seem to moult in alternate rows, beginning with the row next to the one that protects the anterior margin of the wing membrane, and the last to be replaced are those nearest to the body and to the median coverts. The series may be only partly renewed. The feather loss begins as a rule just as the greater coverts are well

sprouted and precedes by a distinct interval feather loss in the median coverts. They are usually renewed with the adjacent body plumage, and are the coverts most likely to be renewed if the wings show any moult at all. In some species there is a striking difference in the color of these coverts by which young birds one year old in breeding plumage may be distinguished from those that are older, as for example in the Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) or Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*.)

Renewal among the *under wing coverts* which are often spoken of as "lining of the wing" takes place after the moult of the upper surface of the wing has been nearly or quite completed. They are among the last feathers to develop in young birds after leaving the nest. The first row of those lying upon the bases of the remiges remains as a rule until the adjacent second row has been replaced. The moult begins among the secondary coverts of the second row extending irregularly outward and inward, the innermost being the latest, followed closely by the second row of primary coverts. The first row completes the moult of this surface of the alar tract, perhaps excepting the tiny down feathers growing at the bases of the secondaries and over the wing membrane.

The long *infra-marginal coverts*, a double row of alternating long and short feathers that sweep backward over the comparatively bare under surface of the wing membrane, begin to fall somewhat irregularly near the carpal joint, the row of long ones preceding the short ones, and the moult moves inward, the feathers close to the body being late in renewal. The thatch-like row of lesser coverts that grow at the anterior margin of the wing are equally late, the renewal being irregularly towards the body from the carpal joint.

The tiny *carpo-metacarpal coverts*, or feathers of the wrist and hand, both above and below may show moult early, but in young birds the contrary prevails. The moult tends to proceed in the two principal median rows from the carpal joint, distally.

The few *feathers of the upper arm* (excepting those of the humeral tracts), especially those on its posterior edge, are among the latest of the wing series.

2. **Humeral or Shoulder Tracts** (*Pterylae humerales*). A tolerably symmetrical, bilateral outbreak of new feathers takes place very early in this pair of tracts showing usually at the median and internal portion. The moult proceeds forwards, seemingly effecting a junction with the lateral branches of the ventral tract near the edges of the wing membranes at the very time the moult in them has reached this point; and backwards to the posterior margin of the upper arm joining very nearly the humeral coverts. Old feathers frequently persist at these junction points and also externally, particularly in young birds. These tracts follow the example of the body plumage in their moult, and not that of the alar tract, being renewed in many species twice a year.

3. **Capital or Head Tract** (*Pteryla capitis*). The pterylography of this important tract requires a little more explanation than is usually given in order to understand its moult. Although the head is practically entirely covered (save a small spot behind the eye) with a multitude of extremely small feathers in Passerine species, they are arranged in several groups or series. Starting at the nostrils near the base of the upper mandible two rather broad bands pass backward over the crown, but before reaching the occiput they widen out curving laterally to the postauricular region, the lines of feathers on the occiput extending laterally. On each side of the head is a narrow band corresponding to the superciliary stripe; another includes the loreal and circumocular region; another passes from the gape backward in a loop including the auriculars; and finally there is a submalar band starting beneath the middle of the ramus of the lower mandible and joining the auriculars at a point near where they are joined by the short auricular branch of the ventral tract. There seems to be some relation between these minor tracts and the distribution of color; and moult begins independently in any or all of them at about the same time and, as a rule, tends to proceed from before backwards. The auriculars being the largest areas are usually the first and often the last to show moult. A frequent point of departure is just back of the extreme anterior

feathers of the forehead which fall out a little later. We see new feathers centrally on the crown in advance of those on the occiput, and the loreal and circumocular regions are often bare when the crown and auriculars are largely renewed, and especially is this noticeable in very young birds. The last traces of moult are, as a rule, to be found in the postauricular and cervical regions.

The head tract is of paramount importance because if any partial prenuptial moult takes place, the new feathers will be found here and on the chin and often nowhere else. In some species the renewal is limited chiefly to the loreal feathers and those adjacent, or it may involve the crown and anterior parts of the throat. Adult males may or may not renew this tract at the prenuptial moult according to species; young males in many species renew it their first spring only (possibly their second in some cases); and females may moult the same as the males, but more frequently either omit this moult altogether or assume a very limited number of new feathers. Young males of the same species may show the greatest individual variation, especially in highly colored species, some of them assuming plumage indistinguishable from adults, others only a few scattered feathers at the anterior parts of the head and throat. Each species, however, has a tolerably definite area of renewal peculiar to itself and although the feathers of the head tract are very numerous they are, most of them, so extremely small that their moult may be very easily overlooked.

**4. Dorsal or Spinal Tract** (*Pteryla spinalis*). The slight variations in the distribution of this tract among our families of Passeres need not be here specified. It extends in most of them from the occiput to the oil gland at the base of the tail, widening posterior to the scapulæ into a triangular "saddle," sometimes dividing into two bands and enclosing an elliptical space instead, and sometimes forking and ceasing before reaching the oil gland.

The first place where new feathers show is at a spot in the anterior interscapular region. There seems also to be another spot behind the saddle where as the tract is narrow the moult

is soon completed. The central rows of feathers tend to precede the outer and the moult advancing rapidly forward and backward soon reaches the base of the head and the wide saddle behind the shoulders, at both of which points will be found the last traces of new feathering. It is sometimes the first tract to show new growth. If a species has a prenuptial moult this tract is not usually involved unless all the body plumage is renewed, except in a few cases where only the interscapular portion is included with the head and throat.

**5. Ventral or Inferior Tract** (*Pteryla gastræi*). From this extensive tract grows the whole plumage of the lower surface of the body. It may be said to begin at the interramal space, it gives off two short auricular branches near the angle of the jaw and it forks at the mid-neck into two lateral, or sternal, branches which passing along the sides of the body, end on either side of the vent or at some distance from it. On the breast there is regularly a widening of the lateral bands, the external half of each ending abruptly under the wings nearly midway between head and tail.

It is not surprising that the first as well as the last traces of a moult are frequently to be found on this extensive tract. A few new feather follicles may be expected on either side of the breast even before the proximal primary is lost and soon a V-shaped band is seen, the point of the V reaching the mid-throat forking. The tide of moult seems to sweep chiefly backwards, beginning in the middle rows and new outbreaks take place a little later on the throat. The sides of the chin and throat may precede or follow as the case may be, the throat in their feather development owing to the submalar bands which seem properly to belong to the head tract. The feather growth extending forwards from the breast is met by that extending backward from the throat, the lower part of which is consequently late in acquiring new feathers. The last traces of moult in the ventral tract will be found at its extremities on chin and abdomen, or among the outer rows of feathers where it is widest as at its forking and under the wings. The feathers which hide the middle of the abdomen are con-

spicuously among the last to be moulted. If the species undergoes a partial prenuptial moult a few throat feathers may be all that are renewed, but usually new growth extends as far as the pectoral forking. In some species with a more extensive moult at this season, the whole tract, or all of it except its posterior extremity is renewed, and there is much individual variation besides in the amount of renewal.

**6. Caudal or Tail Tract** (*Pteryla caudalis*). From this tract grow the rectrices and their upper and under coverts, and the anal circling and crissum may conveniently be included for their moult coincides with that of the adjacent coverts. Most of the feathers of this tract are large and not numerous, the twelve *rectrices* or tail feathers being the most important of them all. Their moult is late and is usually preceded by that of the *upper and under coverts* nearest to them. At about the time the sixth or fifth primary is lost the renewal of the rectrices begins but it is irregular especially in young birds. The rectrices fall out approximately in pairs beginning with the central pair, and followed by the quills next adjacent on either side. The process is so rapid however, that when the outer pair falls, the middle ones are seldom more than half grown and the whole series is usually found in a pulpy condition at a time when the rest of the body plumage is well developed and the first primary nearly or quite grown. The sheaths of these feathers adhere unevenly giving the impression of more irregularity in their moult than really exists, but there are evidently a good many cases where the normal sequence is violated.

In young birds just from the nest, the wings are often well developed before the tail shows much growth and bob-tailed adults as well as young birds are often seen together at the season of moult. The coverts mostly reach maturity before the tail itself, the rows nearest to its roots tending to precede in their order of moult those at a distance, although there is considerable irregularity.

The rectrices are regularly renewed whenever all the remiges are moulted, and they are often moulted when the latter are not, especially in young birds which assume much of the adult

plumage at the prenuptial moult preceding their first breeding season. The Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Habia ludoviciana*) are examples and in these and many other species the renewal may not be complete or the color may be deficient, producing tails that have been said to be in process of "recoloration." When a young bird acquires a new tail in autumn without moult in the remiges it often suggests, either individual precocity or accident, for there seem to be very few species in which this regularly occurs without simultaneous moult of the remiges. Unilateral moult of a few rectrices only generally indicates a mishap by which the feathers have been pulled out and this is not an uncommon accident.

7. **Lumbar, Femoral or Thigh Tracts** (*Pterylae lumbales seu femorales*). Two narrow bands, one on either side of the posterior part of the back, form the areas from which the feathers of the flanks grow, but the name flank generally applies to the external lateral rows of the posterior extremities of the ventral tract. The renewal in these tracts proceeds approximately from above downward and from before backward, there being little evidence of moult as a rule until the process is well under way elsewhere. They are less often involved when there is a spring moult than are the other body tracts and at this time may be only partially renewed.

8. **Crural or Leg Tracts** (*Pterylae crurales*). The contour feathers of these bilateral tracts are scattered, small and inconspicuous, although most abundant near the tarsal or ankle joint. Their moult easily escapes notice, beginning usually with the superior and external feathers and ending among the closely imbricated rows of the lower part of the tibiae or legs. The process begins quite early and may be completed early. The failure of these tracts to moult when there is a general moult elsewhere is frequent, especially with young birds in the spring, and old feathers persist, noticeable chiefly when of a different color from the new. These old feathers are often a valuable key to the age of the bird.

### III. EARLY PLUMAGES AND MOULTS OF YOUNG BIRDS

The plumages and moults of young birds differ so much from those of adults as to deserve further elucidation. Although feathers of adult structure are acquired and worn during the first winter after leaving the egg there are two antecedent stages of plumage in all species and in some, several subsequent stages indefinitely classed as immature, all of which are but imperfectly understood.

A bird on emerging from the egg may be absolutely naked, of which the Woodpeckers furnish an example, scantily clothed with downy tufts as in most of the Perching Birds, or completely invested with downy growth as in the Ducks, the Water Birds and the Birds of Prey. The structure of this "nest-down" varies greatly in the different groups of birds, and it is always replaced by several other plumages before that of the adult bird is assumed. Among the Passeres, which is the only group here under consideration, the downy growth is present (at least part of it is) before the chick hatches. It is found at only a few points. A longitudinal row or two is found above the eyes corresponding nearly to the location of the superciliary stripes, several rows occur on the occiput and nape and tufts are found on the dorsal, humeral and lumbar tracts as well as filaments at the tips of the secondaries and their coverts. No down is found at the tips of the primaries or rectrices nor does it occur on the ventral tract in any of the Passerine species I have examined, the protection of the nest perhaps obviating its necessity below. A nest full of young birds gives one the impression that they are covered with a fluffy blanket of down. The distribution of these downy filaments may be dimly seen by consulting **plate III**, and their microscopic structure is shown by **plate V** which illustrates for the first time by means of photography the exact structure of this peculiar plumage. These peculiar feathers are interesting under the microscope being long weak filaments with a few short lateral branches. They are gathered into a bundle at the tip of the new feather, which takes their place and they



adhere at its apex or at the apices of its barbs, especially about the head, for some time, after the youngster has left the nest. Their color is usually pale brown, gray or white, but unfortunately many of the specimens I have examined are young birds that have been dropped into alcohol without note having been made of the color when fresh.

This "nest-down" or as it might most appropriately be called *natal down* represents a first stage of clothing in young birds even if it be scanty or suppressed. In a systematic scheme of plumages it must stand first although soon replaced by a second stage on which the name "first plumage" has unfortunately been fastened in all good faith. Without entering into the question of whether "down" that is not true down can be called first plumage, I find it expedient, if not necessary, for the sake of uniformity and clearness to bestow a new name on the second stage, reserving the numeral adjective "first" for more exact and important application.

*Juvenal plumage* is a term definite and readily understood as indicating the second plumage of a young bird which at this stage usually differs in structure much from that of the adult, and it is this very difference that is implied in the term I have selected. The juvenal stage succeeds to the natal and feather growth takes place over additional areas of skin bare during the natal stage of development. The juvenal feathers differ more or less in structure from those of adults, being, as a rule, weaker, softer and looser in texture, as shown by the photomicrograph (**plate IV, fig. 1**).

During the early days of the newly-hatched chick, feather growth is comparatively slow, but shortly it proceeds with marvelous rapidity. A couple of weeks, more or less, according to the size of the species, suffices to develop a helpless birdling into a bold bundle of feathers ready to essay flight. The feathers first fully grown are the wing coverts, those of the body and top of head next appearing, while the remiges are a little later and the rectrices last of all. The flight-feathers which at first lie as bluish lines beneath the skin or barely protruding from it, develop evenly, all the quills remaining pulpy for a con-

siderable period after they are full length. The under wing coverts as well as the feathers of the carpo-metacarpal area on both the upper and under surfaces are among the latest feathers to appear in the wing tract, and the throat and sides of the head are often still bare when the rest of the body and head is well covered.

When the next plumage, that of a third stage worn during the first autumn and winter, is assumed, it may be gained by a complete moult of the juvenal plumage, but, perhaps, more frequently the wings and tail are retained, not to be renewed for a twelvemonth. The only feathers regularly retained at this time are the nine (or ten) primaries, their upper coverts and the six secondaries. The tertiaries are sometimes renewed, sometimes not, and the tail is irregular, usually following the example of the primaries. All other feathers, with occasional exceptions, are replaced by new, a moult which may properly be called the postjuvenal, beginning in many species, especially the Warblers, even before the flight feathers have reached functional length. In some species, however, the juvenal plumage is worn for a considerable period, even several months before any moult takes place. These birds lose all trace of the adherent feather sheaths indicating recent growth and are the ones that most frequently renew the whole plumage, including the wings and tail. Summed up there are two classes of young birds, viz., those that acquire the plumage of the first winter by a complete moult, and those that retain the quill feathers of the wings and the tail, losing all others of the juvenal plumage. There are individual exceptions in both classes that may retain old feathers or series of feathers here and there of the juvenal dress until the next moult, which may be within a few months or not for a twelvemonth, many species breeding in the plumage of the first winter.

In some species the plumage following the juvenal may be indistinguishable from that of the adult, in others dress may be assumed just before the first breeding season and in still others not till after this season. Beyond this point not possible, except in a very few cases, to follow the immature

bird which at one or the other of these three periods of moult becomes indistinguishable from the adult and may be so classed. It is well to grasp the idea that the flight-feathers may out-wear two or three sets of body feathers and a bird does not really attain full adult dress until the former are replaced. In most, if not all cases where mixed plumages are seen during the breeding season, they do not represent birds of different ages but illustrate individual variation at the first prenuptial moult. Unmixed plumages—adults and young being of uniformly different colors like the Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*)—are presumptive evidence that no prenuptial moult occurs.

I have occasionally seen birds still partly in immature dress after the moult at the end of their first breeding season as may be determined by left-over feathers, but these birds usually show a plumage so nearly of the adult type as to suggest that they are exceptions in which there has been some individual lack of vitality. Unfortunately we have no other available guide except plumage to determine whether a bird is one, two or more years old and moreover there is a great dearth of winter specimens from the tropics showing while fresh the changes produced by the prenuptial moult. Summed up, there are three periods of moult at any one of which a young bird may assume full adult plumage, the postjuvenal, the first prenuptial and the first postnuptial, and prior to each of them the plumage may be immature and made up of feathers which have grown at different periods. These successive plumages follow each other with the regularity of the seasons and will be more fully discussed under the following section. More light is needed on some species, but whether the immature dress requires one moult or two or three to convert it into adult plumage is immaterial and does not alter one whit, the fact that it is lost and replaced by actual moult at definite periods.

#### IV. SEQUENCE OF PLUMAGES AND MOULTS

The relation between plumages and moults is so perfectly definite and at the same time has been so little comprehended

that only by a radical rearrangement and delimitation of the terms used may further confusion be avoided. The chief thing to bear in mind is that every species passes through a definite series of plumages and a definite series of moults, each plumage being succeeded either by a moult or the place of the moult may be taken by wear alone. There is no theory about this cardinal principle and there are ample facts to support it. Of many species, I have examined specimens taken every month in the year showing not only the sequence of plumages and moults but all of the intermediate steps by which the plumage has been acquired or modified. With an abundance of material there is not the slightest difficulty in explaining plumages, but in many species there are gaps which careful study of the feathers and the application of fundamental principles must be trusted to fill. For instance, when the Scarlet Tanagers (*Piranga erythromelas*) leave the vicinity of New York towards the end of September, *all* of them are in the olive green body plumage of the female, the young males with similarly colored wings and tails, the adults with black wings and tails. When the males return in May *all* are in bright scarlet dress with black tails, but a certain number of them have worn brown wing quills. The red feathers examined under a glass are quite as fresh as the green ones seen in September. If the wings are examined, both the brown and the black quills will show wear, the black least as might be expected from their color. If the tails are examined those of the black-winged birds are slightly worn, those of the brown-winged fresh and new. It is a perfectly natural inference that the brown-winged birds are young males and that they have acquired the red body plumage and the black tail by a recent moult while the adults have not moulted the wings and tail, but merely assumed the red body plumage. Further evidence in support of this conclusion is afforded by patches of worn green feathers left over among the red, such feathers occurring most frequently in the brown-winged young birds and finally we sometimes find red feathers still invested with their scaly sheaths. The only gap left is a Tanager showing extensive moult, and it is safe to predict that such a speci-

men will some day be forthcoming from the tropics where the change from green to red probably takes place. Similar facts point to a similar moult in the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Habia ludoviciana*) which a winter specimen from Ecuador in the British Museum collection confirms, and I have seen one bird taken near New York still showing several rectrices partly grown. Again if we examine Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) when they reach us in May we shall find birds with black worn wings, wing coverts, tertiaries and tails and others with brown worn wings while the rest of the plumage is fresh and new. The inference is a moult in young birds and none in adults and this is proved by two young winter birds from Central America, unfortunately without other data which show new growing feathers at the points where a moult regularly begins. These examples are only several among many that could be adduced to show upon what slender but conclusive evidence one must work. The only reason it is slender is because the number of specimens from southern latitudes is small, and when this deficiency is remedied, I am convinced the difficulties with which I have had to contend will vanish. We will then know, for instance, when it is that the young King-bird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) exchanges the two outer rounded primaries for the emarginate ones with which it returns and when the young Barn Swallow (*Chelidon erythrogastra*) assumes the attenuated lateral tail feathers so different from the ones worn when it leaves us in the autumn. (See **plate II, figs. 18-21.**) Probably no one claims nowadays that these new shapes are attained without growth of new feathers, and yet equally strange claims of color change without moult have been put forth when there were no specimens taken at the proper season to prove their absurdity.

In order to show at a glance the relation that exists in the sequence of plumages and moults they are tabulated below in such form that they may be made applicable to any species. The terms employed have been chosen, so far as is compatible with conciseness, from those in common use. Some are necessarily new but I have selected all of them with the object of making antithesis as obvious as possible.

The first column contains the plumages in their natural sequence and the second the moults which (unless suppressed) follow each of them.

PLUMAGES	MOULTS
1. Natal	Postnatal
2. Juvenal	Postjuvenal
3. First Winter	First Prenuptial
4. First Nuptial	First Postnuptial
5. Second or Adult Winter	Second or Adult Prenuptial
6. Second or Adult Nuptial	Second or Adult Postnuptial
etc.	etc.

Just as soon as a young bird becomes indistinguishable in plumage, from an adult, "first," "second" or "third" may be dropped and "adult" substituted, both for plumages and for moults, the plumages being thereafter "Adult Nuptial" and "Adult Winter" and the moults simply "Prenuptial" and "Postnuptial" as long as the bird lives. As a matter of fact in none of the Passerine species which I have studied are there more than six plumages and six moults, except in a few rare individual cases, before a bird becomes indistinguishable from one that may have had twice as many. In most species the identity of old and young is lost much earlier, the rule being that young assume adult plumage never later than the moult at which they first renew the remiges and rectrices. Wear with its abrasion and fading often takes the place wholly or in part of a prenuptial moult, modifying in marked degree either the first winter or the adult winter dress. Consequently the plumage to which I would restrict the name nuptial may be acquired by moult, by wear or by both, and it is not the true breeding plumage. The latter may be either a fresh nuptial or a worn nuptial, but as the differences produced by wear after the prenuptial moult are usually not very obvious, it would be inexpedient to try to draw too sharp a line between "nuptial" and "breeding," although recognizing a distinction. The breeding plumage, then, on which descriptions of species are based does not, in very many cases, represent the highest plumage of the species; it may be a mix-

ture of several and all of them badly worn. For this reason I have chosen nuptial to represent a stage of plumage following immediately either the prenuptial moult or the time when it would naturally occur, if not omitted.

In studying the plumages and moults in the natural order in which they follow each other one can hardly fail to be struck by the fact that in spite of many apparent contradictions they make up for each species a purposeful and harmonious whole and the series for any given species is always the same when proper allowance is made for age, sex and individual. STONE ('96) has been one of the few to grasp the idea of sequence, but he has not fully nor clearly developed it. Foreign observers have devoted much time to the study of feather development and feather colors and have even recognized "generations" of feathers, but there is still lack of definite information regarding the moults of the commonest species, and the relations between plumages and moults remains in many cases a matter for dispute.

It is well worth one's while to take up each of the plumages in sequence. They represent separate stages or periods in a bird's life, however much they may blend with one another. The first two are peculiar to young birds before they assume feathers of the adult type (excepting the remiges and rectrices in some species). Later stages mark a winter plumage and a summer plumage alternating as long as the individual is alive. These stages make up what I have designated as the sequence of plumages and unless this idea of sequence is firmly fixed in mind no adequate conception of the beautiful symmetry which underlies the development of plumages will be gained.

1. **Natal Plumage or Natal Down (plates III and V).** Enough perhaps has already been said regarding this first stage, scanty and evanescent as the plumage is in Passerine species. It has been recognized as the "downy stage" of the Raptores, it clothes the "chick" of the Grouse and their allies, while "young in down" and other similar terms have been used in the groups just mentioned and in the multitudes of species known as the Water Birds. This "down," however, lacks the structure of true down feathers. In Passerine birds it is

usually brown or gray, is found at only a few points on the upper surface of the bird, fades rapidly and begins to be lost by a complete *postnatal moult* before the nest is abandoned. It persists but a few weeks at most and is last seen as waving filaments at the apices of the feathers which succeed it.

2. **Juvenal Plumage** (plate IV, fig. 1, and plate V). This second stage has also been explained earlier. It has gone by a number of names, and the succeeding plumage is very often confused with it. "Nestling" and "fledgling" are names that have currency, but the most generally accepted term in this country has been "first plumage." If it were not that a much better and more exact use of the numeral adjective "first" requires its use elsewhere, the term might stand, misnomer that it is, but I feel that it should be displaced by "juvenal" to which the chief objection must be its novelty.

The juvenal plumage has been a good deal neglected and comparatively few specimens have found their way into collections until of late years. The most valuable contribution to the subject was made twenty years ago (BREWSTER, '78-'79) and only here and there since then we have heard more about it. Much of the juvenal plumage is acquired in Passerine species before the bird leaves the nest, not only directly displacing the natal down, but growing from an increased area of the skin. It is completely assumed in about three weeks at most. Males and females of most species are indistinguishable in this plumage unless the wing quills and tail are different in the two sexes. The body plumage of the male may be brighter or darker in a few cases, but as a rule the only difference is in the wings and tail. The body plumage is softer and the feathers less distinctly pennaceous than those of the adult while the remiges and rectrices although frequently appearing identical with adult feathers are regularly less pigmented and suffer more from wear probably because of their less compact margins. This plumage may resemble somewhat that of the adult although usually it is quite different in pattern and color. Young birds in this dress are frequently spotted or streaked below while the adults are immaculate and less often the reverse is the case.



In many species, especially among the Warblers and Vireos, a moult begins at the usual points on the breast almost as soon as the birds leave the nest and the succeeding winter plumage is assumed usually without loss of wings or tail. In many other species, however, this plumage is worn for several weeks or even several months before the *postjuvinal moult* sets in, and such birds as a rule completely renew their plumage. Without specimens taken at just the proper time it is extremely easy to overlook the moult of the flight-feathers which often resemble very closely in pattern or color those which they replace. Most of the Swallows and Flycatchers and a few other species after wearing the juvenal plumage for a long period leave for the south without apparent renewal. This is indicated by specimens from the tropics which prove a later or midwinter postjuvinal moult at a period when other species have begun their prenuptial. Only occasionally parts of this plumage fail to be replaced, and are, of course, retained until the next occurring moult, becoming meanwhile worn and ragged. As a rule the primary coverts are regularly retained with the primaries, the greater coverts usually renewed, but sometimes retained as in the Thrushes and some others, the median and lesser coverts almost always renewed and the tertiaries sometimes renewed and sometimes not, even in the same species. The alulae are regularly renewed, but not in all cases. The moult of the remiges and rectrices depends upon the species, many retaining them for a whole year until the postnuptial moult takes place the following summer. All other feathers not already specified are regularly moulted.

**3. First Winter Plumage** (plate IV, fig. 2, plate VI, fig. 1). This is the plumage usually designated as "immature fall," "young in autumnal plumage," "young of the year," "horn-tine" and various other appellations with elastic meanings. It seems to me the name selected is most appropriate for this third stage to the exclusion of others, for the plumages of successive winters may then be called "second," "third," etc., if desirable, or "adult" take the place of these adjectives as soon as age characters are lost. The first winter plumage, always assumed by a more or less complete postjuvinal moult, differs little if

any in texture from that of the adult and in a number of species adults and young cannot be told apart, except by osteological characters. This plumage is acquired within about three weeks after leaving the nest in some species, the first signs appearing as V-shaped patches on the breast. In other species which have a complete postjuvinal moult the process of acquisition takes longer and does not begin for a considerable period after leaving the nest. Among the Passerine species of New York, at least, this plumage is fully assumed before the young birds migrate, except among the Swallows, the Flycatchers and, perhaps, a few others. Sometimes one may see a feather of the juvenal plumage borne at the apex of a feather of this dress, and, rarely, even a filament of natal down will be found adhering in turn to the juvenal feather. To what extent new feather papillæ develop and where is of interest in all early stages, and the subject is perhaps not exhausted. The feathering in the first winter plumage is dense, a dozen layers or more covering the breast for instance, and the colors are usually bright and much "veiled" by the overlapping of the long feather tips, the barbs of which are almost always terminally of a paler or different color, the most frequent edgings being buff. The amount of this edging or tipping varies greatly and there is apparently always more of it in young birds than in adults of the second or third winters. It readily wears away and in some species striking changes are produced without moult by the time the breeding season arrives. Not only are the concealed colors brought out by the loss of the overlying feather tips, but the shapes of the feathers themselves are changed. This may be called a color change without moult, but there is a sharp dividing line between this result of wear and the alleged color change ascribed to some sort of unknown cell activity within the feather itself.

The first winter plumage is completely donned in some species in the vicinity of New York city, as early as the first of August, in others not before the middle of November, while the departed Swallows and Flycatchers are sometimes even later. It may be worn a full year without any moult occurring

as for example in the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza fasciata*), or Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), or a prenuptial moult, usually partial sometimes complete, takes place evidently for the purpose of supplying a portion at least of the bright feathers of the adult. In the plumage of the first winter males and females may usually be told apart for the first time and the tendency is for males in this dress to resemble, although brighter in color, the adult female in winter dress. There is however great individual variation, some males assuming here and there few or many feathers fully adult in pattern and color. It is fair to suppose such birds to have unusual vitality and mere precocity must not be confused with what generally takes place. Then there is the other extreme where a bird fails to reach the standard and a deficiency of pigment or failure to moult the juvenal feathers occurs; and it requires a great many specimens to be sure of what the normal acquisitions really are. As a general rule the depth of color in the wings and tails of young birds will average less than that of adults, and in some species this character becomes more pronounced the longer the plumage is worn. The increasing depth of color apparent in some species while they are assuming first winter plumage, is I think, largely due to superimposed layers of new feathers.

The small size of the bill of young birds is a character distinguishing them from adults for a long time and a deepening or change in its color is marked in some species. The color too of the iris is sometimes strikingly different in young birds and helps determine their age. The change during the winter from brown to red in the iris of the Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) and from gray to white in the White-eyed Vireo, (*Vireo noveboracensis*) is only somewhat more striking than what occurs in many other species. Legs and feet also deepen in color.

About nine out of ten birds in most collections are in first winter plumage, and it is one that ought to be thoroughly understood.

**4. First Nuptial Plumage** (plate IV, fig. 3; plate VI, fig. 3; plate VII, fig. 4). This is a fourth stage representing the dress assumed by young or immature birds during their first

breeding season, and contrasting with the "second" and "third" (or adult) nuptial of successive breeding seasons. It may be simply the first winter plumage plus a certain amount of wear, it may be the result of a complete prenuptial moult or it may be the result of a partial prenuptial moult plus wear of the retained feathers. Consequently it is not infrequently made up of feathers belonging to three different stages, the old wings and tail of the juvenal dress, part of the old body plumage of the first winter dress and new feathers of the first nuptial dress. The most confusing admixture of these different plumages may be seen in some species, individual variation and sex being also potent factors in producing combinations of feathers that furnish even to-day some very puzzling problems. Species that complete the postjuvinal moult before moving south and those that consummate their prenuptial moult in our latitude offer at the present time no problems at all, and when material illustrating the moults of species that undergo the process while in distant lands is obtained, I venture to predict that problems will cease to exist. It is suggestive that theories have clustered chiefly about brightly colored species few of which attain adult dress without passing through a series of moults, the counterpart of which may be found among less conspicuous species. Bright adults taken at the same season as young birds variously sprinkled with irregular patches of color have furnished a theme for endless argument, and assertions of "restoration" and "repigmentation." These irregular patches will be found to correspond in every case with the points in the feather tracts where the moult usually begins or in the series of feathers that ordinarily precede other series. There is some irregularity, of course, but these feathers will almost invariably be less worn than those adjacent. I find just such patches and sprinklings of feathers on birds of inconspicuous plumage, and I can prove their growth at the prenuptial moult in many species of which I have large series and in some others from southern latitudes represented by only a few specimens. It would be difficult to say why some species pass their first breeding season in the plumage of the

first winter altered only by wear, while others closely allied whether specifically or by habit undergo a more or less complete prenuptial moult, but the fact is incontestable. It is unfortunate that we have so little material illustrating this moult which takes place in so many species while they are away in their southern haunts, their winter wanderings carrying some of them beyond the equator.

The facts concerning the time of this moult are these. In the vicinity of New York, resident species and birds that winter begin to moult towards the end of March as exemplified by the Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) or Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*.) A little later such species as the American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) and White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) begin a moult completed early in May. Many other species that do not winter very far to the south appear to moult in February or March sometimes arriving here with visible traces of recent feather-growth. The most difficult plumages to explain are those of birds which move south early in the autumn before the customary postjuvenal of young birds or the postnuptial of adults has taken place. It seems probable that in these species, which include some of the Swallows and Flycatchers, there is a late postnuptial moult of adults simultaneous with a partial postjuvenal of young birds the latter in some cases shortly after passing through a complete or partial prenuptial moult. This is the usual sequence in species that moult while with us and a few specimens from far southern counties near the tropics show moult in mid-winter and in spring. The fact that new growth of feathers occurs during the winter in many species is beyond doubt—the only question to be solved is, when? That the postjuvenal and prenuptial seasons of moult overlap, although not in the same species, is proved by numerous specimens of Warblers I have seen which begin to assume their first nuptial dress as early as November and December (in Jamaica, West Indies) although January and February specimens are in more active moult. In some species the prenuptial moult appears to proceed very slowly and irregularly.

The prenuptial moult is certainly a most interesting subject and it is one upon which we have had very little light shed. Its purpose is double, to approximate the plumage of the young bird to that of the adult and to adorn the adult with his brightest colors. In females the prenuptial moult is either limited or even altogether suppressed, and a fresh complication arises in species in which it occurs only in the young bird, not to be repeated a second year. Each species appears to have a definite type of moult although individual vigor and sex modify it and produce all sorts of combinations of plumage.

Some species undergo a complete moult like the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*), or Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) others acquire distal primaries and part of the body plumage like the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) or Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*); others renew the whole body plumage but not the wings or tail like many of the Warblers, or the American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*); and still others renew but a small area of the head and throat like the Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella socialis*) or Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*). These are some of the classes into which the birds naturally fall but there is no hard and fast line between them. Ordinarily the anterior parts of the body are most frequently subject to moult, the posterior parts less and the flight-feathers least, but a few stray feathers are apt to develop on all of the body tracts at this moult in presumably vigorous individuals. The sprinkling of new feathers is well shown in such species as the Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*), and is only less conspicuous in the Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*). From what I have said it is obvious that the first nuptial plumage is the most difficult of any to properly understand. It is the culmination of the rapid series of moults through which a young bird passes and in many species lands him in full adult dress. When adults and young appear to be alike in plumage in the breeding season some clue to their age may often be found in the duller and more worn wings and tail retained from the juvenal stage of the previous summer. The primary coverts are valuable keys

as well as any feathers retained elsewhere, but all other plumage characters are unreliable. I can only suspect that freak plumages and albinism occur most often in young birds judging by a few that I have examined.

When no prenuptial moult occurs the first nuptial plumage is the first winter plumage plus wear, and perhaps no more deserves a new name than does the continuation of a street. There are, however, some advantages in changing the name in either case. Wear in many species effects striking color changes by loss of feather edgings or feather barbules, when concealed colors are brought into view or modified in intensity by contrast. As these changes are varied and fully discussed under the species in which they occur they need not be particularized here. It must not be forgotten that wear is a constantly acting force, its effects being perhaps most noticeable in those species in which black areas are veiled by buff feather tips.

The importance of understanding the first nuptial plumage has been I hope, sufficiently demonstrated and with full knowledge of its intricacies, there remains no peg on which to hang silly theories which are disproved by every established fact.

5. **Second or Adult Winter Plumage** (plate VII, figs. 1 and 3). This fifth stage known usually as the "adult autumnal" plumage is always the result of a complete first postnuptial moult, usually directly at the close of the breeding season and before migration begins, except among the Swallows, Flycatchers and possibly a few others that press south first. This plumage is often quite different from the first winter dress and even when practically indistinguishable to superficial observation, the wings and tail are of a deeper color and the edgings richer and darker. Streakings will average broader and spots larger in the adult while veiling seems to diminish according to age, as shown by specimens in moult or retaining tell-tale feathers of the old plumage, but unfortunately age can seldom be determined after a bird is one year old. It is contrary to popular belief that birds acquire adult plumage within so brief a time, but all the evidence points that way. In many species young and old are indistinguishable in winter dress, as may be demonstrated beyond

doubt by the cranial character on which I would lay so much stress. The Purple Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) and many of the Sparrows are examples. The prenuptial moult may obliterate distinctions that survive the postjuvencal moult, for instance in the Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*) or White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). Distinctions that have survived the two earlier moults, whatever may have been their extent appear to vanish at the first postnuptial. If I had ever found autumnal specimens in immature plumage, showing the characters of the adult skull, I would be ready to admit that some species pass a second winter in immature dress, but I fail to find any such birds. On the other hand I do find birds in adult winter plumage with a few of the feathers that characterize the first nuptial dress. I have seen such specimens actually in moult of the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*), Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) and others supposed to require several years to attain fully adult plumage. That variety of plumages is due primarily to individual variation can be proved beyond dispute by many specimens in first winter plumage, and also by many in first nuptial dress when parts of the previous plumages are retained. That even the most highly colored species require but one year to attain fully adult plumage is therefore not a matter so difficult of demonstration when adult autumnal specimens are secured in moult still retaining the tell-tale feathers of their first nuptial dress.

6. **Second or Adult Nuptial Plumage** (plate VII, fig. 2). This sixth stage acquired like the fourth by wear alone, by moult or by a combination of the two can only be distinguished from later nuptial plumages in a very few exceptional cases in which either first nuptial feathers have been retained after the first post-nuptial moult or birds are taken in the midst of it. As this moult is normally complete, the second nuptial plumage will be made up at most of parts of two, the second winter and the second nuptial. It is therefore less complex than the first nuptial and may or may not differ from it in pattern and color. It has been pretty generally taken for granted that brilliancy of plumage increases with age, but it is not an easy thing to prove



this. It seems to be true of the *average* adult, yet many young birds either at the postjuvenal, the first prenuptial, or the first postnuptial moult do assume colors quite as bright as the most highly colored adults.

It seems probable that females which assume male plumage contrary to their usual habit are old adults. The most difficult problem to solve in connection with this stage is whether all adults continue to have a prenuptial moult after the first year. There are few species which do not show renewal of a few scattering feathers, chiefly noticeable on the ramal margins of the chin, at the season of the prenuptial moult and perhaps as we learn more of it we may be obliged to consider this moult universal and merely suppressed in certain species just as it is in the females of certain species. We can easily tell how extensive it is in young birds from differences of plumage, but with adults it is difficult, for many of them assume a winter plumage that wear alone *might* easily convert into the nuptial dress. A mere sprinkling of new red feathers among the yellow ones of the young Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) for instance, is conspicuous, but the same sprinkling might occur a second season and be quite overlooked among the old red ones especially when wear has assailed both sorts. When the prenuptial moult is fairly extensive, old tell-tale feathers show that both young and old undergo a moult, but when it is limited to small areas and to few feathers the problem is anything but easy even with specimens actually in process of moult. With specimens taken long after the prenuptial moult it may be impossible to make out from the amount of wear whether the feathers of the perhaps identical winter plumage have been renewed or not. If all the spring specimens of a species show evidences of moult, it is fair to assume that both adults and young have been affected. In spite of the evidence *pro* and *con* I must admit the question of the adult prenuptial moult is one that in a number of species has not been settled to my entire satisfaction. If young and old could be told apart in all cases at this season the matter would be much simplified. It depends now chiefly upon knowledge of winter plumages and estimates of wear.

The part that age plays in dichromatism, albinism, melanism, etc., is one as yet little understood and also offers an inviting field for investigation.

Beyond the second nuptial plumage it is not possible to trace the age of a bird, for the second postnuptial moult removes the last tell-tale feathers that in a few individuals of a few highly colored species have survived earlier moults. Whether more careful study of a greater number of species will show age characters of plumage persistent to seventh or eighth stages, I cannot say, but so far as the Passerine species of eastern North America are concerned I feel confident that the usual time assigned for the acquisition of adult plumage has been greatly overestimated.

#### V. COLOR FACTS *vs.* COLOR THEORIES

The number of investigators who have studied feathers, ever since the days of Aristotle, is almost incredible. All general works deal with plumages, while a number of special papers on feather development, feather structure, moult and color are worthy of particular mention, among them those of Meckel ('15), Dutrochet ('19), Cuvier ('25), Bachman ('39), Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire ('41), Schlegel ('52), Homeyer ('53), Gätke ('54 and '91), Meves ('55), Engel ('56), Holland ('60 to '64), Fatio ('66), Stieda ('69), Samuel ('70), Pernitza ('71), Studer ('73 and '78), Palmén ('80), Klee ('86), Davies ('88 and '89), Ficalbi ('90), Gadow ('91-'93), Maurer ('92 and '95), Meijere ('95), Stone ('96) and Keibel ('96). Besides these writers there are some who have studied color and pigment especially, and among these may be mentioned Gloger ('53), Altum ('54 and '55), Weinland ('56-'59), Bogdanow ('58), Severtzov ('63), Krukenberg ('81), Jeffries ('82), Gadow ('82) and Rabl ('97). Still others (including some of those already cited) have discussed the theory that a feather once grown could be recolored months afterward, an idea that seems to have originated with Cartwright (1792); to have been advanced by Fleming ('17 and '20), Whitear ('18), Ord ('30), Yarrell ('33 and '35), Schlegel ('52)

and other German writers of his period; and to have received recent attention at the hands of Allen ('96), Chadbourne ('97) and Chapman ('96 and '97). It is to this theory, so far as it concerns Passerine species, that I now invite attention.

In view of the endless complexity of birds' plumages and the wide diversity in the manner of their acquisition demonstrable even among a few Passerine species, it is not surprising that theoretical explanations should flourish as long as the facts of moult regarding any species are not known. To catch a bird in moult is no easy matter, to catch him in all his moults is a task of considerable magnitude and yet as fast as this has been accomplished, theory has become superfluous.

Theory has even gone so far as to assert new growth of abraded barbs and barbules by exudations from a frayed weather-beaten feather, although most writers have contented themselves with alleging a fresh influx of pigment or a redistribution of color granules. No two of the upholders of this theory of so-called "color change without moult," or "aptosochromatism," have agreed as to how a feather that to all appearances has been histologically dead for many months may suddenly absorb, create or redistribute fresh coloring matter and the weakest point of their theory is the necessity for a new law of some sort to explain the theory. The mental attitude of those who believe in these changes is a curious one. They usually admit that moult is responsible for the renewal of one feather but claim a color change they cannot exactly explain in the feather adjoining. They would have Nature work according to well established laws in renewing feathers numbers 1, 2 and 3 of a series and then adopt a new one for number 4! They would have us believe that the shaft of a feather is a sort of an avian thermometer tube up and down which coloring fluids slip according to the seasonal systemic warmth of the bird! There is an element of the absurd about the position taken by theorists, but it is only fair to them to sift the evidence they bring forward in support of their theories. This is the evidence of live birds and the evidence of dead ones. Live birds must of necessity be caged birds, and dead ones of course are chiefly museum or cabinet specimens.

It has been asserted that various species of caged birds have been seen to change color without feather loss. Well, it is perfectly true that some do change color, but in these birds, as can be proved, no actual pigmentary change takes place. Colors concealed by feather edgings or optical effects produced by structure may be intensified by gradual loss of parts of the feathers and as these minute parts will not be found in the cage, those who are ignorant of simple principles of wear will see a "brightening by influx of pigment." The adult Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) and adult Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) both brighten very perceptibly by wear alone as I can testify. The former has no prenuptial moult, the latter has one confined to the body plumage. Theorists class both together and lump with them a lot of other species, among which similar changes are observed by them or by their friends and the crudest observations and baldest statements are offered as "proof" of new color.

From the extensive literature of the subject we learn that observers of caged birds have failed to bar out the possibility of moult, and in species that regularly only renew a small portion of their plumage at the prenuptial moult (particularly the small feathers about the head) I have no doubt that moult has occurred, the tiny feathers being whirled out of the cage by a puff of air or rolled up to almost nothing if sprinkled from the bath or drinking cup. It is not often that many are cast off at one time and they are so extremely small that the entire plumage of the head of a bird the size of a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza fasciata*) may be held between the thumb and forefinger. Did any of the theorists ever try blowing away such a pinch of feathers even in a small room and see how many he will find? Some idea of the relative size of feathers may be gained from **plate I**, on which those of a Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), a good sized Passerine bird are figured. In order to give some idea of their relative number, I have made actual count of all the contour feathers on a spring male. The enumeration of the minute down-feathers, semiplumes and floplumes I leave to others. The result of my count is as follows:

Alar Tracts . . . . .	492	Ventral Tract . . . . .	465
Humeral Tracts . . . . .	96	Caudal Tract . . . . .	55
Capital Tract . . . . .	1385	Lumbar Tracts . . . . .	70
Dorsal Tract . . . . .	506	Crural Tracts . . . . .	166
		Total . . . . .	3235

The actual number of feathers, however, is not nearly so important as their size, and I will venture to assert that over 50% of the total number are no larger than those shown on **plate I, fig. 17**, while hundreds of them are almost microscopic. The Bobolink is one of the species cited by several observers as changing from buff to black without feather loss because no feathers are found in cages. The most plausible evidence yet advanced is Dr. A. P. CHADBOURNE'S ('97) but even this observer admits that his cage was not protected by any netting. Furthermore he leads us to expect tremendous feather-loss and estimates the number of feathers, kind not specified, at 2634. As most of the feathers of a Bobolink are extremely small, a wing beat would readily drive them out of the cage. Suppose now a caged bird possessed the dark wings and tail often found in autumn. Without moult the loss of their buff edgings combined with the ragged state in which we find them later might easily produce a color that would pass for black and if numerous body feathers had been knocked out, as is often the case, before observations upon a specimen began, it would be easy to overlook a partial moult. I know from personal experience how easy it is to fail to find by examination the tiny feather sheaths which are quickly lost even before the black portion of the yellow tipped feathers pushes out into view among the concealing buff feathers. Having pointed out some of the possibilities of error in observations, I may add that Dr. CHADBOURNE'S Bobolink and one or two others that have not been preserved by their owners are certainly unique. There is no lack of evidence that other caged Bobolinks undergo a fairly complete moult in the spring and I have personally watched several birds and seen others that had completed the process. Even admitting that some birds can and do turn black as asserted, it is no proof

whatever that such change ever can or does occur in the wild state. If caged birds prove anything they prove that under peculiar and abnormal environment the process of moult is curiously suspended or modified by such factors as food, warmth, fright, etc., but if color changes in wild birds are to be explained by what a few captive birds are alleged to have done, there are likely to be sceptics who question the accuracy of such observations.

The dulness of the plumage of sick birds and subsequent brightening has been noticed, but it is simpler to attribute the improvement rather to the renewal of the neglected oiling and preening than to colors within the feathers themselves.

Theorists support their arguments by telling us that the color of Canary Birds may be changed by food, but they fail to tell us that the administration of Cayenne pepper must be begun weeks before a moult, the *new* feathers coming in of a different color from the old. Therefore any bald statement that diet will effect color change in feathers needs to be taken with a grain of salt. Sauermann ('89) has made some interesting experiments that any bird-fancier will confirm if questioned.

Another assertion of theorists is that a feather is not a dead structure, but possessed of some sort of vital connection with the body or capable at least of internal cell activity. Experiments with feathers, even while attached to the skin of a living bird, show that mechanical recoloration is possible, but this is no proof that such a thing can occur except by artificial means. The penetrative power of oils and staining reagents, be the absorbing substance organic or inorganic, is well known and every biologist is aware that dead tissues stain more readily in most cases than living ones. In the case of feathers we are dealing with structures that are (except in the minds of theorists) when mature, cut off from further vital connection with the body, and to assume a re-opening of this connection, or stranger still, a revival of cell activity in dead tissue is simply a tacit confession that the first principles of moult have not been apprehended. Microscopic investigations are always impressive, but they lose force when employed in support of a theory which is not only quite superfluous, but does not even accord with known facts.

Turning now from the evidence of caged birds to that derived from museum skins what do we find? Again superfluous theory, and a perversion of facts to fit, based on the most superficial observations. Without taking pains to learn even the simplest facts, our foreign brethren and some too on this side of the ocean have offered triumphantly mixed plumages as proof of color change without moult, and extremists believe in a rebuilding of the worn margins of feathers, or at least in their vitality, because they see with a microscope pores which exude something. Some writers wax eloquent upon the subject.

“Foci” and “spreading areas of color” are observed and a series of feathers showing the changing pattern are plucked out and figured in blissful ignorance that all the various patterns were present in the feathers when they developed at the last period of moult. Just such feathers (as, for instance, some from the breast of a Bobolink **plate I, figs. 1-6**) may be found fresh and new after a moult or worn and frayed and perhaps in juxtaposition with newly grown ones at a later season of moult, as proved by scores of species treated in the present paper. There is not the slightest evidence of recoloration, the alleged changes being easily and naturally explicable, as due to the normal sequence of normal moult modified by normal wear. The true explanation of the plumages of such species as the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Habia ludoviciana*), Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*), Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*), Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) and other alleged examples of color change without moult will be found under these species, and all mixed plumages are readily explained without resort to theory, if the fundamental principles of moult are once firmly fixed in mind. I have examined something like 15,000 birds during the last few years and I find none which do not conform to the definite laws of moult and wear which I have laid down. I often wonder at the temerity of theorists who, with a mere handful of specimens taken, perhaps, all at one season, do not hesitate to betray their ignorance of the foundation facts of plumage. As long as they do not apprehend them, their conclusions are not to be taken

seriously and as long as they are unaware that the plumage of a specimen may be the resultant of no less than three moults, that old and young may moult quite differently and that males and females may not moult alike, of what value are their theories?

Dr. CHADBOURNE in his paper previously cited asserts that the skin of a Bobolink taken March 1, in Brazil, proves color change and moult going on simultaneously. An understanding of the A B C of moult shows that the first assumption is without support and that the bird is a typical adult male undergoing a perfectly normal and complete prenuptial moult as already explained by Mr. CHAPMAN ('97). The feathers of the worn adult winter dress are found at exactly the points where they are regularly found in all Passerine species before a moult is completed and the whiteness of the abdomen is not due to albinism as the writer suggests, but to the normal fading of feathers that were almost white when assumed in the autumn. I have examined the bird and agree with Mr. CHAPMAN that no new white feathers are discoverable (the one figured by (CHADBOURNE, *Auk*, '97, plate 1a, fig. 2) certainly does not look like a new one), all of them being much worn. Therefore the "proof" that they will turn black rests on a single feather by what means determined as of new growth we are not informed. In like manner his statement that the black feathers regularly sprinkled on the throats of adults in autumn will shortly turn buff is not in accordance with facts for these feathers become the old worn ones found on the March bird. (*i. e.*, feather, plate 1a, fig. 4 would wear to fig. 3). In fig. 5 is shown an autumn feather that would be found in spring with the foci unchanged. In fig. 1 we see another old black feather that was just the same color when it grew at the postnuptial moult. Not one of these feathers therefore has been correctly interpreted and what is true of this plate is true of others that are considered convincing proofs of alleged color changes in other species.

Now, to maintain in the face of these facts about which there can be no question, that moult and a color change may coexist in such a warping of facts to fit a theory, that even the em-



phasis of italics and small capitals is not convincing. While Dr. CHADBOURNE's paper is a model of exactness in details, the real facts do not bear out his conclusions, nor are his explanations the simplest possible. As his evident skill in microscopic technique will be apt to carry much weight, I have criticized his paper at some length because it embodies most of the unsubstantial foundations on which modern theory rests. The views of many of the earlier writers have already been analyzed by Dr. ALLEN ('96) and need not be specified here. Suffice it to say, therefore, that however pleasing all the various theories may have been they have set aside the following facts: *First* the normal histology of the feather; *Second*, the normal moult; *Third*, the normal sequence of plumages; and *Fourth*, the normal effects of wear. A proper comprehension of these four basal facts will entirely eliminate the necessity of abnormal color change while at the same time explaining every plumage easily and naturally. If Nature must be assisted in a perfectly well understood moult by a process of color change about which no two of its champions offer the same explanation, it seems to me that Nature's ability to follow the same laws in all cases is discredited because these champions of supposed new ones have failed to recognize the old. I am not the first to reach these conclusions, but many of my predecessors in the field were much hampered by lack of material to confirm their opinions. BACHMAN ('39) had a good idea of moult among North American species in spite of some errors. Since his day no comprehensive article touching upon our birds has been written until Mr. WITMER STONE ('96) made clear the different plumages of certain species. I might cite other reliable writers besides these two so far apart in point of time so near together in point of view, but it would serve here no good purpose.

Years ago a theory was current that Swallows hibernated beneath the mud of ponds. The fact that they could not do it and did not do it is a lesson that our modern color-change theorists would do well to take to heart. Nowhere among living organisms do restorative changes in tissue take place without destruction or casting off of the old. Consequently belief that

a feather which regularly develops, dies and is cast off, can possibly violate such a universal law is not only contrary to common sense but contrary as well to every established fact regarding the moulting of birds.

## VI. OUTDOOR STUDY OF MOULT

### Seasons of Moul

This is a pleasant and fascinating side of the subject of moul for it takes us out into the open air of woods and fields. Hot, muggy August has been considered, the month of moul in the vicinity of New York city, and it will surprise some of us to learn that many of our local species quite complete their winter plumage before August arrives, while others do not begin to assume it until the month has long passed. Although this month does mark the high tide of moul, especially among the adults of a great many species, there are few months in the year when one species or another does not show evidences of feather loss just past or just beginning. A complete moul is accomplished in from four to six weeks, stray feathers continuing to appear for a much longer period, but partial moults require much less time. The young of most of our Passerine species remain in the nest about two weeks, a little more or less according to size, this period corresponding very nearly to the duration of the natal down.

The growth of the juvenal plumage begins while the young bird is still in the nest, the wings and tail requiring several weeks to reach maturity. Birds hardly able to fly will be found which already show signs on the breast of the first winter plumage; these species as a rule do not lose the wings and tail at the postjuvenal moul; others however do, and usually such birds will have worn the juvenal plumage for many weeks before the postjuvenal moul begins.

The blending together of the moults of the young bird makes it difficult to assign the time required for any one of them and the time varies with each species. It can be said, however, that

the first winter plumage *may* be practically complete within a month after the nest is abandoned, the juvenal having been completed in less than half that period.

The adults of early nesting species, for example, the Crow (*Corvus americanus*) or Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitherus vermivorus*), begin to moult by the end of June when the postnuptial moult may be said to begin. These represent an ill-defined class of early breeding birds whose young appear towards the end of May or earlier and who raise but one brood in the season. Another class comprises the later breeding species raising but one brood hatched towards the end of June like the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) or Wood Thrush (*Turdus mustelinus*), which moult late in July. A third class comprises birds that regularly raise two broods like the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza fasciata*) or Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), the first appearing towards the end of May, the second in July. The first brood begins the postjuvenal moult late in August, the second moults in September and October. Belated broods are puzzling and are probably mistaken for third broods by the average observer. It is my opinion that none of our local species regularly raises more than two broods (and few of them more than one) in one season, for a bird taken in nuptial dress, whether accompanied by young or not, when many other birds of the same species show a symmetrical and extensive development of the moult is suggestive evidence, not of a third, but of a belated brood. My grouping into three classes is purely artificial, however, and only done because it is convenient to think of species thus grouped.

From what I have already said it is easy to understand what a confusion of moulting birds may be found during July, August and September. The postnuptial moult of adults regularly precedes the postjuvenal in the same species although young birds may overtake adults in assuming fall plumage if they do not renew the flight feathers. If adults, then, begin a moult in June they complete it in July, if they begin in August they end in September and late-nesting species like the Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) begin in September to finish in October and even No-

vember. Belated broods of young birds may delay the moult of their parents far beyond the usual limits. As for the migrants which reach us from the north their moult is usually completed almost entirely before they reach us.

December and January are generally the only months in the whole year when most evidences of moult are lacking in the specimens obtained here. In February some of the birds that have wintered with us begin to show signs of the prenuptial moult. The Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodromus princeps*) from the end of this month to the end of March acquires new feathers about the head and throat and the last of March marks the beginning of a nearly or quite complete renewal of body feathers in the Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). April marks a partial prenuptial moult in several local species, among them the Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) and the White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). During April and May the young of early hatched species begin to appear and among a host of migrants on their way north a few birds are found showing stray "pin feathers" which tell of a moult accomplished perhaps far away in the south. I have roughly indicated what each month in the year may teach us regarding the moult and I turn now to another subject which has been a matter of some controversy.

### Migration After Moult

It is, perhaps, not generally believed that birds depart from their breeding grounds immediately after the moult, but there are two cogent reasons in favor of this view. One is the fact that many species in the vicinity of New York city do disappear directly after and sometimes before assuming winter plumage, and the other is the fact that none of the species which breed farther north arrive here before the last traces of the moult are nearly if not quite obliterated. I have never seen a passing migrant, except possibly the White-bellied Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), showing signs of immaturity in the flight-feathers. In the spring too for that matter very few of the arrivals from the south show any signs of the moult, through

which, from the freshness of their feathers we know they must have passed. The postjuvenile and the postnuptial moults are virtually completed so far as the flight-feathers are concerned before the species moves south. Most of the Flycatchers and Swallows, however, disappear before these moults begin, but they and a few others are exceptions. The progressive shrinkage or involution of the sexual organs of adults is, as a rule, quite marked before the postnuptial moult sets in, and it is highly improbable any further attempt to rear young is ever made once this retrograde process has begun. When the last brood is on the wing and well able to care for themselves, the moult of the parents begins, that of the male starting a little before that of the female as becomes evident when a pair can be secured. As the female attends to the wants of her family longer than does the male, it is not surprising that her moult should be the later. We can readily believe that when a brood is raised to take the place of accidentally destroyed eggs or young, the involution and the moult are both delayed. As almost all of our migratory species move south on the completion of a moult which is accomplished somewhat earlier in adults than in their progeny, it is natural to expect the former to go first. My actual experience is that the last loiterers of many of our summer breeding species are young birds. Some species disappear almost entirely, as for instance the Golden-crowned Thrush (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) and later reappear when migrants from the north arrive to replace them. The first comers are not always adults but they are very apt to be.

Species near the northern limit of their breeding range, such for instance as the Hooded Warbler (*Sylvania mitrata*) or Blue-winged Yellow Warbler (*Helminthophila pinus*), rapidly disappear on completing their moult. The specimens obtained late in the season all prove to be young birds, and this is the case with many species that I have pursued with the object of securing adults. The evidence of moult is that old birds migrate south first because they are ready first.

It is an undoubted fact that when a species has an extensive breeding range, the birds towards its southern limits begin to

moult earlier than those at its northern. I fancy that this has something to do with the great individual variation we see in immature birds the following summer. A species that might raise two broods at the south would perhaps raise but one at the north and we might suppose the older birds to be more vigorous. It is apparently the case with species raising two broods everywhere. Young birds show variable vigor and presumably the highest plumaged are the oldest and the ones most likely to assume at the postjuvinal moult feathers that in the younger would not be donned until the prenuptial period.

### Preponderance of Young in Autumn

There is another matter which comes in naturally at this point. The vexed question why young birds are obtained in the autumn in such overwhelming abundance as compared with adults has never been solved. Various explanations have been offered but none of them seems adequate. Several causes probably contribute to make adults in fall plumage so rare in collections and I have a new one to add which I believe is an important factor in the case. It is simply that the old birds take better care of themselves and the young most frequently fall victims to our powder and shot. Anyone who has chased a family of Towhees (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) along a hedge row will be prepared to admit that it is the parents who skip along at the head of the procession with surprising alacrity. In the autumn do we not find adult Wood Pewees (*Contopus virens*) and Scarlet Tanagers (*Piranga erythromelas*) almost inaccessible at the very tops of the tallest trees? If anyone doubts whether old birds take good care of themselves let him use his gun with this idea in view before the woods and fields are invaded by a host of passing migrants from the north. Just as soon as the young of our summer species reach a stage when they no longer need to be fed by their parents, the latter cannot be lured by the most seductive squeakings one can muster which earlier would have thrown them into a high state of excitement and remonstrance. It is the young that are attracted by the sounds

and the adults may sometimes be observed slipping away at the first alarm. Their timidity is probably increased by the somewhat disabled state in which they find themselves owing to the moult. While the feather loss at this time is so carefully compensated for by feather gain that birds as a rule are very little crippled in their locomotive powers, still we may well suppose they feel some anxiety as to their ability to escape when their feathers are only partly developed or new and untried. We must also take into consideration the endeavor manifested by birds to lead their young out of danger, a trait which may influence them to a greater or less extent after the young are quite able to shift for themselves. In flocks of migrants, too, it seems to be the old birds that first take alarm and the loiterers almost invariably prove to be the young birds that have not learned the dangers of delay. The early banding together and departure south of the adults of a particular species that has reared young in a locality near the northern limit of that species may account in great measure for the apparent rarity of local adults because few of us care to brave the midsummer sun, in pursuit of them, but it does not explain why among the hords of migrants from more northern breeding regions so few adults are secured. The theory of a migration of adults by a different route from that taken by the young birds *may* explain some cases and the relatively greater number of young due to the natural increase of species will account for a part of the existing disproportion but none of these explanations is adequate. It is a subject where field work and closet study go hand in hand and it remains to be proved whether my theory of personal safety, the only one I advance in these pages, will be displaced by a better.

In collections the proportion of young birds taken in the spring when it is possible to determine their age is far smaller than in the fall. In fact adults and young seem to be about evenly divided in numbers, except in the case of bright colored species where the brilliant adults have evidently attracted the collector's attention more than the duller young birds.

## VII. PLUMAGES AND MOULTS OF NEW YORK SPECIES

### **Classification of Molt**

No attempt has ever been made to group North American birds according to the manner of their moulting and it is certainly desirable that an outline of some system of classification should be traced, imperfect as is our present knowledge of the subject. Among the Passerine species of New York, which include nearly all of those of eastern North America, will be found the greatest diversity of moult not only in the different species, but in individuals of the same species, not to mention the peculiarities due to the age and sex of these individuals. Large series of birds taken at the proper season are necessary to determine which are the exceptions and which the rule, and until more positive light of this nature is thrown upon the species that moult when south of the United States, the status of some of them must remain a matter of doubt.

Aside from ascertaining the facts of moult in each species, the greatest difficulty lies in the impossibility of drawing any hard and fast line between groups or classes that may be proposed. The only invariable moult is the postnuptial which, except in a very few rare cases, is absolutely complete and takes place in all species at the close of or soon after the breeding season peculiar to each. The dividing line, however, between species with a postnuptial moult only and those that undergo a prenuptial as well, is not a definite one. Some appear to undergo only one prenuptial moult, that of the first year of their life, and form a connecting link between groups of birds that moult annually and those that moult twice a year, but as the females of such species usually omit the prenuptial changes of the male, it seems advisable to consider them all as a special class of birds moulting annually.

As in plumage so in moult, classification must depend primarily upon the males and the extent of their prenuptial changes seems to afford a good basis for classifying birds with semi-



annual renewal of plumage. With those of annual renewal, however, we must go back to the postjuvénal moult which imposes upon species characters that they retain for a twelve-month. But here again there is no sharp dividing line, and without large series of specimens to eliminate individual variations, it is extremely easy to classify wrongly. For instance, the Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris*) would seem to belong to Group A, and yet many late winter specimens show new growth of a few feathers about the chin and the eyes, suggesting the transference of this species to Group J. In another species, the Snowflake (*Plectrophenax nivalis*), the regular and more extensive growth of feathers in the same regions has led me to place it, with some hesitation, in Group J, because a like extent of renewal in the Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) produces visible changes that in the Snowflake are not apparent.

It is possible that when we know more of the birds classed under E and F, both these groups may prove superfluous and the species turn out to moult to an extremely limited extent every year, but I hardly think so. They now contain birds that in some individuals at least accomplish by moult at the postjuvénal period what is delayed in others until the prenuptial.

The groups I propose are fairly distinct for the majority of the species included in them although there are some birds that vary so in the extent of their moult as to properly belong to several. For example, there may be enough difference in two male White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) to warrant placing one in Group I and the other in J, while of two females one might be placed in J and the other in C.

In species that undergo a prenuptial moult there may be found every gradation from birds that renew the whole of their plumage to those that merely gain a few feathers about the anterior parts of the head. It is even probable that some of the species I have included under J belong more properly under F and possibly even to the groups of birds with annual moult. With much material for study, it has been impossible for me to be positive about some species but their status will be discussed later on under the species themselves.

## I. ANNUAL OR SINGLE MOULT (Postnuptial).

1. *Postjuvénal Moul't complete.*

*a.* Young and adults nearly alike in Winter and Nuptial Plumages. A

*b.* Young and adults unlike in Winter and Nuptial Plumages. B

2. *Postjuvénal Moul't incomplete*, not involving remiges nor rectrices.

*a.* Young and adults nearly alike in Winter and Nuptial Plumages. C

*b.* Young and adults unlike in Winter and Nuptial Plumages. D

3. *Young with a First Prenuptial Moul't*, following incomplete Postjuvénal Moul't.

*a.* Extensive, including often rectrices and even a few remiges. E

*b.* Limited chiefly to the head. F

## II. SEMIANNUAL OR DOUBLE MOULT (Postnuptial and Prenuptial).

1. *Prenuptial Moul't complete.* G2. *Prenuptial Moul't of body complete* (in young including often the rectrices and sometimes a few remiges). H3. *Prenuptial Moul't of body incomplete*, never involving rectrices nor remiges. I4. *Prenuptial Moul't of body very incomplete* and limited chiefly to the head. J

## CLASS A

Otocoris alpestris	Ammodramus maritimus
“ “ praticola	Melospiza fasciata
“ “ leucolæma	Cardinalis cardinalis
Sturnus vulgaris	Petrochelidon lunifrons
Molothrus ater	Chelidon erythrogastra
Sturnella magna	Tachycineta bicolor
Scolecophagus carolinus	Clivicola riparia
Quiscalus quiscula	Stelgidopteryx serripennis
“ “ æneus	Vireo noveboracensis (C?)
Passer domesticus	Icteria virens (C?)

## CLASS B

Agelaius phoeniceus	Progne subis
Passerina ciris	

## CLASS C

Alauda arvensis (?)	Vireo flavifrons
Myiarchus crinitus	“ solitarius
Sayornis phoebe	“ “ plumbeus
Contopus borealis	Protonotaria citrea
“ virens	Helinaia swainsonii
Empidonax flaviventris	Helmitherus vermivorus
“ virescens	Helminthophila pinus
“ traillii alnorum	“ chysoptera
“ minimus	Dendroica dominica
Pica pica hudsonica	“ vigorsii
Cyanocitta cristata	Seiurus aurocapillus
Perisoreus canadensis	“ noveboracensis
Corvus corax principalis	“ “ notabilis
“ americanus	“ motacilla
“ ossifragus	Sylvania mitrata
Coccythraustes vespertinus	Mimus polyglottos
Acanthis linaria	Galeoscoptes carolinensis
“ “ rostrata	Harporhynchus rufus
Carduelis carduelis	Thryothorus ludovicianus
Spinus pinus	Troglodytes aëdon
Poocætes gramineus	“ hiemalis
Spizella monticola	Certhia familiaris americana
“ pusilla	Sitta carolinensis
Junco hyemalis	“ canadensis
Melospiza lincolni	“ pusilla
Passerella iliaca	Parus bicolor
Pipilo erythrophthalmus	“ atricapillus
Ampelis garrulus	“ carolinensis
“ cedrorum	“ hudsonicus
Vireo olivaceus	Regulus satrapa
“ philadelphicus	“ calendula
“ gilvus	Turdus mustelinus

<i>Turdus fuscescens</i>	<i>Turdus aonalaschkæ pallasii</i>
“ <i>aliciæ</i>	<i>Merula migratoria</i>
“ “ <i>bicknelli</i>	<i>Hesperocichla nævia</i>
“ <i>ustulatus swainsonii</i>	<i>Sialia sialis</i>

## CLASS D

<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	<i>Loxia curvirostra minor</i>
<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	“ <i>leucoptera</i>
	<i>Dendroica cærulescens</i> (F ?)

## CLASS E

*Icterus galbula*

## CLASS F

<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i> (J ?)	<i>Piranga rubra</i>
<i>Icterus spurius</i>	<i>Dendroica virens</i>
<i>Guiraca cærulea</i>	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>

## CLASS G

<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	<i>Cistothorus stellaris</i>
<i>Ammodramus caudacutus</i>	“ <i>palustris</i>
“ <i>c. nelsoni</i>	
“ <i>c. subvirgatus</i>	

## CLASS H

<i>Milvulus tyrannus</i>	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>
<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>
<i>Spinus tristis</i>	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>
<i>Habia ludoviciana</i>	“ <i>erythromelas</i>

## CLASS I

<i>Ammodramus princeps</i>	<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>
“ <i>sandwichensis savanna</i>	“ <i>æstiva</i>
“ <i>savannarum passerinus</i>	“ <i>coronata</i>
“ <i>henslowii</i>	“ <i>maculosa</i>
<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	“ <i>cærulea</i>
<i>Spiza americana</i>	“ <i>pensylvanica</i>
<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	“ <i>castanea</i>

Dendroica striata	Anthus pensilvanicus
“ blackburniæ	Saxicola œnanthe

## CLASS J

Plectrophenax nivalis (A?)	Helminthophila peregrina
Calcarius lapponicus	Compsothlypis americana
“ ornatus	Dendroica palmarum
Chondestes grammacus	“ “ hypochrysea
Zonotrichia leucophrys	Geothlypis formosa
Spizella socialis	“ agilis
Melospiza georgiana	“ philadelphia
Lanius borealis	“ trichas
“ ludovicianus	Sylvania pusilla
Helminthophila ruficapilla	“ canadensis
“ celata	Polioptila cærulea

**Descriptions of Species and their Moults.**

The following pages contain a description of each of the successive plumages of every Passerine species accredited to New York state including introduced foreign species. My object is not so much to give a precise description, such as may now be found in every book, as to throw light on the changes effected by moult and wear, therefore only the JUVENAL and FIRST WINTER PLUMAGES have been treated at length because upon them depends a proper understanding of later stages. The JUVENAL PLUMAGE of a number of species is here described for the first time but I have not succeeded in obtaining this stage of *Alauda arvensis*, *Carduelis carduelis*, *Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni*, *Passerella iliaca*, *Dendroica palmarum*, and *Geothlypis agilis*. The others are in my own collection with the exception of eleven loaned me by Mr. WM. BREWSTER, ten by the American Museum of Natural History and six by the United States National Museum. The “Nomenclature of Colors” by Ridgway ('86) has been carefully followed, comparisons have been made in a bright light and the nomenclature chosen is that of the A. O. U. Check-List, 2d edition ('95).

For the excellence of the photographic work I am indebted to the painstaking endeavors of Dr. EDWARD LEAMING and the photomicrographs are unquestionably the best and practically the only ones of feathers that have ever been reproduced. It is needless to specify the difficulties encountered in selecting feathers of similar size to avoid distortion by photographic enlargement and gravure reduction.

In conclusion, I would say that as I trace out the sequence of moults and plumages in species with which I have been unfamiliar, it becomes more and more evident that moult and wear are quite sufficient to explain the most puzzling plumages, and the only problems as yet unsolved are those dealing with birds of which we do not possess enough specimens to link together all the successive plumages into a symmetrical chain.

#### TYRANNIDÆ.

The Flycatchers offer one of the most puzzling problems of moult to be found among our Passerine birds and the reasons for this are not far to seek. With the exception of two species, *M. crinitus* and *S. phæbe*, young birds and old migrate southward in the fall before moulting, to any marked extent and when they return, show by their plumage that at least one, and in some cases probably two moults have been accomplished during their absence of six or seven months. A few specimens from South and Central America, taken in January and March, show new growing feathers—but the material is, much of it, undated and far too scanty to render satisfactory conclusions possible. Another reason may be found in the plumage itself, which does not vary much in color from season to season and close scrutiny of the feathers is required in order to distinguish old from new. The body plumage, too, is soft and of loose texture, even the juvenal differing little from later stages, so that wear is not very obvious. When, however, suitable material from the tropics is forthcoming, the exact time of moults and their extent will be settled, but until then we must draw inferences largely from the comparative study of plumage.

Some young birds undoubtedly replace the body plumage extensively before they move south, as shown by specimens in my collection ; others, as proved by their juvenal dress conspicuous for brownish wing bands, reach Guatemala or adjacent countries before moulting. It seems more than probable that the incoming feathers observed on birds when they leave us denote a slow process of moult involving later the wings themselves, an order of moult that would be a reversal of the usual method. If, however, this prove to be the case then the transition would be effected by a very late postjuvenal moult in young birds and the first nuptial plumage would be the first winter modified by wear. Some adults, like the young birds, begin to assume a few new feathers before moving southwards, others reach their winter haunts in worn breeding dress. That a complete postnuptial moult takes place we may hardly doubt, for this moult is common to all species and it probably takes place during the last months of the year, or just prior at least to the postjuvenal moult of young birds. This would explain why all specimens arriving from the south in spring are in almost equally fresh plumage, whether young or old, seemingly too fresh to have been worn since the previous autumn.

I have indicated the difficulties to be overcome in studying this family and the same ones confront us among the *Hirundinidae* and a few other species. If my conclusions are erroneous they fail in matters of time rather than facts of moult.

**Milvulus tyrannus** (Linn.). FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including wings and tail, olive-brown ; coverts and wing-quills narrowly edged with pale russet. Below, white. Orbital region dull clove-brown. Bill and feet brownish-black in dried specimen. The tips of the primaries are rounded and there is no yellow crown-patch. The tail is but five inches in length.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postjuvenal moult as shown by two specimens from Costa Rica, September 18 (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. No. 48225 ♂ and No. 48228 ♀),

the male with two old primaries still unrenewed, the female with five old ones, and both with brown heads, and many other feathers of the juvenal plumage. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

Males become glossy black with yellow crown patch; the outer pair of rectrices are fully nine inches in length and blacker than those of the juvenal dress; the three distal primaries are deeply incised at the tips, a peculiar emargination.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired apparently by a partial prenuptial moult which involves usually only the body plumage. The evidence as to just what moult occurs is inconclusive. Two specimens from Brazil, of February 1, and March 15 (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. No. 36336 ♀ and No. 36338 ♀), appear to be in worn juvenal plumage and are assuming a few new feathers here and there. Males would probably show an extensive and possibly a complete moult, and it may be that these two birds were males that failed to accomplish the post-juvenal moult at the usual time. A specimen (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 36339 ♂, Brazil, March 11), is moulting the primaries, only five old ones remaining, two of which are emarginate, suggestive of a young bird, but nevertheless the bird may perhaps be an adult.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult during August and September as shown by several Costa Rican, Venezuelan, and Brazilian birds. October specimens begin to show wear which has become very marked in one of December 5.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial and perhaps complete prenuptial moult. The rapid and excessive wear shown by this species points to a complete moult which No. 36339, referred to above, may exemplify. A female (Amer. Mus., Nat. Hist. No. 36337) Brazil, February 1, also points to this, the two proximal primaries being new.

*Female.*—As indicated above males and females in juvenal plumage are alike and both acquire adult dress at the post-juvenal moult, this being delayed perhaps, in some females, until the prenuptial moult. In later plumages the sexes are very similar, the females usually with less emargination.



The difficulties of reaching positive conclusions from a small series is well illustrated by this species, especially as the age and sex of some specimens is open to doubt.

**Tyrannus tyrannus** (Linn.). KINGBIRD.

1. NATAL DOWN. Mouse-gray.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including wings, dull clove-brown usually darkest on pileum, the feathers of nape and rump obscurely edged with cinnamon, wing coverts edged with pale buff including two indistinct wing bands, secondaries with yellowish white, primaries and tertiaries with dull white; tail black, tipped with brownish white especially outer rectrices. Below, pure white, a grayish band tinged with buff across jugulum. Bill and feet dusky, becoming black. The first and second primaries are rounded, and without emargination (**plate II, fig. 18**) and no crown patch exists.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a late postjuvinal moult which is probably complete, so far as indicated by a few scanty facts. Specimens taken late in August and up to September 16 show new growth of feathers scattered about the head, throat and back. The head and back evidently become darker, the pectoral band grayer and more diffused and a few yellowish feathers may appear on the crown but the birds seem to pass south before the moult is complete. Birds taken in Central America, unfortunately without dates, show that the species reaches the tropics without any moult of the flight feathers or of the wing coverts and often in full juvenal plumage. It is an interesting problem whether the wings and tail are renewed at the end of the postjuvinal moult or at a prenuptial moult, the former conclusion being most probable. A bird from South America taken March 31 (which may possibly be an adult) shows a recently completed moult the sheaths still adhering to the new primaries. More winter material is much to be desired.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired probably by a partial prenuptial moult. This I believe is the true explanation of why birds return in spring in fresh plumage including the two outer emarginate primaries (the shape being indicated on **plate II, fig. 19**), a new white-tipped tail and the orange crown patch,

young and old being indistinguishable. April specimens from Georgia and Florida often show a few "pin feathers." Wear is marked in this species before the end of the breeding season less than four months later which is an argument in favor of a prenuptial moult, because the feathers seen in April, even if acquired late in the autumn, ought to be as much worn as those of August specimens.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult few traces of which appear before the species migrates southward late in August. Whether birds renew the flight-feathers on the journey or after reaching winter quarters, material does not show for the wear of flight-feathers in aerial species is so trifling that their study proves little positively. Perhaps one moult and probably two takes place during the six or seven months this species is absent.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired, probably by a partial prenuptial moult. Mid-summer birds become paler and the feathers a good deal frayed.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. In juvenal plumage the sexes are alike; at the post-juvenal or possibly prenuptial moult, the crown patch and one emarginate primary are acquired, the latter character distinguishing the sexes in later plumages. Some females, however, have two emarginate primaries, but these are regularly less narrowed than those of males.

### **Tyrannus verticalis** (Say). ARKANSAS KINGBIRD

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Crown and nape ecru-drab obscurely vermiculated with paler edgings, back olive-buff, upper tail coverts pale clove-brown. Wings pale clove-brown with whitish edgings faintly tinged with yellowish buff. Tail dull black, tipped with pale brown, the outer webs of outer pair of rectrices white. Below, primrose-yellow, ashy on throat and white on chin, lores dusky. Bill and feet dull, brownish black in dried specimens. The first primary is not attenuated nor is the crown patch present.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a postjuvenal moult

which is possibly complete, young and old becoming indistinguishable.

The head and throat are plumbeous, there is an orange crown-patch, the back is olive-green, the chin white, and elsewhere below canary-yellow prevails. The lores are duller than in juvenal dress. The first and third primaries are attenuated suddenly at their tips, the second less so.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired apparently by a partial prenuptial moult which involves some of the body plumage but not the wings nor tail. Western March and April specimens show a few "pin feathers." The new, greener ones on the back are mixed with the worn greyer ones of the winter dress which is partly retained. The mid-tertiary is sometimes renewed.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult occurring in September in southern California. The plumbeous of the head and yellow of lower parts are rather richer in adults.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The moults and plumages correspond to those of the male, the colors being a little duller and the crown patch smaller. There is usually only a trace of attenuation in the first primary and none in the others. In juvenal plumage the sexes are indistinguishable.

### **Myiarchus crinitus** (Linn.). CRESTED FLYCATCHER

1. **NATAL DOWN.** No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head and neck, dark olive brown, upper tail coverts cinnamon-rufous. Wings and tail clove-brown, edgings of the median and greater coverts, and inner webs of rectrices rich cinnamon-rufous, of the tertiaries very pale buff. Below, primrose-yellow, throat and breast ashy-gray, palest centrally on chin. Bill black. Feet sepia brown, black when older.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult beginning by the middle of August, which involves the body plumage, wing-coverts and tertiaries (apparently), but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young birds becoming practically indistinguishable from adults.

Above, dull brownish olive-green, greener than in previous plumage, the feathers darker centrally, producing a streaked effect chiefly on the pileum; upper tail coverts dark cinnamon-rufous; wing covert edgings, including two wing-bands, grayish or yellowish-buff. Below, bright lemon-yellow, brighter than in previous dress, throat lores and auriculars ashy-gray.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear, which is quite obvious, the edgings of the wing coverts and tertiaries fading to a dingy white and the whole plumage becoming paler.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning early in August and completed before the birds move south in September. Practically indistinguishable from first winter, the colors often richer.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear, as in the young bird.

*Female*.—Moult and plumages correspond to those of the male, the colors often duller.

### **Sayornis phœbe** (Lath.). PHŒBE

1. **NATAL DOWN**. Mouse-gray

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult

Above, including sides of head and neck, wings and tail, olive-brown, distinctly clove-brown on pileum and nape. Below, yellow-tinged white, breast, throat and sides of chin, brownish olive-gray. Greater and median coverts (*i. e.*, wing bands) and rectrices tipped with cinnamon-rufous, secondaries and tertiaries, edged with brownish or yellowish white. Bill and feet raw umber-brown, black when older.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult beginning about mid-August which involves the body plumage, wing coverts and tertiaries, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Birds in juvenal dress occur as late as the end of September. After moulting they are yellower below with pale grayish wing bands and practically indistinguishable from adults.

Above, olive-brown, greener than in previous plumage, pileum nearly black, the olive of the upper parts encroaching on sides of chin, throat and flanks. Below, primrose-yellow, a grayish pectoral band very faintly indicated. The wing coverts are narrowly edged with yellowish white.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear, the brown of the upper parts and the yellow below becoming paler. During

the breeding season the plumage becomes excessively worn and ragged, pale brown prevailing above, and below a dirty mottled white produced by exposure of the grayish bases of abraded feathers.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult, beginning after August 15th. Adults are perhaps a trifle darker than young birds, especially the remiges.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The sexes are alike and the moults correspond to those of the male. I have examined birds taken every month in the year, both males and females.

### **Contopus borealis** (Swains.). OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, together with sides of head the throat and flanks deep olive-brown, pileum, wings and tail deep clove-brown; sides of rump, white; wing coverts edged with ochraceous-buff, tertiaries tipped with brownish white, sides of rump and flanks white. Below, primrose-yellow, narrowed to a median line on the breast by olive-brown streaking on throat and sides. Bill black, the under mandible buff centrally. Feet bistre, black when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a late postjuvinal moult beginning in September which possibly is complete. I have seen no extra-limital specimens but I should expect to find them retaining the brown wing edgings. Pale wing bands are probably acquired at this moult when young birds become practically indistinguishable from adults.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired apparently by wear. Birds return from the south in fresh little worn plumage, the young birds with a dull clay-colored lower mandible. Old worn feathers may be found mixed with the new in some specimens, very strongly suggestive of a recent limited prenuptial moult.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult seldom begun until the birds have migrated southward in September. A specimen from Pinal County, Arizona,

September 28 (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 29020), is still in much worn nuptial dress; also a bird without date from Guatemala (No. 42767).

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear or possibly by partial renewal of the body plumage.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike in plumages and moults.

**Contopus virens** (Linn.). WOOD PEWEE

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult Above, including sides of head olive-brown, much darker on the pileum, the feathers of the crown and rump faintly edged with pale russet and those of the nape with ashy gray, producing a distinct collar. Wings and tail clove brown, wing coverts edged with ochraceous buff, at tips of median and greater coverts producing two wing bands. Below, pale primrose-yellow, sides of throat, flanks and an indistinct olive-gray pectoral band. Bill black, under mandible wood-brown dusky at tip and edges, paler in spring. Feet sepia, nearly black when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired probably by a partial postjuvinal moult beginning early in September. Resembles closely the previous dress, but grayish instead of brownish tinged above, the edgings and collar lost and the new wing-bands grayish. The juvenal plumage persists in specimens taken near New York city, September 30, in North Carolina October 5 and 17, and Guatemala is reached with brown wing bands as proved by an undated specimen (Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 42273).

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which is never marked in this species.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult chiefly or wholly after the birds have migrated southward. A very few new body feathers begin to appear towards the end of August, and a worn adult from Guatemala, undated (Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 42771), shows that migration may precede moult in this species.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which is insignificant even up to the end of the breeding season.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike in plumages and moults.

**Empidonax flaviventris** (Baird). YELLOW-BELLIED  
FLYCATCHER

1. NATAL DOWN. Brownish olive-green.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Upper parts, sides of head and throat, an obscure pectoral band, and lesser wing coverts olive-green, the crown feathers centrally darker. Wings and tail deep olive-brown; median and greater wing coverts edged with rich buff yellow forming two distinct wing bands, secondaries narrowly and tertiaries broadly edged with yellowish white. Below, sulphur-yellow, including the orbital ring. Bill black, the under mandible flesh. Feet dusky flesh-color.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a postjuvinal moult possibly complete after the birds migrate southward. Mid-August specimens begin to show moult, the upper parts becoming greener and the lower yellower, but others as late as September 24 and a few without dates of capture from Guatemala and Mexico still bear the juvenal dress with the brownish wing bands.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear. Young birds are practically indistinguishable from adults, the wing bands of all early arrivals from the south being whitish, yellow tinged, and the individual feathers little worn indicating a late postjuvinal moult.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult occurring probably late in the year after the birds have reached southern latitudes. A specimen from Tehuantepec, Mexico, January 1st (Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 42940), shows actual moult in progress of the body plumage and wing coverts, the wings and tail being old and worn. This may, however, be a young bird. Another bird from Panama (No. 42946), without date, shows moult of the body plumage. The wing bands are new and faintly yellow in both, but they prove little except a midwinter moult.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired probably by wear alone after a late autumnal or midwinter acquisition of new plumage.

*Female*.—The sexes do not differ in plumage nor in moult.

**Empidonax virescens** (Vieill.). GREEN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head and neck olive-green, the crown feathers darker centrally, the pileum not darker than the back. Wings and tail deep olive-brown, median and greater wing coverts edged with rich buff forming two wing bands, edgings of secondaries and tertiaries paler buff. Below, pale greenish sulphur-yellow, the chin white, a faint olive-gray pectoral band. Bill black, the lower mandible pinkish buff. Feet sepia, nearly black when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired apparently by an incomplete postjuvinal moult. Young and old pass south before moulting as indicated by birds taken near New York up to September 19. I have seen no specimens from southern latitudes.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear. Light wing bands and greener plumage are acquired during the winter absence.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult probably after the birds have reached winter quarters.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired probably by wear, which at all seasons seems to be insignificant.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike in plumages and moults.

**Empidonax traillii alnorum** (Brewst.). ALDER FLYCATCHER

1. NATAL DOWN. Pale olive-brown.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head and lesser coverts olive-brown, pileum darker and in contrast (usually) with the back, the crown feathers darker still centrally. Wings and tail deep olive-brown, median and greater wing coverts edged with rich buff forming two distinct wing bands; secondaries and tertiaries edged with pale buff. Below, dull white, usually tinged with pale sulphur-yellow on crissum and sides of abdomen; an olive-gray wash on sides of breast and flanks and across jugulum where it forms an indistinct pectoral band slightly tinged with buff. Buffy orbital ring. Bill black, the lower mandible pinkish buff. Feet sepia, nearly black when older. Some specimens are wholly ashy everywhere below without yellow tinge. Differs from *E. flaviventris* and *E. virescens* in being browner above, the head dark in contrast.



3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by an incomplete postjuvinal moult. Birds became yellower below and greener above, but many, as shown by specimens taken near New York up to September 26, pass south in juvenal plumage. I have seen a few extra-limital specimens, without dates, from Central America.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired probably by wear, which tends to make the plumage paler and brings the dark centers of the crown-feathers into prominence during the breeding season. The wing bands are buff-tinged as compared with those of *E. minimus* in corresponding plumage.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult after the birds have passed south as proved by Central American specimens.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired apparently by wear.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike and the moults identical.

### **Empidonax minimus** (Baird). LEAST FLYCATCHER

1. **NATAL DOWN**. No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult.

Above, including sides of head, olive-brown, greener on the back, a faint ashy gray collar. Wings and tail deep olive-brown, median and greater coverts edged with pale buff forming two wing bands, secondaries and tertiaries with dull white. Below, grayish white, a smoky gray pectoral band; pale primrose-yellow on abdomen and crissum. Orbital ring dull white. Bill black, under mandible pinkish buff. Feet sepia, nearly black when older.

The species in this plumage is not so green above as *E. virescens*, but browner and very like *E. t. alnorum* from which it may be differentiated by its grayer lower parts, somewhat paler wing bands and smaller bill.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a postjuvinal moult, possibly complete, after the birds have migrated southward. Some specimens become greener above and yellower below before they leave for the south late in August, but others reach southern latitudes in juvenal dress. A bird from Tehuantepec, Mexico (Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 42957), on January 9, still retains the brown wing bands.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired probably by wear. Pale grayish wing bands are acquired, during the winter absence differences between young and old birds being lost. Old brownish wing coverts retained among the new are sometimes found, and the greener, fresher appearance of some of the feathers of the back suggests a possible partial renewal in spring. This species shows more wear than *E. flaviventris*.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult after the birds have passed south. Two specimens (Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Nos. 42957 and 42959) from Tehuantepec, Mexico, January 9 and 4 respectively, appear to be still in worn adult nuptial dress as compared with two (Nos. 66879 and 66877), March 7 and 26, from Yucatan in fresh plumage. It is perplexing however to find two birds (No. 66881, March 2, and 66878, March 12) from Yucatan in worn plumage with whitish wing bands. It is possible they are all young birds that originally had the wing bands very pale and they have faded to nearly white before the postjuvénal moult has begun. The difficulties of reaching definite conclusions are well exemplified by this species.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, which is inconspicuous.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike in plumages and moults.

#### ALAUDIDÆ

It is pleasant to turn from the puzzling Flycatchers to the Larks represented by the Horned Lark, a widely distributed species in North America and divided into numerous races. All these appear to moult the same, adults undergoing one annual moult and young birds assuming a plumage practically identical with that of adults by a complete postjuvénal moult. Wear takes the place of a prenuptial moult and produces marked effects. The veiled black of breast and head in the fall is brought into prominence in the spring by extensive loss of the buff feather edgings, while during the breeding season birds become extremely ragged and worn.

***Alauda arvensis*** Linn. SKYLARK

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult. No specimen seen; said to be tawny and spotted.
3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired probably by a partial (possibly complete) postjuvenal moult.  
Above, yellowish brown with darker streakings, the wings and tail with buff edgings. Below, dull white with tawny suffusion, streaked rather narrowly, with brownish black.
4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE evidently acquired by wear, the colors becoming paler.
5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Adults are less tawny and the edgings less pronounced than in young birds.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear.

It is somewhat presumptuous for me to attempt, from the mere handful of specimens I have examined, an explanation of the moults of this well-known European songster which has been introduced and become established near New York city, but I believe the material warrants the above conclusions.

***Otocoris alpestris*** (Linn.). HORNED LARK

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult and worn for a long time.

Above, including sides of head and lesser wing coverts, clove-brown, mixed with sepia, dotted with buffy white. Wings deep sepia, quills and coverts edged with dull vinaceous cinnamon. Tail dull black, the middle pair of rectrices mottled and paler, edged with vinaceous-cinnamon, the outer ones with buffy white. Below, white, yellow-tinged, the chin flecked with clove brown, a pectoral band wood-brown, streaked and spotted like the chin. Bill pinkish buff, darker at the tip, deep plumbeous when older. Feet raw umber-brown, black when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postjuvenal moult occurring in August in Newfoundland.

Unlike the previous plumage, unstreaked below, unspotted above. Above, vinaceous buff, brightest on nape, vinaceous cinnamon on rump flanks and wing

coverts streaked on head and back with sepia. Forehead, lateral "horns," lores, auriculars and triangular breast patch black, veiled by overlapping pale buff or pinkish feather tips. Wings deep sepia, primaries much darker, edged with whitish, the rest of the wing feathers edged with vinaceous cinnamon. Tail brownish black, the outer rectrices edged with white, the middle pair paler, broadly edged with pinkish Isabella-color. Below, dull white, the chin, sides of head and forehead strongly suffused with lemon or canary-yellow, a buffy band across breast below the black patch, flecked with dusky spots.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, which brings the black areas into prominence. A number of spring specimens show a few growing feathers about the sides of the head and chin, but it is doubtful whether this slight renewal betokens a prenuptial moult. As the birds leave for their northern breeding grounds early in the spring the matter is worthy of further investigation.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult probably in August on the northern breeding grounds. Hardly distinguishable from first winter dress in many cases. The pectoral buffy band is less conspicuous and less spotted, and adults are perhaps pinker above.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—In juvenal plumage females are indistinguishable from the males. In other plumages they lack the black forehead, of the male, being streaked instead, the breast patch is limited, the back is more streaked and the colors are duller. The moults are identical.

**Otocoris alpestris praticola** Hensh. PRAIRIE HORNED LARK

All plumages correspond to those of *O. alpestris*, darker colors and lack of yellow being the chief differences aside from relative size. The juvenal plumage is very dark brown above, spotted with brownish white, and white below, heavily spotted on the breast with dull black. In first winter and later plumages the white superciliary lines, perhaps faintly tinged with yellow, are a good diagnostic character.

**Otocoris alpestris leucolæma** (Coues). PALLID HORNED  
LARK

The adult plumages correspond to those of *O. alpestris*, paler colors and larger size being the principal differences. The juvenal plumage is nearly black above, spotted with pale buff and similar below to *O. a. praticola*.

**Pica pica hudsonica** (Sab.). AMERICAN MAGPIE

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, and on throat, breast and crissum, dull black; abdomen and feathers of humeral tracts white, the latter with buff or dusky tinge. Wings, including coverts, iridescent greens and blues, the latter chiefly on the secondaries and tertiaries, the primaries white except on outer edge. Tail iridescent or metallic purples, greens and blues.

A bird of June 22d, from eastern Washington, is in full juvenal dress, the tail one-half grown.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult which involves the body plumage but not the wings nor the tail. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

A metallic purplish, greenish and bluish dress is assumed, the white of the humeral tracts is more conspicuous and the rump becomes grayish white. The feathers of the throat are white basally.

A Western specimen of August 18th is beginning the postjuvenal moult and one of September 18th is in full first winter plumage except an area of pulpy feathers on the mid-throat.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which is very inconspicuous as is commonly the case in species with iridescent plumage.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult and practically indistinguishable from first winter dress.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male.

## CORVIDÆ

The Crows and Jays have but one moult annually, young birds assuming adult plumage except for the flight-feathers at the postjuvénal moult.

**Cyanocitta cristata** (Linn.). BLUE JAY

1. NATAL DOWN. Pale mouse-gray.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Pileum, flax-flower blue separated from the blue-tinged white forehead and white superciliary line by a narrow black line. Nuchal collar continued across the throat as a U-shaped band, lores and postocular streak black. Back and lesser wing coverts mouse-gray, tinged with blue. Wings various shades of azure and China-blue, brightest on secondaries and tertiaries which are broadly tipped with white and narrowly barred with black. The greater coverts are obscurely barred and are terminally white, forming a single wing band. Tail centrally, China-blue, barred with black, the outer rectrices largely white. Throat white. Breast and abdomen laterally smoke-gray, centrally and on crissum, yellowish white. Bill brownish black. Feet raw umber-brown becoming black with age.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvénal moult early in August which involves the body plumage, the wing coverts, and apparently the tertiaries, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Young birds become practically indistinguishable from adults.

Similar to the previous plumage but the blue of head, back and wing coverts now distinctly barred with black and much brighter, and the crest feathers longer.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which is marked by the end of the breeding season, the blues becoming grayish and the white edgings diminished.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning the end of July. Not distinguishable from first winter dress.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, as in the young bird.

*Female*.—Plumages similar to those of the male, the colors duller, with less black and barring. Both sexes have identical moults.

**Perisoreus canadensis** (Linn.). CANADA JAY

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Everywhere brownish slate-gray, darker on the crown, paler on the abdomen and crissum. The feathers are lighter basally and faintly tipped with brown producing an obscurely mottled effect. Loes, region of eye and forehead dull black. Malar region whitish with a dull white spot anteriorly. Wings dull clove-brown with plumbeous edgings on secondaries and inner primaries, all the remiges tipped with grayish white, the greater coverts with smoke-gray. Tail slate-gray tipped with brownish white. Bill plumbeous. Feet brownish black.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult in August which involves the body plumage but not the wings nor the tail. Several birds kindly loaned me by Mr. Wm. Brewster show different stages of the postjuvinal moult which is completed in Maine before the end of August.

Old and young become practically indistinguishable.

Unlike juvenal dress. The back is brownish slate, neck whitish, crown and nape brownish black with a large brown-tinged white area on the forehead. Below, drab-gray, white on chin, throat, loes, auriculars, sides of neck and crissum. Above, dull black; dusky beneath and behind the eye.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which is inconspicuous in the soft, loose-textured feathers.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear.

*Female*.—In moults and plumages females are practically indistinguishable from males.

**Corvus corax principalis** Ridgw. NORTHERN RAVEN

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Everywhere dull lustreless brownish black, except wings and tail which have greenish and purplish reflections. Bill and feet black except when very young.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the remiges and rectrices. The glossy dress with the peculiar

separated throat feathers is assumed and young and old become indistinguishable.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear, the plumage becoming somewhat brown late in the season.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult, beginning, as shown by Greenland specimens, early in July.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear.

*Female*.—In plumages and moults the sexes are practically alike.

### **Corvus americanus** Aud. AMERICAN CROW

1. **NATAL DOWN**. Grayish clove-brown.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult. Body plumage dull brownish black, wings and tail glossy black with greenish and some purplish reflections. Bill and feet grayish black.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult in July which involves the body plumage and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. The plumage becomes lustrous greenish black everywhere, and young birds are practically indistinguishable from adults although averaging greener.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear, the feathers becoming brownish and worn by the end of the breeding season.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning as early as the end of June, this bird being one of the earliest species to begin this moult. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, but purplish rather than greenish black.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike in plumages and moults.



**Corvus ossifragus** Wils. FISH CROW

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult. Body plumage brownish black, wings and tail lustrous black with greenish reflections. Bill and feet grayish black becoming jet black.
3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult in July which involves the body plumage and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. The full greenish black glossy plumage, rather bluer than the last, is assumed, old and young becoming indistinguishable.
4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which is not very obvious even late in the season.
5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Indistinguishable from first winter dress.
6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The sexes are alike in plumages and moults

**STURNIDÆ****Sturnus vulgaris** Linn. STARLING

1. NATAL DOWN. Drab-gray.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult. Everywhere, including wings and tail, brownish mouse-gray, the wings with fawn-colored edgings. Bill and feet pinkish buff.
3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired during August in New York city by a complete postjuvenile moult. Everywhere bottle or purplish green with metallic reflections, the feathers above with cinnamon terminal spots, smallest on the head, the feathers below with white spots. Wings and tail greenish black edged with cinnamon, the wing quills having a pale terminal spot bordered with black. Young and old become practically indistinguishable, the cinnamon spots and edgings averaging deeper in young birds.
4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear. A large part

of the spotting is entirely lost and the shape of the feathers changed thereby. Wear involves more of the feathers than the terminal spot, their tips becoming lanceolate.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress; the edgings narrower but deeper in color.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The moults and plumages are similar to those of the male, females being somewhat duller and more heavily spotted.

#### ICTERIDÆ

The peculiarities of moult in this Family will be explained under each species, most of them being subject to a complete postjuvinal moult thereby assuming plumage practically adult, like *M. ater*, *S. magna*, *S. carolinus*, *Q. quiscula* and its races. A complete semiannual or double moult is peculiar to *D. oryzivorus*, while *I. spurius* and *I. galbula* undergo a limited first prenuptial moult in winter which is not repeated a second year.

#### **Dolichonyx oryzivorus** (Linn.). BOBOLINK

1. NATAL DOWN. Buff. (plate V, fig. 1)

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, dull brownish black, median crown stripe, superciliary line, nuchal band and edgings of the other feathers of back and wings buff deepest on nape; primaries, their coverts, secondaries and alulæ tipped with grayish white. Below, rich buff paler on chin and faintly flecked on sides of throat with clove-brown. A dusky postocular streak. Bill pinkish buff, clay-color with dusky tip when older. Feet clay-color becoming deep Vandyke-brown.

This plumage is worn but a short time and the postjuvinal moult is well advanced by the end of July as shown by four specimens in my collection.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult in July which involves the body plumage, tertiaries and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to the previous plumage, but darker above and yellower below, a rich ochre or maize-yellow prevailing, palest on chin and abdomen, the sides of the breast and flanks and under tail coverts conspicuously streaked with dull black veiled by the overlapping feather edges.

The relative size of the feathers of this plumage and their pattern is shown on **plate I**, where the feathers of a September male are figured. They have been reproduced much darker than their pale brown color would indicate. There is some variation in the distribution of the black pattern of lateral feathers of the ventral tract in young birds and this may be seen on **plate I**, **figs. 1-6, 19-22**.

**4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete pre-nuptial moult.

Plumage almost wholly black, the body plumage veiled by long maize-yellow feather tips. The nape is rich ochre and the scapularies white, the inner plumbeous, both edged with olive-gray. The outer primary is edged with white, the two adjacent with maize-yellow, the tertiaries, greater coverts and interscapularies with wood-brown. Rump plumbeous, upper tail coverts white, both areas veiled with olive-gray or olive-buff. Tail tipped with olive-gray. Bill black.

The terminal inch of the webs of the outer primaries is paler as if the black color had not extended so far, but the borders are, in May, less abraded than are many of these feathers when the birds pass southward in September. It would be safe to assume a prenuptial moult of the Bobolink from this fact alone and a bird taken March 1, 1886 (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 32783), near Corumbá, Brazil, on the Bolivian boundary, proves it, although this specimen is doubtless an adult. I have also seen several caged birds which have undergone a complete moult in the early summer. Spring birds reach New York about two months after this moult and the fugaceous yellowish feather tips have so worn away (see **plate I**, **figs. 23-25, 28, 29**) that the specimens are chiefly black, white and buff, except on the abdomen, flanks and under tail coverts where the tips persist longest.

**5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning the end of July. Similar to first winter plumage, usually whiter below especially on the chin and middle of the abdomen, and above with richer brown edgings especially of the tertiaries. The bill becomes clay colored or purplish. The

chief differential character is however the presence of a few black feathers, usually yellow tipped, irregularly scattered on the chin and breast. A specimen from Jamaica, West Indies, September 25th (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. No. 42134), is an extreme example with numerous black and mottled feathers, the black distributed irregularly, varying from shaft streaks to asymmetrical blotches. As these feathers all show wear similar to those adjacent, there can be no doubt that all of them grow at the postnuptial moult. I have seen a few autumnal adults, but they are excessively rare in collections and their rarity is largely responsible for the ignorance that has prevailed regarding the normal plumages of the Bobolink which conform to the ordinary laws of moult and are in no respect unique.

6. ADULT NUP TIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete pre-nuptial moult in midwinter. Differs inappreciably from first nuptial dress, but it is probable that (as in other species) the yellow edgings diminish with age. The classic Corumbá bird mentioned above and discussed at p. 122 of the present article, was first described by CHAPMAN '90 and later figured in (*Auk*, X, 1893, pp. 309-311, pl. vii.). It is completing a perfectly normal prenuptial moult, and seems to be an adult, because a few old black feathers of the adult winter plumage are present and the whiteness of the abdomen indicates the fading of feathers that are nearly white over this area in adults in the autumn. At all events the worn and faded feathers that remain on this specimen are exactly where the last traces of moult are found in a normal moult not only of this species but of all Passerine species examined and there is not the slightest evidence of the supposed color change to black without moult that has been alleged.

*Female*.—The plumages and probably the moults correspond to those of the male. In juvenal and first winter plumage the sexes are indistinguishable. The first nuptial is no doubt acquired partially at least by a prenuptial moult, judging by wear and by a caged female examined when moulting the remiges, the buff being paler than in first winter dress. The adult winter plumage is practically indistinguishable from the first winter. The adult nuptial is similar to the first nuptial. A bird seen by

STONE ('96, p. 134), has assumed some black feathers on the lower parts doubtless at the prenuptial moult and is probably an unusually vigorous bird approaching the plumage of the male as sometimes occurs in other species.

**Molothrus ater** (Bodd.). COWBIRD

1. NATAL DOWN. Olive-gray.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head and neck, wings and tail, dark olive-brown, the feathers edged with pale buff, whitish on the primaries. Below, dull white, buffy on throat, breast and flanks much streaked with olive-brown. Chin white or yellowish. Bill and feet raw umber-brown, darkening to black after postjuvinal moult.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postjuvinal moult which begins about September first. Unlike the previous plumage, chiefly black instead of brown, young birds becoming practically indistinguishable from adults.

Above and below, lustrous black with iridescent green and purple reflections. Head, nape and throat purplish clove-brown. Some birds show faint buffy edgings.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, which shows very little, and chiefly in the paler brown of the head. I have seen one specimen which retains a large part of the juvenal plumage even to the wing quills and the brown feathers are excessively worn as compared with the black ones, acquired at the postjuvinal moult.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in September. Adults are not distinguishable, as a rule, from young birds in first winter dress.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—In natal down and juvenal plumage indistinguishable from the male. Females assume a mouse-gray first winter plumage by a complete postjuvinal moult and this, modified by wear, is the first nuptial plumage. All later plumages are similarly mouse-gray with indistinct dusky streaks.

**Agelaius phoeniceus** (Linn.). RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

1. NATAL DOWN. Pale mouse-gray.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head, wings, tail, and lesser coverts (*i. e.*, the so-called "shoulders") dull brownish black (no red at this stage), the feathers edged with buff, palest and narrowest on primaries, rectrices, head and rump, and richest on scapularies and secondaries. Below pinkish buff, ochraceous on the chin, thickly streaked (except on the chin) with brownish black. Obscure superciliary line ochraceous-buff. Bill and feet olive-brown, black when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-juvenal moult beginning towards the end of August. Resembles previous dress, the general effect being that of a brown streaked bird the black being heavily veiled by brown feather tips and mottled orange "shoulders" are acquired.

Entire plumage, including wings and tail, greenish black much veiled with buffy and ferruginous edgings, palest below and faint or absent on primaries and rectrices. Lesser wing coverts ("shoulders") dull orpiment-orange each feather with subterminal bars or spots of black. Median coverts rich ochraceous buff usually mottled with black subterminal areas chiefly on the inner webs, the shafts usually black.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which is considerable birds becoming a dull brownish black by loss of the feather edgings and by fading. The mottled "shoulder patches" are characteristic of young birds, the amount of orange varying greatly. The wings and tail show marked wear.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning in mid-August, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Lustrous greenish black, feathers of head and back, greater wing coverts and tertiaries edged more or less (according to the individual) with buff and ferruginous brown. Below, the edgings are paler or absent. The bright scarlet-vermilion "shoulders" are acquired together with the rich ochraceous buff median coverts.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which produces less marked effects than in the young birds. The exposed edges of the buff median coverts fade to a dull white. The more resistant nature of adult feathers is strikingly shown by

this species, the worn and faded remiges and rectrices of young birds contrasting sharply with those of adults.

*Female*.—In natal down and juvenal plumage females differ little from males, the juvenal dress perhaps averaging browner above with less buff below and the chin narrowly streaked. The first winter plumage is acquired by a complete postjuvenal moult as in the male, from which the female now differs widely being brown and broadly streaked. The first winter plumage is hardly distinguishable from the adult winter and passes into the first nuptial by wear which produces a black and white streaked bird, brown above. A pinkish or salmon tinge is often found in females in any of these plumages especially about the chin and head and an orange or crimson tinge may show on the "shoulders" of the older birds.

### ***Sturnella magna* (Linn.). MEADOW LARK**

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, clove-brown, the feathers broadly edged with buff palest on the nape, those of the back having double subapical spots of russet. Median crown stripe, and superciliary line cream-buff. Wings sepia-brown, the primaries and secondaries obscurely barred on the outer web with darker brown and edged with pale vinaceous cinnamon shading to white on the first primary, the tertiaries clove-brown broadly edged with buff and having a row of partly confluent vinaceous cinnamon spots on either side of their shafts producing a barred effect (the pattern of a tertiary of this plumage contrasted with one of the first winter dress is shown on **plate II, figs. 15 and 16**), the rest of the wing coverts obscurely mottled with light and dark browns and edged with buff, the alulae with white. The three outer pairs of rectrices are white with a faint dusky subapical shaft-streak, the next pair largely white and the others hair-brown confluent barred with clove-brown and whitish edged. Below, including "edge of wing" pale canary-yellow, nearly white on the chin, the sides of throat, breast, flanks, crissum and tibiae washed with pinkish buff, streaked and spotted with brownish black which forms a pectoral band. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the former becoming slaty, the latter dull clay color.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postjuvenal moult beginning about September first after the juvenal dress has been worn a long time, young birds and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Above, similar to the previous plumage, but all the browns even to the wing and tail quills much darker, often black, and distinct barring rather than mottling, the rule. The feathers of the back have large single subapical spots of rich Mar's-brown crossed by two faint dusky bars, and the primary edgings are usually grayer. Below, a rich lemon-yellow (including the chin and a supraorbital dash) veiled with buff edgings and a black pectoral crescent is acquired completely veiled with deep buff and ashy edgings. The streakings below are heavier and darker, many of the feathers with subapical russet spots and the buffy wash on the sides is deeper and pinker.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which is excessive by the end of the breeding season producing a dingy brown and white appearance above with yellow and black below. The subapical spots of the feathers of the back are almost entirely lost by abrasion and the same force scallops out the light portions of the tertiaries, wing coverts and tail. This is shown on **plate II, figs. 16 and 17**. Neither the yellow nor the black below fades very appreciably, but the shining denuded shafts of the feathers project far beyond the abraded barbs. The yellow seems even to be intensified by the loss of paler barbules.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in September. Usually indistinguishable from first winter dress.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—In natal down and juvenal plumage the sexes are indistinguishable. Later the female differs only in slightly duller colors and a more restricted black area on the throat. The moults are exactly the same as in the male.

### **Icterus spurius** (Linn.). ORCHARD ORIOLE

1. **NATAL DOWN.** No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head and neck, pale grayish olive-green, buffy on rump. Below, pale sulphur-yellow. Wings pale clove-brown, the primaries and secondaries narrowly edged with dull white, the median and greater wing coverts with pale buff forming two indistinct wing bands. Tail yellowish olive-green. Bill pinkish buff, becoming deep wood-brown, the upper mandible slaty. Feet olive-gray, blackish when older.



3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning the end of July, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not usually the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Differs little from the previous plumage, a brighter olive-green above and canary-yellow below, the edgings of the wing coverts paler.

An unfortunate dearth of specimens in this greenish plumage makes it impossible for me to say whether any precocious individuals, perhaps of the first brood, acquire tails mottled with black or assume black or chestnut feathers about the wings or body. It is almost certain, judging by analogy of moult and by plumage that some do, as is the case apparently in other species. Observations made on caged birds by Dr. BACHMAN ('39) also point to this probability, for he states that a young bird of a first brood assumed the black throat by moult in November, and the full black and chestnut plumage the following August, while a bird of a second brood assumed a new green plumage in January, the black throat the following August and the chestnut and black plumage in January, wholly by moult. This evidence, although the unreliable testimony of caged birds, is at least in confirmation of the sequence of the plumages and indicates that a year is sufficient for the acquisition of the adult dress.

The only bird I have seen showing prenuptial moult is one taken in Nicaragua, February 23d (U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 91034), which has new black feathers coming in on the throat and sides of the head and green ones on the forehead and crown, as already referred to by Stone ('96, p. 137). There are a few old black feathers on the throat, but it seems likely that these, the worn mottled tail and a few chestnut feathers on the throat and under tail coverts may represent individual precocity in a previously acquired first winter plumage, for the brown juvenal primary coverts indicate a young bird. I have seen several autumnal birds in first winter dress with a few black feathers on the throat, although they had plain greenish tails. Without a better series of birds in first winter dress than is now available the relation of moults and plumages cannot be fully solved, but

that moult will explain everything, I have not the slightest doubt. In birds that suffer so great wear, it is well nigh impossible to estimate the age of a feather from the amount of abrasion, especially when the color is black.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which apparently involves chiefly the throat and head and perhaps the tail. The black throat is present in most spring specimens, in some it is lacking or represented by a few black feathers. Greenish tails are regularly found with such birds; those with chestnut feathers have tails mottled with black, these signs of individual vigor or precocity going together and considerable individual variation being apparent. The bill becomes slate-gray. All of the plumage is so worn when the birds arrive from the south that it is impossible to estimate how long the individual feathers have been subjected to wear, which seems to be considerable. The primary coverts, a key to young birds, are always brownish unless they have been partly renewed by black, probably at the postjuvinal moult.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult apparently after the birds have migrated south judging by the freshness of extra-limital specimens and the total absence of local specimens. Contrary to general belief it is likely that the chestnut and black plumage is assumed at this moult. Several specimens from Guatemala without other data show the end of a postnuptial moult from the greenish into the chestnut dress, some of the new feathers still with sheaths and the old worn greenish nuptial ones still in place among the auriculars and elsewhere. Both the black and the chestnut feathers are broadly edged with greenish buff or brown, which probably diminishes in amount with age giving a less veiled appearance, in older adults.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear through which the edgings are largely lost. There is no prenuptial moult as in the young bird. The frequency of a few greenish feathers on breeding birds indicates their liability to be left over even at the first postnuptial moult which is usually so complete although it

is possible such feathers developed of a greenish color at this season. There is not the slightest reason for believing in an abnormal color change without moult in this species even if I am wrong in concluding the greenish plumage is worn but one summer. It may possibly be that no chestnut or black is assumed by any birds until the first postnuptial moult and the second winter plumage is still partly greenish with the mottled tails that give rise to the unwarrantable idea of color redistributing itself in old feathers, but until greenish autumnal adults (as determined by cranial characters) having black throats, mottled tails, and chestnut scattered on the abdomen are forthcoming, there is no good reason for supposing that more than a twelve-month, as in other species, is required to attain adult dress.

*Female*.—The natal down and juvenal plumage are identical with those of the male. Later the female undergoes the same moults as the male, the one prenuptial which occurs being very limited or even suppressed. Females always remain in a greenish dress like the male first winter plumage or at most assume, when fully adult, a few black feathers on the throat.

### **Icterus galbula** (Linn.). BALTIMORE ORIOLE

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, olive-brown, slightly orange tinged, brightest on head and upper tail coverts.

Wings clove-brown, the primaries narrowly, the tertiaries broadly edged with dull white, two wing bands at tips of greater and median coverts pale buff. A tertiary is figured on **plate II, fig. 8**. Tail chiefly gallstone-yellow, centrally much darker and brownish. Below, including "edge of wing" ochre-yellow, sometimes orange with ochraceous tinge, palest on chin and middle of abdomen, brightest on breast and crissum. Bill pinkish buff, becoming slate-gray with age. Feet olive-gray, black when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult beginning early in July which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to previous plumage but dull orange brown above and much brighter orange below, although lacking the black areas of the adult. The greater and median wing coverts become dull black, white tipped, the latter and the lesser coverts

orange tinged. There is much individual variation in the intensity of the orange everywhere.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves most of the plumage except only the primaries, their coverts, and the secondaries. The tide of moult often passes by wing coverts, alulæ, tertiaries or in fact any feathers which often remain here and there worn and in sharp contrast to new feathers adjacent, and the outer wing coverts are frequently left over and sometimes a rectrix or two. The full orange and black body plumage is assumed at this moult, the tertiaries and wing coverts being broadly edged with white, and the black and yellow tail is acquired. The orange is usually paler than in adults and the black feathers of the back are generally edged with orange. There is a Panama bird (Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 41939) showing the prenuptial moult in progress on the back, forehead, occiput, sides of head and breast, throat and chin, upper and under tail coverts, the two central rectrices and the greater wing coverts ; and a Guatemala specimen (Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.) also without date shows moult on the head. Birds in this dress may be distinguished from adults by the worn brownish primaries in contrast to the new black, white edged tertiaries. **Plate II, figs. 9 and 10** shows the difference between a first nuptial tertiary which is new grown and an adult nuptial tertiary which is really a worn adult winter feather. Similar differences in the rectrix next to the middle pair are shown by **figs. 11 and 12**, a large amount of black belonging to the adult feather. I have seen one young bird in this plumage with the orange mostly replaced by blood-red which invades even the wing coverts and the black nape.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July, the birds usually disappearing soon after. Two males in my collection (J. Dwight, Jr., No. 6883, August 26th, and No. 6885, September 13th, Long Island, New York), are in fresh winter dress without trace of their recent moult. Different from first winter dress, jet black wing quills and central rectrices being assumed with rich orange and black body plumage. The feathers of the back are narrowly edged with dull

orange (absent in older birds) which also suffuses the median and lesser coverts. The greater coverts, secondaries and tertiaries are broadly edged with white. The variable black area of the throat seems to increase in older birds.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear through which the white wing edgings are largely lost (see **plate II, fig. 10**). Yellow barbules are lost from the orange barbs so that the color is perhaps intensified in some cases.

*Female*.—The natal down and juvenal plumage are the same as in the male and subsequent moults are the same but limited in extent at the first prenuptial so that little or no black is assumed on the chin, back and tail. The black on the chin of females is always very restricted in extent.

**Scolecophagus carolinus** (Müll.). RUSTY BLACKBIRD

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult. Whole plumage slate-color washed on back and throat with sepia-brown. Tail darker with greenish reflections. Tertiaries and wing coverts edged with Mar's-brown. Bill and feet seal-brown, black when older.
3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postjuvenal moult beginning in eastern Canada, the end of July, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable. Everywhere lustrous greenish black more or less veiled above with Mar's-brown, below with wood-brown. The wings and tail are without edgings.
4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear through which the veiling is almost or completely lost, birds becoming entirely greenish or purplish black.
5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult beginning the middle of July. Not appreciably different from first winter plumage, the veiling probably less the older a bird grows.
6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The natal down and juvenal plumage are the same as in the male. By a complete postjuvenal moult the first winter

plumage is assumed which is very like the juvenal but with much Mar's-brown above chiefly on the head and strongly washed below with wood-brown, these colors edging slaty feathers; the lores and auriculars are dull black in contrast. The first nuptial plumage is acquired by wear and later plumages vary little from the first winter.

**Quiscalus quiscula** (Linn.). PURPLE GRACKLE

1. NATAL DOWN. Pale sepia-brown.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult. Whole plumage dull clove-brown, the body feathers often very faintly edged with paler brown. Tail darker with purplish tints. Bill and feet sepia-brown, black when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postjuvenal moult early in August.

The iridescent black dress is acquired, old and young becoming indistinguishable.

Some birds assume metallic green heads and some blue, while the backs are of all colors and patterns so that age can have nothing to do with the varied colors of this species.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which produces no noticeable effect as is regularly the case with iridescent plumages.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult beginning the first of August. Indistinguishable from first winter.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—In juvenal dress the female is perhaps paler below than is the male and usually indistinctly streaked. There is a complete postjuvenal moult and later plumages differ from the male only in being much duller and browner with few metallic reflections. They also show more wear.

**Quiscalus quiscula æneus** (Ridgw.). BRONZED GRACKLE

Plumages and moults correspond to those of *Q. quiscula*, the two forms in natal down and juvenal plumage being practically

indistinguishable. The bronzed back is assumed at the postjuvenile moult, old and young becoming indistinguishable.

### FRINGILLIDÆ

The types of moult in this large Family are almost as numerous as the species. Many moult twice every year, the prenuptial being complete in at least one species, *A. caudacutus*, and partial in many, producing a large variety of curiously mixed plumages. *P. domesticus*, *A. s. passerinus*, *A. henslowi* (probably), *A. maritimus*, *C. grammacus*, *M. fasciata*, *C. cardinalis* and probably some others undergo a complete postjuvenile moult more or less regularly. Several species pass their first breeding season in the immature dress assumed at the postjuvenile moult, exchanging it for the full adult dress at the first postnuptial moult. The peculiarities of moult and wear, which in some species produce most startling changes in their apparent color and in the shape of the feathers, will be discussed under the respective species. The apparent brightening of color in some of the Finches and the Crossbills is also explained under each species.

#### **Coccothraustes vespertinus** (Coop.). EVENING GROSBEAK

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, pale bistre, greenish tinged on back, wood-brown on rump and forehead. Wings black narrowly edged with white; the tertiaries pale drab, their inner borders dull black; two or three inner secondaries terminally dull white with dingy black apical blotches; inner greater coverts dull white on outer webs and edged with canary-yellow. Tail black. Below, pale cinnamon or wood-brown, merging into canary-yellow on throat and chin. Rictal and submalar streaks dusky. "Lining of wings" canary-yellow. Under tail coverts white. Bill and feet in dried specimen dull brown.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult in August in British Columbia which involves the body plumage but not the wings nor the tail. The wing coverts are renewed but not usually the tertiaries.

Bright olive-yellow washed with rich olive-brown, deepest about the head; crown and nape black, forehead, superciliary stripe, rump and under tail coverts

lemon-yellow. Young may be distinguished usually by the dusky inner margins of the tertiaries but differ very little from adults.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which removes much of the wing edgings. Browner more worn remiges and especially primary coverts with distinct edgings distinguish young birds.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. Differs little from first winter dress, but fewer edgings, and blacker primaries with their coverts and the tertiaries white.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear.

*Female*.—The moults and plumages correspond to those of the male but the colors and markings are quite different. The sexes are similar in juvenal plumage. In first winter dress females are deep mouse-gray about the head, paler on the back and grayish wood-brown on the rump. The primaries have a white spot at their bases and the secondaries and tertiaries are wholly drab-gray with dull black on the inner webs. The tail has the inner webs of all the rectrices white and the upper tail coverts have white spots. The first nuptial plumage is assumed by wear and the adult winter dress by a complete moult, this plumage being rather grayer than that of the first winter.

### ***Pinicola enucleator* (Linn.). PINE GROSBEAK**

1. **NATAL DOWN.** No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult  
Above, bistre, tinged on crown and rump with dull ochre-yellow. Wings and tail clove-brown with pale buff edgings sometimes whitish especially on tertiaries and tail. Wing bands indistinct, pale buff. Below, hair-brown or drab, washed, especially on breast and sides, with ochraceous, the feather edgings wood-brown. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff becoming darker with age.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult beginning early in September in eastern Canada which involves the body plumage and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above, chiefly pale olive-brown, sometimes with reddish or yellowish tinge veiled with smoke-gray edgings, the crown, auriculars, rump and upper tail



coverts ochre to gallstone-yellow, often orange, the feathers dark centrally, usually a sprinkling of brick-red feathers and sometimes the yellows completely replaced by red, occasionally carmine. Below smoke-gray, the breast and throat usually with some red and yellow not very pronounced. Wing coverts tipped with white forming two distinct bands the lesser coverts plumbeous and ochre tinged.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear, apparently brightening and assuming a golden sheen, this optical effect being due to loss of barbules, a similar loss taking place in *Carpodacus purpureus*, under which species a full explanation is given.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. The pinkish plumage is assumed and young and old become indistinguishable.

The back is clove-brown with olive-gray edgings, elsewhere geranium-red, the wing bands and even primary edgings tinged with geranium-pink.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird, which apparently intensifies the color by a gradual loss of the distal barbules of each feather.

*Female*.—Plumages and moults are similar to those of the male. In juvenal plumage the sexes are practically indistinguishable. In first winter plumage duller than the corresponding dress of the male; above, olive-brown with smoke-gray edgings, the crown and rump ochre or dull olive-yellow, entirely smoke-gray below. The first nuptial plumage is acquired by wear. The adult winter plumage is similar to male first winter, but duller with only a tinge of red at most on crown, rump or breast. The adult nuptial plumage is acquired by wear.

### **Passer domesticus** (Linn.). ENGLISH SPARROW

1. **NATAL DOWN.** Mouse-gray.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, hair-brown somewhat buffy, wings and tail slightly darker, and streaked broadly with clove-brown on the back; secondaries, tertiaries and wing coverts edged with wood-brown. Below, mouse-gray darkest across jugulum and on the sides, the chin and mid-abdomen nearly white. A dusky postocular stripe. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the former becoming dusky and black before spring, and the latter sepia-brown.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postjuvénal moult beginning the end of August.

Unlike previous plumage, the black chin and throat patch being assumed. Pileum, rump and upper tail coverts smoke-gray, the feathers brownish edged and dusky basally. The back streaked with black each feather partly Mar's-brown and edged with buff. Below, dull white tinged with French-gray on throat and sides, the feather tips with buffy wash, the shafts faintly grayish; the chin and throat, loreal and postocular stripe, black veiled with grayish or buffy edgings; sides of chin and throat and mid-abdomen nearly white; auriculars olive gray; posterior part of superciliary line, postauricular and nuchal regions chestnut veiled with buff edgings. Wings and tail dull black edged with pale cinnamon, rich chestnut on the greater and lesser coverts, the median coverts white, buff edged forming a wing band.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which brings the blacks, chestnuts and grays into prominence by loss of the veiling feather edgings, and the buff wash is lost. The wing bands, sides of throat and abdomen become noticeably whiter.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult beginning the end of August. Differs very little from first winter dress, the black of the throat usually more extensive and the buff less evident. The crown is usually grayer and the median coverts whiter.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female.*—In natal down and juvenal plumage females are indistinguishable from males. The first winter plumage is acquired by a complete moult, and is similar above to that of the male, more washed with buff below and without the black throat and chestnut postauricular patches. The first nuptial plumage is acquired by wear, the buff being largely lost and later plumages differ very little from each other, the only renewal being at the postnuptial moult.

It would be interesting to know whether this species on its "native heath" goes through the same sequence of plumages and moults although there is no reason for supposing them to have been modified through acclimatization since it was imported into this country.

**Carpodacus purpureus** (Gmel.). PURPLE FINCH

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

**Plate IV, fig. 1** shows a juvenal plumage crown feather.

Above, wood-brown, broadly streaked with olive-brown and showing whitish streaks if the feathers be disarranged so as to expose a lighter portion. Below, dull white streaked with paler olive-brown, least on the chin, throat and middle of abdomen and crissum, the last two areas often unmarked. An indistinct whitish superciliary line. Wings and tail deep olive-brown, edged with pale buff deepest and broadest on tertiaries and wing coverts. Bill and feet pinkish buff, sepia-brown when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult beginning the end of August, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Differs in general effect very little from the last, but the streaks are bolder, the brown usually with a greenish yellow tinge merging into the buffy edgings.

**Plate IV, fig. 2** shows a crown feather of this plumage newly grown; **fig. 3**, a similar feather after about eight months of wear. When to apply the term first nuptial to this feather is a matter not easy to determine.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear through which most of the buffy tints are lost, the edgings becoming whitish. Males are brown streaked and indistinguishable from females in most cases.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning early in August all males assuming the pink plumage.

Above, pale geranium-red (often carmine or brick-red), hoary on the pileum and nape, the feathers of the back with dusky shaft lines and broad greenish buff edgings. Below, a hoary geranium-pink blending into white on abdomen and crissum, the flanks buffy with a few dusky streaks. Wings and tail clove-brown the edgings tinged with pale brick-red.

Young and old now become practically indistinguishable.

**Plate VII, fig. 1** represents a crown feather of this plumage already showing wear which finally produces a feather like that seen as **fig. 2**, the adult nuptial dress.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which produces a plumage largely bright rosy carmine decidedly brighter to the eye than the winter dress. The explanation of this evident color change is, however, very simple. There is no pigmentary change, the brightening being wholly an optical delusion. Under a glass of even moderate power it will be seen that the whitish barbules of the reddish feathers of the winter dress especially of the head and throat have worn away, leaving the resistant carmine barbs bare and glistening. The remaining barbules show as hoary spots and in winter plumage, of course, the whole effect is hoary. This explanation, although at variance with that offered by other writers is unquestionably the correct one, and **plate VII, figs. 1 and 2** show the change unmistakably. The bases of the feathers of this species are dusky, and often show when the plumage is much worn or even disarranged. Wear is considerable by the end of the breeding season and loss of edgings helps intensify the reddish tints.

In captivity pink adults assume golden or bronzed feathers at their first moult, never reassuming the pink dress. It is probable that some ingredient of their food when in the wild state is lacking and a deficiency of pigment results.

*Female*.—In natal down, juvenal, first winter and first nuptial plumages indistinguishable from the male and later plumages are brown streaked like the immature male. The moults correspond to those of the male.

**Loxia curvirostra minor** (Brehm). AMERICAN CROSSBILL

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult  
Above, streaked with olive-brown, the feathers with whitish edgings, an olive-green tinge on the back and pale buff on the rump. Wings and tail clove-brown the feathers faintly edged with pale buff sometimes greenish tinged. Below, dull grayish white thickly streaked with olive-brown. Bill and feet olive-gray, black when older. The mandibles do not cross at first but in about three weeks deflect as they grow to the right or left indifferently.
3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult which involves the body plumage but neither the wings

nor the tail. Birds in considerably worn juvenal dress taken in New Brunswick, Canada, June 29th, July 21st and July 23d, show a few new feathers of this plumage.

Everywhere a mottled mixture of bright yellows, greens and reds, the former predominating and the reds dull, but individual variation is great. The colors are brightest on the head, rump, throat and sides of abdomen. The posterior part of the abdomen and under tail coverts may be red tinged or yellowish or they may fail to moult and remain brown streaked.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which is marked by midsummer producing through loss of grayish barbules a brightening of the whole plumage, as already explained under *Carpodacus purpureus*. A worn reddish breast feather of this plumage is shown on **plate VII, fig. 4**. In a year the feather (**fig. 3**) which actually grew beside this one would also lose its barbules and appear a brighter red, like **fig. 4**.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in September. The brick-red body plumage with vermilion rump is acquired at this moult as shown by a specimen taken in New Brunswick, Canada, October 16th which has renewed about three quarter of the mottled dress. **Plate VII, fig. 3**, represents a new feather that had not lost its sheath and was situated next to the worn one represented by **fig. 4**. It seems probable that an entirely red plumage is not always fully acquired until the second postnuptial moult. A reddish tinge is observable in the faint edgings of wings and tail.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which through loss of barbules produces coppery and rosy reflections, to the eye, brighter than those of the previous plumage.

*Female*.—In natal down and juvenal plumage indistinguishable from males. The first winter plumage acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult which does not include the wings nor the tail is olive-buff indistinctly mottled or streaked with olive brown; the rump bright olive-yellow. The first nuptial plumage is acquired by wear producing little change. The adult winter plumage varies little from the first winter, the rump perhaps brighter and the breast tinged with bright olive-yellow. Old birds sometimes show dull red tints on these areas, but the

brightest adults are greenish yellow as compared with the dullest young males which are orange tinged.

Of 68 specimens of both sexes in my collection, the upper mandible crosses to the right in 38 and to the left in 30.

**Loxia leucoptera** Gmel. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Whole plumage dull grayish white thickly streaked with clove-brown, the feather edgings grayish, but buffy on back, rump and abdomen. Wings and tail dull black, the primaries, secondaries and tertiaries narrowly, the tertiaries and wing coverts broadly, edged with buffy white forming two distinct wing bands at tips of greater and median coverts. Bill and feet brownish black.

This description is taken from two females in my collection secured in eastern Canada, June 29th and July 16th. The birds are decidedly blacker than *L. c. minor* in corresponding plumage.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, probably in September, which involves the body plumage, but neither the wings nor the tail.

The head, back, rump, throat and breast are varying shades of chrome-yellow with an occasional dash of dull red, the scapularies and upper tail coverts black. Lores, orbital region and forehead dull black.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which to the eye brightens the yellow by loss of the barbules of the feathers. The mouse-gray basal portion of the body feathers is somewhat in evidence.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. It is likely nearly all young birds assume the full red adult plumage at this moult.

Rosy or hoary brick or geranium-red, the wings, tail and scapularies black. Wing bands and tertiary edgings white. Abdomen smoke-gray and under tail coverts dull white, rose tinged, both streaked with clove-brown. The colors are much pinker than those of *L. c. minor* in corresponding dress and the white wing bands distinctive.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, which, to the eye, brightens the rosy tints considerably by loss of the barbules

from a part of each barb. The general effect is that of a rosy bird mottled with whitish spots.

*Female*.—In natal down and juvenal plumage indistinguishable from the male, no doubt, as is the case in allied species. The first winter plumage, acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult, not involving the wings nor the tail, is olive-buff, similar to *L. c. minor*, from which it may easily be distinguished by the wing bands, and besides it is more distinctly mottled and streaked with deeper olive-brown. The first nuptial is simply the previous plumage modified by wear. The adult winter plumage is, of course, acquired by a complete postnuptial moult, and shows a certain amount of yellow scattered through it, which is somewhat brightened by wear becoming the adult nuptial plumage. Females never become pink.

### ***Acanthis linaria* (Linn.). REDPOLL**

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, streaked with sepia and clove-brown with whitish edgings; rump paler but also streaked. Wings and tail clove brown with whitish or buffy edgings; the coverts, wing bands and tertiaries edged with pale cinnamon. Below dull white streaked with clove-brown and washed with buff on throat and sides. Bill and feet of dry skin dull ochre.

Description from a specimen taken in Labrador, August 27th.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult late in August, which apparently involves the body plumage and wing coverts and not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above, wood-brown, sides of head and rump paler, streaked with olive-brown, the feather edgings often whitish. Crown dull crimson, usually coppery. Wings and tail deep olive-brown, the feathers with whitish edgings. Below white, washed with buff on throat, sides and flanks, streaked laterally and on under tail coverts with olive-brown. A dull brownish black chin spot.

Some young birds may assume a few rosy breast feathers, but they are characteristic of adults.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, through which much of the buff is lost, the birds becoming darker and whiter with the crown spot a trifle brighter to the eye, due to loss of the grayish barbules of the red barbs.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. The geranium-pink or rosy feathers of the breast and rump are assumed. Otherwise similar to first winter dress.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear through which the rosy feathers appear brighter like the crown partly by loss of barbules and partly by loss of the whitish edgings.

*Female.*—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male, but the crown spot is duller and smaller, often bronzed, and rosy breast feathers are seldom acquired.

#### ***Acanthis linaria rostrata* (Coues). GREATER REDPOLL**

The plumages and moults of this race correspond to those of *A. linaria*, the subspecific characters prevailing even in the juvenal plumage, the colors darker and the streaking somewhat heavier. The adults are large, with large bills and very white rumps, sometimes with rosy tints everywhere.

#### ***Carduelis carduelis* (Linn.). EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH**

The limited number of specimens examined of this introduced species, now well established in Central Park, New York City, forbids positive conclusions. I have not seen the juvenal plumage, nor do I know the extent of the postjuvenal moult, which undoubtedly takes place. Adults evidently have but one moult annually, the postnuptial, and I believe the brightening of the red frontlet in spring is due to the loss of the fuzzy barbules from brighter colored barbs. Descriptions from text-books are unsatisfactory in solving the problems of moult, but they seem to indicate the usual sequence of plumages and moults in this species.



**Spinus tristis** (Linn.). AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above wood-brown, grayer on crown, yellowish on forehead. Below, including sides of head primrose-yellow brightest on chin, washed on sides and flanks and across the throat with deep buff. Wings and tail dull black whitish edged; secondaries, tertiaries, and wing coverts including two wing bands edged with ochraceous buff the outer greater coverts usually partly white. Bill and feet pinkish buff, becoming dusky with age.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult beginning late in September which involves the body plumage but not the wings nor the tail.

Similar to previous plumage but a deeper brown above and the yellow below replaced (except on the chin which is a brighter yellow) by pale olive-gray, darkest on the throat and washed with wood-brown on the sides. The crissum and middle of the abdomen are white. Dull black, brownish or yellowish edged lesser coverts (the "shoulders") distinguish young birds from adults which have them bright yellow, the black of the wings and tail is besides less intense, the wing bands are browner and the chin duller yellow.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult during April and early May which involves the entire body plumage but neither the wings nor the tail. The bright canary and black dress is assumed, old and young distinguishable only by the brownish "shoulders," and the duller and more worn wings and tail of the young bird. It is interesting to note that the black wings and tail are assumed with the juvenal plumage, the black crown at the prenuptial moult. The effects of wear are marked, for the white edgings due to fading are lost by abrasion before the end of the summer so that the edges of the tertiaries and secondaries become scalloped out, and very little if any white remains when the postnuptial moult occurs. This is illustrated by **plate II, figs. 4 and 5.**

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult beginning about the middle of September. Similar to first winter but a richer deeper brown above, the crown, throat and sides of breast more distinctly yellow, the edgings of the wings and tail (which are jet black) paler and most important of all the "shoulders" bright canary-yellow instead of brown. Young and old now become indistinguishable.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves, as in the young bird, the whole body plumage but not the wings nor the tail. Distinguishable from first nuptial chiefly by the yellow "shoulders."

*Female.*—Females have plumages and moults exactly corresponding to the males, but the plumages are regularly much duller and the prenuptial moults much less extensive. The wings and tail are browner and there is no black upon the crown. I have a large series of this species taken every month in the year including many specimens showing both sexes in various stages of the double moult they regularly undergo.

### **Spinus pinus** (Wils.). PINE SISKIN

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, olive-brown with buff tinged, or yellowish feather edgings and streaked with clove-brown. Wings and tail deep olive-brown, basal portion of the remiges and rectrices canary-yellow, the edgings of the primaries and secondaries paler yellow, their tips whitish, the edgings of the rectrices faintly olive-yellow, the wing coverts edged with ochraceous-buff forming two wing bands, the tertiaries broadly edged with buff. Below primrose-yellow, palest on chin, thickly streaked with clove-brown. Bill and feet pinkish buff, dusky when older.

This plumage is worn a long time, probably two months, the postjuvinal moult beginning early in August as shown by a specimen from eastern Canada, August 8th. It becomes considerably worn and the buffy tints as well as the yellow below are nearly lost before the moult begins.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult in August in eastern Canada which involves the body plumage but not the wings nor the tail.

Differs very little from the previous plumage, birds being a paler brown above and altogether without the yellow tinge below. They are dull white below with a faint buffy tinge anteriorly and laterally and streaked with olive-brown; the buffy wing coverts rapidly fade to dull white.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which produces a dingy white, brown-streaked bird.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in August. Differs very little from first winter dress. The wings and tail will average darker with more yellow and the wing coverts have less buff and often a tinge of yellow.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—Females have plumages and moults corresponding to those of the males. They are indistinguishable from them in natal down and juvenal plumage except that the extent and intensity of the yellow in the wings and tail is less in most specimens in juvenal dress. In later plumages this difference holds and besides the birds are usually less heavily streaked and paler than the males.

### **Plectrophenax nivalis** (Linn.). SNOWFLAKE

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head mouse-gray streaked faintly on the head, more broadly on the back with dull black. Wings dull black ashy edged, secondaries, basal part of primaries and wing coverts pure white, the tertiaries broadly edged with Prout's-brown. Tail chiefly white, the central rectrices wholly clove-brown the others merely edged with it terminally. Below, dull white, the throat, breast and sides mouse-gray, a brownish wash in the flanks. Bill pinkish flesh, feet dull black.

This description is taken from Greenland specimens.

White primary coverts terminally dusky distinguish young males from adults, in which they are wholly white.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult early in August in Greenland which involves the body plumage, but apparently not the wings nor the tail.

Above, wood-brown often russet tinged, darker on the crown, completely veiling the black basal portions of the dorsal feathers and the white portions of those of the head. Below pure white, a jugular band and the sides russet, its extremities and the auriculars Vandyke-brown.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired chiefly by wear which produces during the breeding season a plumage almost wholly

black and white. The feather edgings of the back are gradually lost down to the black area, the individual feathers thereby becoming sagittate instead of rounded, while abrasion and fading remove the browns that conceal the white. I do not find that the black area of any feather corresponds, except approximately, to the points where the barbules of adjacent barbs last cross as figured by CHAPMAN ('96) and STONE ('96, pp. 118-119). I am inclined rather to believe that chemical disintegration proceeds faster in the less pigmented extremities of the barbs which certainly are not provided with heavier barbules at the point where the feather tips cease to break away. Besides wear, there is some renewal of feathers on the chin, throat and sides of the head during February and March, as in many other species, but this perhaps scarcely deserves to be called a moult.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired in Greenland by a complete postnuptial moult late in July and in August. The wings and tail are usually blacker than in first winter dress, the edgings richer with less brown and more gray, the tertiaries edged with a deeper brown, the primary coverts wholly white; elsewhere the brown is paler especially on the crown and jugular band.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired chiefly by wear and partly by moult as in the young bird. Plumage wholly black and white.

*Female*.—In juvenal plumage the female is similar to the male, but with less white on the wings and tail, the greater coverts brown, the primary coverts wholly dusky, and the secondaries with dusky edgings. Subsequent plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. The wings and tail are regularly duller, and the white of the wing restricted and mixed with dull black. The chief differential character is found in the feathers of the head and nape which are dull brownish black basally. In winter plumages this black is veiled with rich brown, but wear produces a streaked appearance in nuptial plumages. The jugular band is usually faint in females. The characters given distinguish females in any plumage from males, whether adults or young birds.

**Calcarius lapponicus** (Linn.). LAPLAND LONGSPUR

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head rich buff or clay-color streaked heavily with black. Wings and tail deep clove-brown, tertiaries and greater coverts edged with Mar's-brown, white tipped, lesser coverts with white, primaries and tail with pale cinnamon, outer rectrices terminally buffy white. Below, dull white, washed with buff across the throat; the chin, throat and sides streaked with black. Bill and feet of dried skin dusky clay-color.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult beginning in Greenland early in August which involves the body plumage, part of the wing coverts and not the rest of wings nor the tail. Young and old become practically indistinguishable in many cases.

Similar to the previous plumage. Above, wood-brown and cinnamon streaked with clove-brown, the nape and sides of neck chestnut concealed by wood-brown edgings; lesser coverts edged with wood-brown. Median crown stripe superciliary line and anterior auriculars buff, posterior auriculars black. Below, white, the feathers everywhere dusky basally, the sides of chin and a crescentic area on the throat jet black veiled almost completely by long white edgings; the sides and flanks streaked with black.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult beginning in March in the United States which involves the anterior parts of the head, chin and throat. The black feathers of these areas and the creamy white ones of the sides of the head are acquired by moult contrasting with the chestnut collar which is assumed by loss of feather edgings. This moult does not usually extend to the posterior portion of the black throat patch where old black feathers with partly worn-off edgings are regularly found. Wear produces a distinctly black and white streaked appearance above with the collar clear chestnut as if unveiled.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in August. Practically indistinguishable in many cases from first winter dress, but the black on the chin and throat is more extensive, and the colors richer and deeper, especially the wing edgings.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male, but the black throat patch is never so extensive and usually merely outlined with dull black streaks. The juvenal plumage is indistinguishable from that of the male. The first winter plumage is much veiled and streaked above with clove and cinnamon brown, the nape vinaceous; below it is white obscurely black on the sides of the chin and with a small throat patch, the sides and flanks black streaked. The first nuptial plumage is chiefly the result of wear, a few white feathers being acquired by moult on the chin. The adult winter plumage is like the first winter dress with perhaps more black on the throat.

**Calcarius ornatus** (Towns.). CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above clove-brown, the feathers edged with dull white and wood-brown producing a streaked appearance. Wings, sepia-brown, the primaries terminally dusky, the coverts edged with white forming a band at tips of the greater, which with the tertiaries, secondaries and middle rectrices are edged with pale cinnamon, the primaries with buff; tail largely white, the outer rectrices with only a terminal shaft line of sepia. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff, becoming darker.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult which involves the body plumage, lesser wing coverts and usually not more of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to previous plumage. Above, sepia edged with pale wood-brown concealing black feathers on the crown and chestnut ones on the nape and sides of neck; a partly streaked effect elsewhere. Lesser wing coverts black veiled with whitish edgings. Below, throat and breast black much veiled with buffy white edgings, the chin, flanks and crissum white tinged with buff. Auriculars wood-brown, the posterior ones concealing black; superciliary line and lores whitish.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult in March which involves chiefly the head and throat. The chin, auriculars and lores are renewed by moult, becoming clay-colored and also part of the black area on the throat and forehead, the rest of it becoming black by loss of the feather edgings. The black portion of the auriculars and the chestnut collar is exposed by wear, the superciliary line becoming whiter,

the abdomen paler and the back more distinctly streaked by the same influence. There are few species in which the same color, black, is produced by moult and by wear, but this one illustrates it beautifully and the lines of demarcation between old and new feathers vary according to the individual. When only part of the chin is renewed by moult, the clay-color may be divided from the black by a white band of worn faded feathers. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. Differs from the first winter dress chiefly in the larger areas of black, which often include the chin, and in the richer darker colors especially wing edgings.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male from which the female is first distinguishable in first winter plumage which is plain wood-brown streaked everywhere with clove-brown, the wing coverts and tertiaries with whitish edgings. The prenuptial moult is limited and in later plumages very little if any of the black throat of the male is acquired.

### **Pooœtes gramineus** (Gmel.). VESPER SPARROW

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head, wings and tail clove-brown, the effect, streaked owing to the body feathers and wing coverts being dark centrally, bordered with buffy, grayish and whitish edgings. The edgings of the tertiaries and the lesser coverts ("shoulders") are Mar's-brown, those of the greater coverts paler and the feathers tipped with white, those of the secondaries still paler, those of the outer primaries and rectrices dull white; the outer rectrix largely white. Below, dingy white streaked with clove-brown, heaviest on the jugulum, merely flecked on chin and crissum. Feet and bill pinkish buff darkening little with age.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult beginning the latter half of August which involves the body plumage but not the wings nor the tail, young becoming practically indistinguishable from adults.

Similar to the previous plumage. Above, sepia-brown streaked with clove-brown and tinged with walnut. Below, dull white, clearer on the chin, washed on throat and sides with pinkish buff and streaked broadly on throat and sides with clove-brown, walnut tinged and veiled with whitish or buffy edgings; the chin flecked; the breast, abdomen and crissum white.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which is marked and produces a brown-streaked plumage. The buffs and browns are largely lost. A few new feathers may be assumed about the chin in spring, but there is no evidence of a moult.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning in mid-August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, sometimes paler below, the tertiary edgings rather darker.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The sexes are practically alike in all plumages, although the colors will average duller in the female, and the moults are the same.

### ***Ammodramus princeps* (Mayn.). IPSWICH SPARROW**

1. **NATAL DOWN.** No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, buff, palest on the back, streaked narrowly on the pileum, nape and rump, and broadly on the back with deep clove-brown. Below, pale yellowish buff, palest on chin, abdomen and crissum; narrowly streaked on sides of throat, across jugulum, on sides, flanks and thighs with clove-brown. Wings and tail clove-brown the quills and coverts with whitish or pale cinnamon edgings, becoming russet on the tertiaries the proximal one white edged. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the former becoming dusky, the latter slightly browner with age.

This description is based upon nine specimens in my collection taken on Sable Island, Nova Scotia, in July and August.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult in August which involves the body plumage, and apparently the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to the previous plumage. Above, chiefly drab-gray which edges feathers clove-brown centrally bordered by a zone of Vandyke-brown so that the streaking above is suffused. The nape and median crown stripe are yellowish. The



edgings of the wing coverts, secondaries and tertiaries are of a vinaceous cinnamon which rapidly fades. Below, white, buff tinged on sides of head, across throat and on sides, streaked on sides of chin, across jugulum and on sides and flanks with russet bordered by clove-brown which is veiled by overlapping whitish feather edgings. Superciliary line ashy gray. No yellow above the eye.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves the head, throat, and part of the breast, and a few stray feathers of the other tracts but neither the wings nor the tail. The chin and throat become whiter, the streakings on them darker and the yellow of the superciliary line is acquired. Elsewhere the buffy tints fade out and the streakings become more prominent owing to the abrasion which exposes the darker colors beneath the veiling. The prenuptial moult begins in February lasting through March in the vicinity of New York city, young birds and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in August. Indistinguishable with certainty from first winter dress but usually grayer or more hoary above, the russet deeper on the wings and everywhere less suffused with buff. Some specimens are tinged with yellow above the eye.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The sexes are practically indistinguishable although females will average rather browner and duller; and the moults are identical, the prenuptial of the female however more limited than that of the male.

### ***Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna* (Wils.).**

#### SAVANNA SPARROW

1. **NATAL DOWN.** No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult. Similar in pattern and coloration to *A. princeps*, but everywhere darker. Above clay-color or deep buff prevails with dark streaking, darkest on pileum; the wing feather edgings are darker than those of *princeps* the secondaries and tertiaries being walnut-brown. Below, and to a certain extent above, and about the head, a buff suffusion replaces the paler yellowish tints of *princeps*.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult beginning early in August, which involves the body plumage, and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Young and old become practically indistinguishable, the young usually with more buff tints.

Similar to *A. princeps*, but dark brown instead of gray prevailing above, the crown, back and wing edgings much darker. Below with more buff on the throat and about the head, the streakings decidedly broader and blacker.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult in March and April which involves the head, throat, breast, often the anterior part of the back, the tertiaries and stray feathers elsewhere even on the thighs, the abdomen, the lumbar tracts and the tail coverts, but not the remiges nor rectrices. The buffy winter tints are replaced by grayish ones and the yellow of the superciliary line is acquired. Wear is soon marked.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in August. Differs little from first winter plumage, the buffiness less pronounced and the tertiary edgings a deeper brown. Superciliary line sometimes tinged with yellow.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically indistinguishable, although usually, the yellow of the superciliary line is less bright in the female and there is more buffy suffusion.

### ***Ammodramus savannarum passerinus* (Wils.).**

#### GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

1. **NATAL DOWN.** No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, mottled and streaked with olive-brown, the edgings of the nape and median crown stripe grayish, those of the back and rump buffy, the scapularies tipped with spots of russet. Wings and tail olive-brown, edged with wood-brown or pale cinnamon, the wing coverts and tertiaries tipped with white. The central rectrices have a peculiar fused barring along the shafts. Below, white, streaked across the jugulum and faintly on the sides with olive-brown. Edge of wing white or faintly yellow. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the former becoming dusky, the latter deep brown when older, and dull ochre-yellow in dried skins. (Plate II, fig. 1, shows a new tertiary of this plumage.)

This plumage is worn a long time and is much frayed and faded when the postjuvénal moult begins about the middle of August.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postjuvénal moult in August.

The pattern of nearly all the feathers is changed from that of the juvenal plumage, the streaking of the pectoral band being lost, the barring of the tail replaced by uniform brown, and the plain brown tertiaries acquiring apical sepia-brown spots. (**Plate II, fig. 2**, shows a tertiary of this plumage and **fig. 3** the effect of wear upon it.) The feathers of the back are black with apical chestnut spots edged with pearl-gray; the nape lacks most of the black, and the pileum most of the gray, of the previous plumage. The median crown stripe and the edgings of the tertiaries and wing coverts are rich buff, of the wing quills and tail olive-gray, the bend of the wing bright lemon. The wings and tail are darker. Below, including sides of head and superciliary line, rich buff, deepest on jugulum, very obscurely streaked with pale cinnamon, the middle of the abdomen pure white.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult at the south in April, which involves chiefly the chin, sides of head and crown and a few scattering feathers of the other tracts; but not the wings nor the tail. The yellow superciliary spot is acquired. Wear is more marked than is the slight moult, which perhaps does not deserve the name, fading removing a large part of the buff tints and abrasion fraying the feathers, so that by the end of the breeding season even the terminal spots of the tertiaries become gouged out as shown on **plate II, fig. 3**.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Differs very little from first winter dress, the buff less obvious and the colors deeper.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired apparently by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically indistinguishable and have corresponding moults and plumages.

### **Ammodramus henslowii** (Aud.). HENSLOW'S SPARROW

1. **NATAL DOWN**. Smoke-gray.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult. Above clay-color, streaked on head and back with black, the feathers with rounded

central spots bordered with the clay-color. Wings and tail clove-brown edged with clay-color, secondaries and tertiaries with russet, alulae with white. Below, faint primrose-yellow, buffy on chin and throat, unstreaked or an occasional streak at sides of throat. Bill and feet of dried skin raw umber brown sometimes dusky and paler in spring specimens.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-juvenal moult so far as may be judged from limited material for comparison.

Pileum and nape yellowish olive-buff, lateral crown stripes and flecking of nape black; back chestnut, streaked with black the edgings pearl gray; rump tawny olive veiling black streaks. Below, dull white washed on sides of head, breast, flanks and on crissum with clay-color, a jugular band of narrow black streaks which extend broader on the flanks. Orbital ring pearl-gray. Wings and tail darker than in previous plumage, the edgings largely russet or chestnut, the alulae edged with drab. The tail is darker, the dusky stripes along the shafts bordered with chestnut.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired probably by a partial prenuptial moult confined chiefly to the head and chin. In species so much affected by wear it is not easy to be sure of a moult without specimens which actually show it. The freshness of many feathers in spring indicate it.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. Practically indistinguishable from first winter, usually whiter below, of a greener tint about the head and the edgings of the back grayer.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired probably by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically indistinguishable, and the moults correspond.

### **Ammodramus caudacutus** (Gmel.). SHARP-TAILED SPARROW

1. **NATAL DOWN**. Grayish wood-brown.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Everywhere rich buff brightest on superciliary and malar stripes and on jugulum; the back broadly, the jugulum and sides narrowly streaked with clove-brown. Crown and wings nearly black, wing coverts and tertiaries broadly edged with ochraceous buff, the secondaries with russet, the primaries and their coverts with greenish tinged olive-gray, the alulae with white. Tail olive-brown with

clove-brown shaft streaks and indistinct barring. Auriculars dusky. Bill and feet pinkish buff the former becoming dusky, the latter sepia-brown with age.

This plumage is worn from June to September when the postjuvinal moult takes place in worn and faded birds.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult during September and early October which involves almost the entire plumage except the primaries, their coverts, and the secondaries, and apparently these also in some vigorous individuals.

Unlike the previous plumage; the upper parts resembling *A. maritimus*. Above, dull brownish olive-green, an orange tinged patch on the nape, the feathers of the back edged with pearl and cinereous gray, the crown rich sepia faintly streaked with clove-brown, an indistinct median stripe cinereous gray. The tertiaries are edged with buff, the secondaries and greater coverts with russet, the lesser coverts with olive-yellow; the edge of the wing is bright lemon-yellow. The new tail has more olive and is less barred than the old. Below, dull white washed on chin, across jugulum and on sides, flanks and crissum with ochraceous buff, superciliary and malar stripes deeper buff; streaked on jugulum, sides and crissum with clove-brown veiled by overlapping feather edgings. Auriculars cinereous.

The buff everywhere fades rapidly and abrasion is soon marked bringing the throat streaking into prominence. Birds become much grayer above and much whiter below by fading and by actual loss of the veiling feather tips. Several albinistic specimens in my collection are in this plumage mottled with white.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete prenuptial moult which occurs in March and April. I have seen several specimens with the remiges partly grown, but this is usually accomplished before the birds reach us although many show renewal in the body feathers. A careful examination under the glass shows that birds in May are in as fresh plumage even to the wings and tail as when they leave us late in October and November and it would be safe to infer a moult even if there were no actual proof of it. Wear soon produces a faded ragged bird dull brown above and dingy white below with dull streaks, only the superciliary and malar stripes showing any buff.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult beginning late in August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress the colors averaging richer.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete pre-nuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically indistinguishable and the moults identical.

**Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni** Allen. NELSON'S SPARROW

**Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus** Dwight. ACADIAN  
SHARP-TAILED SPARROW

The plumages and moults of these two races correspond exactly to those of *A. caudacutus*. I have indicated their differences of plumage in another paper (*Auk*, XIII, 1896, pp. 271-278) and need only add that all these birds undoubtedly have two complete moults every year, judging by a large amount of material illustrating all plumages except the natal and juvenal of *A. c. nelsoni* which is unknown in collections.

**Ammodramus maritimus** (Wils.). SEASIDE SPARROW

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head and the tail, olive-brown narrowly streaked on pileum, nape and upper tail coverts and more broadly on the back with clove-brown. Wings dull black, primaries edged with olive-gray, secondaries with russet, coverts and tertiaries with buff, alulae with white. Below, dull white washed with buff on sides of chin, on jugulum, along the flanks and on crissum and narrowly streaked on jugulum and along the sides with clove-brown. The supraloral space is greenish. Bill and feet pinkish flesh, the former becoming slaty and the latter sepia-brown.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-juvenal moult beginning the latter part of August when the juvenal plumage has become worn and faded as a result of fully two months' wear. Young and old become indistinguishable.

Unlike the previous plumage, less definitely streaked. Above, including sides of head, wings and tail olive-green, pileum and back cinereous from the olive and pearl-gray edgings, median crown stripe pure cinereous gray bordered by two lateral stripes of olive-green obscurely streaked with black. The primaries are edged with olive-green, the outer with white, the secondaries, tertiaries and greater coverts with rich russet, the lesser with olive-yellow, the alulae with white. The edge of the wing is bright lemon and a yellow spot is acquired in

the supraloral space, the superciliary line greenish. Below, dull white washed across jugulum, on sides and crissum with buff, and broadly and rather indistinctly streaked (except on chin and mid-abdomen which are pure white) with olive-gray.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear. The plumage of these birds when they reach the latitude of New York in May is already ragged, and by the end of the breeding season the feathers are in shreds, the plumage becoming a dingy brown above and a mottled gray below the only distinctive markings being a dirty white chin and yellow supraloral spots. The tattered condition of this species illustrates how unfortunate it is to base specific descriptions on breeding plumages.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning in mid-August. The fresh plumage assumed is in sharp contrast to the ragged one doffed and differs very little from first winter except in the richness of the tints, being a trifle darker and grayer with less buff.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird. It is rather surprising that a species living in the same environment as *A. caudacutus* and suffering equally from abrasion due to coarse marsh grasses and reeds should have but one moult in the year, while the latter has two.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults are identical, the colors averaging somewhat duller.

### **Chondestes grammacus** (Say). LARK SPARROW

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, deep olive-brown, including wings and tail, the feathers edged with pale buff and dull white, producing a streaked effect on the back and head; the greater coverts are edged with buff, the primaries and secondaries with pale vinaceous cinnamon, an area of this color at the bases of the primaries forming a spot beneath their coverts; the rectrices broadly tipped with white. Below, dull white, the chin, throat, breast and sides flecked and streaked with deep olive-brown. Superciliary stripes pale buff flecked with dull black; suborbital region white; loreal and rictal streaks and posterior auriculars black; anterior auriculars sepia-brown. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the upper mandible becoming dusky, the lower, and the feet dull clay-color.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-juvenal moult beginning in Kansas the middle of July, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to previous plumage, but unstreaked below. Above, wood-brown, streaked with black, the pileum laterally chestnut, anteriorly black, divided by a buff median stripe, palest anteriorly. Wings and tail deep clove-brown, with cinnamon edgings deepest on the tertiaries, palest on the indistinct wing bands. Below, white, washed with wood-brown on sides, flanks and crissum, the sides of the chin and a central spot on the throat, with rictal and loreal streaks, black; auriculars largely chestnut; malar, suborbital and superciliary stripes white, the latter buff tinged.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult in March which involves the anterior parts of the head, the chin and throat. This renewal supplies fresh feathers similar to those they replace and the line of demarcation is obvious on the throat by contrast of the clear white feathers next the old, and only less obvious on the head. The chestnut of the auriculars seems to be richer and the superciliary line whiter. Wear, which is marked in this species, removes much of the wing edgings, and the spot at the base of the primaries fades where unprotected by their coverts.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July in Kansas. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, the colors, especially of edgings, averaging deeper.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird. As all available spring specimens appear to show fresh feathers, semiannual moult in both old and young is the natural inference.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. The juvenal plumage is indistinguishable from the male. The first winter plumage is rather duller and the auriculars less distinctly chestnut. In later plumages the sexes are practically alike.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys** (Forst.). WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

1. **NATAL DOWN**. No specimen seen.
2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.



Similar to *Z. albicollis* but with paler brown on the lateral crown stripes, paler edgings, lack of chestnut and less heavily streaked below with duller black. Above sepia-brown streaked with black the edgings of the back pale buff, the central crown stripe and indistinct superciliary lines dingy white. Below, grayish white, faintly washed with wood-brown on breast, sides and crissum-streaked on throat, breast, sides and flanks with dull black. Wings and tail deep olive-brown edged with Mar's-brown, the coverts and inner tertiary tipped with pale buff. Auriculars grayish. Feet clay-color and bill slaty in dried skin.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, probably in August on its breeding grounds, which apparently involves the body plumage and the wing coverts partly but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above bistre, this effect from broad Vandyke-brown stripes which are chestnut laterally and bordered with wood-brown; median crown stripe wood-brown bordered by burnt-umber stripes. (A few black feathers on the crown stripes are occasionally acquired.) Wing coverts and tertiaries clove-brown edged with Vandyke-brown or russet and tipped with yellowish white forming two wing bands. Below, including sides of neck pale smoke gray nearly white on chin and abdomen and washed on flanks and crissum with wood-brown. Auriculars wood-brown. Indistinct superciliary line dull buffy gray. The bill is pinkish buff, drying darker. The feet dull flesh color.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult beginning the end of March which involves chiefly the head and chin and a few scattering feathers elsewhere. The black and white crown is assumed which soon shows nearly as much wear as the rest of the plumage. This becomes grayer and the stripes clearer. Old and young become practically indistinguishable.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Differs from first winter dress in having a black and white crown, lacking buff about the auriculars and being everywhere grayer and scarcely different from nuptial dress.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired apparently by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird. This dress differs so very little from the adult winter that perhaps there is no regular prenuptial moult in adults; but occasional new feathers are to be found and unless more material proves the contrary there is reason for believing in the moult.

*Female*.—The female has corresponding plumages and moults and is practically indistinguishable from the male in all plum-

ages, acquiring the black and white crown at the first prenuptial moult.

**Zonotrichia albicollis** (Gmel.). WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

1. NATAL DOWN. Pale clove-brown.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, chestnut-brown, darkest on the head, streaked with dull black, median line and superciliary line olive-gray buff tinged, the feathers of the back edged with buff. Wings and tail deep olive-brown, the coverts and tertiaries chestnut edged and buff tipped, the secondaries and rectrices edged with paler brown, the primaries with brownish white; edge of wing white. Below, dull white, washed with buff on throat and sides and thickly streaked with clove-brown, the whiter chin merely flecked, the abdomen and crissum unmarked. Bill slaty brown, feet pinkish buff, both darker when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning in eastern Canada early in August, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Unlike previous plumage except above. The back is more broadly striped and edged with buff, the crown nearly black divided by a dull brownish or olive-gray median line. Superciliary line dull white buff tinged, lemon-yellow anteriorly; edge of wing pale yellow. Below, the chin is pure white with black rectal and submalar streaks, the throat and breast ashy gray obscurely vermiculated with clove-brown, a darker concealed central breast spot. Abdomen white, the flanks and crissum washed with wood-brown and duskily streaked.

The more precocious young birds become indistinguishable from adults, and there is great individual variation among them, the whiteness of the chin patch, the grayness of the throat, and the black and white of the crown showing all degrees of intensity. As a rule, however, young birds are browner with duller crown stripes and less purely gray breasts.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult during April which involves more or less of the body plumage, but usually confined chiefly to the head, throat and breast and not involving the wings and tail. The black crown and the postocular streak with pure white median and superciliary stripes and bright yellow supraloral spot are acquired above; the white chin bordered by clear cinereous gray being the chief feature below. The breast spot and vermiculation are lost if in-

volved by the moult, but frequently they are not reached, nor is the posterior part of the crown nor the back and rump in most cases. In some birds the moult seems to be almost wholly suppressed and they breed in worn autumnal dress. Young and old as a rule now become practically indistinguishable.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in August. Differs from first winter in being of a clearer gray on the throat with less buff and the vermiculations more obscure, the crown and superciliary stripes whiter. The breast spot is less obvious.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves the same areas as in the young bird, and produces a similar plumage richer with age and grayer on the throat. As all spring specimens show signs of moult it is probably that both old and young moult twice a year. It is impossible to tell them apart in every case in the spring, and hence the difficulty in affirming a double moult after the first year.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults of the female correspond to those of the male. In juvenal plumage males and females are indistinguishable; in first winter plumage females usually have much paler brown crown stripes, the gray of the breast brownish and streaked rather than vermiculated. The prenuptial moult may be almost wholly suppressed in young birds or so extensive that they assume the same first nuptial plumage as the male. Older, the sexes are practically indistinguishable, females probably averaging duller in general color.

### **Spizella monticola** (Gmel.). TREE SPARROW

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, streaked with sepia and clove-brown with tinges of chestnut on crown and back. Wings and tail, deep olive-brown edged with grayish white, the coverts and tertiaries with pale buff. Below dull white, grayish on the throat, yellowish on abdomen and crissum, the sides washed with pale cinnamon, streaked (except on abdomen and crissum) with dull black. Bill and feet dull sepia-brown in dried specimens.

Description from a bird taken August 31st in Labrador.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult in August in Labrador which involves the body plumage but apparently not the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming indistinguishable.

Pileum chestnut, faintly edged in median line with buff, feathers of back black bordered with zone of chestnut, the edgings rich buff, rump Isabella-color, often grayish. White wing bands, the greater coverts and tertiaries (white tipped) are edged with chestnut, the lesser wing coverts wholly olive-gray. Below, dull white, the chin, throat, breast, sides of head and neck and superciliary line pale French-gray, the sides washed with wood-brown, a conspicuous clove-brown central breast spot.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear, the buff edgings of the back becoming grayish and the chestnut everywhere slightly paler. New feathers regularly grow on the chin in March but apparently not in the other tracts and their appearance indicates, as in some other species, renewal rather than moult, for they are very few in numbers.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult and indistinguishable from first winter dress.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are indistinguishable and the moults are the same.

### ***Spizella socialis* (Wils.). CHIPPING SPARROW**

1. **NATAL DOWN.** Mouse-gray.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, wood-brown, grayish on nape and rump, heavily streaked with dull black, faintly tinged on scapularies and crown with chestnut. Wings and tail dull black, rectrices and primaries ashy edged, the secondaries and tertiaries chestnut edged, wing coverts and tertiaries terminally edged with buff. Ill-defined superciliary stripe, dull grayish white spotted with black. Auriculars wood-brown. Dusky loreal and postocular streak. Below, white, streaked except on abdomen and crissum, with dull black. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the former growing dusky and the latter wood-brown with age.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult beginning the middle of August, which involves the body plumage, and the wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar above to the previous plumage, but with the chestnut crown veiled with buff edgings and narrowly streaked with black. Below, uniform grayish white, unstreaked, washed with buff on throat and sides. Superciliary line dull white buff tinged. Loral, postocular and indistinct submalar streaks black.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult in March and April, which involves chiefly the forehead, crown, sides of head, chin and throat, little else of the body plumage, and not the wings nor the tail. The chestnut crown, bordered by the white superciliary lines, the white chin and the adjacent cinereous gray are acquired by moult, abrasion bringing the streaking of the back into prominence, the buff and chestnut everywhere paler from gradual fading. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning in mid-August. Indistinguishable in many cases from first winter dress, the tertiaries usually chestnut edged to their tips, not buff, the greater coverts more often white tipped, less buff about the head; the grays and chestnuts generally richer, and somewhat less streaking on the crown.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird. The line of demarcation between old and new feathers can be made out in *all* birds in the spring and summer, and all the new crown feathers are chestnut without the terminal black spot characteristic of the winter plumage, therefore, the prenuptial moult must occur regularly in adults as well as young.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically alike in all plumages, and the moults are similar, the prenuptial being more limited. The first winter plumage is usually more washed below with brown, the chin with more dusky edgings and the crown is less distinctly chestnut and more streaked, these streaks more frequently remaining posteriorly than in the male after the prenuptial moult.

**Spizella pusilla** (Wils.). FIELD SPARROW

1. **NATAL DOWN.** Mouse-gray.
2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Resembles *S. socialis*, but the crown practically unstreaked and the streaking below duller and restricted to throat and sides; the loral and postocular streaks are lacking, the wing edgings are richer and deeper; and the lower parts are washed with pale buff or brown. The orbital ring is not conspicuous. The upper mandible is usually paler than in *S. socialis*.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning early in September, which involves the body plumage, and the wing coverts but not usually the rest of the wings nor the tail, although the middle pair of rectrices is occasionally renewed. Old and young becoming practically indistinguishable.

Above, including auriculars, walnut-brown, a faint grayish median crown stripe, the back streaked with black, the edgings buff or pale cinnamon; rump hair-brown. Orbital region and sides of neck ashy, the orbital ring conspicuously buff. Below dull white, jugular band and sides washed with pale cinnamon.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear. All the cinnamon below is lost except a faint pectoral band, the sides of the head and neck become clear ashy, and the upper parts bright hazel with whitish edgings on the back, the wing bands white. There is some renewal of feathers on the chin in April but apparently not enough to deserve the name of a moult.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult beginning late in August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male, the sexes being practically indistinguishable.

### **Junco hyemalis** (Linn.). SLATE-COLORED JUNCO

1. **NATAL DOWN**. Slate-gray.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, drab, plumbeous on crown; sides of head and nape streaked with dull black, the feathers especially of the back edged with bistre. Wings and tail slaty black edged with olive-gray, the tertiaries and wing coverts with dull cinnamon, the greater coverts tipped with buff. Two outer rectrices pure white. Feet pinkish buff, dusky when older. Bill dusky pinkish buff, flesh-color when older and in dried specimens becoming dull ochre-yellow.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult in August and September, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above, including wing coverts, sides of head, throat, breast and sides slaty gray, darkest on the crown and veiled with bistre edgings, especially on the back, more faintly with paler brown or ashy gray on the throat. Abdomen and crissum pure white, sometimes faintly washed with vinaceous cinnamon.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear through which the brown and ashy edgings are finally lost, birds becoming ragged but not much faded by the end of the breeding season. A few new feathers are acquired on the chin early in April, but no regular moult is indicated.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult beginning the middle of August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter, but the tertiaries usually edged with gray instead of faded cinnamon, the wings and tail blacker and showing everywhere fewer brown edgings.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in first nuptial from which practically indistinguishable.

*Female*.—In natal down and juvenal plumage not distinguishable from the male. The moults are the same. The first winter plumage is similar to that of the male, but the gray much paler and everywhere the plumage more veiled with brown. The adult winter plumage is grayer than the first winter dress and resembles the young male at like season, but is much browner with the gray paler.

### **Melospiza fasciata** (Gmel.). SONG SPARROW

1. **NATAL DOWN**. Sepia-brown.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Resembles *Z. albicollis*, but lacks chestnut above, paler on crown and less streaked below.

Above, including sides of head, wood-brown or sepia broadly striped on back, narrowly on crown, nape and rump with dull black, the feathers centrally black with a narrow zone of walnut and wood-brown and grayish edgings. Indistinct median crown and superciliary stripes dull olive-gray with dusky shaft streaks.

Rictal and submalar streaks black; orbital ring buff. Wings dull black with walnut edgings, the wing coverts and tertiaries buff tipped. Tail olive-brown broadly edged with walnut and indistinctly barred. Below, dull white washed with pale or yellowish buff deepest on the throat and flanks and streaked on sides of chin, throat, breast and sides with dull black. Feet and bill pinkish flesh, becoming dusky with age, the lower mandible remaining partly flesh-color.

Twenty-seven specimens in this plumage show a good deal of individual variation in the yellowness of the lower parts and the amount of streaking. This plumage is worn several months and fades considerably.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial, sometimes complete, postjuvénal moult during August, September and October which involves the body plumage and the tail and very often, part at least, of the remiges. The renewal of five or six outer primaries occurs in nearly all young birds of this species and is very likely characteristic of the first brood. This fact throws light on the moult of the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) and some others which have this peculiarity. The secondaries are rarely found in moult, the tertiaries, alulae and wing coverts regularly so. I have a series of eighty-one birds at this stage, besides the twenty-seven in juvenal dress, showing all stages of the postjuvénal moult. With a few specimens only the renewal of primaries, secondaries and even of rectrices, might easily be overlooked as the new feathers are nearly of the same pattern and color as the old and not in contrast as with the Indigo Bunting. My large series shows that the postjuvénal moult begins in some birds, presumably those of first broods, by the middle of August while others may show no signs of moult before the last of September. The middle of September will find the former in full first winter dress, while the latter will still show new feather growth late in October or even November. It is worth noting that the whole period of moult does not cover much over two months in the great majority of cases.

This plumage resembles the previous, but is whiter below and richer in chestnut streakings both above and below. The lateral crown stripes are distinct with black streaks, the median and superciliary stripes distinctly olive-gray. Below, white washed with pale vinaceous cinnamon on sides of head, across jugulum and on sides, and streaked, except on chin and mid-abdomen, with clove-brown bordered with chestnut, the streaks becoming confluent at sides of chin and on mid-throat forming three nearly black spots.



Old and young become absolutely indistinguishable in most cases, young birds with the wing edgings perhaps a trifle duller and with a yellowish tinge.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which is marked and by the end of the breeding season the birds are in tatters. The buff is lost and the streaking below comes out in strong contrast on a white ground.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning usually about the middle of August and completed before the end of September. Old and young cannot be told apart with any certainty, adults however with wing edgings that may perhaps average darker and browner and the throat markings blacker. My series of twenty-three moulting adults shows that age can only be determined with certainty by osteological characters.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird with the same results.

*Females.*—The sexes are practically alike and the moults identical. In first winter plumage females are apt to be more washed with brown or to have a yellowish cast when compared with males in like dress. Females average later in their moult than males. I have one taken September 22d that has little more than begun the postnuptial moult.

### **Melospiza lincolni** (Aud.). LINCOLN'S SPARROW

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Similar to *M. fasciata*, the wings and tail, especially the edgings and the crown, a little darker; but not so dark as *M. georgiana* and the chin faintly streaked.

Above, wood-brown the crown Mar's-brown divided by an indistinct dull olive-gray median line, streaked with black. Wings and tail black edged chiefly with Mar's-brown, the wing coverts and tertiaries with wood-brown. Below, white faintly yellow tinged, washed with pale buff across throat and on sides, flanks and crissum, and streaked with black except on the abdomen, the chin also flecked. Superciliary stripe indistinct and dull olive-gray with dusky shaft streaks. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky and drying to a dull clay-color, the upper mandible slaty.

The description is from two specimens secured by me in New Brunswick, Canada, July 12th, with tails about one-third grown.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult in August in eastern Canada which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Extremely like the previous plumage but with a greenish tinge above, the edgings and median crown stripe paler. Below, whiter, the throat band deep pinkish buff, a like tint on the malar bands which are bordered by black rictal and submalar streaks, the sides, flanks and crissum grayer buff. The streakings below are narrow and black, merely flecking the white chin and not reaching the white of the breast and abdomen. The superciliary line is deep olive-buff extending on the sides of the neck.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which produces very little effect. Birds become slightly grayer and of a paler brown above and the streakings below are a little more prominent, the buff fading a little.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, the tertiary edgings perhaps darker and all the colors richer.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically indistinguishable in all plumages, and the moults are the same in both sexes.

### **Melospiza georgiana** (Lath.). SWAMP SPARROW

1. **NATAL DOWN**. Sepia-brown.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Similar to *M. fasciata* but darker especially on the crown, more washed with buff below and more narrowly streaked with deeper black on the throat.

Above, cinnamon-brown, dull chestnut on the crown, streaked with black. No obvious median crown stripe. Superciliary line olive-gray duskily spotted. Wings and tail black, edged largely with chestnut, the wing coverts and tertiaries paler. Below, dull yellowish white washed with deep buff on sides of chin, across jugulum, on sides, flanks and crissum and narrowly streaked with black except on the chin and mid-abdomen. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the former becoming dusky, the latter sepia-brown.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult beginning the end of August which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but usually not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above, similar to the previous plumage, the back and the lateral crown stripes showing more chestnut; a grayish nuchal band. Below, unlike previous plumage, grayish white, cinereous on throat obscurely streaked with a darker gray, washed on the flanks and often on the breast with olivaceous wood-brown obscurely streaked or spotted with clove-brown. Rictal and submalar streaks black bordering a grayish or yellow tinged chin. Superciliary line clear olive-gray or yellow tinged; postocular streak black; auriculars bistre.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves chiefly the crown, chin and throat, but not the wings nor the tail. The amount of renewal varies according to individual, and may be quite extensive; a few feathers of most of the body tracts are usually renewed. Early April specimens from the south show the prenuptial moult in progress. The chestnut cap with black forehead, white chin, and clear cinereous gray of the throat, sides of head and neck are assumed, and a nearly complete renewal is indicated in some cases judging by the freshness of the feather borders.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in August and September. Practically indistinguishable in many cases from first winter, but usually with more chestnut on the crown, the superciliary line and sides of neck a clearer darker gray, the chin not yellow tinged but white and a grayer cast of plumage everywhere perceptible.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird. It seems to me that unless the crown feathers are renewed by moult, more specimens would show the black terminal spot which on feathers of the winter plumage reaches to the forking of the first pair of barbs. It is not an easy point to determine in species showing great wear, although the line of demarcation between areas of old and new feathers is usually marked.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically indistinguishable in all plumages, but the female is usually duller and browner, the crown with less chestnut and more streaked especially in the autumn. The prenuptial moult is more limited.

***Passerella iliaca* (Merr.). FOX SPARROW**

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired no doubt by a complete post-natal moult. I have been unable to obtain any specimens at this stage, but judging by *P. iliaca unalaschensis* the plumage probably resembles the first winter dress, being browner with paler edgings and more streaks above, and darker with heavier dusky streaking below. The wings and tail (as seen in the next plumage) are clove-brown with walnut-brown edgings, the wing coverts probably with more buff than in first winter plumage.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult which involves the body plumage and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above, olive-brown, streaked broadly with burnt-umber, the wing coverts walnut-brown, darker on inner webs and tipped faintly with pale buff. Below white, the sides of the chin, the breast, the sides and flanks broadly streaked with walnut-brown, the streaks coalescing on the sides of the chin and mid-throat; the anterior part of the abdomen with dusky spots.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which produces slight changes. A few new feathers are usually acquired about the chin in March, possibly the beginning of a more extensive moult. My latest spring specimen is April 8th.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike and the moults correspond although females may average duller in colors.

***Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (Linn.). TOWHEE**

1. NATAL DOWN. Pale clove-brown.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head, cinnamon-brown (often darker) somewhat obscurely striped, broadly on the back, more narrowly on the crown, with deep

olive-brown. Wings dull black, the primaries with edgings and a patch at their bases white, the tertiaries with broad edgings of buff and walnut-brown, the innermost white edged, the wing coverts with buff or pale cinnamon edgings. Tail deeper black than the wings, the three outer rectrices with sub-terminal areas of white. Below, dull white, strongly washed with buff or pale yellow, cinnamon tinged on breast, flanks and crissum, and streaked on the throat and sides with dull black. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the former becoming slaty black, the latter dusky sepia-brown. Iris, sepia-brown becoming deep red during the winter.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning the middle of August, which involves the body plumage, the wing coverts, the tertiaries and the tail but not the primaries, their coverts, and the secondaries. Young and old become almost indistinguishable except by the browner primary coverts of the young birds.

Whole head, throat, breast, back, rump, wing coverts and tertiaries jet black; abdomen pure white, the sides and flanks rich chestnut, the crissum cinnamon. The upper tail coverts are usually edged with cinnamon and the back sometimes has obscure Vandyke-brown edgings. The tertiary endings are pale buff with walnut, those of the inner tertiary nearly white.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which is marked by the end of the breeding season producing a ragged plumage, but the black areas do not fade perceptibly and the chestnut flanks fade but very little. The brown primary coverts are the distinguishing feature of young birds.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning early in August. Differs from first winter dress chiefly in the blacker wings, especially the primary coverts and deeper wing edgings. Old and young now become indistinguishable.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear and differing from first nuptial by black instead of brown primary coverts. A few feathers may be assumed by moult on the chin and elsewhere, but they are insignificant in numbers.

*Female*.—In juvenal plumage olive-brown wings and tail replace the black ones of the male. The first winter plumage, acquired by a moult of similar extent to that of the male, differs in having the head, back, throat and breast, brown instead of black. Adult and young females cannot be distinguished in this

plumage. The first nuptial is acquired by wear and the adult winter by a complete postnuptial moult. Subsequent plumages do not differ, females never assuming the black areas of the male.

**Cardinalis cardinalis** (Linn.) CARDINAL

1. NATAL DOWN. Mouse-gray.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, sepia-brown, wings darker and suffused with dull dragon's-blood and brick-red, the tail, crest and forehead largely brick-red, traces of black on lores and chin. Below wood-brown, cinnamon tinged on throat, sides and flanks. Bill and feet pinkish buff assuming when dry a dusky clay-color.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-juvenal moult beginning about the middle of August.

The scarlet plumage, practically indistinguishable from the adult, is assumed, but it is usually much veiled with olive-gray. The bill assumes the reddish color of the adult later.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which produces little difference in the color except that the red is more prominent through loss of the gray edgings.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, but with less veiling, and a reddish bill.

*Female.*—The moults and plumages correspond to those of the male, but after the juvenal plumage, in which the sexes are alike, is put aside, females are distinguishable by their brownish dress brightened with dull red. The black of the head is always dull.

**Habia ludoviciana** (Linn.) ROSE-BREADED GROSBK

1. NATAL DOWN. White.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of the head, olive-brown with cinnamon and whitish edgings. Wings and tail darker, a white area at the base of the primaries, the rectrices faintly buff tipped, the coverts edged with buff forming two nearly white wing bands. Below, pure white usually a few olive-brown streaks on the sides of the chin and throat. Broad superciliary lines and central crown stripe white, buffy tinged. The edge of the wing is of a pale rose-pink; under wing coverts duller, salmon tinged. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult beginning the middle of August, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above, raw umber streaked with clove-brown darkest on the pileum which has a central buff stripe, the feathers white at their bases. Below, ochraceous buff, white on chin and abdomen, streaked on throat, breast and sides with clove-brown; a geranium-pink area on the jugulum veiled with ochraceous buff. Auriculars sepia bordered with clove-brown. Superciliary stripe and suborbital region white, tinged with buff, the lores grayish buff. The under wing coverts bright geranium-pink, those of the edge of the wing black spotted, the lesser coverts or "shoulders" with a carmine tinge. Two wing bands buff.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult, late in the winter as indicated by South American specimens, which involves the body plumage, the tertiaries, most of the wing coverts and the tail, leaving often only the brown and worn primaries, their coverts and the secondaries.

Above, including sides of the head and neck, wing coverts, tertiaries and tail, black the body feathers with broad buff or wood-brown edgings, the coverts and tertiaries tipped with white, the three outer rectrices with large white terminal spots. The throat has a large geranium-red or pale crimson patch extending into the chin and down the middle]of the throat. Less vigorous individuals may assume a body plumage largely veiled with brown, a small area of crimson, and only stray rectrices or wing coverts here and there are replaced by black ones.

The individual variation is great and all sorts of mixed plumages may be seen, the brown, worn wings and other left-over feathers showing such specimens to be young birds.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult early in August. Easily distinguishable from first winter dress by the jet black wings and tail. Adults are less veiled, the brown deeper and the carmine more extensive often covering the whole throat and breast and invading the abdomen and the crown. A few black spots laterally replace the streaking of the young bird. The wing edgings are whiter than those of the first winter dress. Young and old become practically indistinguishable except that some of the less vigorous individuals may be deficient in depth of color.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves the body plumage but not the wings nor the tail. Distinguishable from first nuptial by the black wings and worn tail. The retained tertiaries and secondaries become much worn and the terminal spots are gradually lost often leaving gaps in their place.

*Female.*—The female is streaked with brown and possesses salmon-colored or cadmium-yellow under wing coverts in all plumages. In first winter plumage, lacking the pink throat of the male; the under wing coverts, regularly cadmium-yellow. The nuptial plumages are acquired by wear alone or by a very limited prenuptial moult.

### **Guiraca cærulea** (Linn.). BLUE GROSBEAK

1. NATAL DOWN. Brownish mouse-gray.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, bistre, grayish on the rump, russet tinged on the pileum, the feathers with wood-brown or russet edgings. Wings and tail dull clove-brown, with wood-brown edgings, two indistinct wing bands and narrow tipping of the tail buff. Below rich clay-color, pale buff on the chin, abdomen and crissum. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff becoming darker.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning early in August, which involves body plumage and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to the previous plumage the browns everywhere darker and richer especially noticeable on the median wing coverts which become deep hazel, the crissum which becomes cinnamon or dusky-streaked and the lores which are dull sepia-brown.

Further material may show that a few blue feathers are assumed by some young males, at this moult.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves a variable amount of the brown body plumage and wing coverts, the tail wholly or in part and apparently the outer primaries in some cases. A mixture of brown and blue results, the key to the age of a specimen being the retained brown primary coverts. The moult must occur in mid-winter judging by the worn condition of spring specimens.



5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. The full blue plumage is assumed, veiled with cinnamon feather tips on the head and back, a deeper band across the throat, these edgings very pale elsewhere below. The wings are black with blue edgings, those of the lesser and median coverts rich chestnut, of the greater coverts paler, of the tertiaries still paler; the tail darker than the wings and with deeper blue edgings, the outer pair of rectrices narrowly tipped with white. The lores are black.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear through which the veiling is usually wholly lost, birds becoming almost completely blue except the wings and tail. The prenuptial moult of the first year is evidently not repeated.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond but the female never acquires much blue, remaining in a brown plumage like the male first winter. In first winter plumage the female is pale cinnamon-brown darkest on the head and palest below and on the rump; the wings and tail deep olive-brown; the wing bands pale chestnut, the one at tips of greater coverts paler. The first nuptial plumage, assumed almost wholly by wear, is paler, the brown fading. The adult winter plumage usually shows a bluish tint in the wing edgings, the wings and tail being darker than in first winter dress. More mature birds may show blue feathers on the rump, crown, sides of head, sides of throat and across the jugulum but do not often acquire a plumage as bright as that of the male in first nuptial plumage.

### *Passerina cyanea* (Linn.). INDIGO BUNTING

1. NATAL DOWN. Brownish mouse-gray.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head, dark sepia-brown, wings darker, the primaries and secondaries edged with pale wood-brown, the coverts and tertiaries with pale cinnamon. Tail pale clove-brown, more or less faintly edged with greenish or glaucous blue. Below, dull white, washed with raw umber-brown on breast, sides and crissum and narrowly streaked with sepia on the breast and sides. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the former becoming dusky, the latter dull black with age.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult beginning late in August which involves the body plumage, the wing coverts, sometimes the tail and sometimes five or six distal primaries.

Similar to previous plumage but with very indistinct streaking and whiter below, and not so brown above. Above, bistre often washed with Mars-brown, the rump and upper tail coverts often dull blue, brown edged, the wing coverts edged with cinnamon or russet, the lesser often with a bluish tinge, the others nearly black, blue tinged. Below, dull white, washed on breast, sides and crissum with wood-brown, often russet tinged and indistinctly streaked with olive-gray.

The renewal of the tail and primaries is a fact shown by several specimens in moult and can probably be laid to individual precocity of southern-bred birds. Mr. Wm. Palmer has loaned me two young birds (Nos. 3283, Sept. 17th, and 3655, Oct. 2d) taken at Washington, D. C., both showing a postjuvinal moult in the remiges and rectrices nearly completed, and I have seen a few other similar birds.

Dull blue feathers veiled with brown edgings are found sparingly on the chin and throats of some specimens, these birds also showing precocity by bluer wing coverts. At this moult the tail and part of the flight feathers sometimes acquire their blue edgings, although this renewal is apt to be deferred till late in the winter. A similar moult takes place in some Song Sparrows (*M. fasciata*) but never deferred till winter. A new body feather and a worn one of this plumage are figured (**plate VI, figs. 1 and 2**) as they appear under the microscope, but owing to difficulties in reproduction, **fig. 2** does not resemble **fig. 1** as closely as the feathers themselves resemble each other.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult chiefly in February and March which involves a varying number of body feathers, the tail, five or six of the distal primaries sometimes all (but not their coverts except in some cases the first), most of the wing coverts, the tertiaries and perhaps a stray secondary, less often all of them. Two specimens (U. S. Nat. Mus., Nos. 107844 and 107845) taken March 11th in the Bahamas shows actual moult of the body plumage, coverts, primaries and tail, the brown primary coverts remaining, and a number of other specimens (many unfortunately without dates on

the labels) from Central and South America and the West Indies, show abundantly the growth of new feathers, at the prenuptial moult, when the greatest complications of plumage regularly arise, not only in this species but in many others. In precocious individuals the renewal may be nearly complete except usually the primary coverts, secondaries and abdominal feathers and there is an almost unbroken series to individuals that have only renewed a feather here and there. This moult produces a variety of birds, *all with brown primary coverts*, some specimens being as bright blue as are adults; usually, the new blue body feathers, unworn and of peculiarly slender barbs sometimes white tipped, are mixed in with the bleached much abraded feathers of the first winter plumage. One of them is figured on **plate VI, fig. 3**. Abrasion of the lower parts brings into view the dull blue or gray bases of the old feathers, the buff edgings of which become faded and nearly white. Two kinds of blue feathers are therefore found not only here but on the rump and head, one bright and new the other dull and worn. The renewal of the wing coverts is very often incomplete and a mixture of blue and brown results. The most surprising renewal is that of the distal primaries *without their primary coverts*, four to six being renewed sometimes asymmetrically in the two wings by quills that have blue edgings of various depth of color in contrast to the older and more worn ones adjacent. Five or six seems to be the usual number replaced, and their color is regularly darker than the old ones. A new black tail edged with blue is assumed unless it has already been acquired at the postjuvinal moult. Dull white feathers frequently appear on the chin. The bill becomes slaty. It is natural to assume that birds which acquired new wings and tail in the autumn are the worn duller specimens we find in May, while the brighter less worn birds are those which have acquired these feathers at a more recent date. Both classes show recent growth of the blue body feathers, and the slenderness of the barbs of nuptial feathers as compared with the blunter ones of the winter dress ought effectually to dispose of the superfluous idea that color change without moult can take place in this species.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult.

Strikingly different from first winter dress in the depth and richness of the brown and the marked blueness of the wings and tail. Above, Mars- or mummy-brown conceals the dull blue bases of the feathers except where these are less broadly tipped as on the rump and upper tail coverts. Below, the brown is paler and chiefly on the breast and sides, veiling bases that are cerulean-blue. The chin, abdomen and crissum are almost white displaying better the concealed blue. The wings and tail are black, edged with blue, the tertiaries and coverts with Mars-brown, and the lesser coverts are almost wholly bright blue, the others tinged with a darker shade; the primary coverts are black, edged with blue which is apparently pale in the less precocious birds and deeper in those more vigorous.

Adults and young become practically indistinguishable. The birds with the brighter wing edgings are probably birds more than one year old or possibly more vigorous individuals.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves most of the body plumage, part of the wing coverts and tertiaries, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. The less vigorous birds retain old worn wing coverts or stray feathers scattered especially on the abdomen and crissum, elsewhere assuming a greenish blue plumage purplish on the head. The structure of these feathers differs from those assumed at the postnuptial moult as may be seen under the microscope, but does not differ from those acquired at the first prenuptial moult (see **plate VI, fig. 3**). The blue of the head is always deeper than elsewhere, and the feathers of the lores and interramal space are black. Wear of adult birds has very likely given rise to the idea of a color change without moult, as they do become perceptibly bluer in a cage from gradual loss of the brown autumnal edgings which conceal the blue beneath.

*Female.*—The plumages and moults of the female correspond to those of the male, the prenuptial moult, especially the first, apparently limited or sometimes suppressed. In juvenal plumage practically indistinguishable from the male, but with little or no greenish or bluish tint in the tail. In first winter plumage browner than the male and lacking the blue tinge usually present. In first nuptial plumage (which is in many cases apparently the result of wear) a greenish tail and few greenish edged primaries are assumed together with a few whitish feathers below. In adult winter plumage, similar to first winter, but

with the wings and tail greenish edged, and lower parts less obviously streaked. The adult nuptial plumage is attained chiefly by wear.

It is scarcely necessary to add there is not the slightest evidence of the color change without moult that has been claimed in this species. I have examined large series which show the transition stages from one plumage to another and such evidence of an abnormal color change as has hitherto been offered does not accord with the simple facts.

***Passerina ciris* (Linn.). PAINTED BUNTING**

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, olive-brown. Wings dull clove-brown with sage-green edgings, brownish on the coverts. Tail dull olive-green. Below, pale grayish drab washed with buff most marked posteriorly. Orbital ring pale buff. Bill umber-brown, the upper mandible darker. Feet dark sepia in dried specimens.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a postjuvenal moult which seems to be complete, one specimen from South Carolina taken October 13th being in this dress.

Above, bright olive-green or oil-green. Wings and tail deeper brown than in juvenal dress, the coverts wholly oil-green and the remiges and rectrices edged with a slightly paler shade. Below, olive-yellow becoming maize-yellow posteriorly and dull lemon anteriorly. Orbital ring lemon-yellow.

Judging by spring specimens the individual variation is considerable, some being yellower and some greener, a few acquire a blue feather or two about the head and others even a few reddish feathers below.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear. Young males at this stage resemble the average adult female but may usually be distinguished from them by browner more worn primary coverts which do not show greenish edgings and are possibly the retained juvenal coverts.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. The brilliant colors of this species are assumed

by both young and old, but it is probable that year-old birds do not acquire remiges and coverts wholly claret tinged like adults. This accounts for the green feathers mixed with the others in many specimens in which all the feathers are equally worn. The claret and the greenish remiges and the body plumage are equally fresh in November birds. The claret tinged tail is first assumed at this moult.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear. It is probable that all birds with stray green remiges are birds of the second nuptial stage, those with all of the remiges claret tinged of the third nuptial. The primary coverts are usually claret tinged at both stages and unlike the brown ones of the first nuptial period. The full adult dress is certainly assumed at the second post-nuptial moult and in some cases, if not many, probably at the first.

*Female*.—The moults and plumages correspond to those of the male. In juvenal plumage the wings and tail are duller; in first winter dress, relative dullness prevails but the sexes scarcely differ, and the first nuptial assumed by wear is characterized by worn brown primary coverts as in the male. At the first post-nuptial moult females assume bright green edged remiges, rectrices and primary coverts and are even greener above and yellower below than males in first winter dress. At the second postnuptial moult or later ones birds tend toward the plumage of the male developing blue or dull red feathers where brighter areas occur in the male.

It follows that many males cannot be certainly distinguished from females by plumage characters, but the absence of mixed plumages of old and new feathers, as found in *Passerina cyanea*, disproves any semiannual moult as in the latter species.

### ***Spiza americana* (Gmel.). DICKCISSEL**

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, clay-color, a few broad dull black stripes on the back, the crown bordered laterally with obscure black stripes. Wings and tail dull black, the primaries

and rectrices with whitish, the secondaries with cinnamon, the tertiaries and coverts (including two paler wing bands) with clay-colored edgings. Below, cream-buff, clay-colored across throat, on sides and crissum. Superciliary stripe ochraceous buff, auriculars sepia-brown; lores, rictal and submalar stripes dusky. Bill and feet pale pinkish buff becoming dusky with age.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult beginning in Kansas early in July which involves the body plumage, wing coverts, and tertiaries, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to previous plumage. Above, including auriculars sepia or wood-brown narrowly and obscurely streaked on the pileum and broadly on the back with black; the tertiaries edged with cinnamon; the wing coverts almost entirely cinnamon-rufous or rich russet. Below, the chin and abdomen pale buff, the throat, sides and crissum deep wood-brown with obscure narrow black streaks, two more distinct streaks bordering the chin laterally. Superciliary and malar stripes and usually the jugulum dull ochre-yellow sometimes brighter, "edge of the wing" lemon-yellow; lores and subocular streak grayish.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult in March and early April in Texas which involves the head, throat and breast, but not the rest of the body nor the wings and tail.

The grayish pileum tinged anteriorly with yellow, the plumbeous auriculars and bright lemon of the superciliary and malar stripes and of the breast and mid-abdomen, the white chin and the black throat patch are acquired by moult, the browns of the winter dress becoming gray from marked wear. The amount of black and of yellow is variable; I have seen two specimens with the throat patch Mars-brown. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Differs from first winter chiefly in possessing a veiled black throat patch smaller than in nuptial dress. Adults have more yellow and richer grayer wing edgings than young birds.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. In juvenal plumage females are indistinguishable

from males. The first nuptial is acquired by a limited prenuptial moult. In subsequent plumages the throat remains pale brown with lateral black chin streaks without the black patch of the male and the colors elsewhere are regularly duller.

***Calamospiza melanocorys* (Stejn.) LARK BUNTING.**

1. NATAL DOWN. Mouse-gray.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, clove-brown, the feathers with broad wood-brown edgings which are darker on the crown and rump and form an indistinct median stripe on the crown. Wings deep olive-brown, the outer primaries usually dull black, everywhere rather broadly edged with white, including the secondaries and the primary coverts; the greater coverts largely pinkish buff, forming a broad wing band. Tail dull black tipped with white spots, the outer pair of rectrices edged with white, the others with cinnamon. Below, white, tinged with cream-buff and streaked, except on the abdomen, with dull clove-brown. Auriculars and lores dusky. Bill and feet in dried specimen, clay-color.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the remiges nor rectrices.

Above, olive-brown with darker streakings. Below, white, streaked with clove-brown, least on crissum, abdomen and throat, but the streaks aggregating into a blotch on the breast. The chin dull black, entirely veiled with broad white edgings. The greater coverts pale cinnamon forming a broad wing band. The tertiaries and other wing coverts are edged with deep cinnamon.

Some young birds become indistinguishable from adults.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult in April in Arizona which involves most of the body plumage, tertiaries and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. The jet-black dress is assumed, relieved by white bands on the wings. Browner and more worn remiges with traces of the edgings partly worn off distinguish young birds from old, this feature being especially marked among the primary coverts.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult occurring during September in Mexico.

The wings and tail are much blacker than the first winter dress and lack almost wholly the edgings of this period. The



edgings of the throat are less extensive and consequently the chin is distinctly black, the color extending to the breast more or less. The wing bands are a deeper cinnamon and so too the edgings of the tertiaries.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves most of the body plumage as in the young bird from which it may be distinguished by the blacker remiges and rectrices with absence of edgings.

*Female*.—The moults and plumages correspond to those of the male. Practically indistinguishable from the male in juvenal and in first winter plumage, although rather duller, and with narrower wing bands. All later plumages resemble that of the male in first winter dress, but some of the older birds are much blacker and with broader streakings.

#### TANAGRIDÆ

The Tanagers are peculiar in their moults as might be expected with such highly colored birds. *P. erythromelas* acquires the full red plumage at the first prenuptial moult, goes back to a greenish dress at the postnuptial and continues to undergo a semi-annual moult regularly from green to red in spring and from red to green in fall. *P. ludoviciana* also moults twice every year. *P. rubra*, on the other hand, has but one prenuptial moult, a mere scattering of red feathers very often, and afterwards continues in the red plumage renewed only at the postnuptial moult.

#### **Piranga ludoviciana** (Wils.). LOUISIANA Tanager

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, yellowish green obscurely streaked. Wings and tail dull black, edged with olive-yellow, forming on the coverts two wing bands. Below, pale yellow with dusky streaks on the breast, similar to the young of other Tanagers.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult, in July in California, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Differs from previous plumage in being unstreaked and brighter colored. Above, olive-yellow, brownish on the back, the wing bands strongly tinged with lemon-yellow, the one at tips of greater coverts palest. Below, clear lemon-yellow, a slight orange tinge often on forehead and chin.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves most of the body plumage, tail, wing coverts and tertiaries. The coverts as in other species are irregularly renewed, the brown worn primaries, their coverts, the alulæ and secondaries in contrast to the new coverts and tertiaries which are black, edged with canary-yellow and white respectively. The back is black with smoke-gray edgings and the rest of the plumage canary-yellow of variable depth according to individual variation, the forehead and chin more or less bright with cadmium-orange.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult and similar to first winter dress but of a richer yellow with jet-black wings and tail, the back black, with bright olive-green edgings, the head and chin usually more deeply tinged with orange, sometimes with dusky edgings on sides of the chin and jugulum. Young and old become indistinguishable.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves the same body areas as in the young bird but not the wings nor the tail, consequently old and young may be told apart during the breeding season by the brown wings of the young bird, black ones of the old. An undated specimen from Orizaba, Mexico (Coll. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 40842) shows new nuptial feathers pushing from their sheaths on the crown, throat and back, the wings proving it to be an adult.

*Female.*—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. The juvenal dress is practically indistinguishable from that of the male. The first winter plumage is rather duller, being browner above and paler below. The first nuptial plumage is acquired by a very limited prenuptial moult, such wing coverts as are acquired being duller than those of the male and the few orange-tinged feathers paler, the whole bird paler and grayish. The adult winter plumage is brighter than the first winter, and in adult nuptial plumage a few orange feathers may appear acquired by prenuptial moult.

**Piranga erythomelas** Vieill. SCARLET Tanager

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, olive-yellow, including sides of head and neck, the back greener with dusky edgings. Wings and tail dull brownish black, the secondaries, wing coverts, tertiaries and rectrices edged with olive-yellow, whitish on the tertiaries and primaries. Below, dull white, sulphur-yellow on the abdomen and crissum, broadly streaked on the breast and sides with grayish olive-brown. Bill, pinkish buff, slate-black when older. Feet pinkish olive-gray, dusky when older. Differs from *P. ludoviciana* in the crown being darker and lacking distinct wing bands.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult beginning the middle of August which involves the body plumage, and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Differs from previous plumage chiefly in being unstreaked. Above, including sides of head deep olive-yellow or pale olive-green. Below, citron-yellow. The wing coverts are jet-black edged with olive-yellow, but frequently only a part of them are renewed.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult probably in March and April which involves the body plumage, wing coverts, tertiaries and the tail but not the primaries, their coverts, the secondaries and usually not the alulae. The body plumage becomes scarlet vermilion varying in intensity sometimes pale or mixed with orange, usually paler but often indistinguishable from the adult. The tibiae become black and red often retaining a few old greenish feathers. Black tertiaries and black wing coverts without edgings are assumed in sharp contrast to the worn brown flight feathers which mark adults in nuptial dress. It is not unusual for only a part of the wing coverts or tertiaries to be renewed and as a freak, scarlet coverts are occasionally assumed. Greenish feathers of the first winter dress left over are comparatively infrequent on the body, the moult usually being quite complete.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning early in August. Year-old as well as adult birds acquire jet-black wings and tail which distinguish them from first winter birds, and usually the yellow green is deeper.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves the same body areas as in the young bird from which easily distinguishable by the completely black wings. The greater wing coverts are not renewed as at the first prenuptial moult. The tails show some wear as compared with those of young birds. The vermilion body plumage will probably average deeper.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults of the female apparently correspond to those of the male, but the color is greenish at all seasons. In natal down and juvenal plumage the sexes are indistinguishable. In first winter plumage the female is greener with less yellow and duller than the male and without black wing coverts. The first nuptial plumage is yellowish and so fresh that a prenuptial moult is indicated, probably more limited than that of the male. At the postnuptial moult an orange tinged adult winter plumage is acquired and sometimes black wing coverts appear, seen in the adult nuptial plumage in which only the body feathers are renewed by a limited prenuptial moult.

### **Piranga rubra** (Linn.). SUMMER TANAGER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, ruddy or yellow tinged sepia-brown with darker edgings and feather centres producing a faintly streaked appearance. Wings deep olive-brown with olive-yellow or greenish edgings, usually reddish tinged on the outer primaries, the coverts duller, the tertiaries paler. Tail bright olive-green or olive-yellow often reddish tinged basally, the shafts sepia-brown. Below, dull white tinged with sulphur-yellow on abdomen and crissum, distinctly and broadly streaked on the throat, breast and sides with deep olive-brown. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky clay-color, the feet darker.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult beginning in the South early in July which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Unlike previous plumage, unstreaked. Above pale olive-green with a strong orange tinge, reddish in many specimens. Below chrome-yellow often strongly tinged with orange especially on the crissum and "edge of the wings." The wing coverts are edged with olive-green strongly tinged with yellow or orange according to individual vitality. The orbital ring is usually chrome-yellow or paler.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves portions of the body plumage, wing coverts, tertiaries and the tail. There is an unusual amount of individual variation in the extent of this moult accentuated by the contrast of the new vermilion or poppy-red feathers among the old greenish or yellow ones. Some birds become entirely red except for the old greenish primaries, their coverts and the secondaries and there are all sorts of intermediates ranging down to those with a mere sprinkling of red feathers. The central quills only of the tail may be renewed, sometimes only part of the tertiaries and wing coverts, but in every case it is easy to see that the process of moult has stopped at points where the checking of its normal advance would produce the varied plumages found. The freshness of the red feathers compared with the green ones is also easily demonstrable. I have also seen two undated specimens, one from Guatemala, showing red feathers still in their sheaths here and there among the brown ones.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in August. The full red plumage including the wings and tail is acquired at this moult. It will be observed that this species does not revert to the greenish dress of the first winter like *P. erythomelas*.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which is not very perceptible even on close examination of the feathers. The color of breeding birds is pinkish or geranium-red when compared with *P. erythomelas*. There appears to be no second prenuptial moult in this species.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male, but the plumage remains similar to that of the male in first winter and the first and only prenuptial moult is mostly suppressed. Adult females may be red tinged, but regularly they are even yellower than the male in first winter dress.

#### HIRUNDINIDÆ

The Swallows, like the Flycatchers, afford in their moulting, some problems that existing material scarcely suffices to solve,

for with the exception of *T. bicolor*, they migrate southward in the autumn before acquiring their winter dress, so that a mere handful among hundreds of specimens examined, show signs of moult before they have passed beyond the borders of the United States. A few specimens from Mexico and Central America show that both adults and young birds reach these countries in worn nuptial and worn juvenal plumages respectively and two or three more afford evidence of a mid-winter moult, the occurrence of which has been previously affirmed by other observers.

From these meagre facts and from the study of the feathers, which, on account of the metallic colors and the aërial habits of the Swallows, show little evidence of wear, we may not draw positive conclusions, but two at least may be reached with considerable certainty. The first is that adult Swallows undergo a complete postnuptial moult late in the fall, either while on their southward journey or at its conclusion; and the second is that young Swallows undergo a complete postjuvenal moult (or prenuptial perhaps in point of time) later than the postnuptial of the adult. More specimens are needed to fix the limits of these two moults, but I am of opinion that mid-winter birds in moult will all prove to be young ones. It may perhaps be expedient to call this a prenuptial moult and consider the postjuvenal suppressed, but this is only a matter of convenience and would not alter the facts nor disturb my scheme of plumages and moults which has been devised so as to give clear expression to the facts. These may be found discussed under each species, and I hope a much larger fund of material may accumulate within a few years now that I have pointed out the deficiencies in that at present available for study.

### **Progne subis** (Linn.). PURPLE MARTIN

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.  
Above, including wings and tail, sooty or clove-brown, the forehead and a nuchal band grayish, the feathers of the head and back indistinctly dull steel-blue. Feathers of the wings with very narrow whitish edgings. Below, white, mouse-gray on chin, throat, breast, sides and tibiae, the feathers of the chin,

lower breast and abdomen with narrow dusky shaft streaks. Bill and feet brownish black.

This plumage is worn a long time and is still retained when the birds leave for the south early in September.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired probably by a complete postjuvinal moult. Similar to the previous plumage but darker, the throat browner while scattered patches of steel-blue feathers are acquired. A specimen (U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 122944, ♂, August 3d, Maryland), which from the date might be a year-old bird, has partly renewed two proximal primaries, an outer rectrix and some of the body plumage.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired apparently by wear alone. It is impossible to estimate just when the feathers of this plumage are assumed, because all the Swallows show very little wear owing to their habits and to the structure of their feathers. The immature mixed blue and gray plumage is peculiar to the first breeding season.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult after the species has departed south. A specimen in my collection (J. Dwight, Jr., No. 560, ♂, Connecticut, August 16th) shows the proximal primary of each wing just sprouting and a bird, perhaps *P. s. hesperia* (U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 128306, ♂, September 13th, Nicaragua) has renewed two proximal primaries and a few body feathers. The steel-blue plumage is assumed and old and young become indistinguishable. A white patch is exposed if the posterior feathers of the humeral tracts be disarranged.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which produces practically no effect on the previous dress even late in the summer. Florida specimens of March 11th to 14th are in fresh plumage but show no direct evidence of recent moult.

*Female*.—The female has similar plumages and moults, but is always duller than the male, lacking most of the steel-blue above and all of it below. In juvenal plumage the gray collar is much browner than that of the adult female and the under tail coverts are grayish white with dusky shaft streaks instead of

smoke-gray with whitish edgings. The lines on the breast are broader. Later plumages are alike but females show more wear than males.

**Petrochelidon lunifrons** (Say). CLIFF SWALLOW

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including wings and tail clove-brown, the pileum and back greenish with obscure metallic reflections, each feather edged with drab, a nuchal band drab; the whole rump and usually the forehead (on which are often scattered a few white feathers), cinnamon. The tertiaries are broadly and some of the wing coverts narrowly edged with cinnamon. Below, dull white, strongly washed on the throat, sides, and crissum with vinaceous cinnamon; the chin and forepart of the throat showing a curious mixture of white, dull black and cinnamon-rufous feathers, sometimes one color and sometimes the other predominating, the white perhaps entirely absent and replaced by black. Loes and auriculars dull black. Feet dull sepia. Bill dull black.

This plumage is worn for some time, part of the edgings being lost and it is not replaced before the birds depart southward the end of August or early in September. Several specimens from Central America still retaining this plumage, are dated October 20th.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired probably by a complete postjuvinal moult in the winter habitat so far as may be estimated from the changes found in the plumage on the return of the species in May. Wear is somewhat evident even in the wings and tail although the resistant metallic feathers show little of it. At all events the glossy blue of the head and back and the rich chestnut of the chin and auriculars with the black throat spot are acquired. The breast and throat feathers now have shaft streaks and the cinnamon crescent on the forehead is conspicuous.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired, in all probability, wholly by wear.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult after the species has departed south. Evidently indistinguishable from the first winter dress. An adult female (Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 40264) in worn nuptial dress, taken



in Brazil and without other data, retains only two old primaries, the others and part of the body plumage being in process of growth at the usual points.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically alike, although the female usually has less black on the chin, and the moults are undoubtedly similar.

**Chelidon erythrogastra** (Bodd.). BARN SWALLOW

1. NATAL DOWN. Smoke-gray.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, dull iridescent green (less often blue), browner on the pileum, the forehead russet and a faint nuchal band grayish. Wings and tail dull greenish black, rectrices with large subterminal white spots, the *outer pair with broad, rounded apices reaching less than one inch beyond the central pair*. (See **plate II, fig. 20**.) Below, pale cinnamon often vinaceous, the chin and throat much deeper and russet tinged, a broad incomplete slate-black band across the jugulum. Lores and auriculars dull black. Feet sepia. Bill dusky except a pinkish lower mandible, wholly black when older.

This plumage is still worn, its pink tinge somewhat lost when the birds leave for the south about the end of August.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired probably by a complete postjuvinal moult.

It is evident, as with the other species of Swallows, a complete moult occurs before this species returns to our latitude in the spring. Two specimens from South America, taken in February, show primaries and tails with adherent sheaths and fresh body plumage, but it is impossible to say whether they are adults or young birds; and two others from Corumbá, on the boundary between Brazil and Bolivia, March 23d (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Nos. 31164 and 31166), are also in fresh new plumage. The new attenuated lateral rectrices (**plate II, fig. 21**) extend fully one and one-quarter inches beyond the middle pair. Greenish wings are acquired together with the metallic purplish feathers of the jugular band. The chin and throat become chestnut and the lower parts darker cinnamon. Old and young become indistinguishable.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired apparently by wear which produces little effect on the iridescent feathers, or possibly by a complete prenuptial moult (if the postjuvenal is considered as suppressed), as indicated by the specimens to which reference has just been made.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult, after departure for the south. Probably indistinguishable from first winter dress although I have seen no birds identified as adults after the postnuptial moult. A specimen (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 28100, ♀, October 3d, Arizona) is still in worn nuptial dress.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** evidently acquired by wear.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically indistinguishable in all plumages, although the female in nuptial dress is often if not regularly much paler below than the male.

### **Tachycineta bicolor** (Vieill.). TREE SWALLOW

1. **NATAL DOWN**. No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head and neck, wings and tail sooty brown the tertiaries slaty with faint grayish edgings. Below, pure white, a very faint incomplete sooty collar on the jugulum. Loes dull black. Bill dull black. Feet pinkish buff becoming dusky with age.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postjuvenal moult beginning late in August and extending into October, as shown by large series, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Unlike previous plumage. Above, iridescent green, sometimes with steely blue reflections. Wings and tail deep bottle-green slightly iridescent, the tertiaries broadly tipped with white. Below, pure white slightly smoky gray on the sides.

A tertiary of this plumage is figured on **plate II, fig. 6**, and the effect of wear may be seen by **fig. 7**.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear only obvious in the entire loss of the white tips of the tertiaries, one of which is figured on **plate II, fig. 7**. The wings become a trifle browner as the summer advances.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning the middle of August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, possessing the same white tipped tertiaries, but usually the head and back show blue rather than green metallic reflections. This is the only one of our Swallows that completes its moult before migrating southward. It breeds early and moults early as compared with the others.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear through which the white tips of the tertiaries are lost as in young birds, specimens thus becoming wholly steel-blue above.

*Female*.—The female has corresponding plumages and moults, but is usually duller with less iridescence and browner wings and tail until the adult winter plumage is assumed which is usually indistinguishable from that of the male.

### **Clivicola riparia** (Linn.). BANK SWALLOW

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head, brownish mouse-gray, most of the feathers edged with pale drab. Wings and tail dull brownish black, the wing coverts and tertiaries edged with pale cinnamon, the rectrices with grayish white. The tail is rounded, only slightly forked and without the indistinctly barred or "watered" effect usual in the adult. Below, white, a broad pectoral band mouse-gray, or dull clove-brown with cinnamon edgings, the chin tinged with cinnamon, and flecked with faint dusky dots. Lores dull black. Bill dull black. Feet sepia becoming black.

Birds migrate southward in this plumage before September, some of the edgings having been lost by wear. A specimen from Tehuantepec, Mexico, October 13th, still retains this dress.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired probably by a complete postjuvinal moult. The new tail is more deeply forked and is indistinctly barred. The chin is pure white without spots and the collar is darker. Young and old evidently become indistinguishable.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired evidently by wear, which is very marked in this species as compared with the Swallows of iridescent plumage. The wings and tail are darker

than those of the juvenal plumage, and this points to their having been completely renewed during the winter absence.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. This dress is assumed after the birds have moved southward in the autumn.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear.

*Female.*—The sexes are indistinguishable in all plumages, and the moults are probably identical.

**Stelgidopteryx serripennis** (Aud.). ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, deep sepia-brown, edged with cinnamon-rufous. Wings and tail clove-brown, the coverts, secondaries and tertiaries edged with cinnamon-rufous. The outer edge of the first primary is without hooklets and therefore not rough to the touch. Below, dull white, the breast and throat vinaceous cinnamon. Bill and feet dusky flesh-color, becoming black.

There is some fading and loss of feather edgings before the birds leave us in the autumn.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-juvenal moult after the birds have migrated southward in September, or very likely while they move leisurely along in flocks. One young female (Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 71520, October 24th, Key West, Florida), shows six new primaries partly grown in each wing and a few new body feathers. Judging by spring specimens taken in May the plumage when fresh must be deep sepia-brown, darker on the pileum, with dusky shaft streaks and slightly paler, indistinct edgings. Wings and tail darker than in juvenal dress, males acquiring the saw-toothed outer primary. Below dull white with a brownish mouse-gray pectoral band.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which is much more marked than in Swallows having iridescent plumage.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult after the birds have migrated southward. An

adult male (Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No, 53251, September 20th, Arizona), has just begun the postnuptial moult, having renewed three primaries of each wing and a few of the body feathers.

**6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear.

*Female.*—The sexes are practically alike and the moults, no doubt, correspond. The first primary is usually less distinctly rough-edged.

**AMPELIDÆ**

Both species of Waxwings moult in the same way, having only a single annual moult, young birds assuming their body plumage by a postjuvinal moult which is partial.

***Ampelis garrulus* Linn. BOHEMIAN WAXWING**

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including lesser and median coverts, grayish hair-brown tending below to heavy streaking on breast and abdomen which are grayish white centrally. Crissum pale vinaceous cinnamon. Chin grayish with obscure dusky spotting and bordered by dusky lateral lines. Lores and circumocular region black. Wings dull black, the secondaries and primary coverts broadly tipped with white, the inner primaries tipped with primrose-yellow on the outer web, the outer two or three with white. The secondaries usually have about four waxy, vermilion appendages, smaller and fewer than in adults. The crown feathers are lengthened into an insignificant crest. Tail drab-gray, black subterminally with a narrower terminal band of canary-yellow. Bill and feet black.

The wing pattern, much grayer tints and cinnamon crissum distinguish young birds from those of *A. cedrorum* in corresponding plumage. The description is from two birds taken on the Yukon River, N. W. T., and kindly loaned me by Dr. L. B. Bishop.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the remiges nor rectrices.

Everywhere rich drab, grayer below and on rump, fawn-color about the head. A large black chin patch, the black extending to lores and forehead and bordered everywhere by rich walnut-brown.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which is not marked.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. Adults are somewhat grayer than young birds, the primaries are edged with bright lemon-yellow and tipped with white so as to form a sort of a terminal L and the waxy appendages are more numerous, larger and better formed. Young and old become indistinguishable.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear.

*Females.*—The moults and plumages correspond to those of the male. In juvenal dress the spots on the primaries are paler than in the male and often wholly white, and the appendages few or none. The black chin patch of later plumages is apt to be smaller and duller than that of the male and the appendages fewer, with paler spots on the primaries.

### **Ampelis cedrorum** (Vieill.). CEDAR WAXWING

1. **NATAL DOWN.** No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head and wing coverts, olive-brown. Below, paler with darker broad fused stripes on the throat, breast, sides and flanks, the chin paler, the abdomen and crissum dull white often yellow or buff tinged. A crest not well marked is found on the crown. Anterior frontal feathers, lores and partial orbital ring dull black; posterior quadrant of orbital ring, submalar streak and narrow superciliary line white or pale buff. Chin bordered laterally by dull black. Wings and tail slate-black, the primaries ashy edged, occasionally some of the secondaries tipped with bright vermilion wax-like appendages, the tail terminated with a lemon-yellow band, the rectrices also occasionally but infrequently tipped with similar red appendages. Bill and feet sepia, becoming black.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult beginning in September which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to previous plumage, but the brown much paler and the streaking absent. Above, including sides of head and throat silky drab merging into plumbeous gray on the rump and paling on the crown where the feathers are basally white. The crest marked. The abdomen and flanks are pale canary-yellow; the crissum white. Chin black merging into the brown throat. Narrow submalar stripe and part of orbital ring white. Forehead at nostrils, lores, superciliary stripe and part of orbital ring black.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which scarcely shows in the soft, silky plumage till late in the autumn when fading becomes apparent.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult usually begun in September. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, the red wing appendages perhaps more frequent.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically alike in plumages and moults, but the female usually has less black on the chin and the wax-like tips probably less frequently develop.

### LANIIDÆ

Our two Shrikes appear to moult the same, apparently having a semiannual renewal in both young and old birds. Young acquire full adult body plumage at the first prenuptial moult, retaining the immature remiges until the first postnuptial.

#### **Lanius borealis** Vieill. NORTHERN SHRIKE

1. **NATAL DOWN.** No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, brownish mouse-gray with indistinct dusky vermiculations, especially on the rump. Wings black, a white area at bases of the primaries; the coverts, tertiaries and secondaries edged with wood-brown, or pale cinnamon mottled from irregular extension of the color, and similar tipping on the rectrices which are black, the lateral ones largely white. Below mouse-gray, nearly white on mid-abdomen, indistinctly vermiculated, more marked on sides and crissum. Bar though eye dull clove-brown; lores grayish. Bill and feet dusky wood-brown in dried skin.

Description from a bird taken in Labrador.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult which involves the body plumage, and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above, French gray washed with brownish gray, the rump grayish white. Lesser coverts cinereous gray, the median black, the retained greater coverts dull black

buff tipped. Below grayish white with distinct dusky vermiculations except on the chin, abdomen and crissum. Tail black, the three outer rectrices with much white. Lores grayish. Bar through eye dusky.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult in March which involves the anterior part of the head, chin and throat. A whiter chin and black lores are acquired, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable. A good deal of the vermiculation is lost by wear of the feather edges.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. Differs from first winter in having a white wing band on the greater coverts, the tertiaries and secondaries with white edgings, the wings and tail jet-black, including all the coverts. The back is grayer without the brownish tint of the young bird.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired apparently by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. Usually browner, especially the wings and tail and with a brown transocular bar until the adult winter plumage is assumed.

### **Lanius ludovicianus** (Linn.). **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**

1. **NATAL DOWN.** No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, drab-gray, faintly vermiculated and with pale buff edgings; rump slightly paler. Wings and tail black, a white area at the bases of the primaries, the coverts and tertiaries buff tipped, palest on the tertiaries; the outer rectrices largely white, the central ones buff, with terminal mottling. Lores, orbital region and auriculars dull black. Below, dull white on chin, abdomen and crissum, washed on breast and sides with very pale buff or drab, vermiculated with dusky subterminal bands on each feather. Bill and feet dusky becoming black.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult in September and October, which involves the body plumage, tertiaries, wing coverts and tail, but not the rest of the wings.

Similar to previous plumage but grayer above and the vermiculations absent or very indistinct on the breast. Above, plumbeous gray, paler on rump, the posterior scapularies white. Wings and tail black except for the brown juvenal pri-



maries, secondaries and primary coverts, the lesser coverts plumbeous, white tips to the new tertiaries and white terminal spots on the lateral rectrices. Below, dull white with dusky vermiculations sometimes faintly indicated. A broad, black bar through the eye.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult in February and March, which involves chiefly the chin, throat and head, and a few scattering feathers elsewhere, but neither the wings nor the tail. The whiter throat is the most marked change produced. The wings and tail have become brownish and show considerable wear.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in September. Practically indistinguishable from the first winter dress, but the wings and tail will average blacker.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The sexes are practically alike in all plumages, but the black bar through the eye is usually duller in females, and brownish until renewed at the first prenuptial moult.

### VIREONIDÆ.

The Vireos all have a single annual moult, and in arboreal species suffer very little from wear. *V. noveboracensis* is peculiar in having a complete postjuvinal moult, although I am not sure this occurs in all specimens. Young birds become practically indistinguishable from adults at the postjuvinal moult although they do not assume adult wings and tail as a rule until the first postnuptial.

#### **Vireo olivaceus** (Linn.). RED-EYED VIREO

1. **NATAL DOWN.** Pale drab-gray.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including lesser wing coverts, drab. Wings and tail olive-brown, edged with bright olive-green, brightest on the secondaries and tertiaries. Below, silky white, faintly tinged on the sides and crissum with primrose-yellow. Superciliary stripe dull white; lores and postocular streak dusky. Bill and feet pinkish buff, becoming slaty. Iris walnut-brown.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvénal moult in August and September which involves the body plumage, the wing coverts (often the tertiaries) but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to the previous plumage but olive-green replaces the drab and a gray cap is assumed. Above, including sides of neck and edgings of wing coverts and auriculars olive-green, the pileum slate-gray bordered by two lateral dull black stripes. Superciliary line broad, grayish or buffy white. Transocular streak dusky. Below, grayish white faintly washed on the sides with olive-green and on the crissum with primrose-yellow.

In plumage young and old are practically indistinguishable in the autumn, but the iris of young birds is brown while they remain with us.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which is scarcely appreciable owing to the soft long-barbed feathers and the habits of the species. Some fading is apparent late in the season. The iris becomes dull red before the birds return in the spring.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Practically indistinguishable from first winter except by the red iris but possibly will average richer olive-green above with a grayer pileum, and less washed with buff below.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear, as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike in plumages and moults, the females in winter dress often browner and duller than the males.

### **Vireo philadelphicus** (Cass.). PHILADELPHIA VIREO

1. **NATAL DOWN**. Pale drab-gray.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Similar to *V. olivaceus* and *V. gilvus*, but darker above and distinctly yellow below. Above, wood-brown, darker and olive tinged on the back and wing coverts. Wings and tail clove-brown with olive-green edgings. Below primrose-yellow, auriculars, orbital ring, and superciliary stripe buff-yellow. Loes and postocular streak dusky. Feet pinkish buff, drying to dusky wood-brown. Bill pale bistre, the under mandible pinkish, drying to a yellowish raw umber-brown. When older the bill dusky and feet slaty. Iris deep hazel-brown.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvénal

moult beginning the end of July which involves the body plumage and wing-coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to the previous plumage but greener with a grayer crown, and brighter yellow below. Above, dull olive-green, slate-gray on the pileum. Below pale canary-yellow, whiter on middle of abdomen. Sides of head pale greenish or grayish buff, superciliary stripe paler; transocular streak dusky.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear. The back fades a little and becomes grayer, the yellow below, paler.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, the yellow below usually paler with a larger area of white on the abdomen.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike and the moults are the same.

### **Vireo gilvus** (Vieill.). WARBLING VIREO

1. NATAL DOWN. Pale wood-brown.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Similar to *V. philadelphicus* but paler. Above wood-brown, very pale on pileum and nape, darker and faintly tinged with olive on the back. Wings and tail pale clove-brown edged with dull olive-green. Below, white, the crissum tinged with pale primrose-yellow. Auriculars, orbital ring and superciliary line white. Bill and feet pinkish buff, becoming dusky and slate-gray respectively when older. Iris deep hazel-brown.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult beginning early in August which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to the previous plumage but greener above. Above, grayish olive-brown, the pileum mouse-gray. Below, buffy white, palest on chin and abdomen, washed on the sides and flanks with greenish primrose-yellow. Superciliary line, suborbital region and orbital ring very pale buff. A dusky transocular streak. Auriculars drab.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which is slight. The whole plumage becomes paler below and grayer above, the buff tints being lost.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. Practically indistinguishable from first winter, but with less buff in some cases.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The sexes are alike and the moults are identical.

### **Vireo flavifrons** Vieill. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

1. NATAL DOWN. Drab.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, smoke-gray. Wings and tail black, edged with olive-gray, the secondaries and tertiaries with olive-green (the two inner tertiaries white edged), the greater and median coverts with dull white forming two wing bands. Below, silky white, the chin, throat and sides of head pale canary-yellow, the orbital ring, ocular region and superciliary stripe still paler. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky and slate-gray when older. Iris deep hazel-brown.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult in August, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to previous plumage but greener above. Above, including auriculars and sides of neck, bright olive-green, scapularies and rump, olive-gray. The lesser wing coverts are edged with dull olive-green, the median and greater with pure white, forming two broad wing bands. Below, bright canary-yellow extending to orbital region and superciliary stripe; abdomen and crissum white, the flanks faintly washed with olive-gray.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, the olive above fading a little, the yellow below hardly at all.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult, and practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, the wing edgings, especially of the lesser coverts and of the scapularies grayer.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The sexes and moults are alike.

**Vireo solitarius** (Wils.). BLUE-HEADED VIREO

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, drab, tinged with green, pileum and auriculars drab-gray. Wings and tail clove-brown edged with olive-green, the tertiaries with white, two wing bands at the tips of the median and greater coverts white, yellow tinged. The outer rectrices partly white. Below, pure white, tinged on flanks and crissum with primrose-yellow. Obscure superciliary stripe, loreal and orbital regions white; a dusky anteorbital streak. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the former becoming slaty, the latter plumbeous gray.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial post-juvenal moult in August which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

Similar to the previous plumage but greener above and with a gray cap. Above, olive-green (often mixed with gray), the pileum, nape, sides of head and tibiae slate-gray. Below, pure white, strongly washed on the sides and flanks with olive-yellow mixed with gray. Lores and orbital region conspicuously white. Orbital ring interrupted anteriorly by deep slate-gray.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which produces little effect, the back becoming a shade grayer.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, the gray above clearer and where the orbital ring is interrupted, darker.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The female is apt to be duller especially in first winter plumage, the head browner and with a buffy wash below; but many birds are indistinguishable from males. The moults are identical.

**Vireo solitarius plumbeus** (Coues.). PLUMBEOUS VIREO

This remarkably distinct subspecies, characterized by extreme paleness in all plumages, enjoys the same sequence of plumages and of moults as *V. solitarius*. In northern Mexico and in Ari-

zona the juvenal dress is acquired chiefly during July. The postnuptial moult is completed early in August as indicated by several adults.

**Vireo noveboracensis** (Gmel.). WHITE-EYED VIREO

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, dull brownish olive-green. Wings and tail deep olive-brown edged with bright olive-green, the tertiaries with pale buff, the greater and median coverts with straw-yellow forming two distinct wing bands. Below, dull grayish white, buffy on the throat, strongly washed on the sides and crissum with sulphur-yellow (sometimes buffy). Auriculars pale écreu-drab; supraloral and orbital regions pale canary-yellow, a dusky loral streak. Bill pinkish buff, becoming dusky; feet paler, becoming plumbeous gray. Iris mouse-gray, becoming white by the following spring.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postjuvenal moult beginning about the middle of August. The juvenal dress is worn much longer than that of the other Vireos, becoming rapidly ragged from the thicket-loving habits of the species and thus probably its complete renewal is a necessity.

Differs very little from the previous plumage. The olive-green is brighter above, markedly edged on the pileum and neck with smoke-gray contrasting with the back. The wings and tail are darker, the edgings of the wing coverts and tertiaries pale straw-yellow. The throat is grayer and the yellow wash of the sides brighter and greener.

Young and old become practically indistinguishable except by the gray iris of the young bird.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which is marked. The back becomes browner, and the gray is confined to the neck, but the yellow below shows little change.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, but the yellow about the head is apt to be richer and the gray clearer. The iris is white.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike in all plumages and the moults are the same.

**MNIOTILTIDÆ**

Many of our Warblers undergo a semi-annual moult which is often extensive at the time of the prenuptial moult. *S. ruticilla* is perhaps unique among them in having a limited first prenuptial moult which is apparently not repeated, although I suspect a similar peculiarity may be found to prevail among several others. The prenuptial period of moult seems to be a protracted one, beginning even in November and extending into May. As most of the species are in the tropics at this time we do not know much about the changes in plumage except as we may judge from somewhat worn specimens when they reach us in the spring, and from a few extra-limital specimens. The types of moult are numerous in this large family, but with one possible exception (*Icteria virens*) the remiges and rectrices are retained until the first postnuptial moult. The renewal at the prenuptial moult varies greatly in amount and when confined to a few feathers of the head and chin is very difficult to determine. As a rule adult winter plumages and adult nuptial plumages are not very different. The juvenal plumage is quickly replaced by the first winter which is apt to resemble closely the female adult winter dress. In many species the first prenuptial moult renders old and young practically indistinguishable although such feathers of the old plumage as remain throw much light upon the age of doubtful specimens. Great confusion has existed as to the first winter or "immature" plumage of many species and still less has been known of the adult winter dress.

**Mniotilta varia** (Linn.). BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. Mouse-gray.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, wood-brown streaked with dull olive-brown, the upper tail coverts dusky; median crown and superciliary stripe dingy white. Wings and tail dull black, edged chiefly with ashy gray, the tertiaries (except the proximal which is entirely black) broadly edged with white, buff tinged on the middle one. Two buffy white wing bands at tips of greater and median wing coverts. The outer two rectrices with terminal white blotches of variable extent on the inner webs.

Below, dull white, washed on the throat and sides with wood-brown, obscurely streaked on throat, breast, sides and crissum with dull grayish black. Bill and feet pinkish buff, becoming dusky with age.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult beginning early in July which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to previous plumage but whiter and definitely streaked. Above, striped in black and white, the upper tail coverts black broadly edged with white; median crown and superciliary stripe pure white. The wing bands white. Below, pure white streaked with bluish black on sides of breast, flanks and crissum, the black veiled by overlapping white edgings; the chin, throat, breast and abdomen unmarked. Postocular stripe black; the white feathers of the sides of the head tipped with black.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves a large part of the body plumage except posteriorly, but not the wings nor the tail. The black streaks of the chin and throat are acquired, veiled with white, and the loreal, subocular and auricular regions become jet-black. The brown primary coverts distinguish young birds and the chin is less often solidly black than in adults.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult beginning the first of July. Differs from first winter dress in having the chin and throat heavily streaked with irregular chains of black spots veiled with white edgings, the wings and tail blacker and the edgings a brighter gray.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird from which the blacker primary coverts and sometimes solidly black chin will serve to distinguish it. A specimen (Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 50374, February 18th, Tehuantepec, Mexico), evidently an adult, shows renewal on the chin; also an undated bird (Am. Mus., No. 39634, Yucatan).

*Female*.—The female has corresponding plumages and moults, the first prenuptial moult often very limited or suppressed. In juvenal dress the wings and tail are usually browner with duller edgings and the streaking below obscure. In first winter plumage the streakings are dull and obscure everywhere, a brown wash conspicuous on the flanks and sides of the throat. The first nuptial plumage is gained chiefly by wear through which



the brown tints are largely lost, the general color becoming whiter and the streaks more distinct. The adult winter plumage is rather less brown than the female first winter, the streakings less obscure and the wings and tail darker. The adult nuptial plumage, acquired partly by moult, is indistinguishable with certainty from the first nuptial.

**Protonotaria citrea** (Bodd.). PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. Brownish mouse-gray.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, dull brownish olive-green, yellowish on the back; in very young birds a strong wash of Vandyke-brown prevailing which fades to gray. Wings and tail slate-black, edged chiefly with plumbeous gray, the tertiaries (and sometimes the other quill feathers) with olive-green; the coverts edged with yellowish or greenish wood-brown palest at their tips. The rectrices are largely white. Below, wood-brown, primrose-yellow on abdomen and crissum, rapidly fading to brownish gray and white. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming black.

Twelve specimens of various ages in my collection show remarkable variations in the depth of the brown.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult in July which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

Entirely different from the previous plumage. Chiefly of a bright lemon-yellow deepest on the crown, olive-yellow on the back merging into white on abdomen and crissum and into plumbeous gray on rump and upper tail coverts. Wing coverts plumbeous gray edged with olive-green which color also veils the yellow crown.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which produces very little apparent effect except by loss of some of the edgings.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, but the wings and tail usually blacker and the edgings clear bluish plumbeous gray especially noticeable on the primary coverts.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear and indistinguishable from the first nuptial.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike, although the female is apt to be of a paler yellow and the moults correspond.

***Helinaia swainsonii* Aud. SWAINSON'S WARBLER**

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including wing coverts, pale cinnamon-brown. Below, paler cinnamon. Wings and tail olive-brown edged with olive-green. Crown with two indistinct lateral stripes pale brownish gray. A dusky transocular streak. Bill and feet pale pinkish buff. Scarcely differs from *Helmitherus vermivorus* but rather paler.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult which involves the body plumage and wing coverts but not the remiges nor rectrices. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

Above, bistre, greener on the back. Below, yellowish white, shading to olive-buff on sides and flanks. Superciliary line indistinctly white; a dusky line through the eye.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear. The head becomes Mars-brown in contrast to the olive back, and below the plumage is somewhat paler.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The moults and plumages correspond to those of the male, and females are hardly distinguishable except by a duller line through the eye.

***Helmitherus vermivorus* (Gmel.). WORM-EATING WARBLER**

1. NATAL DOWN. Brownish mouse-gray.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Whole body plumage and the wing coverts cinnamon, palest on the abdomen. Wings and tail olive-brown edged with olive-green. Two indistinct lateral

crown stripes brownish mouse-gray. A transocular streak dusky. Bill and feet pinkish buff remaining quite pale later.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult, beginning early in July, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

Resembles the previous plumage. Above, grayish olive-green, the lateral crown stripes and the postocular streak black, the median stripe and the superciliary lines pale buff-yellow or deep cream-color. Below, cream-color washed on the throat with buff-yellow and on the flanks with olive-buff.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which is not obvious, the tints fading slightly.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning about the first of July. Adults are indistinguishable from young birds although sometimes paler.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike in all plumages and the moults are identical.

### **Helminthophila pinus** (Linn.). BLUE-WINGED WARBLER

1. **NATAL DOWN**. Mouse-gray.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Entire body plumage olive-yellow darkest on the back and throat. Wings and tail slate-gray largely edged with plumbeous gray, the tertiaries and coverts with olive-yellow; the greater and median coverts tipped with white, yellow tinged. Rectrices largely white. Lores dusky. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult, beginning early in July, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to the previous plumage. Above, bright olive-green, lemon-yellow on the crown veiled by greenish tips. Below, bright lemon-yellow, the crissum white or merely tinged with yellow. Transocular streak black. Wing coverts plumbeous gray, edged with olive-green, the greater and median tipped with white, yellow tinged, forming two broad wing bands.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which produces little change except to expose the concealed yellow of the crown by loss of the greenish feather tips.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, the yellow of the crown rather more conspicuous and the yellow below a trifle deeper.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—Indistinguishable from the male in juvenal plumage; in later plumages distinguished by the duller black of the transocular streak and by very little yellow on the crown.

I am able to throw little additional light on the supposed hybrids *H. leucobronchialis* and *H. lawrencei*. Of two specimens in my collection from the same brood and fed by a typical *H. pinus* one (No. 4434, ♀, June 28th, New Jersey) is in the juvenal dress of this species with many new yellow feathers of the first winter plumage appearing, the other (No. 4433, ♂), is in similar juvenal dress, but is acquiring on the throat the black feathers of *H. lawrencei*.

### **Helminthophila chrysoptera** (Linn.). GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, grayish or brownish olive-green. Wings and tail slate-black edged chiefly with bluish plumbeous gray, the coverts and tertiaries with olive-green. Below, pale olive-yellow, the throat dusky. Transocular streak dusky. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult, beginning early in July, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Unlike previous plumage. Above, plumbeous gray veiled with olive-green edgings; the crown bright lemon-yellow veiled posteriorly only. Below, grayish white, with yellow edgings here and there, the chin, jugulum, lores

and auriculars jet-black veiled slightly with pale buff. Broad submalar stripes joining at angle of the chin, and superciliary lines white. Outer half of median and greater coverts bright lemon-yellow forming an almost continuous wing patch, lesser coverts plumbeous gray, edged with olive-green.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear, through which the buff edgings of the black areas, the olive edgings of the back and the yellow edgings below are almost completely lost, the plumage becoming clear gray, white, yellow and black.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July. Practically indistinguishable from the young bird, the veiling usually less marked or absent, and black occupying the whole interramal space which is white in the first winter dress.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—In juvenal plumage the sexes are alike. In first winter and other plumages olive-gray, dusky on the lores and auriculars, replaces the black areas of the male, and olive-yellow marks the crown. Above, the plumage is greenish; the submalar stripes are grayish.

### **Helminthophila ruficapilla** (Wils.). NASHVILLE WARBLER

1. **NATAL DOWN**. Sepia-brown.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Pileum hair-brown, back darker, olive-tinged, and rump olive-green. Below, pale yellowish wood-brown, straw-yellow on abdomen and crissum. Wings and tail olive-brown broadly edged with bright olive-green, the median and greater coverts tipped with pale buff-yellow forming two wing bands. Lores and auriculars mouse-gray, the orbital ring pale buff. Bill and feet pinkish buff, dusky when older.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult, beginning the middle of July, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Young and old become practically indistinguishable in many cases.

Above, grayish hair-brown becoming bright olive-yellow on the rump and wing coverts; a variable, small area of chestnut on the crown concealed by the feather tips. Below, canary-yellow, brightest on the throat, breast and crissum, slightly veiled by grayish feather tips, the flanks washed with brownish olive-buff. Sides of head and neck smoke-gray. Conspicuous orbital ring buffy white.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves chiefly the crown, sides of head and throat, but not the rest of the body plumage nor the wings and tail. The head becomes plumbeous gray, the edgings only half concealing the rich chestnut of the crown. The orbital ring is white and conspicuous. Wear is marked, bringing the gray of the nape into contrast with the greenish back, later exposing the chestnut of the crown.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July, and practically indistinguishable in many cases from first winter dress, but usually the chestnut area on the crown is larger and the color deeper, the gray areas darker and the yellow below brighter.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired probably by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird. It does not seem probable that by wear alone the brownish gray tips of the chestnut crown feathers and the brownish gray tints of the head in autumn can become so decidedly plumbeous by spring, and besides the most worn spring birds show comparatively little wear.

*Female.*—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. The sexes are alike in juvenal plumage. In first winter plumage, the chestnut of the crown is lacking or a mere trace. In first nuptial plumage, acquired partly by a limited prenuptial moult, the chestnut is increased although new feathers both with and without chestnut grow on the crown. Two specimens from Jalapa, Mexico, April 7th (Am. Mus., Nos. 68548 and 68549), show pin-feathers on the crown and throat. The adult winter plumage is practically like the male adult winter and later plumages are very similar to those of the male, the gray and yellow usually duller.

**Helminthophila celata** (Say). ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, brownish olive-green. Wings and tail olive-brown, broadly edged with bright olive-green, the median and greater coverts tipped with buff. Below, greenish buff paler and yellower on abdomen and crissum. Lores and auriculars grayish buff. Bill and feet pinkish buff, dusky when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above, bright olive-green, mostly concealed on the pileum and nape with pale mouse-gray edgings that blend into the green. The crown brownish orange concealed by greenish feather tips. Wing coverts broadly edged with dull olive-green, sometimes the greater coverts with faint whitish tips. Below, pale olive-yellow, grayish on the chin and sides of neck with very indistinct olive-gray streaking. A dusky anteorbital spot. Lores, orbital ring and indistinct superciliary stripe mouse-gray.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves chiefly the anterior part of the head and the chin. A richer, half concealed, orange crown patch is acquired; the lores and adjacent parts become grayer, the anteorbital spot darker. Wear makes birds greener above and slightly yellower below. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Differs chiefly from first winter dress in possessing a larger, more distinct crown patch. The color below is uniform and paler.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult, as in the young bird. Several March specimens, apparently adults, show pin-feathers on the throat and head.

*Female*.—The sexes and the moults are practically alike, although the female is usually a little duller. In first winter plumage, however, the crown patch is usually wholly lacking, and the first prenuptial moult is more or less suppressed.

**Helminthophila peregrina** (Wils.). TENNESSEE WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Similar to *H. ruficapilla* but lacking the brownish cast and with a faint dusky transocular stripe. Above dull grayish olive-green, the rump brighter. Wings and tail clove-brown, the primaries whitish edged, the secondaries tertiaries and wing coverts greenish edged with two yellowish white wing bands. Below grayish buff rapidly fading when older to a greenish gray; abdomen and crissum pale straw-yellow. Trace of dusky transocular streak. Bill and feet pinkish buff, dusky when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning about the middle of July in eastern Canada, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Resembles the previous plumage. Above, bright olive-green, gray tinged on the pileum. Below, olive-yellow darker on the flanks, the abdomen and crissum white. Superciliary line and orbital ring buff. Transocular streak dull black.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves chiefly the head, chin and throat. The ashy gray cap is acquired, the chin, throat and superciliary line become white, the throat is tinged with cream-buff and the transocular streak black. The yellow tints of the feathers retained below are lost by wear.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July. Practically indistinguishable from first winter, but somewhat grayer above and whiter below.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired evidently by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird. A specimen (Am. Mus., No. 39688) from Tehuantepec, Mexico, January 14th, shows new growth of feathers about the head.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. The sexes are alike in juvenal plumage. In first winter plumage differs from the male in having the lower parts more washed with olive-green. The prenuptial moult is less extensive and the crown never becomes, even in later plumages, as gray as that of the male, but always has a brown or greenish tinge.



**Compothypis americana** (Linn.). PARULA WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. Smoke-gray.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head, brownish olive-gray ; indistinct superciliary stripe and orbital ring white, yellow tinged ; faint dusky transocular streak. Wings clove-brown, the edgings chiefly olive-green, bluish on the primaries and their coverts. Two wing bands tipping coverts, white. Tail clove-brown edged with ashy blue the outer rectrices with subterminal white blotches on their inner webs. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the former becoming dusky, the latter deep sepia-brown with age.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning the middle of July, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Unlike the previous plumage. Above, including sides of head, bluish plumbeous gray veiled by olive-green edgings, the back chestnut-tinged veiled by olive-yellow. Below, canary-yellow on chin and throat, veiling a pectoral band of pale chestnut, which is dusky on the jugulum and invaded by the gray of the sides of the neck. The abdomen and crissum, white, veiled slightly with edgings of canary-yellow, the sides and flanks faintly washed with cinereous gray and pale chestnut. The wing coverts are bluish plumbeous gray, broadly tipped with white yellow-tinged, forming two wing bands. Indistinct superciliary line and large suborbital spot white. A dusky transocular streak.

Young and old become practically indistinguishable in many cases, the young birds usually duller and especially lacking in chestnut on the chin.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves chiefly the head, chin and throat, but not the rest of the body plumage, the wings nor the tail. The ashy blue crown feathers faintly dusky centrally, the blackish ones of the sides of the head with a white spot above and below the eye and the yellow or chestnut-tinged chin feathers as far as the pectoral band or farther are assumed by moult. Wear brings the back into contrast with the nape and whitens the lower parts. The wings and tail are browner and more worn than in the adult, especially the primary coverts.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July. Practically indistinguishable from first winter

dress in some cases, but usually bluer with blacker wings and tail, with bluer wing edgings (especially the primary coverts), darker transocular streak, the edgings above more scanty, the pectoral band broader and both parts of it darker and the chin usually tinged with chestnut.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired evidently by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird. The bluer wing edgings and the blacker primary coverts constitute the only fairly constant differences between young and old. Differs from adult winter dress chiefly in the deeper blue of the head, blackness in loreal and ocular regions with a small white spot above and below the eye, and in the unveiling of concealed tints elsewhere.

*Female*.—Not distinguishable from the male until the first winter plumage is assumed when the chestnut of the pectoral band is much restricted or lacking, and the upper parts are greener. The first nuptial plumage is assumed by a limited prenuptial moult, a female taken in Jamaica, West Indies, January 29th, showing actual moult on the head and throat. The colors assumed are duller than those of male in first nuptial dress but similarly distributed. The adult winter plumage resembles the male in first winter dress but the primary coverts are usually bluer and the chestnut more restricted. The adult nuptial plumage differs little from this and later plumages are always duller than those of the male.

The separation of northern birds into a subspecies known as *usneæ* is based upon extremely slender characters, the variation between individuals being greater than the differences described. The first prenuptial moult usually produces *americana* especially if it does not extend to the chestnut portion of the pectoral band. Later prenuptial moults probably produce *usneæ* with the deeper colors peculiar to adults. If it were not that some young birds also acquire deep colors, the matter would be less complicated.

***Dendroica tigrina* (Gmel.)** CAPE MAY WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, dark hair-brown, olive tinged on the back. Wings and tail black, edged chiefly with dull brownish olive-green, the coverts with drab and tipped with buffy white. The two outer rectrices with subterminal white spots. Below, including sides of head, mouse-gray with dusky mottling or streaking on the breast and sides; the abdomen and crissum dingy white faintly tinged with primrose-yellow. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning early in July in eastern Canada, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above, dull olive-green, each feather centrally clove-brown veiled with olive-gray edgings; the rump canary-yellow, the feathers basally black. Below, including sides of neck, superciliary lines and spot under eye, canary-yellow, palest on abdomen and crissum, narrowly streaked on sides of chin, on the throat, breast and sides with black which is veiled by grayish edgings; auriculars mouse-gray.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves much of the body plumage but not the wings nor the tail. The black crown, the streaks on the back, the chestnut ear-patches and the streaked yellow of the throat and breast are acquired. A specimen of January 30th from Jamaica, W. I., shows new growth on the throat.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July. Similar to first winter plumage but the head black, the back streaked and everywhere veiled with smoke-gray edgings. Below, whitish edgings obscure the black streaks, the chestnut ear-coverts and the bright lemon-yellow areas. The wings and tail are blacker than in first winter, the back is black, either streaked or spotted, and the yellow below is deeper.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird. The change from the previous plumage is so slight as to suggest the possibility of wear alone, the amount of which is not, however, as strikingly variable in different spring individuals as might be expected if the young alone undergo a prenuptial moult. I confess I am in doubt, with so little available material.

*Female*.—Not distinguishable from the male until the first winter plumage is assumed, which is duller and browner above, and generally without yellow below, being dull white with gray streaking. The first nuptial shows a little yellow assumed by a limited prenuptial moult. The adult winter plumage is similar to the male in first winter dress, the yellow below rather paler and with less heavy streaking. Later plumages are duller than those of the male.

***Dendroica æstiva* (Gmel.). YELLOW WARBLER**

1. NATAL DOWN. Mouse-gray.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, pale olive-brown. Wings clove-brown broadly edged with bright olive-yellow paling at tips of the quills, the edge of the outer primary bright lemon-yellow. Tail pale clove-brown, the inner webs of the rectrices lemon-yellow, the outer edged with olive-yellow. Below, pale sulphur-yellow, unstreaked. Bill and feet pinkish buff the former becoming slaty, the latter deep sepia-brown.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, early in July, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to previous plumage but yellower and somewhat obscurely streaked below.

Above, pale yellowish olive-green, the edgings of the wing coverts paler. Below, dull lemon-yellow obscurely, narrowly and sparingly streaked on the throat and sides with pale chestnut.

The paler yellow lower\* parts, but slightly streaked, distinguish young birds from old.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves most of the body plumage, the wing coverts and the tertiaries, but not the primaries, their coverts, the secondaries, nor the tail. The whole plumage becomes golden lemon-yellow, greener above and brightly streaked on the throat, breast and sides with pale chestnut, somewhat veiled by the feather edgings. The forehead and crown are yellower than the back and usually chestnut tinged. The tertiaries and wing coverts are broadly edged with bright lemon-yellow. An undated specimen from French Guiana (Am. Mus., No. 39844),

with worn, narrowly streaked breast-feathers shows pin-feathers about the head, throat and back. This bird may be an adult female, but the fact of moult is proved just the same. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July. Similar to first winter dress but the yellow richer, and streaked more or less heavily on throat and sides with pale chestnut veiled by the overlapping feather edges. The bill is usually darker. The primary coverts are darker and more conspicuously edged. The crown is not orange or chestnut tinged as in nuptial dress.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird, from which it is practically indistinguishable save in some marked cases by the darker wings and tail most obvious in the primary coverts. The yellowish orange forehead and the chestnut streaks below, heavier than in adult winter dress, are assumed at this moult.

*Female*.—Not distinguishable until the first winter plumage is assumed, which is paler and lacks the streaking of the male. The first nuptial is assumed by a limited prenuptial moult, becoming yellower than the previous plumage and acquiring a few obscure chestnut streaks below. The adult winter plumage resembles the first winter, but the yellow is deeper and there are a few chestnut streaks below, birds sometimes resembling quite closely males in first winter dress. Later plumages differ little.

**Dendroica cærulescens** (Gmel.). BLACK-THROATED BLUE  
WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including auriculars, olive-brown. Wings dull black, the primaries with a large white blotch basally and edged with bluish plumbeous gray, the secondaries, tertiaries and coverts with olive-green. Tail black with sub-terminal white blotches on the outer rectrices and edged broadly with clear bluish plumbeous gray. Below, dull brownish white, yellow tinged on throat and abdomen. Lores and two submalar streaks dusky; superciliary stripe yellowish white. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the former becoming black, the latter sepia.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning late in July in eastern Canada, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Occasionally an old juvenal covert is retained and sometimes one or more black tertiaries or black-spotted back feathers are assumed.

Unlike the previous plumage. Above, bluish plumbeous gray bluest on the head, and everywhere veiled with olive-green edgings. Below, white, tinged with pale yellow or buff on the flanks; sides of head including superciliary line, the chin, throat, sides of breast and abdomen and the tibiae black, veiled slightly with ashy gray, the interramal space usually white. The wing coverts are black, edged with bluish plumbeous gray. There are usually a few white feathers on the lower eyelid.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired probably by an extremely limited prenuptial moult confined to the head and chin. Blue-gray crown feathers and black interramal ones are assumed by moult, the greenish edgings above and the ashy ones of the black areas being lost by wear which is marked. Young and old become indistinguishable except by the brown worn wings and tail most noticeable in the primary coverts of the young bird. Although most of the white interramal feathers are basally black wear alone of this region could scarcely produce the uniformly black feathers found on spring birds.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July. Differs from first winter in being of a bluer gray above without greenish edgings, the back often with a few black spots, the crown with concealed dusky shaft streaks. The black below solid, including the interramal space, the veiling absent or slight, the primaries with a larger area of white. The wings and tail are blacker and the edgings bluer, showing well in the primary coverts. There is no white on the lower eyelid. Young and old become indistinguishable.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired perhaps by a limited prenuptial moult as in the young bird, wear producing no obvious changes. The less worn, blacker wings with bluer edgings distinguish adults from young in first nuptial dress. The freshness of crown and chin feathers, the former sometimes with blacker shaft streaks than in autumn, point to a moult.

*Female*.—The females have corresponding plumages and moults. Even in juvenal plumage a difference from the male can be observed in the dull brown wings and tail with greenish instead of bluish edgings, and the white area at the bases of the primaries is dingy and sometimes absent. In first winter plumage the bird is olive-green above, and yellowish buff below; the wings and tail olive-brown, the latter without white blotches, the superciliary line and the lower eyelid are buffy-white; the lores and auriculars are a dull drab. The first nuptial plumage is acquired apparently wholly by wear, which makes the bird grayer above and whiter below. The adult winter plumage is bluer above than the first winter, especially on the head, lesser coverts and wing edgings, and paler below, the tail showing traces of dingy blotches on the lateral rectrices. The white area of the primaries is larger and whiter. The lores and auriculars are dusky. The adult nuptial and later plumages are very similar to the adult winter.

I am of the opinion that the southern race described as *cairnsi* may prove to be untenable, as the blackness of the back might easily be due to age rather than locality.

### ***Dendroica coronata* (Linn.). MYRTLE WARBLER**

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimens seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, the feathers centrally dull black, edged with drab and buffy brown, producing a streaked effect. Below, much whiter but similarly streaked, a tinge of pale primrose-yellow on the abdomen. Wings and tail dull black, edged with drab, palest on primaries and outer rectrices. Two very indistinct buffy white wing bands. Upper and lower eyelids with dull white spots. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff, the former becoming black, the latter deep sepia.

Birds at this stage (see *Auk*, XVI, 1899, p. 217, plate III), bear a striking resemblance to the young of *Spinus pinus*.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult, in August in eastern Canada, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Entirely different from the previous plumage. Above, sepia-brown, grayer on the back and obscurely streaked with black, the rump and a concealed crown spot lemon-yellow, the upper tail coverts black, broadly edged with plumbeous gray. Wing coverts black, plumbeous edged and tipped with white tinged with wood-brown forming two wing bands. Below, dull white, washed with pale buff on the throat and sides and obscurely streaked on the breast and sides with black, veiled by whitish edgings. Sides of breast with dull yellow patches. Incomplete orbital ring and faintly indicated superciliary stripe white or buffy.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves most of the body plumage and wing coverts, occasionally a tertiary but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. The black and gray of the upper surface, the white wing bars and the yellow crown and rump are new, some of the old upper tail coverts and a part of the feathers of the abdomen and crissum being retained in many cases and less often those of the back and elsewhere. Young and old become practically indistinguishable although the young usually have browner and more worn wings and tails, obvious in the primary coverts, but the differences are not absolute.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning late in July. Differs little from the first winter dress, but the wings and tail are blacker with brighter gray edgings, noticeable especially in the primary coverts. The back is usually grayer and the lower parts whiter, with broader streakings above and below.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult, as in the young bird from which the adult is usually distinguishable by blacker wings and grayer edgings, especially of the primary coverts.

*Female*.—The female has plumages and moults corresponding to the male, from which she is not distinguishable until the first winter plumage is assumed, and then not in all cases. The black streaking of this dress is less obvious both above and below than in the male, the plumage everywhere is browner, and the crown patch very obscure. The first nuptial plumage is assumed by a restricted moult, leaving behind many brown feathers. The brown feathers of the lores and auriculars are assumed by moult. The adult winter plumage is little different



from the first winter, the wings and tail rather blacker, the edgings grayer and the streakings more obvious resembling the male in first winter dress. The adult nuptial is acquired both by moult and by wear. The most highly colored females are almost always duller than the dullest males in corresponding plumages. A large series of specimens taken every month in the year shows clearly the changes by moult and by wear in the plumages of this Warbler, which is the only one that ever passes the winter in this latitude.

***Dendroica maculosa* (Gmel.).** MAGNOLIA WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. Sepia-brown.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, dark sepia-brown, soon fading, usually paler on the crown and obscurely streaked with clove-brown. Wings and tail dull black, chiefly edged with ashy or plumbeous gray, the secondaries, tertiaries and wing coverts with drab, two wing bands pale buff; the rectrices white on inner web of basal half. Below, pale sulphur-yellow, dusky or grayish on the throat and streaked or mottled except on the abdomen and crissum with deep olive-brown. Lores and orbital region ashy brown. Bill dusky pinkish buff, black when older. Feet pinkish buff, pale sepia when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning early in July, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Entirely different from the previous plumage. Head and nape chiefly mouse-gray, the back olive-yellow veiling black or dusky spots; rump lemon-yellow, upper tail coverts black, with broad plumbeous edgings. Below, bright lemon-yellow, white on abdomen and crissum, with an ashy pectoral band and streaked obscurely on sides of breast and on the flanks with black, veiled by overlapping yellow edgings. Wing coverts black, edged with gray or olive-green and tipped with white forming two distinct wing bands. Broad orbital ring buffy white.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves most of the body plumage, the wing coverts and sometimes a few tertiaries, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Young and old become practically indistinguishable except by the wings and tail, especially the primary coverts, all of which are usually browner and more worn than in adults.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July. Similar to the first winter dress but the streaking below broader, and the wings and tail blacker with grayer edgings; but none of these differences are constant, and a dull adult may easily be mistaken for a high-colored young bird. Spotting on the back is more extensive and a solid patch of black may be assumed.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves the same areas as in the young bird with similar results. Black edging on the nape and a more solid black patch on the back may be acquired, with less of the greenish edgings that are common to young birds. The wings and tail being blacker, show less wear.

*Female.*—The plumages and moults of the female correspond to those of the male, the prenuptial moult always more restricted as is regularly the case with females of all species. The juvenal plumage is the same as that of the male, the wings and tail and their edgings duller. The first winter plumage is browner above, especially on the pileum than that of the male, the yellow rather paler below and the streaking scanty and obscure. The first nuptial plumage resembles the previous dress but the throat is distinctly streaked with black, the auriculars are blackish instead of gray, the orbital ring whiter and posterior part of the superciliary line white. The adult winter plumage differs but slightly from first winter, the wing edgings grayer and the streaks broader, but duller than the male first winter. The adult nuptial plumage has the pileum browner than in nuptial male plumage, the streaks fewer and the black of the back merely streaks, never solid.

### ***Dendroica cærulea* (Wils.). CERULEAN WARBLER**

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, drab with rather darker edgings. Wings and tail dull brownish black edged largely with bice-green, the primaries with bluish cinereous gray, the tertiaries with grayish white, the coverts with drab, two wing bands white. Below, grayish white, faintly tinged with primrose-yellow. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning the middle of July, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above, deep bice-green, partly concealing cinereous gray which is conspicuous on the rump and upper tail coverts, the latter and the feathers of the back often black centrally. The wing coverts with bluish cinereous gray edgings; two wing bands white, faintly tinged with canary-yellow. Below, white, strongly washed except on chin, abdomen and crissum with primrose-yellow, the sides and flanks streaked obscurely with dull black. Superciliary line primrose-yellow; lores and orbital regions whitish; a dusky transocular streak.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves much of the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. The grayish cerulean blue, the black streaks on the back and the white wing bands are acquired; below, the plumage is white with a narrow bluish black band on the throat and the sides distinctly streaked. Young and old become practically indistinguishable, except by the duller wings and tail of the juvenal dress.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July. Differs from first winter in being much bluer and whiter, the wings and tail blacker and the edgings a bluer gray. Resembles the adult nuptial, but rather grayer on the back and the throat band incomplete.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. In juvenal plumage the edgings of the wings and tail are greener tinged than those of the male. In first winter plumage the green above is duller and the black of the back and tail coverts is lacking; below there is more yellow and the side streaks are obscure. The first nuptial plumage is acquired by a moult limited chiefly to the head and throat which become bluer and whiter respectively. Later plumages are brighter, but green always replaces the blue of the male.

**Dendroica pensylvanica** (Linn.). CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, dark raw umber-brown, obscurely streaked or spotted on the back with dull black. Wings and tail dull black, chiefly edged with ashy or plumbeous gray; the secondaries, and tertiaries with olive-yellow, the coverts with buff forming two wing bands yellow-tinged. Below, pale umber-brown, grayer on the throat and sides of head, the abdomen and crissum dull white. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff, becoming black.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning late in June, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Unlike the previous plumage. Above, bright olive-yellow concealing black spots on the back and rump, the upper tail coverts black, tipped with cinereous gray and olive-yellow. The wing coverts black, edged with olive-yellow, two broad wing bands canary-yellow mixed with white. Below, grayish white, pearl-gray on sides of head, throat, breast and flanks, a trace of chestnut striping the flanks terminating in a lemon-yellow spot. Conspicuous white orbital ring.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves most of the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Young and old become practically indistinguishable, save for the browner wings and tail of the young bird. The yellow crown, the black and white about the head, the streaking of the back and the lateral chestnut stripes of the throat and sides are acquired.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July. Differs from first winter dress only in the broad deep chestnut stripes on the sides, the greater amount of black on the back and the slightly blacker wings and tail, with brighter edgings.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male, from which it is first distinguishable in first winter plumage when the white below is duller the sides grayer and the chestnut stripes altogether lacking. The first nuptial plumage, acquired by a limited moult, resembles that of the male in

like dress but is lacking in intensity of the colors. The adult winter plumage resembles the first winter, but is brighter and with a trace of the chestnut stripes like the male first winter dress. In adult nuptial plumages, the black on the sides of head and throat is regularly duller and the chestnut striping less heavy than in the male.

***Dendroica castanea* (Wils.). BAY-BREASTED WARBLER**

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including wings, tail and wing coverts, clove-brown, edged with pale bistre; two wing bands dull white. Below, white, thickly spotted with dull black. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, in July and August in eastern Canada, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to previous plumage but unspotted. Above, yellowish olive-green with dusky streaks on the crown, a few concealed black spots on the back, the upper tail coverts cinereous gray. Wing coverts edged with olive-green and two broad wing bands white tinged with yellow. Below, cream-color washed with straw-yellow on the throat and with a very little chestnut on the flanks.

Resembles *D. striata* but a yellower olive above, a buffier yellow below and a wash of chestnut on the flanks, with less definite streaking above and none below.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves most of the body plumage and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. The deep chestnut crown, paler throat and lateral stripes, black sides of the head and forehead, olive-gray back streaked with black, the rich buff patches on the sides of the neck and the black wing coverts, plumbeous-edged and white-tipped, are all assumed. Young and old become practically indistinguishable, adults usually with darker wings and tail noticeable in the primary coverts.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July. Similar to first winter dress, but the crown, nape and back distinctly streaked with black, creamier tints below and the flanks striped distinctly with chestnut, the

wings and tail blacker and the edgings grayer rather than greener as in the young bird ; a few chestnut feathers sometimes appear on the throat and the crown.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. Distinguishable first in first winter plumage, which is a clearer green without the crown streaks of the male, the black spots on the back duller and usually even a trace of chestnut is lacking on the flanks. The first nuptial plumage acquired by a limited moult approaches in pattern and color that of the male, but is much duller and the chestnut limited. The adult winter plumage is similar to the first winter, but whiter below, with a wash of chestnut on the flanks and with crown streaks and the dorsal spots better defined, resembling closely the male first winter dress, although usually rather duller. The adult nuptial plumage is practically indistinguishable from the first nuptial, the older birds with richer colors, but the chestnut is at most merely a crown patch, a pectoral band and a wash on the sides.

### ***Dendroica striata* (Forst.). BLACK-POLL WARBLER**

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head, olive-gray obscurely streaked or mottled with dull black. Wings and tail clove-brown edged with dull olive-green, whitish on the tail, tertiaries and wing bands. Two rectrices with white terminal spots on the inner webs. Below, dingy white mottled with dull black. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the former becoming dusky, the latter sepia.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, in July and August in eastern Canada, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings and the tail.

Similar to previous plumage but unspotted. Above, including sides of head, olive-green, olive-gray on tail-coverts, rather obscurely streaked, chiefly on the back, with black. The wing coverts clove-brown edged with olive-green and tipped with white, yellow-tinged. Below, very pale canary-yellow, white on abdomen and crissum with a few obscure grayish streaks on the throat and sides. A.

narrow and obscure superciliary line and orbital ring pale canary yellow; the lores whitish, a faint dusky transocular stripe. One or two black crown feathers are occasionally assumed.

- Resembles *D. castanea* and *D. vigorsii* but distinguishable from either of them by the streaked back and duller colors.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves most of the body plumage, the wing coverts and tertiaries, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Young and old become practically indistinguishable. The black cap and black and white plumage are assumed, at first evidently, somewhat veiled by whitish edgings. The early beginning of the prenuptial moult is indicated by a specimen labeled Roraima, British Guiana, November 1st, which shows active moult in progress on the nape, back, abdomen and sides, where black and white feathers are replacing yellowish ones.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July. Similar to first winter dress but whiter below, the streaking often distinctly black and extending to the chin, which is spotted here and there; above the crown is decidedly streaked or marked with stray black feathers; the wings and tail are blacker and the edgings darker and grayer especially on the tertiaries. The slight sprinkling of black feathers is like that found in *Dolichonyx orisivorus* and some other species in the autumn.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male from which it is first distinguishable in first winter plumage, but not in every case. Females are then a little greener above and yellower below including the crissum, the streaks on the sides extremely faint. The first nuptial plumage acquired by moult is a little paler than the first winter, the head, back and sides with distinct black streaks; resembles the male in first winter dress but more decidedly streaked. The adult winter plumage is practically indistinguishable from first winter but rather paler and with the wing edgings darker. The adult nuptial plumage much resembles the male in adult winter dress and

is merely tinged with yellow and streaked on crown, back, sides of chin, throat, and sides with black. The black cap and broad streaking of the male are never acquired.

**Dendroica blackburniæ** (Gmel.). BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. Sepia-brown.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, dark sepia-brown obscurely streaked on the back with clove-brown. Wings and tail clove-brown edged with olive-buff, the tertiaries and coverts with white forming two wing bands at tips of greater and median coverts; the outer three rectrices largely white. Below, white, washed with wood brown or buff on breast and sides, spotted, except on chin, abdomen and crissum, with dull sepia. Superciliary stripe cream-buff, spot on upper and under eyelid white; lores and auriculars dusky. Bill and feet pinkish buff, becoming dusky later.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning early in August in eastern Canada, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Unlike the previous plumage. Above, deep yellowish olive-gray, flecked on the crown and streaked on the back with black; obscure median crown stripe straw-yellow; rump and upper tail coverts black, edged with olive gray. Wing coverts clove-brown edged with olive-gray and tipped with white forming two broad wing bands. Below, straw-yellow brightening to orange-tinged lemon on the throat, fading to buffy white on the crissum and narrowly streaked on the sides with black veiled by yellow edgings. Superciliary stripe and postauricular region lemon-yellow orange-tinged. Auriculars, rectal streak and transocular stripe olive-gray mixed with black. Suborbital spot yellowish white.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves most of the body plumage (except posteriorly), the wing coverts and sometimes the tertiaries but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. The full orange and black plumage is assumed, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable, the orange throat equally intense in both, the wings and tail usually browner in the young bird and the primary coverts a key to age.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July. Differs little from the first winter dress, but the yellow more distinctly orange, the transocular and rectal



streaks, the crown and auriculars distinctly black, veiled with orange tips, the streaking below heavier and broader, the wings and tail blacker and the edgings grayer.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird. Two specimens, apparently adult males judging from blackness of the primary wing coverts and other characters show this moult. One Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 39748, from Bogotá, Colombia, shows many feathers in their sheaths; with No. 30330 from Quito, Ecuador, the moult is less advanced.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. In juvenal plumage the wing edgings are usually duller the first winter plumage being similar to that of the male but browner, the yellow tints nearly lost and the streakings obscure and grayish. The first nuptial plumage assumed by a more or less limited prenuptial moult, is grayer above and paler below, except on the chin and throat where new pale orange feathers contrast with the worn and faded ones of the breast. The adult winter plumage is practically the same as the male first winter, the auriculars and transocular stripe usually duller. The adult nuptial plumage is brighter below than the first nuptial and with more spotting on the crown, but the black head and bright orange throat of the male are never acquired.

**Dendroica dominica** (Linn.). YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult. Above olive-brown with dull black streaking. Below, dull white, streaked with clove-brown chiefly anteriorly. Wings and tail dull black, edged with hoary plumbeous gray, the tertiaries with olive-gray. Outer rectrices with white spots. Bill and feet brownish black.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult, early in June in Florida, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the remiges nor rectrices.

Above, smoke-gray veiled with sepia-brown edgings, the feathers of the forehead basally black. Below, white with black streaking laterally, the chin and throat

lemon-yellow, bordered with black which extends to auriculars, lores and forehead. Superciliary stripe white, anteriorly tinged with lemon-yellow; white postauricular patch. Wing coverts black, the greater and middle tipped with dull white forming two wing bands.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which is considerable, birds becoming much grayer above and clearer white below. Young birds have browner and more worn primary coverts than do adults.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult, beginning near Washington, D. C., late in July. Adults are grayer above with more black on the head and whiter below, while the primary coverts are blacker than in young birds. Young and old now become absolutely indistinguishable.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear.

*Female.*—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male, females, however, being duller in colors, much washed in autumn with brown above and below, and the black about the head dull.

**Dendroica virens** (Gmel.). **BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER**

1. **NATAL DOWN.** Sepia-brown.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, sepia-brown or drab. Wings and tail dull black, edged with ashy or olive gray; two wing bands white; the outer three rectrices largely white. Below, dull white, dusky on the throat, spotted on the breast and sides with dull olive-brown. Indistinct grayish white superciliary line. Dusky transocular streak. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming black with age.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning the middle of July, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Unlike the previous plumage. Above, greenish olive-yellow, the upper tail coverts ashy or plumbeous gray edged with olive-yellow. The feathers of the crown and back especially have concealed black shaft streaks. The wing coverts are black, edged with olive-green; two broad white wing bands tipped faintly with yellow. Below, faint primrose-yellow, white on the crissum; the breast and a spot on the flanks canary, the chin, sides of head and neck and super-

ciliary line bright lemon-yellow ; a variable area on the throat seldom including the chin, black, veiled by long yellow edgings, the sides and flanks broadly streaked and similarly veiled. Transocular and rictal streaks dusky ; lores grayish.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult, which involves chiefly the head, chin and throat and not the rest of the plumage. The black chin is assumed and the forehead becomes yellower by moult, wear removing the edgings everywhere so that the streakings below and the throat become jet-black. Young and old become practically indistinguishable, except that the wings and tail of the young bird will average browner and more worn with the edgings duller.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July. Differs somewhat from the first winter, the black of the throat extending uninterruptedly to the apex of the chin, further down on the throat, and in broader stripes on the sides ; the wings and tail are blacker and the edgings grayer, especially on the tertiaries ; the concealed black of the back more extensive. The veiling is conspicuous on the throat.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired apparently by wear, through which the veiling is almost completely lost, the yellowish tips of the winter plumage barbs breaking off down to the black portion or very near to it. As *all* the black feathers of the chin in adult autumnal birds are broadly tipped with yellow, and *some* of these feathers in spring show unbroken black tips when they are examined under a glass, it is logical to assume a limited replacement which scarcely deserves the name of a moult.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults of the female correspond to those of the male. In juvenal plumage the sexes are practically alike. In first winter plumage the female is browner than the male, without the black throat and the side streaks obscure ; some specimens with much black may, however, easily be mistaken for dull first winter males. The first nuptial plumage differs very little from the first winter, wear bringing out the streaking, while a few feathers are assumed by moult on the chin. The adult winter plumage resembles the male first winter and may have considerable black on the throat, and even the

chin. The adult nuptial plumage is, in extreme examples, hardly distinguishable from the male, but usually the black is much restricted and the chin yellow, merely spotted with black.

***Dendroica vigorsii* (Aud.). PINE WARBLER**

1. NATAL DOWN. Sepia-brown.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, drab, shading to hair-brown. Wings and tail deep olive-brown the secondaries and rectrices with greenish gray edgings, the tertiaries and wing coverts edged with drab; two dull white wing bands. Below, olive-gray washed with drab on the throat and sides and indistinctly mottled with deeper gray. Orbital ring white. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff becoming black.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning late in July, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Entirely different from the previous plumage. Above bright olive-green veiled with drab-gray edgings, the upper tail coverts grayer. Wing coverts black, edged with greenish olive-gray; two white wing bands. Below, including superciliary stripe and orbital ring bright lemon-yellow, fading to dull white on abdomen and crissum, veiled with whitish edgings, the flanks washed with drab-gray, a few concealed dusky streaks on the sides of the breast. Loes and postocular spot dusky.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which is excessive, birds becoming greener above and a greener yellow below by loss of the edgings, the breast streaks being also exposed.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July and August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, but usually yellower, the streaking more abundant, the veiling diminished above, the wings and tail darker on an average and the edgings darker and grayer.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male from which the female is first distinguishable in first winter plumage which is much browner than that of the male,

being olive-brown above and pale wood-brown below with scarcely a tinge of yellow. The first nuptial plumage is grayer and shows much wear. The adult winter plumage is much yellower than the first winter, and resembles the male first winter. The adult nuptial is the same as the previous plumage plus marked wear.

***Dendroica palmarum* (Gmel.).** PALM WARBLER

The plumages and moults correspond to those of *D. p. hypochrysea*, described below, a relative paleness and lack of yellow being found in all the plumages. If the limited prenuptial moult were to extend over the whole body this subspecies could hardly be told apart from *hypochrysea*, the new feathers being equally yellow in both and the chestnut cap of the same tint.

***Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea* (Ridgw.).** YELLOW,  
PALM WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, dull sepia-brown, streaked with clove-brown. Wings and tail clove-brown, edged chiefly with dull olive-green, the coverts and tertiaries with drab cinnamon-tinged; the outer two rectrices with terminal white blotches on the inner webs; no definite wing bands. Below, including sides of head, dull white with dusky spots and streaks; chin and crissum faintly tinged with yellow. Orbital ring dull white; transocular streak dusky. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the feet darker and blacker than the bill when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, in August in eastern Canada, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Unlike the previous plumage. Above, yellowish sepia-brown, yellowish olive-green on the rump and upper tail coverts, obscurely streaked with dull clove-brown, the crown merely tinged with concealed chestnut. Wing coverts clove-brown edged with olive-green and tipped with cinnamon *not* forming wing bands. Below, canary-yellow brightest on the crissum, obscurely streaked on throat and sides with dusky chestnut everywhere veiled by overlapping whitish edgings. Superciliary line canary-yellow, orbital ring buffy white; transocular streak dusky.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves chiefly the crown, sides of head, chin and throat and not the rest of the plumage. It is interesting to note that a very few new feathers are acquired on nearly all of the tracts except the alar. If they were in color contrast the effect would be not unlike *Piranga rubra* or *Icterus spurius*. A rich chestnut cap is assumed, contrasting sharply with the worn feathers of the occiput, the lores become dull black, the auriculars chestnut and the yellow of the chin and breast becomes brighter with rich chestnut streaks on the sides of the throat and breast. The streaking of the sides of the chin and across the jugulum are darker. Elsewhere a few stray feathers are acquired, as shown by a large series in actual moult, but most of the plumage of the posterior parts of the body shows a great amount of wear, as might be expected in a species of terrestrial habits. I have seen birds in moult in December and January, from Jamaica, W. I., and I have taken similar birds in Florida and Georgia in March and April and near New York city late in April.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in August. Differs little from the first winter dress, but of a richer brown above with darker wing edgings, the chestnut more abundant on the crown and the streakings below more conspicuous.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are very similar in all plumages, females usually a little browner and with less yellow. In first winter plumage with very little or no chestnut on the crown and later practically indistinguishable, but undergoing the same moults as the male, the prenuptial more limited.

**Dendroica discolor** (Vieill.). PRAIRIE WARBLER

1. **NATAL DOWN**. No specimen seen.
2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, dull olive-green, browner on the pileum. Wings and tail clove-brown edged with dull olive-green; two wing bands buff. Below, dull brownish white, pale straw-color on the abdomen. Sides of head drab; eyelids white. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning the middle of July, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Unlike, the previous plumage. Above, grayish olive-green, an area of concealed chestnut on the back. Wing coverts black, edged with olive-green; two wing bands white. Below, pale canary-yellow, streaked on the sides of the throat and breast with dull black veiled by yellowish edgings. Malar stripe and transocular streak grayish black; orbital ring, suborbital region and obscure superciliary stripe white, yellow tinged; auriculars mouse-gray.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves chiefly the crown, sides of head, chin and throat but not the rest of the body plumage the wings nor the tail as shown by specimens taken in Jamaica, W. I., November 27th, December 30th, January 3d, 13th, 19th, 24th and 31st. The early date at which the prenuptial moult takes place is interesting and explains in a measure why it is so difficult to determine by examination of the feathers whether a moult has taken place. The few feathers replaced suffer from wear almost as much as those adjacent and when we first see such birds in May the evidences of moult are often completely masked. The black auriculars and transocular stripe and the yellow feathers of the superciliary stripe, the chin and throat are assumed, wear bringing the chestnut of the back into prominence. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July. Similar to first winter dress, but with more chestnut on the back and the streaks below broader and extending to the chin. The transocular stripe and auriculars are darker; the orbital region and superciliary line yellower.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired apparently by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird. Several specimens taken in Florida in March and early April show pin feathers on the head and throat. These birds, judging by the amount of chest-

nut on the back and the streaks on the sides of the throat, appear to be adults.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. Indistinguishable from the male until the first winter plumage is assumed, which is browner above and paler below with fainter streaking; the auriculars and transocular streak being grayer, the chestnut on the back a mere trace; the wings and tail are duller. The first nuptial plumage, acquired by renewal of a few feathers about the head and by abrasion of the rest of the plumage with fading, differs very little from the first winter. The adult winter plumage is similar to the first winter, but yellower about the head, more distinctly and broadly streaked below, and with more chestnut on the back; very like the male first winter. The adult nuptial plumage, acquired partly by moult, resembles the male adult nuptial, differing in paler yellow, less extensive streaking, fainter chestnut of the back and grayish instead of black lores and malar stripes.

### **Seiurus aurocapillus** (Linn.). OVEN-BIRD

1. NATAL DOWN. Pale sepia-brown.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head, cinnamon-brown, sparingly spotted with olive-brown, the dusky lateral stripes faintly indicated on the crown. Wings and tail olive-brown with olive-green edgings, the coverts slightly tipped with pale cinnamon. Below, pale cinnamon, yellowish white on abdomen and crissum, faintly spotted or streaked on the sides of the chin, on the breast and on the sides with olive-brown. Bill and feet pale pinkish buff becoming very little darker when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning the end of June, which involves the body plumage, the wing coverts, and rarely the tertiaries, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

Unlike the previous plumage. Above, brownish olive-green including wing coverts and tertiaries; the crown dull orange-ochraceous concealed by brownish edgings and bordered by two black stripes extended on the nape. Below, pure white sometimes washed faintly with pale buff or olive-gray especially on the sides and flanks, the chin, abdomen and crissum sometimes faintly yellow tinged, streaked boldly on the throat, breast and sides with black slightly veiled by whitish edgings. A black submalar streak on either side of the chin. Conspicuous orbital ring, buffy white; lores grayish; auriculars obscurely dusky.



4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which is considerable but produces little effect except to expose the crown and bring the black streaks below into contrast with the white background. It may be that there is a limited prenuptial moult, but the new feathers occasionally found on April specimens are probably individual renewal scarcely deserving the name of a moult.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July. Differs inappreciably from first winter, the streaking below perhaps averaging blacker and the orange of the crown deeper.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically indistinguishable, the female in first winter plumage usually with a paler median crown stripe.

### **Seiurus noveboracensis** (Gmel.). WATER-THRUSH

1. **NATAL DOWN**. Deep olive-brown.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, deep olive-brown with cinnamon edgings. Wings and tail darker, the coverts tipped with pale cinnamon. Below, primrose-yellow heavily streaked on the chin and less heavily on the throat, breast and sides with deep olive or clove-brown. Indistinct superciliary line and orbital ring buff; transocular stripe dusky. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning early in July, in eastern Canada, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

Similar to previous plumage. Above, yellowish olive-brown including wing coverts, without edgings. Below, straw-yellow palest on the crissum, the flanks washed with olive-brown, spotted on the chin and streaked, except on the mid-abdomen and crissum, with black veiled by overlapping whitish edgings. Superciliary stripe and orbital ring pale ochraceous buff; transocular streak deep olive-brown; auriculars dusky.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by marked wear, birds becoming browner above and paler below, the veiling lost. It is possible there is a very limited growth of new feathers about the head, for the wear is disproportionately slight in some May specimens when we consider the terrestrial habits of the species, but the renewal hardly seems to deserve the name of a moult.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July. Practically indistinguishable from first winter, the streakings below rather broader, the wings and tail deeper in color.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike and the moults correspond.

***Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis* (Ridgw.). GRINNELL'S  
WATER-THRUSH**

This darker subspecies has moults and plumages corresponding to those of *S. noveboracensis*.

***Seiurus motacilla* (Vieill.). LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH**

1. **NATAL DOWN.** Deep olive-brown.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult. Above, deep olive-brown, without cinnamon edgings. Wings and tail darker, the coverts faintly tipped with cinnamon. Conspicuous line above and behind the eye dull white. Below, yellowish white, washed on the sides and crissum with cinnamon and narrowly streaked on the chin, throat, breast and sides with dull olive-brown. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning early in July, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to the previous plumage. Above, deep olive-brown, much darker on the crown, which is bordered by conspicuous white superciliary stripes. The wing coverts are dark and without edgings. Below, white, buffy tinged and strongly washed on sides of the throat, flanks and on crissum with ochraceous buff. The chin is faintly flecked, the breast and sides streaked with olive-brown. Lower eyelid white; anteorbital spot and postocular streak dusky.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by marked wear through which the buff tints are largely lost, the flecks of the chin and the breast streaks diminished. Although specimens from Jamaica, W. I., in December, and from Florida in March, show a few new feathers on the chin, I doubt whether this is more than mere renewal in a species subjected to much wear. It is difficult to draw the line between moult and renewal except by the study of larger series of winter birds than are now available.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July. Practically indistinguishable from the first winter dress.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which is marked.

*Female.*—The sexes are indistinguishable and the moults identical.

**Geothlypis formosa** (Wils.). KENTUCKY WARBLER

1. **NATAL DOWN.** No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head rich olive-brown. Wings and tail rather darker, edged with deep olive-green, the wing coverts with wood-brown. Below, pale raw umber-brown, Naples-yellow on the abdomen and crissum. Bill and feet flesh-color, the former becoming dusky.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult in July which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to previous plumage. Above, olive-green including the wing coverts.

Below, including superciliary stripe, bright canary-yellow. The forehead, crown, lores and auriculars are partly black much veiled by smoke-gray edgings.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves a part of the head, chin and throat, but no other areas. The black crown with plumbeous edgings, the black lores, auriculars and a short extension on the sides of the neck are assumed, together with the yellow feathers of the chin

and superciliary stripes. Young and old become indistinguishable.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July. Differs from first winter in the crown being grayer, the black areas more defined and the edgings clear plumbeous gray, veiling the black much less.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired apparently by a partial prenuptial moult, as in the young bird, although wear alone may modify the winter plumage after the first year. The material I have examined is not conclusive upon this point.

*Female.*—In first winter and later plumages the female differs chiefly from the male in the black markings being duller and restricted.

#### **Geothlypis agilis** (Wils.). CONNECTICUT WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult in all probability. Birds in this plumage have never been obtained, so far as I know, supposed ones proving to be something else. We may expect a bird most resembling *G. philadelphia*, uniformly brownish above and yellowish below, the throat and chin perhaps as dark as the back, and no streaks.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult which apparently involves the body plumage and the wing coverts and not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above, including wings and tail, brownish olive-green almost exactly like *G. trichas*, but usually greener and grayer. Below, unlike *G. trichas*, being canary-yellow, washed on the sides with pale olive-brown, and with broccoli-brown on the throat often concealing cinereous gray, the chin wood-brown. The orbital ring conspicuously pale buff.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult involving much of the head and throat, which become clear plumbeous or ashy gray instead of brown, slightly veiled with olive-brown on the pileum and with drab-gray on the throat, the orbital ring white.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. Differs from first winter dress in being cinereous gray instead of brown on the head and throat, palest on the chin, and slightly veiled with drab-gray on the throat, and olive-green on the crown. The back is greener and the yellow below rather brighter. The orbital ring is white. The birds with deeper plumbeous throats are probably still older. This dress differs but little from the nuptial, a fact not generally known.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired perhaps by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird or possibly by wear alone. Some specimens taken in spring show fresher feathers about the head than do others. Whether this denotes individual wear or only renewal in young birds, cannot be determined positively without more winter material.

*Female*.—In first winter plumage browner above and on the throat than the male, but often indistinguishable. The first nuptial is acquired chiefly by wear. The adult winter is similar to the first winter but rather grayer on the throat resembling the male in first winter dress. The adult nuptial and later plumages are never as gray as those of the male.

### ***Geothlypis philadelphia* (Wils.). MOURNING WARBLER**

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Very similar to *G. trichas* but darker. Above deep olive-brown. Wings darker, edged with olive-green, the coverts faintly edged with pale cinnamon. Tail deep olive-green. Below, very deep grayish tawny-olive, abdomen and crissum pale brownish Naples-yellow. Inconspicuous orbital ring pale buff. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming sepia-brown.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, in August in eastern Canada, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above similar to *G. trichas* and to *G. agilis* but greener than either, with a plumbeous tinge about the head, and the yellow below brighter. There is usually a little concealed black on the throat; the chin is yellowish white. The con-

spicuous orbital ring and a supraloral line are pale canary-yellow, the lores dusky.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves chiefly the head and throat. The plumbeous cap, the black throat veiled with cinereous, the dusky lores and the white orbital rings are assumed, the rest of the plumage showing a good deal of wear. Old feathers may be found in some cases persisting among the new.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in August. Similar to first winter dress, but with a distinctly black chin and throat, much veiled with cinereous gray edgings.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult, as in the young bird. An undated specimen from Panama (Am. Mus., No. 39878), apparently an adult, judging by old feathers, shows new growth on the head and throat.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. In first winter plumage the throat is browner and in but slight contrast to the breast, scarcely distinguishable from the male first winter dress of *G. agilis*. The first nuptial plumage is acquired chiefly by wear. The adult winter plumage resembles the somewhat grayer first winter male. The later plumages are similar, no black being assumed on the throat.

### **Geothlypis trichas** (Linn.). MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT

1. **NATAL DOWN**. Sepia-brown.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult. Above, pale olive-brown of variable depth, greenish on the upper tail coverts. Wings olive-brown edged with olive-green, the median and greater coverts faintly tipped with cinnamon. Tail bright olive-green. Below, tawny wood-brown, Naples-yellow on the abdomen and olive-yellow on the crissum. Inconspicuous orbital ring pale buff. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming deep sepia with age.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult, beginning about the middle of July, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Unlike previous plumage. Above, deep olive-brown, greener on the upper tail coverts, the crown and forehead tinged with Mars-brown, the forehead frequently with a very few feathers black basally. The wing coverts chiefly olive-green. Below, bright lemon on the chin, throat and crissum, pale straw-yellow on the abdomen, the flanks washed with olive-brown, and a very faint buffy pectoral band. The malar and auricular regions show traces of the black "mask" varying from a few black feathers to a considerable area always veiled by ashy edgings. The black seldom invades the lores and forehead and never the orbital ring as in the adult. The orbital ring is buffy white.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves chiefly the forehead, crown, sides of head and chin and not the rest of the plumage. These areas are somewhat worn, as a rule, when the birds reach New York in May, but specimens from Jamaica, West Indies, taken December 2d, January 9th, 22d and 24th and February 4th show actual moult in progress. It is not surprising that the feathers assumed then should show considerable wear before May. The black feathers of the "mask" are acquired, those of the upper margin of this area broadly tipped with pearl-gray which becomes ashy with wear. This gray band, posteriorly on the crown, has its feathers tipped with Mars-brown and the basal black gradually diminishes more posteriorly as the extent of brown on each feather increases. There is a yellow tinge in some of the feathers. The width of the band varies greatly. The bright yellow chin is also acquired and young birds and old become indistinguishable.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July and August. Differs from the first winter dress in possessing a complete black "mask," which includes the forehead, lores, orbital ring and auriculars, only the forehead and the auriculars being slightly veiled. The "mask" has a distinct cinereous posterior border veiled on the crown with Vandyke-brown. The yellow below is deeper and the brown wash on the flanks darker in most cases. Six specimens out of twenty-two in this plumage show a few white feathers in the orbital ring usually confined to the lower eyelid, and three out of twenty-three spring males show the same peculiarity which seems to be purely individual peculiar possibly to the younger birds.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE apparently acquired by wear, although I think there must be a limited prenuptial moult if it deserves the name. I have examined specimens of this species taken every month in the year, but I have seen only a few young birds showing actual moult in February, March and April. The adult nuptial and winter plumages are so extremely similar that wear alone might convert the latter into the former, but even with the large series I have examined positive conclusions are not possible.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. In juvenal plumage the sexes are alike. In first winter plumage the female is much browner, the yellow of the lower surface is wholly replaced by buff, and there is no black about the head. The first nuptial dress is assumed by a limited prenuptial moult (sometimes suppressed) illustrated by a specimen of February 4th. Later plumages differ little, except in yellowness, from the first winter dress and no black is ever assumed about the head.

### **Icteria virens** (Linn.). YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, grayish olive-brown. Wings and tail olive-brown, edged with dull brownish olive-green. Below, ashy gray washed with olive-gray across the jugulum and on the sides. Auriculars grayish and lores dusky with a trace of white above the eye. Bill and feet pinkish brown, the former becoming slaty and the latter black.

This plumage has been figured in colors (*Auk*, XVI, 1899, pp. 217-220, pl. III).

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postjuvenal moult after the middle of July. Two specimens examined show a complete moult in progress and the color and shape of rectrices in the limited material at my disposal points to this unusual moult, for this is the only Warbler known to me that renews wings and tail at this time.



Unlike the previous plumage. Above, brownish olive-green, the wings and tail darker than in juvenal plumage and with greener edgings. Below, bright lemon-yellow, somewhat veiled with olive-gray, the abdomen and crissum dull white, the sides washed with olive-brown. Lores, suborbital region and post-ocular stripe dull black, veiled with ashy feather tips. Superciliary, suborbital and malar stripes white.

Young and old become practically indistinguishable although young birds are rather duller.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which is marked, but produces little obvious effect, the browns and greens fading somewhat, the yellow very little.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, the black areas about the head averaging blacker.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—Differs very little from the male and has the same moults. In first winter plumage the lores are merely dusky and the yellow below is paler, these differences usually persisting in later plumages.

### ***Sylvania mitrata* (Gmel.). HOODED WARBLER**

1. **NATAL DOWN**. Pale sepia-brown.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, pale yellowish wood-brown, edged with Mars-brown, drab when older.

Wings and tail deep olive-brown, edged with olive-green, brightest on the secondaries and tertiaries, the wing coverts edged with pale wood-brown, often darker. Below, primrose-yellow, washed with wood-brown on the throat, breast and sides. The three outer rectrices largely white on their inner webs. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult beginning the end of June which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Young and old become practically indistinguishable.

The crown occiput, sides of neck, whole throat and part of the chin are jet-black veiled with narrow edgings of lemon-yellow most marked on the throat. The rest of the upper surface and the sides are bright olive-green; the forehead, sides of head, anterior part of chin breast, abdomen and crissum are rich lemon-yellow; the forehead partly veiled with olive-green or dusky tips, the lores with black ones.

The replacement of the juvenal plumage of this species has been minutely traced by PALMER, '94, and his conclusions are supported by the material I have at hand. Like many other species popularly supposed to require several years for the attainment of adult plumage, the male Hooded Warbler within a few weeks assumes a dress differing very little from the adult. Any specimens with partly black "hoods" labelled in collections as males have been incorrectly sexed. It seems to me the yellow deepens as the layers of growing feathers are superimposed rather than there being an actual deepening of color in the later bred birds as suggested by Mr. Palmer.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear which is not very obvious, the black areas losing the veiling yellow tips. The olive-green above becomes grayer and wear brings into prominence a slight grayish collar bordering the black "hood."

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult the last of June and in July. In some cases scarcely distinguishable from the first winter but usually the yellow edgings are absent or very obscure. The black occupies the whole chin up to its apex and the yellow below is richer.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird, from which it is usually indistinguishable. The black feathers of the adult winter plumage are more resistant to wear than the yellow-tipped ones of the first winter, the barbs of which will be found broken off near the black basal portion.

*Female.*—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male, from which indistinguishable until the first winter plumage is assumed. This lacks the black of the male and is uniform olive-green above and lemon-yellow below, occasionally one or two black feathers being assumed on the crown. The first nuptial plumage acquired by wear is, of course, plain olive-green and yellow. The adult winter plumage assumed by a complete moult shows a variable amount of black about the head and throat. How much of the black is due to individual vigor and how much to successive postnuptial moults is a ques-

tion not easily answerable. We know that some females in the breeding season are almost indistinguishable from males, and there are all sorts of intermediates from these mature birds down to those of the worn first winter dress, which are guiltless of black.

***Sylvania pusilla* (Wils.). WILSON'S WARBLER**

1. NATAL DOWN. Sepia-brown.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, sepia or hair-brown mottled with sepia. Wings and tail dull olive-brown edged with olive-green; wing coverts paler and indistinctly edged with buff.

Below, primrose-yellow washed with pale wood-brown on the throat and sides.

Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky.

Resembles *S. mitrata* but darker above and on the throat, with paler abdomen; also *S. canadensis* but with darker, greener edged wings and tail; and easily mistaken for *G. trihas* but less tinged with brown.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning early in July in eastern Canada, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Unlike the previous plumage. Above, including wing coverts, bright olive-green the pileum black, veiled more or less with brownish olive-green feather tips.

Below, including sides of head and forehead, lemon-yellow, brightest on the superciliary line and orbital ring.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves chiefly the head, chin and throat. The clear black cap, sometimes with a few greenish edgings posteriorly, is assumed, the structure of the feathers differing from those of the previous plumage, and some yellow feathers are renewed on the throat. The yellow below is resistant to fading, the back becoming grayer. Young and old become indistinguishable. Several specimens from Jalapa, Mexico (Am. Mus., Nos. 68553 and 68554), taken in March, show pinfeathers on chin and crown.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July. Similar to the first winter, but the cap clear black, sometimes slightly veiled posteriorly, the yellow below perhaps averaging deeper.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired perhaps by a partial prenuptial moult or perhaps by wear alone. The wear of the black feathers of the crown cannot be safely estimated, and I have seen no birds while in the moult which at best is limited.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. The sexes alike in juvenal plumage. In first winter plumage the cap is wholly lacking or sometimes suggested by a few black feathers laterally. The first nuptial plumage is acquired by a limited prenuptial moult, the crown becoming partly black, concealed by greenish edgings. The adult winter plumage is much like the male first winter. The adult nuptial plumage differs little from the adult male nuptial. A March bird from Mexico (Am. Mus., No. 68568), in moult, is apparently an adult.

### **Sylvania canadensis** (Linn.). CANADIAN WARBLER

1. NATAL DOWN. Sepia-brown.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, sepia and, when older and faded, hair-brown. Wings and tail dull olive-brown, faintly edged with dull olive-green; wing coverts paler and indistinctly edged with buff. Below, primrose-yellow washed with pale wood-brown on the throat and sides. Bill and feet pinkish-buff becoming dusky. Practically indistinguishable from *S. pusilla* except by duller wing edgings.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult, beginning early in July in eastern Canada, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above, cinereous gray, browner on the back, the crown yellow-tinged and sometimes flecked with black; wing coverts uniform with the back. Below, including supraloral line lemon-yellow, the orbital ring paler, a narrow "necklace" of small black spots on the jugulum the black extending to the auriculars and lores, slightly veiled by overlapping yellow edges; the crissum dull white.

The black is very dull and much less extensive than in the adult, some specimens hardly distinguishable from females.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves chiefly the head, chin and throat, and not the rest of the plumage. New black, ashy edged crown feathers

are assumed contrasting with the worn occipital ones, while the yellow or black ones assumed elsewhere are less obviously fresh. Wear is soon quite marked, the upper parts becoming grayer.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July. Quite different from first winter dress, the black "necklace" being of heavy streaks and the black area on the lores and crown larger; black feathers with broad grayish edgings are assumed on the crown, and the wing edgings are apt to be grayer and bluish instead of greenish.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired apparently by wear, although it is likely there is some new growth. It seems to me the edgings of the crown feathers of the most worn spring specimens are grayer and longer than could result from wear, which is considerable in this species. Winter material is needed to be sure which condition regularly prevails.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male from which the female is first distinguishable in first winter dress. This is a little paler than that of the male without black on the crown which is brownish in contrast to the back and the "necklace" consists of obscure grayish lines. The first nuptial plumage, acquired by a very limited moult, differs very little from the previous plumage which is modified by wear. The adult winter plumage differs slightly if any from the first winter; it has a bluer gray tint on the back and the crown is yellow-tinged rather than brown. The adult nuptial dress is usually marked by the "necklace" and lores being more distinctly black and frequently dusky spotting on the forehead, but the female may never be mistaken for the male except possibly in a few rare cases.

**Setophaga ruticilla** (Linn.). AMERICAN REDSTART

1. NATAL DOWN. Hair-brown.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of the head, deep sepia-brown. Wings and tail deep olive-brown, the basal portion of the primaries, secondaries and outer rectrices pale

lemon-yellow, the secondaries and tertiaries edged with dull olive-green, the coverts with wood-brown paler at their tips. Below, pale primrose-yellow, hair brown on the chin, throat and breast. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff darkening to brownish black when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult beginning early in July, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Unlike the previous plumage. Above, the pileum, nape and sides of the neck mouse-gray, the back olive-green, often tinged with brownish orange, the upper tail coverts clove-brown. The wing coverts become dull olive-green. Below, dull white, ashy and pinkish buff suffusing the chin and throat, an orange-ochraceous or deep chrome-yellow area on either side of the breast, the color tingeing the breast and sides. Orbital ring, white.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult, which involves chiefly the head and throat, where a few black feathers in patches are acquired. A few may be found scattered sparingly elsewhere and new white feathers on the chin are the rule. The prenuptial moult is late, probably in March and April, for growing feathers occur on birds taken near New York city in May. Abrasion and fading make birds paler above and whiter below. The distribution of black feathers is not unlike that of the new feathers assumed by *Icterus spurius*, *Piranga rubra* and other less conspicuously colored species like *Dendroica palmarum*, but in this species, which is unique among our Warblers during the first breeding season in wearing an immature dress strikingly different from the adult, the renewal is reduced to a minimum.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July. The black and orange-red dress is assumed, the black feathers often having a faint buffy edging. Sometimes the orange basal part of the primaries or of the rectrices fails to develop and yellow, as in the first winter, takes its place. One specimen in my collection has six secondaries and the adjacent tertiary of one wing, and the rectrices with yellow; another has one secondary with yellow. Other than these I have seen no evidence of failure to attain fully adult dress at this moult.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear. The abrasion of the black plumage is in places so slight that there might be some replacement by new feathers, but it is not apparent. Fading is not obvious, except of the flight feathers.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. First differs in first winter plumage which is browner, the breast patches merely yellow tinged and the basal part of the rectrices much paler yellow, this color usually absent from the base of the primaries and reduced in extent on the secondaries. Some specimens are much like males. The first nuptial plumage is acquired by a very limited, sometimes suppressed prenuptial moult. The adult winter plumage is scarcely different from the first winter, a little grayer on the back and the yellow area on the wings greater. The adult nuptial plumage is apparently the previous plumage plus wear.

#### MOTACILLIDÆ

The only species of Wagtail found in New York undergoes a semiannual moult, the prenuptial being partial. It is a bird which from its terrestrial habits suffers a good deal by wear.

#### *Anthus pensilvanicus* (Lath.). AMERICAN PIPIT

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, hair-brown streaked with black, the edgings of the back pale grayish wood-brown. Wings and tail clove-brown, edged chiefly with wood-brown, Isabella-color on the greater coverts and tertiaries; the outer pair of rectrices nearly all white the next pair broadly tipped with it. Below, creamy buff, palest anteriorly, streaked on the throat and breast rather broadly and on the sides faintly with clove-brown. Indistinct superciliary line and orbital ring buffy white; auriculars wood-brown. Bill and feet clay-color in dried skin the upper mandible brownish black.

Description from an Alaskan bird.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult in August which involves the body plumage but not the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Very similar to previous plumage, but darker above with less obvious streaking and deeper pinkish buff below, the streaking heavier, forming a pectoral band and extending to the flanks; an immaculate pale buff chin. The superciliary line extends behind the eye as a whitish band.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult, in April, involving most of the body plumage which has suffered much from wear and become darker above with the buff tints nearly lost below. The extent of the fading is surprising. The new plumage is buff tinged but wear during the breeding season produces a black and white streaked bird, the buffs being wholly lost through fading.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Indistinguishable from the first winter dress, the wing edgings perhaps darker, and with less vinaceous tinge below.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult like the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike and the moults correspond.

### TROGLODYTIDÆ

The members of this family have only an annual moult except *C. stellaris* and *C. palustris* which are exceptional in undergoing a complete (or nearly so) prenuptial moult. The juvenal remiges and rectrices are with these two exceptions worn till the first postnuptial moult. All the seasonal plumages are very much alike.

#### **Mimus polyglottos** (Linn.). MOCKINGBIRD

1. **NATAL DOWN**. Pale sepia-brown.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, grayish sepia-brown, somewhat mottled with darker brown. Wings and tail black, the basal portion of the primaries, their coverts, and two outer rectrices white; wing edgings wood-brown, the feathers paler at tips. Below, dull white, spotted except on the abdomen and crissum, with dull olive-brown. Lores, rictal and submalar streaks faintly dusky. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff becoming black.



3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult in September, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Unlike the previous plumage lacking the streaking below. Above, including sides of the head and neck mouse-gray palest on the head with faint brownish edgings on the back and rump. Wing coverts with grayish edgings, tipped with two dull white bands. Below, grayish white, pale smoke-gray on the throat and sides, the flanks and crissum tinged with pale wood-brown. Lores dusky, orbital ring white above and below.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which makes the plumage grayer above and dingy white below, late in the season.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in September. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, the primary coverts usually whiter and colors elsewhere clearer and deeper.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically indistinguishable, and the moults correspond.

### **Galeoscoptes carolinensis** (Linn.). CATBIRD

1. **NATAL DOWN**. No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, deep brownish mouse-gray, a little darker on the pileum. Wings and tail nearly black, the primaries and secondaries edged with smoke-gray, the coverts browner edged; the tail with "watered" barring very indistinct. Below, pale mouse-gray indistinctly mottled with clove-brown, the throat and sides faintly tinged with sepia, the crissum faintly Mars-brown. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff becoming black.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning early in August, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to the previous plumage but much grayer and no mottling. Everywhere clear slate-gray, much paler below and on the sides of the head and neck; the pileum black; the crissum deep chestnut.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which produces little obvious change.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in August. Practically indistinguishable from the first winter; the wings and tail perhaps averaging blacker and with grayer edgings.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The sexes are practically indistinguishable, although the females are often duller and with browner pileum, wings and tail.

### **Harporhynchus rufus** (Linn.). BROWN THRASHER

1. **NATAL DOWN.** No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, cinnamon-brown mottled or streaked with dull clove-brown. Wings and tail deep cinnamon-rufous or russet; the tail with "watered" barring; the wing edgings richer rufous; coverts dusky terminally and tipped with pale buff forming two wing bands; the tertiaries narrowly edged with pale buff; the alulae with white. Below, dull white, a buffy wash on the throat, sides and crissum, streaked broadly except on the chin and mid-abdomen with dull black. Bill and feet dull pinkish buff, the former becoming slaty, the latter dusky.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning towards the end of July, which involves the body plumage, usually most of the wing coverts and not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to previous plumage but unstreaked above. Above, rich deep cinnamon-rufous; white below, streaked with black and washed on throat, sides and crissum with ochraceous buff; the wing coverts cinnamon-rufous, the wing bands buffy white.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which is marked, although, until late in the season, the colors fade little except the buff below, the streakings coming out clear on a white ground.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July and August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter, the colors averaging darker, noticeable in the edgings of the tips of the tertiaries and in the wings and tail.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically indistinguishable, and the moults correspond.

**Thryothorus ludovicianus** (Lath.). CAROLINA WREN

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including wings and tail, deep russet or cinnamon-rufous, the crown darker, owing to faint dusky tips, the feathers whitish along their shafts; wings and tail with narrow dusky barring, the coverts, chiefly the lesser, buff tipped. Below, dull white, washed on the throat, sides, flanks and crissum with cinnamon tinged with wood-brown, the chin, submalar and auricular regions faintly flecked or barred with dull black. Broad superciliary line dull white bordered with dull black; postorbital stripe deep russet. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming dusky.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, in September, which involves the body plumage, wing coverts and tail, but not the rest of the wings, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to previous plumage, but darker. A rich chestnut or Vandyke-brown. Above, the wing coverts with whitish terminal spots. Below deep cinnamon, except the chin, lores, sides of head and superciliary lines which are nearly white; the crissum with decided black bars. The tail darker than the juvenal and barred more irregularly.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, the bird becoming rather paler, especially below, and ragged later.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in August and September. Practically indistinguishable from first winter.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically indistinguishable, and the moults correspond.

**Troglodytes aëdon** Vieill. HOUSE WREN

1. NATAL DOWN. Sepia-brown.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, Prout's-brown, russet tinged on the rump and deep grayish sepia on the pileum, sometimes very faintly barred. Wings and tail Prout's-brown, darkest on the wings, both with wavy, dusky barring, the palest areas on the outer primaries. Below, including sides of head, dull grayish white with dusky mottling, washed strongly with russet on the flanks and crissum. Orbital ring dusky buff. Bill and feet buffy sepia-brown, becoming darker.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning late in August, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to previous plumage but darker and grayer with faint barring above, the wing coverts, chiefly the lesser with whitish spots; below whiter without mottling, the throat and sides obscurely barred with pale drab, the flanks and crissum boldly barred with dull black which is bordered with russet.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, excessive by the end of the breeding season, which brings out the barring more conspicuously and makes the bird grayer and paler, especially below.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter, perhaps averaging grayer with darker wings and tail.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike and the moults correspond.

**Troglodytes hiemalis** Vieill. WINTER WREN

1. NATAL DOWN. Sepia-brown.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, Mars-brown russet-tinged, the crown feathers paler centrally. Wings darker and tail ruddier, both duskily barred, alternating on the outer primaries with pale buff, the coverts with whitish terminal dots. Below, pale cinnamon with dusky and whitish mottling, the flanks and crissum deep russet. Orbital ring and faint superciliary line dull buff. Bill and feet pale sepia-brown becoming darker.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning the middle of August, which involves the body plumage and the wing coverts, and not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Above, very similar to the previous plumage, the brown usually grayer with dusky and whitish barring on the back. Below, pale cinnamon, the throat and breast obscurely streaked with white, the flanks, abdomen and crissum distinctly barred with russet, dull black and white alternating on each feather and producing a dusky appearance. Orbital ring and superciliary line clear pale buff.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear effecting but little change in the colors except a slight paling.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, perhaps grayer on an average, and more heavily barred.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are indistinguishable and the moults are alike.

### **Cistothorus stellaris** (LICHT.). SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN

1. **NATAL DOWN**. No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, dull black on the pileum and back, the nape sepia, the rump and upper-tail coverts russet; streaked anteriorly with white, barred on the rump and wings with black, white and cinnamon, palest on the primaries; the tail drab, mottled rather than barred with black. Below, including sides of the head, ochraceous buff palest on the chin and throat and washed strongly on the sides, flanks and crissum with cinnamon, the feathers whitish centrally and terminally. Bill and feet pinkish buff becoming deep sepia.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult beginning about the middle of August which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, probably the tertiaries, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to the previous plumage, the forehead largely sepia-brown and conspicuous white stripes on the crown. Below, the ochraceous wash is deeper including a pectoral band and a few black and white bars occur on the flanks. The tertiaries are distinctly black, edged and barred with white, russet bordered.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a nearly complete prenuptial moult, as indicated by the relative freshness of May specimens and proved by others taken April 15th in Texas. Limited material indicates that only a few of the outer primaries are renewed in some cases, the same thing occurring in other species. This plumage is much like the last, with perhaps less barring, and shows considerable wear later.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in August. Indistinguishable from the first winter probably averaging richer in its tints.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete or nearly complete prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The sexes are alike and the moults are the same.

**Cistothorus palustris** (Wils.).—LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN

1. **NATAL DOWN.** White (**plate V, fig. 2**).

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Crown, nape and part of back brownish black, a few faint white lines on the nape; the scapularies, rump and upper tail coverts Prout's-brown often russet tinged. Wings and tail dull black, the tail barred, the tertiary edgings mostly black, the coverts and secondaries brownish edged, the primaries paler with indications of barring. Sides of head dusky; a faint whitish superciliary line. Below, white, washed on sides of breast and flanks and on crissum with pale cinnamon. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff becoming dusky.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning about the middle of August, which involves the body plumages, the wing coverts, and the tertiaries, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable. This plumage may easily be mistaken for the juvenal.

Similar to previous plumage, but the brown rustier above, a brown median line dividing the black crown; the anterior part of the back is black with distinct white streaking; the superciliary line white; the tertiaries duskiest and more mottled. Below, the cinnamon wash is deeper with sometimes a pectoral band and there is obscure whitish and dusky barring on the sides, the crissum distinctly barred.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete prenuptial moult as indicated by the relatively unworn condition of

the feathers when the birds arrive in May. Although I have no positive evidence of this moult, spring birds are in quite as fresh plumage as those of autumn and I do not believe the latter could be so little affected by wear during the winter months as not to show more of it on their return. This plumage is the same as the last, perhaps whiter below and with less obvious barring on the flanks and crissum and it becomes badly frayed before the end of the breeding season.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter but the wings and tail usually grayer, the tertiaries and wing coverts more heavily barred.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete prenuptial moult the same as in the young bird.

*Females.*—The sexes are alike, the female perhaps averaging a little duller, and the moults are the same.

### CERTHIIDÆ

There is only the annual moult in the one species found in New York. Young birds appear to get a new tail at the postjuvenal moult retaining the remiges until the first postnuptial.

#### ***Certhia familiaris americana*** (Bonap.). BROWN CREEPER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head, streaked or mottled with bistre, sepia and wood-brown, the rump russet, the feathers centrally pale brown on the crown, whitish on the back. Wings clove-brown, reduced to a line on the outer web of the tertiaries; the coverts edged with pale buff, which also edges subterminally the secondaries and tertiaries, these as well as the primaries being crossed by a midway bar besides, and all are tipped with pale smoke-gray. Tail pale wood-brown, dusky along the shafts and narrowly barred. Below, dull white, flecked on the chin, throat and sides with pale sepia, the crissum faintly cinnamon tinged. Loes and auriculars dusky; indistinct superciliary line grayish white. Bill and feet pinkish buff, dusky later.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult, beginning early in August in eastern Canada, which in-

volves the body plumage, wing coverts, and the tail, but not the rest of the wings, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to previous plumage. Above darker, the rump much rustier, the crown and back with white shaft streaks, wing covert edgings whiter. Below, silky white, the crissum faintly cinnamon; tail olive-brown on the inner webs, Isabella-color externally, a faint barring discernible, the middle pair of rectrices more broadly and less distinctly barred than in juvenal plumage.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear, birds becoming rather dingy below and somewhat faded above.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter, rather darker and richer.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike in plumages and moults.

### PARIDÆ

All the members of this family have only the annual moult. They are peculiar in assuming a juvenal plumage closely resembling the pale nuptial plumage which results from extreme fading of the winter dress.

#### **Sitta carolinensis** Lath. WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH

1. **NATAL DOWN**. No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, cinereous gray with faint dull black edgings, pileum and hind neck dull black faintly edged on the nape with pale buff. Wings dull black, the primaries white basally and with a dash of white on the middle of their outer borders; the secondaries, tertiaries and coverts edged with cinereous gray, the greater coverts tipped with ashy gray. Tail jet black, the two central rectrices cinereous gray, the outer pairs with subterminal white blotches. Below, including sides of head and neck and superciliary line, grayish white usually faintly pinkish tinged; the crissum partly pale cinnamon; the loreal, auricular and malar feathers with dusky tips. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff, the bill becoming bluish slate-gray, the feet deep sepia.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult, beginning the middle of July, which involves the body



plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to the previous plumage. The pileum and hind neck glossy greenish black, the back a brighter, bluer cinerous gray *without* dusky edgings; the lower surface everywhere creamier and washed with pinkish buff, the flanks, crissum and tibiæ Mars-brown.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, the lower parts fading to dull grayish white except a tinge of pale russet on the flanks, crissum and tibiæ. Worn adults bear a striking resemblance to birds in juvenal dress.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July. Practically indistinguishable from the first winter.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. First distinguishable from the male in juvenal plumage, the pileum being deep plumbeous gray, the hind neck dull black; the wing coverts, edgings of the secondaries and the lower parts are strongly tinged with pale russet, the crissum with Mars-brown. The first winter plumage lacks the glossy black cap of the male, its place being taken by dull black mostly veiled with plumbeous gray; the back is of a duller gray; the wing coverts and secondary edgings are faintly tinged with russet; below same as the male. Females never, even in later plumages, acquire enough black on the cap to be mistaken for males.

### **Sitta canadensis** Linn. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, bluish plumbeous gray, with a few faint black edgings, the pileum and trans-ocular bands reaching the hind neck, dull black, superciliary lines extending to the hind neck, white speckled with black. Wings dull clove-brown, the tertiaries plumbeous, the alulæ black, the coverts and quills edged with pale cinereous gray, palest on the primaries. Tail black with subterminal white spots on the outer rectrices, the two central quills plumbeous. Below, pinkish buff, the crissum pale cinnamon, the breast sometimes with a few faint dusky edgings; the chin and adjacent sides of head white with dusky edgings, es-

pecially in the malar regions. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff, the bill becoming slaty (except flesh-color at base of lower mandible), the feet becoming grayish black.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning the end of July in eastern Canada, which involves the body plumage but not the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to previous plumage. Above, a darker bluer plumbeous gray, the pileum and transocular stripes glossy black, the superciliary lines, sides of head and chin clear white without speckling. Below, rich tawny ochraceous buff, deepest on the sides and crissum, the under tail coverts terminally white.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear, the fading so marked that breeding birds resemble those in juvenal dress.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July. Practically indistinguishable from first winter.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Females.*—The plumages and moults are similar to those of the male. In juvenal plumage the pileum is largely plumbeous instead of black. In first winter dress, the pileum becomes blacker, veiled by plumbeous edgings, and the lower parts are paler. In later plumages the cap never becomes as black as that of the male.

### **Sitta pusilla** Lath. BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH

1. **NATAL DOWN.** No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, dull slate-gray, the pileum pale mouse-gray, a partly concealed dull white spot at base of neck. Wings clove-brown, the greater coverts and tertiaries edged with wood-brown, the primaries and secondaries with dull white. Tail black, the middle pair of rectrices and tips of the outer ones plumbeous gray, a dingy white area on the outer webs of the lateral pairs. Below, dull white, a pale pinkish buff wash on the breast, abdomen and crissum. Line through eye and auriculars deep mouse-gray. Bill and feet pale sepia-brown becoming black.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, in July in Florida, which involves the body plumage and

wing coverts, but not the remiges nor rectrices, young birds and adults becoming practically indistinguishable.

Above, deep plumbeous gray, the pileum Prout's brown, the concealed nuchal spot clear white. Below, rich deep pinkish buff, white on chin and sides of head and neck and plumbeous gray on the flanks. Line through eye and auriculars deep Mars-brown.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear. The pinkish tint below is lost and the top of the head becomes curiously mottled, the brown remaining dark where protected by the overlapping feathers but fading to a dull white at the tips which become much abraded. The wear is far greater on the crown than in the black-headed species.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult, beginning in Florida by the end of June. Young and adults are scarcely distinguishable, adults averaging deeper in color especially the wing edgings.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear, as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The sexes are practically indistinguishable in all plumages, and the moults are the same.

### **Parus bicolor** Linn. TUFTED TITMOUSE

1. **NATAL DOWN.** No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, brownish mouse gray. Wings and tail slightly darker, obscurely edged with olive-gray, greenish tinged on the secondaries and tertiaries, brownish on the coverts. Below, dull grayish white, faintly tinged with pinkish buff, deepest on the flanks. Forehead merely dusky and crest insignificant. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff becoming black when older.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult, late in August, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to previous plumage, but dull cinereous gray above, deepest on the crown, and grayer below, the sides and flanks deep russet or Mars-brown. The lores and postocular region decidedly white, with black forehead and a distinct crest.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear which shows chiefly in the fading of the flanks.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult, in the South in August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, the wing edgings perhaps richer and darker on an average.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond, the sexes usually indistinguishable, although the female will average browner and the frontal black patch brownish and duller.

### **Parus atricapillus** Linn. CHICKADEE

1. NATAL DOWN. Pale mouse-gray.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, mouse-gray; the pileum, chin and throat dull black. Wings and tail dull slate-gray edged with dull or ashy white, the primary coverts with olive-gray. Below (except chin and throat), dull white, washed on the sides and crissum with pale pinkish buff; lores, suborbital region, auriculars and sides of neck pure white. Bill and feet pinkish buff, the bill becoming slate-black, the feet grayish clove-brown.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning after the middle of July, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to previous plumage except that the flanks and crissum are strongly washed with pale pinkish wood-brown, which also tinges the back, and the posterior black, throat feathers are more veiled with white edgings. The pileum is of a deeper black which extends further on the hind neck.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, through which the brownish wash fades to pinkish buff, like the juvenal dress, as early as March, and by June is nearly all lost. The wing edgings are considerably diminished by abrasion. The plumage above is grayer.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in July and August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, possibly grayer.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male, females practically indistinguishable, but averaging a little browner black on the cap and the wash on the sides paler in all plumages.

I have examined large series of this species taken every month in the year.

**Parus carolinensis** Aud. CAROLINA CHICKADEE

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complee postnatal moult.

Very similar to same stage of *P. atricapillus* but with olive-gray, narrower, inconspicuous edgings on the secondaries. Above, mouse-gray, the pileum black.

Wings and tail dull black, the edgings olive-gray. Below, the chin and throat dull black, the breast and abdomen dingy white, a wash of pale pinkish buff on the sides and crissum. Lores, suborbital and auricular region and sides of neck pure white. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff becoming slaty.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, in the South apparently in July, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming indistinguishable.

Much like the previous plumage, but the flanks and crissum with a darker wash, and the gray of the back, pinkish-tinged. The posterior feathers of the black area of the throat are somewhat veiled with white edgings. The pileum is blacker.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear through which much of the pinkish wash on the sides and crissum is lost and the plumage above becomes grayer.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Practically indistinguishable from the first winter dress.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are practically alike, the females often browner and the black cap duller; the moults correspond.

**Parus hudsonicus** Forst. HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, brownish mouse-gray, the pileum pinkish drab-gray. Wings and tail dull slate-gray whitish edged, the coverts edged with pale wood-brown. Below, including suborbital region and auriculars dingy white and washed on the sides and crissum with pale cinnamon, the chin and throat dull black. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff, becoming slate-black.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning early in August in eastern Canada, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable.

Similar to previous plumage, the pileum darker and the back browner, contrasting but slightly with the cap; the flanks, sides and crissum rich Mars-brown; the black on the throat deeper and the white of the sides of the head and lower parts clearer.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, the flanks, sides and crissum becoming cinnamon through fading, the back grayer and the cap paler. The plumage becomes ragged by the end of the breeding season, due no doubt to the species living among spruces and suffering by abrasion from the harsh foliage.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are alike and the moults correspond.

**SYLVIIDÆ**

The Kinglets have an annual moult, the young males of both species assuming the colored crown patches at the postjuvenile moult. *Poliophtila cærulea* has a semi annual moult.

**Regulus satrapa** Licht. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, olive-brown, greenish tinged on the back and mottled with dusky edgings, the pileum, auriculars and lores dull black or clove-brown; grayish superciliary stripe interrupted by black extending upward from the lores; suborbital stripe dull white. Wings and tail deep olive-brown, most of the coverts, tertiaries, secondaries and rectrices edged with bright olive-green, the greater coverts tipped with buffy white, the tertiaries with pale olive-gray; the secondaries are crossed by a dusky bar on their proximal third and are basally white, yellow tinged. Below dull grayish white, a few dusky edgings, and tinged faintly with pale buff on the throat, sides and crissum. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff, dusky later.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning in eastern Canada early in August, which involves the body plumage, the lesser wing coverts chiefly and not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable. The young bird acquires the orange crown.

Similar to the previous plumage. Above, olive-green, olive-gray on the nape and sides of neck. The crown with a broad median stripe of cadmium orange bordered by lateral streaks of lemon-yellow and these by black. The orbital ring is blacker and the superciliary line whiter, less interrupted by black, broader behind the eye and the white extending across the forehead. Below, browner, largely olive-buff or gray.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear not marked till late in the breeding season. The orange crown feathers are very resistant to wear and always look fresh.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July. Practically indistinguishable from first winter.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. In juvenile plumage the pileum usually has less black than that of the male and is sometimes wholly olive-gray including lores and auriculars. The first winter plumage lacks the orange crown stripe, its place being taken by pale lemon-yellow, and the orange of the male is never assumed in any plumage.

**Regulus calendula** (Linn.). RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including wings and tail, clove-brown, the crown and back with faint dusky mottling. Wing edgings olive-green, those of the tertiaries grayer. Below, dull buffy white, browner on the abdomen and crissum. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff, nearly black later.

Similar to *R. satrapa* but darker, the crown uniform with the back and no superciliary line.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, in the far North, which involves the body plumage, and the wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable. The "ruby" crown is assumed by the young bird.

Above, including sides of head and neck, grayish olive-green brightest on the rump and edgings of the wings and tail, the coverts and tertiaries tipped with white or buff. Median stripe on crown and occiput scarlet vermilion or orange. Below, olive-buff, browner on the sides. A conspicuous orbital ring white, interrupted with dull black above and below.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, the back becoming grayer and the tertiary edgings mostly lost. A few new feathers often appear in the spring indicating a tendency toward a prenuptial moult.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. Females are somewhat browner in autumn and lack in all plumages the red crown spot of the male.

**Poliophtila cærulea** (Linn.). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.



Above, drab or smoke-gray. Wings clove-brown the tertiaries broadly white edged. Tail black, the two outer rectrices chiefly white, the third with terminal white spot. Below, grayish white, faintly buff on abdomen. Lores and orbital ring grayish white. Bill and feet pinkish buff, becoming black later.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning in Louisiana the middle of July, which involves the body plumage and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to previous plumage but dull bluish plumbeous gray above with a brownish wash on the back, and pearl-gray below, whiter on abdomen and crissum.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial prenuptial moult, in February, which involves chiefly the anterior parts of the head, chin and throat. The black frontal band and supraloral lines are acquired, the crown becoming bluer and the chin and throat deeper gray. Young and old become indistinguishable.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Differs from first winter in having the black frontal band and supraloral lines; the blue and gray tints are also richer.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired apparently by a partial prenuptial moult as in the young bird.

*Female.*—In juvenal and first winter plumages indistinguishable from the male. With less blue and without black frontal band in all subsequent plumages.

### TURDIDÆ

The uniform rule is an annual moult for all the species of this family with the postjuvinal moult incomplete. The Thrushes are peculiar, especially females, in frequently failing to renew the spotted wing coverts at the postjuvinal moult, so that old and young may usually be told apart by this character during the succeeding twelve-month. The natal down remains attached for a longer period than in most other species of Passerine birds.

**Turdus mustelinus** Gmel. WOOD THRUSH

1. NATAL DOWN. Mouse-gray.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, deep raw umber-brown, paler on the crown and nape, the rump olive, spotted on crown and nape with tawny olive, tips of the wing coverts and a few linear streaks on the back also tawny olive. Wings and tail tawny olive-brown, the wing coverts with slightly paler edgings. Below, pure white, tinged with buff on the jugulum and sides, heavily spotted on the throat and breast and less obviously on the sides with large rounded black spots. Auriculars dusky, lores ashy, orbital ring white and prominent. Bill and feet pale pinkish buff becoming slightly darker with age.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning the end of July, which involves the body plumage, the lesser coverts, usually a part of the other coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail. Young and old often become indistinguishable.

Similar to previous plumage but without streaks on the back and whiter below with larger spots. Above, russet, brightest on the crown, olive tinged on the rump.

Below, white, heavily spotted with black, a wash of pale buff on the throat. Orbital ring white and conspicuous.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, the buff wash being mostly lost and the spots becoming rather duller. There is no obvious fading, above.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July and August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, averaging a little darker and the wing edgings uniform with the wings without terminal edgings or spots.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes and moults are alike.

**Turdus fuscescens** Steph. WILSON'S THRUSH

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head, deep raw umber-brown with dusky edgings and large guttate spots of tawny olive. Wings and tail tawny olive brown the greater

coverts and tertiaries edged with tawny olive and darker tipped. Below, white, strongly tinged on jugulum, less strongly on the chin, breast, sides and crissum with tawny olive, heavily spotted or barred on the jugulum, faintly on the breast and anterior parts and sides of the abdomen with clove-brown, the feathers also barred with a subterminal tawny band. Submalar stripes dusky. Bill and feet pinkish buff, remaining pale when older.

3. **FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning the middle of July, which involves the body plumage, and lesser coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to the previous plumage but without the spotting above and the barred effect below. Above, uniform deep russet or pale mummy-brown. Below, white, olive-gray on the sides and flanks, and strongly tinged on the throat, neck and jugulum with pale ochraceous buff ending abruptly on the breast, and sparsely spotted on the jugulum and sides of the throat with pale sepia deltoid spots, a few still fainter on the breast. Lores grayish white with dusky edgings; orbital ring similar and not conspicuous.

Young birds may usually be distinguished from adults by the terminal buff spots of the retained juvenile wing coverts.

4. **FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear, the buff below and the spots fading a little, and the russet above becoming grayer.

5. **ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in July. Young heretofore distinguishable by juvenile plumage, wing edgings and tippings become indistinguishable from adults, which lack them. Adults are of a deeper less yellowish brown above.

6. **ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE** acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes and moults are alike.

### **Turdus aliciae** Baird. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH

1. **NATAL DOWN**. No specimen seen.

2. **JUVENAL PLUMAGE** acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, greenish olive-brown, wings and tail darker, the pileum, back, wing coverts (except primary and greater) and rump with buffy white linear shaft streaks. Below, white, very faintly tinged with pale buff on the breast and sides, the breast and throat spotted with black tending to barring on forepart of abdomen

and flanks. Sides of head pale buff, black spotted; submalar streaks black; distinct orbital ring rich buff. Bill and feet clay-color in dried skin, the upper mandible sepia. This dress is grayer and with less buff than the corresponding plumage of *T. u. swainsonii*.

Description from an Alaskan bird.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired apparently by a partial postjuvénal moult, in August in the far North, which involves the body plumage and lesser wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Above, similar to corresponding plumage of *T. u. swainsonii*, the olive-brown usually darker with less yellowish tinge, especially on the head. Below, with no buff except a faint wash on the jugulum; the sides of the head and breast are therefore much grayer and the orbital ring distinctly white. The buffy edgings or terminal spots of the retained juvenal wing coverts are usually distinctive of the first winter dress.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, birds becoming very slightly grayer above.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult. Usually the edgings of the wing coverts are uniform in color with the wings and the upper parts will average darker than in first winter dress. Young and old now become indistinguishable.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird. Distinguishable in many cases from first nuptial by lacking the buffy wing edgings or spots which however may be less obvious at this stage on account of wear.

*Female*.—The sexes and moults are alike.

***Turdus aliciae bicknelli* (Ridgw.). BICKNELL'S THRUSH**

The moults and plumages correspond to those of *T. aliciae*. A buffness, which is lacking in *T. aliciae*, characterizes all plumages but plumage differences are extremely small at every stage.

***Turdus ustulatus swainsonii* (Cab.). OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH**

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Very similar to *T. aliciæ* but browner above and with more buff below and about the head, the linear spots deeper buff. Above, olive-brown, wings and tail darker, the feathers of the pileum, back, lesser, median and sometimes part of greater coverts and the rump with linear shaft streaks or terminal spots of buff. Below, strongly washed with buff on throat, breast and sides, and heavily spotted with black on the breast and sides of throat, the fore parts and sides of whiter abdomen indistinctly barred. Sides of head buff, spotted with black; orbital ring distinct, pale ochraceous buff; submalar stripes black. Bill and feet dark pinkish buff remaining pale when older.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning the middle of August, which involves the body plumage, the lesser coverts and not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to previous plumage but unstreaked above and less spotted below. Above, uniform yellowish olive-brown; below, together with the superciliary stripe and distinct orbital ring, rich ochraceous buff, becoming abruptly white on the breast, abdomen and crissum, the sides washed with pale olive-gray, and chains of deltoid clove-brown spots on the throat and breast, paler on the fore part of the abdomen. Spotted wing coverts remaining of the juvenal dress are characteristic, except in precocious individuals. The tail uniform in color with the back easily distinguishes this species from *T. a. pallasii*, and the more spotted breast and striking orbital ring distinguish it from *T. fuscescens*.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear through which much of the buff tint is lost, and the upper parts become grayer. There is very little actual abrasion evident until late in the breeding season.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult beginning the middle of August or not before the first of September. Differs in most cases from first winter dress in lacking the retained tell-tale wing coverts of the juvenal plumage and the upper parts will average deeper in color. The wings and tail will average darker and the coverts are without terminal buff spots. Young and old become indistinguishable.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird, from which in most cases the lack of retained wing coverts distinguishes adults.

*Female*.—The sexes and moults are alike.

**Turdus aonalaschkæ pallasii** (Cab.). HERMIT THRUSH

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, including sides of head, sepia or olive-brown, the rump russet, and everywhere spotted with large buffy white guttate spots bordered with black. The wings rather darker, the coverts and tertiaries with small terminal buffy spots. Tail burnt umber-brown. Below, white faintly tinged with buff, spotted with deep black, on sides of neck, across the breast and on the flanks and crissum, the throat and breast, the fore part of the abdomen and flanks faintly barred. Bill and feet dull pinkish buff remaining pale when older. Compared with corresponding plumage of *T. u. swainsonii*, the brown above is deeper with larger, paler spots, while below there is much less buff tint and the spots are blacker. The reddish tail is, of course, distinctive.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, beginning late in August, which involves the body plumage, most of the lesser and median coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to previous plumage but without spotting above and the black spots below fewer. Above, including sides of head olive tinged mummy-brown, burnt-umber on rump and upper tail coverts. Below, white, tinged faintly with buff on throat and breast, with olive-gray on the sides and spotted heavily on the throat and faintly on the breast with large deltoid black spots. Lores and submalar lines black; orbital ring pale buff. The buff spotted coverts retained distinguish young from adults.

Above, most resembles *T. fuscescens*, the tail however ruddier; also resembles *T. u. swainsonii*, but browner above, the throat spots larger and the tail distinctive.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, the upper surface becoming rather grayer and the buff below mostly lost.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult in August and September. Averages darker and lacks the tell-tale coverts and tertiaries of the first winter dress. Young and old become indistinguishable.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird, from which it is usually distinguishable by the wing coverts.

*Female*.—The sexes and moults are alike.

***Merula migratoria* (Linn.). AMERICAN ROBIN**

1. NATAL DOWN. Mouse-gray.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Pileum clove-brown with faint whitish shaft streaks; back, lesser and median wing coverts mouse-gray, each feather with elliptical shaft streaks of pale wood-brown, edged with dull black; rump paler with dusky barring. Wings and tail (except as described) clove brown with whitish edgings, the two outer pairs of rectrices terminally blotched with dull white, the others sometimes tipped. Below, tawny ochraceous, lighter or darker according to individual, sometimes ochraceous rufous, the chin, mid-abdomen and crissum white, the sides of the chin streaked, the throat, breast and abdomen heavily spotted with black, becoming edging or barring posteriorly; under tail coverts white, basally dusky. Auriculars and lores black, obscure superciliary line ochraceous buff, orbital ring paler. Bill and feet dull pinkish buff, becoming dusky.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvinal moult, beginning late in August and extending through September and part of October, which involves the body plumage, wing coverts and tertiaries, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

Similar to previous plumage, but without spots above and below. Above, including wing coverts, pale grayish olive-brown, veiling dull black on the pileum; the throat, abdomen and sides tawny or pale ochraceous rufous, much veiled by broad white edgings, grayish on the throat; the chin and fore-throat white, streaked with dull black, malar stripe and forehead tinged with ochraceous; lores and auriculars dull black; superciliary line and orbital ring white. Posterior abdomen, crissum and tibiae white, the tail coverts slaty basally. Wing coverts grayish olive-brown, brownish edged and palest terminally.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear through which much of the white edging below is lost so that birds become redder, without veiling, the concealed black of the pileum is brought out and the streaking on the chin becomes clear black and white.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult in August and September. Usually distinguishable from first winter dress by being grayer above, the head blacker and less veiled; below the ochraceous rufous is richer, less veiled and even invading the chin the streaks of which are broader; the lores and auriculars are blacker than in the young bird and the spots tipping the lateral rectrices are whiter and larger.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The sexes are usually indistinguishable in most plumages although the female is duller in first winter and first nuptial plumages, the black about the head brownish, the wings and tail browner with less distinct tail blotches.

### **Hesperocichla naevia** (Gmel.). VARIED THRUSH

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, olive-brown, plumbeous on rump; very faint whitish shaft-streaks. Wings and tail clove-brown with ochraceous bands edging the quills and tipping the coverts. Below, ochraceous buff, whiter on abdomen, a pectoral band and edgings of throat and breast, olive-brown. Supra-auricular line buff.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvencal moult which involves the body plumage and wing coverts but not the rest of the wings nor the tail, young and old becoming practically indistinguishable. It is worthy of notice that this is another species which shows parti-colored feathers at the junction of two areas of different colors.

Similar to previous plumage, but deeper tints. Above, deep plumbeous gray with brownish edgings, darker on the pileum, the wing coverts broadly tipped with deep orange buff, forming two wing bands. Below rich orange buff, the abdomen and crissum chiefly white mixed with buff and olive-gray, the sides with olive-gray edgings. A black pectoral band, somewhat veiled with gray, orange tinged.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, which produces slight effects birds becoming grayer above.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Scarcely differs from first winter dress, the colors deeper and the pectoral band broader and blacker.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female*.—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. Indistinguishable in juvenal dress, however, especially wings and tail. In first winter plumage duller and browner, the faint pectoral band mouse-gray and the crissum grayer.



**Saxicola oenanthe** (Linn.). WHEATEAR

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.
2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, mouse-gray, browner on the back and white on the rump, the feathers with dusky terminal edgings and with central whitish spots. Wings dull black, lesser coverts like the back, other coverts, secondaries and tertiaries with cinnamon edgings, paler at the tips of the primaries. Tail basally white, terminally dull black, tipped with pale cinnamon. Below, dull white, the feathers of the chin, throat and breast with dusky terminal edgings. Bill and feet brownish black in dried specimens.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult which involves the body plumage, but not the wings nor the tail.

General color cinnamon, paler on chin, superciliary stripes, and under tail coverts. Lores obscurely black.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves the body plumage, but not the wings nor the tail.

Smoke-gray above, with white upper tail coverts and superciliary stripe and a black transocular line. Below, white, tinged, chiefly on throat, with pale cinnamon.

The worn wings and tail with remains of the brown edgings of the juvenal plumage distinguish young from old birds.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnuptial moult. Similar to first winter dress, but the edgings not so brown and the wings, primary coverts especially, and tail, blacker. A specimen from Roumania (Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 54069, ♂, July 5) is passing by moult from the gray nuptial to the brown winter dress, four of the proximal primaries and a part of the body plumage already renewed at this early date.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by a partial prenuptial moult which involves only the body plumage, as in the young bird. The blacker less worn wings and tails without signs of buffy edgings, whiter forehead and clearer white of lower parts less washed with cinnamon, all help to distinguish old birds from young ones.

*Female*.—The moults and plumages correspond to those of the male, the plumages duller, and the prenuptial moult often limited in extent. The transocular line is obscure in first winter dress, and dull black in subsequent plumages.

***Sialia sialis* (Linn.). BLUEBIRD**

1. NATAL DOWN. No specimen seen.

2. JUVENAL PLUMAGE acquired by a complete postnatal moult.

Above, slaty mouse-gray, the back lesser, median and a few inner greater coverts with white guttate spots bordered with sepia, the crown and rump much grayer and unspotted but sometimes with obscure dusky transverse barring. Wings and tail dull azure-blue, the shafts and tips of remiges and rectrices dusky with faint whitish edgings; tertiaries and greater coverts edged with pale chestnut. Below, dull white, mottled on throat, breast and sides with sepia, the feathers centrally white bordered by the sepia and a rusty suffusion. Auriculars dusky mouse-gray mixed with white; lores grayish; conspicuous orbital ring pure white. Bill and feet dusky pinkish buff becoming deep sepia. First primary and outer pair of rectrices without the white edging of the female.

3. FIRST WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a partial postjuvenile moult, in August and September, which involves the body plumage, wing coverts, tertiaries and tail, but not the rest of the remiges.

Unlike the previous plumage and wholly blue and chestnut. Above, including sides of head, orbital ring and wing coverts, deep azure or purplish cobalt-blue, often campanula-blue on the crown, veiled everywhere with pale chestnut edgings, the tertiaries and wing coverts faintly whitish edged. Below, pale chestnut, white on abdomen and crissum, the anterior part and sides of the chin dull white mixed with a little blue. Tail brighter blue than in juvenal plumage, the rectrices without dusky tips or whitish edgings.

4. FIRST NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear, through which the edgings of the back are lost and the color becomes an ultramarine or azure blue depending somewhat upon the angle at which the light strikes the plumage. The chestnut below fades.

5. ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE acquired by a complete post-nuptial moult beginning about the middle of August. Practically indistinguishable from first winter dress, the colors usually somewhat richer and the chin bluer.

6. ADULT NUPTIAL PLUMAGE acquired by wear as in the young bird.

*Female.*—The plumages and moults correspond to those of the male. In juvenal plumage the female is similar to the male, but the outer primary and outer rectrix have white outer webs, the blue is everywhere very much duller, and replaced with brown on the tertiaries and wing coverts, the edgings duller and the quills with dusker tips. In first winter plumage the blue is obscure and confined to the wings, tail and rump, the back is dull grayish chestnut, grayer on the crown. The sides of head are gray and white mixed, the orbital ring white. Below, the throat, breast and sides are reddish cinnamon, tingeing also the grayish white chin; abdomen and crissum dull white. The first nuptial plumage is acquired by wear and usually shows a little more blue as the edgings are lost. The adult winter plumage is practically indistinguishable from the first winter but a little bluer above and ruddier below and the adult nuptial is the same, modified by wear.

*Postscript.*—Although my paper was read on March 13, 1899, and placed in the editor's hands on July 11, 1899, owing to unforeseen delays, no proof reached me until nearly a year later, on June 1, 1900. However, thanks to the courtesy of the editor, I have had opportunity to revise the whole paper up to this date, and a portion of it to a still later date, so that it has lost nothing by the long delay in publication, and now constitutes a complete study of the moults and plumages of the Passerine birds of the State of New York.

NEW YORK CITY, Oct. 8, 1900.

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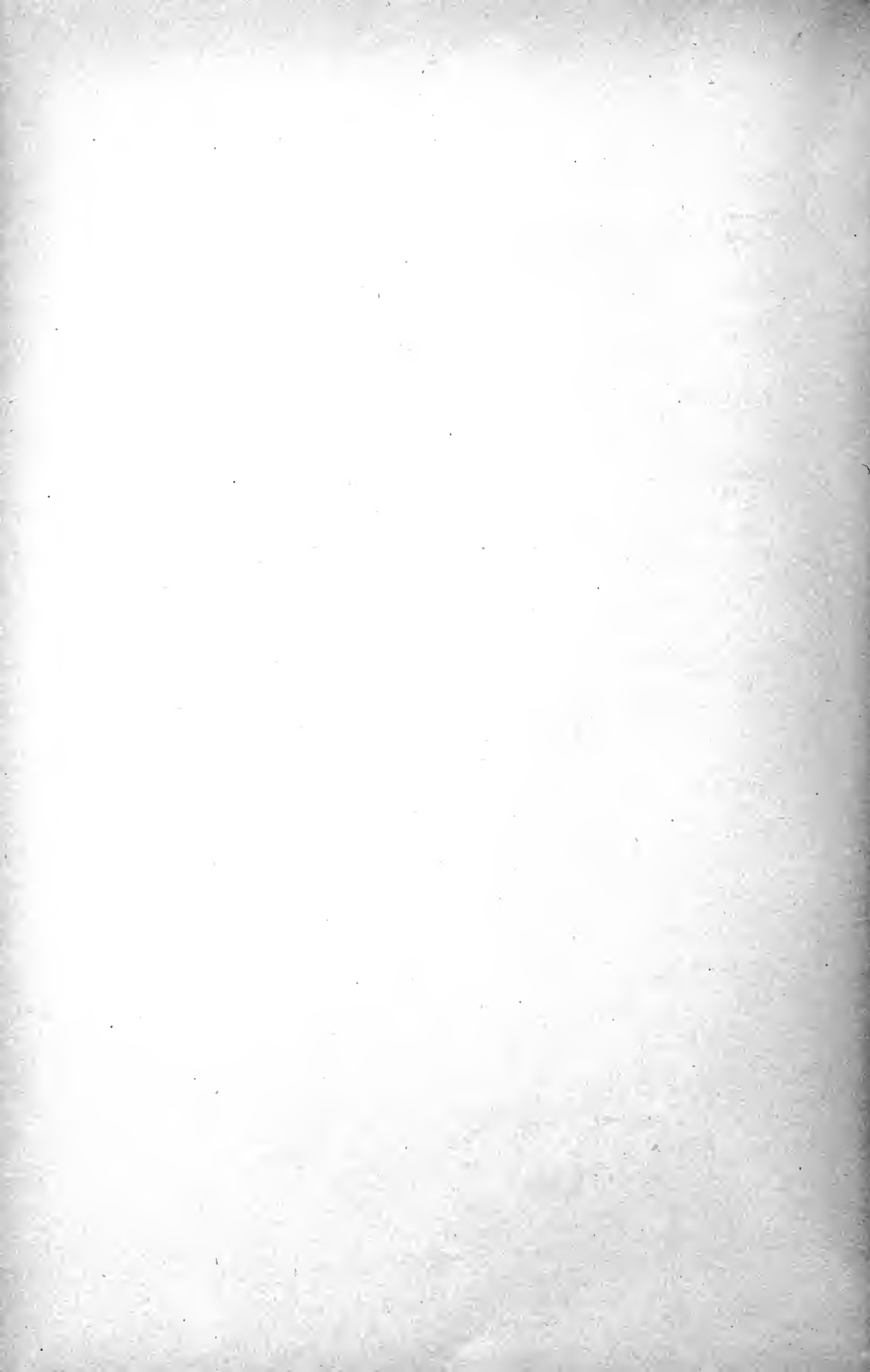




PLATE I.

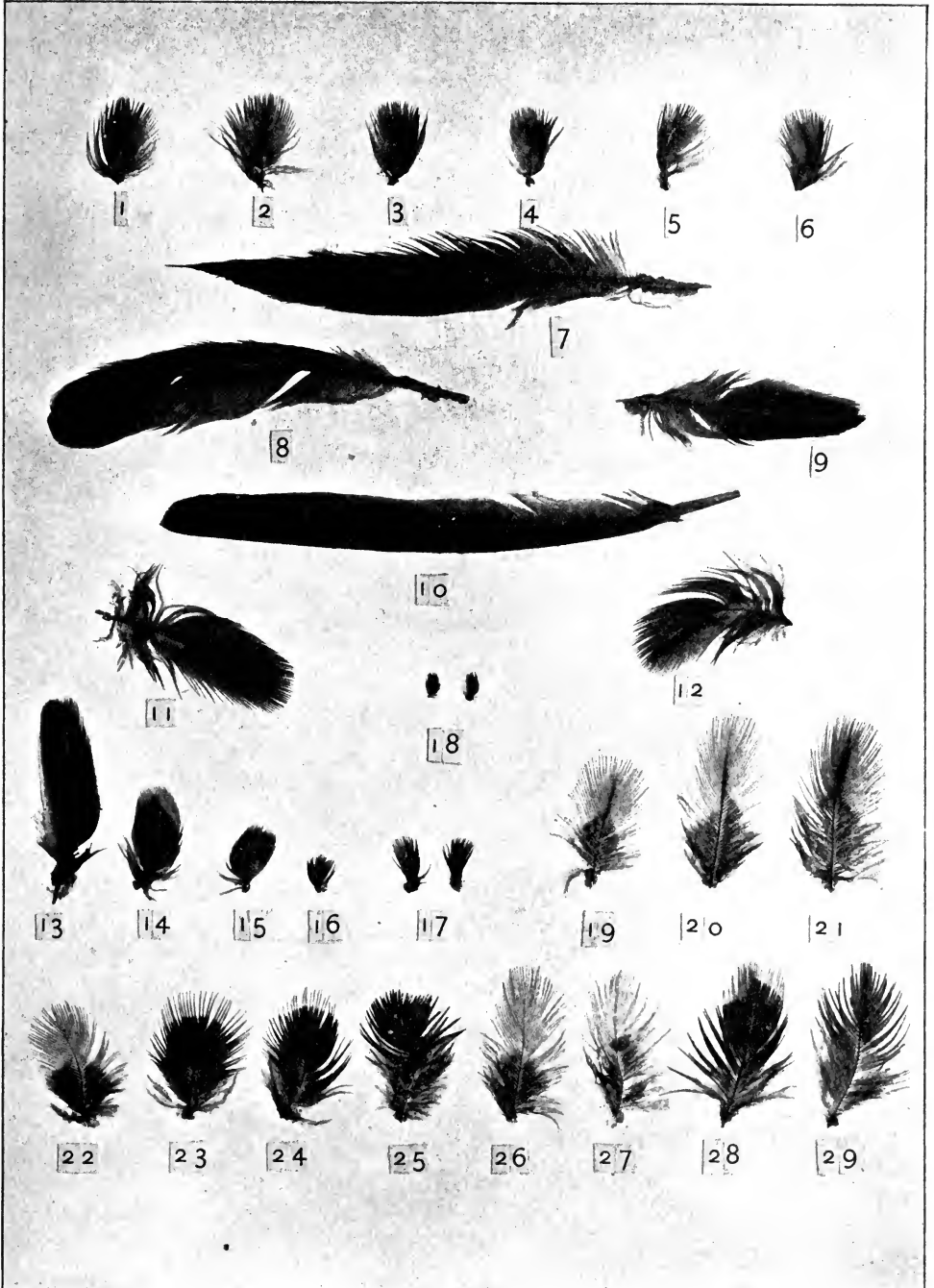
(347)

PLATE I

DWIGHT—PLUMAGE AND MOULT

Photograph showing the natural size, pattern and wear of the principal feathers of *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, a Passerine bird. They are all from males and some of the buff winter feathers have printed so much darker than they actually are that they, unfortunately, appear to be black.

- |            |  |                                     |
|------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Figs. 1-6. | Throat,  | September 2d (J. D. Jr., No. 5125). |
| 7.         | Middle rectrix,  | “ “ “ “                             |
| 8.         | Secondary,   | “ “ “ “                             |
| 9.         | Tertiary,  | “ “ “ “                             |
| 10.        | Primary,   | “ “ “ “                             |
| 11.        | Dorsal feathers,   | “ “ “ “                             |
| 12.        | Scapulary,   | “ “ “ “                             |
| 13.        | Greater covert,  | “ “ “ “                             |
| 14.        | Median covert,   | “ “ “ “                             |
| 15-16.     | Lesser coverts,  | “ “ “ “                             |
| 17.        | Crown,   | “ “ “ “                             |
| 18.        | Forehead,  | “ “ “ “                             |
| 19-20.     | Side,  | “ “ “ “                             |
| 21.        | Flank,   | “ “ “ “                             |
| 22.        | Breast,  | “ “ “ “                             |
| 23.        | New black breast feather, March 1st (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 32873).    |                                     |
| 24.        | Worn black breast feather, May 17th (J. D., Jr., No. 2164).                |                                     |
| 25.        | Much worn black breast feather, July 2d (J. D., Jr., No. 1227).            |                                     |
| 26.        | New buff abdominal feather, Sept. 2d (J. D., Jr., No. 5125).               |                                     |
| 27.        | Worn buff abdominal feather, March 1st (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 32873). |                                     |
| 28.        | Partly worn black abdominal feather, May 17th (J. D., Jr., No. 2164).      |                                     |
| 29.        | Much worn black abdominal feather, July 2d (J. D., Jr., No. 1227).         |                                     |



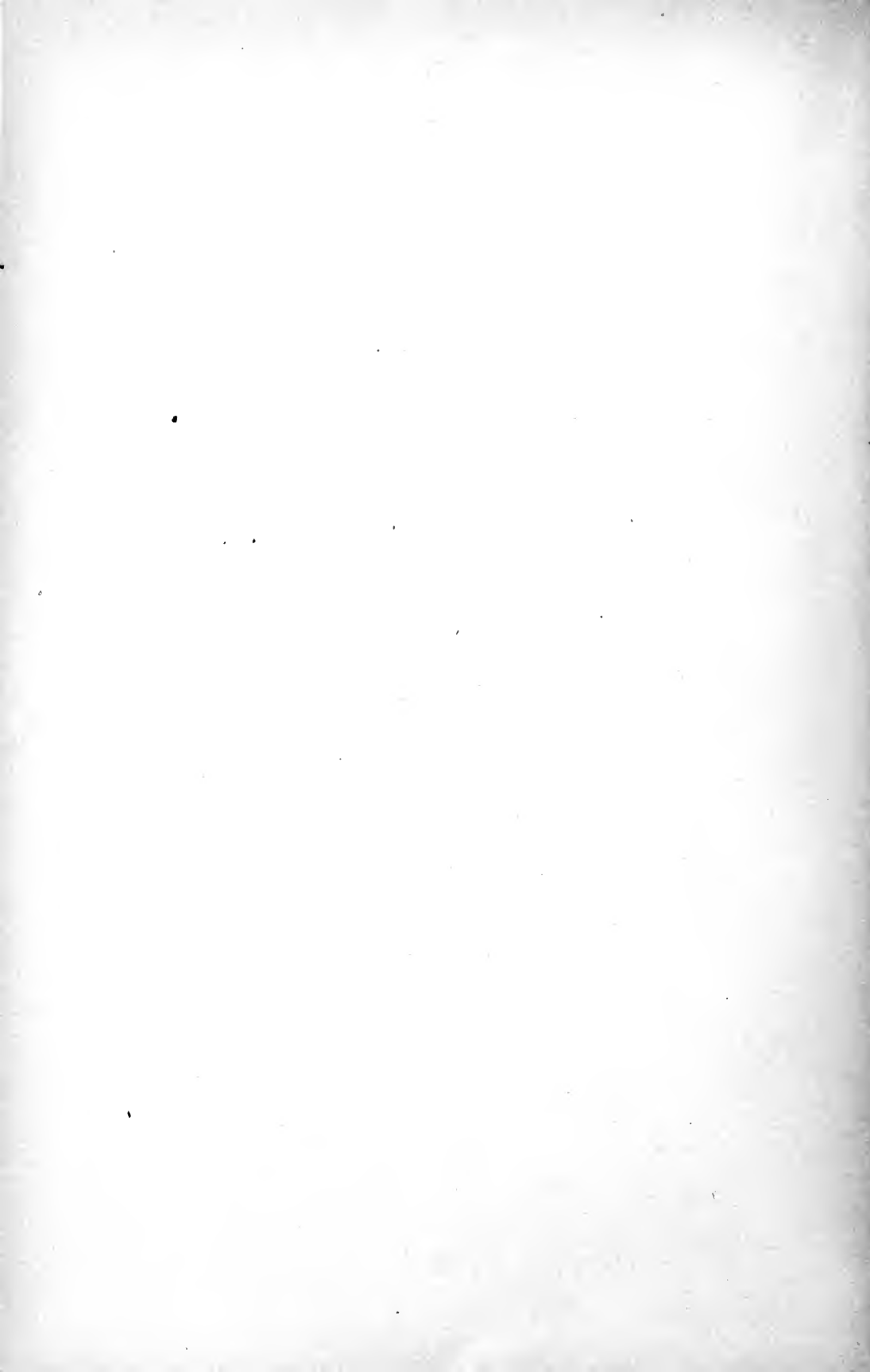


PLATE II.

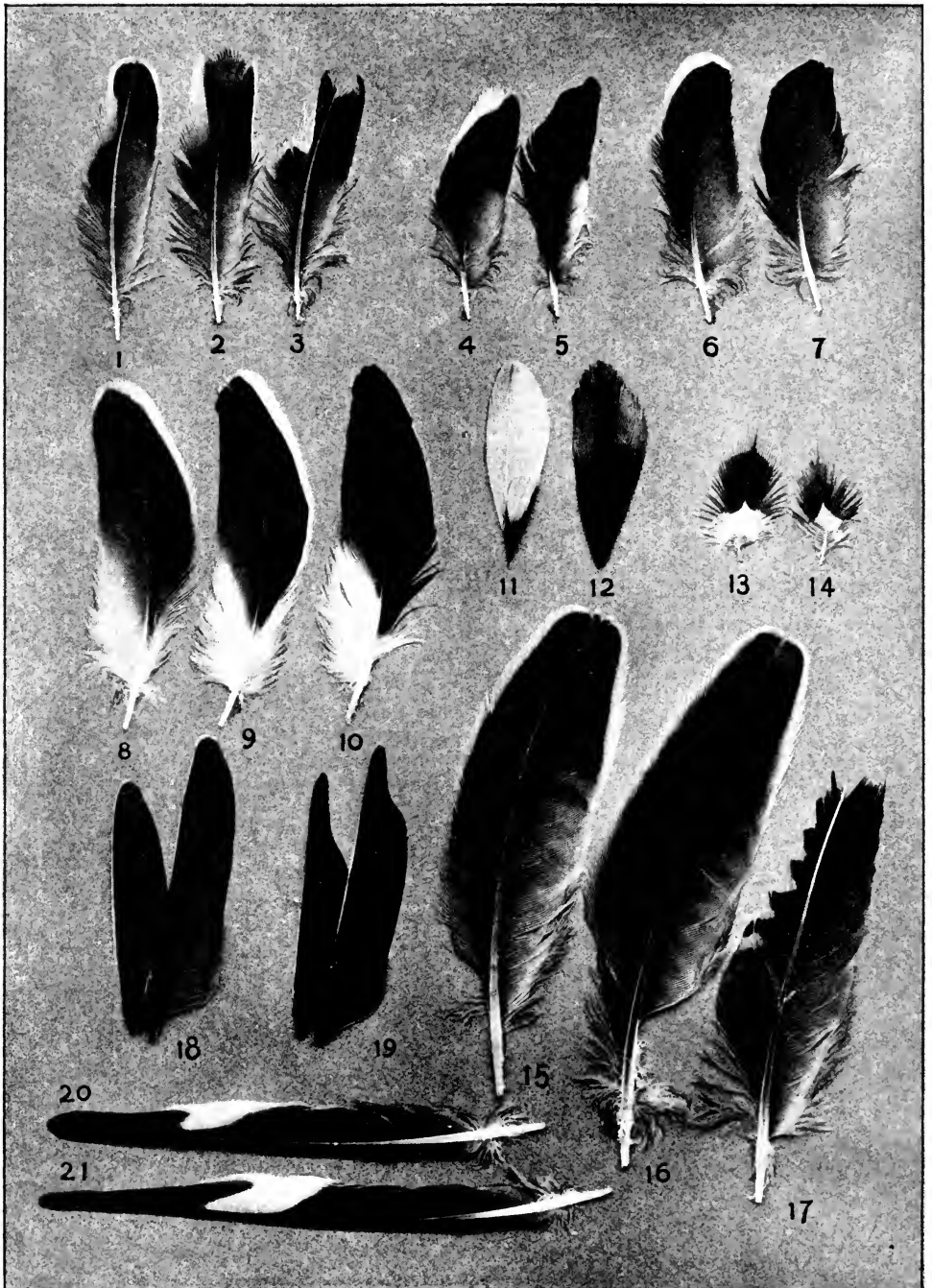
(349)

PLATE II

DWIGHT—PLUMAGE AND MOULT

Photograph of feathers, natural size, from birds of various species illustrating some seasonal effects of moult and wear. The numbers are those of male specimens in my collection.

- Fig. 1. *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. Juvenal Plumage tertiary, Sept. 16th (No. 68).
2. *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. First Winter Plumage tertiary, Sept. 17th (No. 3468).
3. *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. First Nuptial Plumage tertiary, June 19th (No. 2904).
4. *Spinus tristis*. First Winter Plumage tertiary, Jan. 13th (No. 6356).
5. *Spinus tristis*. First Nuptial Plumage tertiary, Aug. 26th (No. 387).
6. *Tachycineta bicolor*. Adult Winter Plumage tertiary, Aug. 24th (No. 6075).
7. *Tachycineta bicolor*. Adult Nuptial Plumage tertiary, May 12th (No. 749).
8. *Icterus galbula*. Juvenal Plumage tertiary, July 28th (No. 536).
9. *Icterus galbula*. First Nuptial Plumage tertiary, May 15th (No. 627).
10. *Icterus galbula*. Adult Nuptial Plumage tertiary, May 17th (No. 2163).
11. *Icterus galbula*. First Nuptial Plumage, tip of rectrix, May 15th (No. 627).
12. *Icterus galbula*. Adult Nuptial Plumage, tip of rectrix, May 17th (No. 2163).
13. *Sturnella magna*. First Winter Plumage, breast feather, Oct. 2d (No. 5146).
14. *Sturnella magna*. First Nuptial Plumage, breast feather, July 16th (No. 3389).
15. *Sturnella magna*. Juvenal Plumage tertiary, July 7th (No. 1237).
16. *Sturnella magna*. First Winter Plumage tertiary, Oct. 2d (No. 5146).
17. *Sturnella magna*. First Nuptial Plumage tertiary, July 16th (No. 3389).
18. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. Juvenal Plumage, tips of first and second primaries, Aug. 30th (No. 6098).
19. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. First Nuptial Plumage, tips of first and second primaries, April 7th (No. 6458).
20. *Chelidon erythrogastra*. Juvenal Plumage, lateral rectrix, Aug. 6th (No. 1991).
21. *Chelidon erythrogastra*. First Nuptial Plumage, lateral rectrix, May 22d (No. 2185).



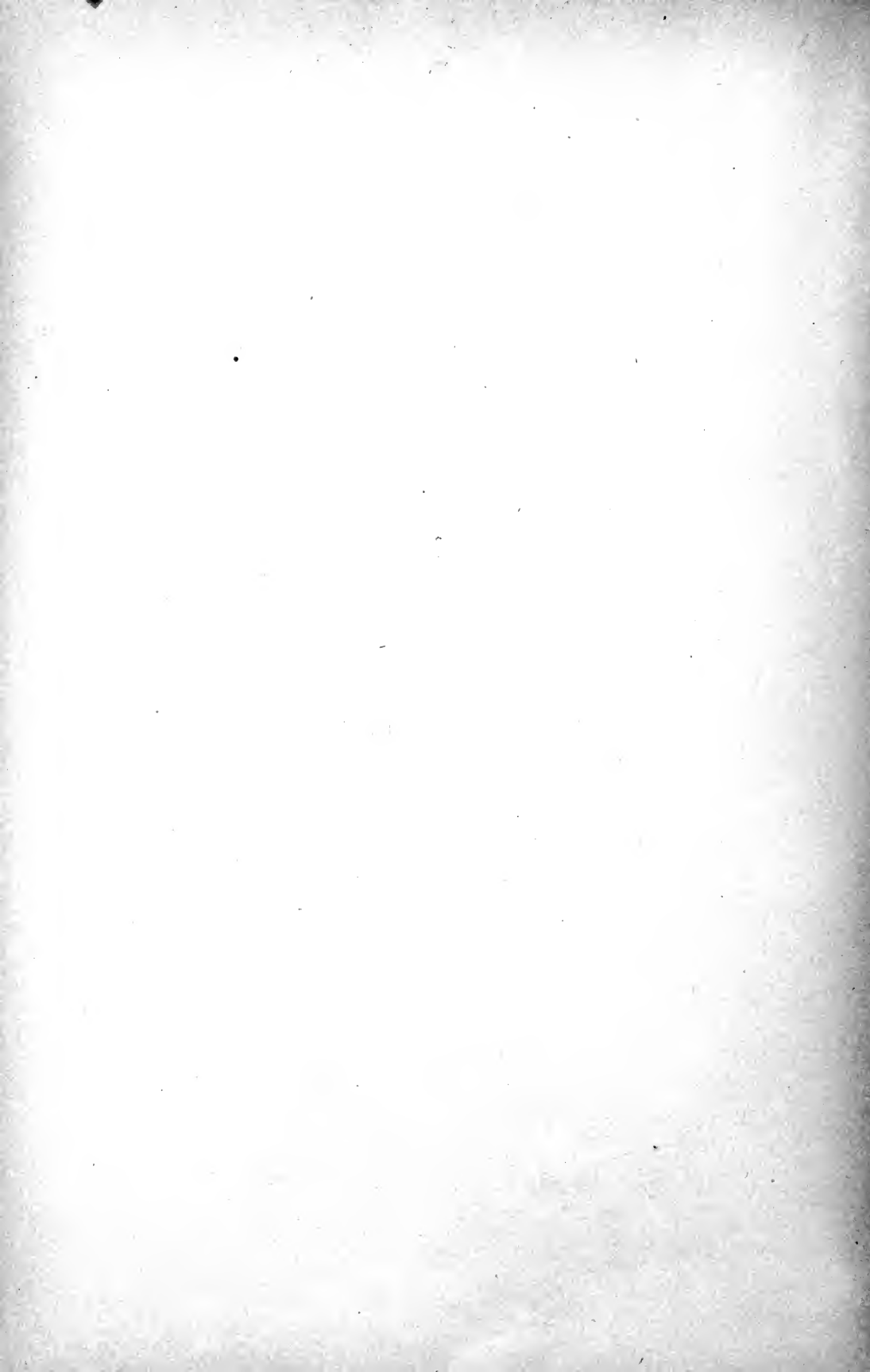




PLATE III.

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## PLATE III

### DWIGHT—PLUMAGE AND MOULT

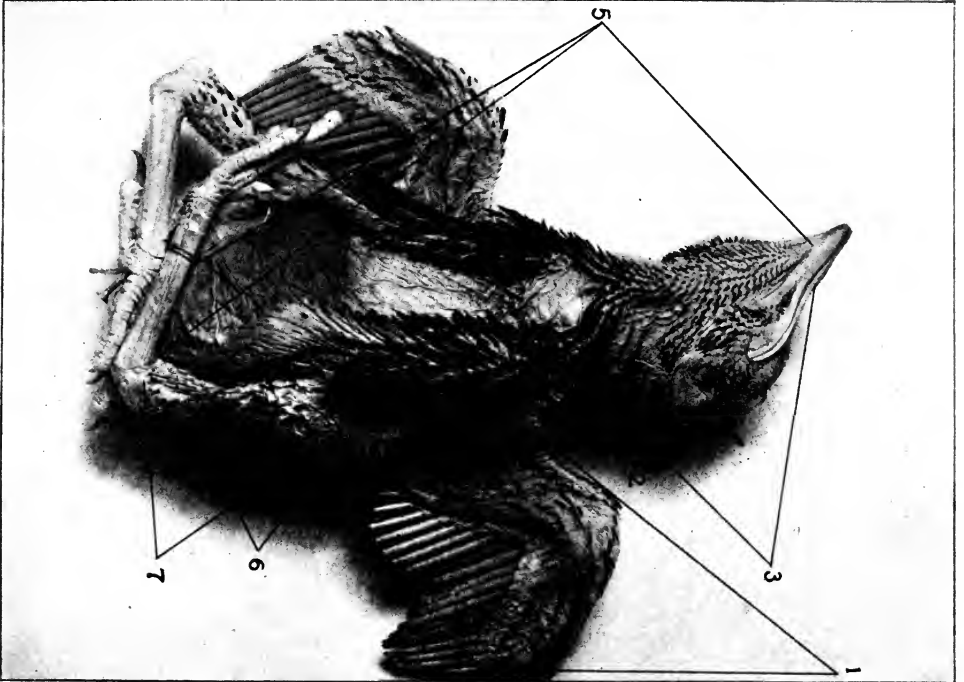
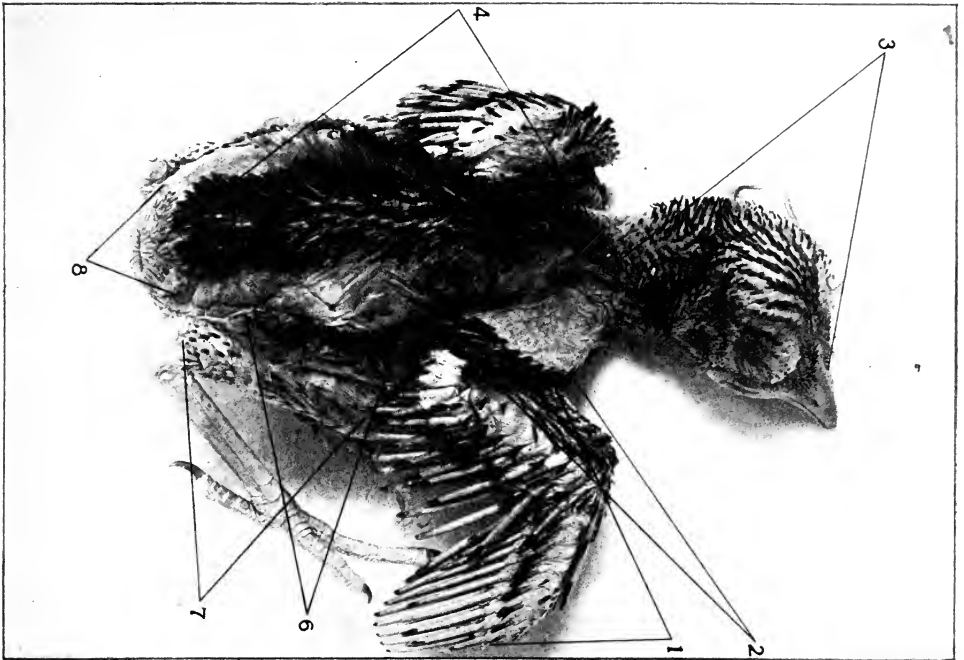
Photograph showing location of the Pterylæ or Feather Tracts of a Passerine bird. Natal Down or neossoptiles may be seen at the tips of the juvenal feathers which are just breaking from their follicles. The specimen a young Robin (*Merula migratoria*), five days out of the egg, is photographed life size.

Fig. 1. Superior Aspect of the Feather Tracts.

1. Alar or Wing Tract.
2. Humeral or Shoulder Tract.
3. Capital or Head Tract.
4. Dorsal or Spinal Tract.
6. Lumbar or Thigh Tract.
7. Crural or Leg Tract.
8. Caudal or Tail Tract.

Fig. 2. Inferior Aspect of the Feather Tracts.

1. Alar Tract.
3. Capital Tract (lateral view.)
5. Ventral or Inferior Tract (dividing into two lateral bands).
7. Crural Tract.



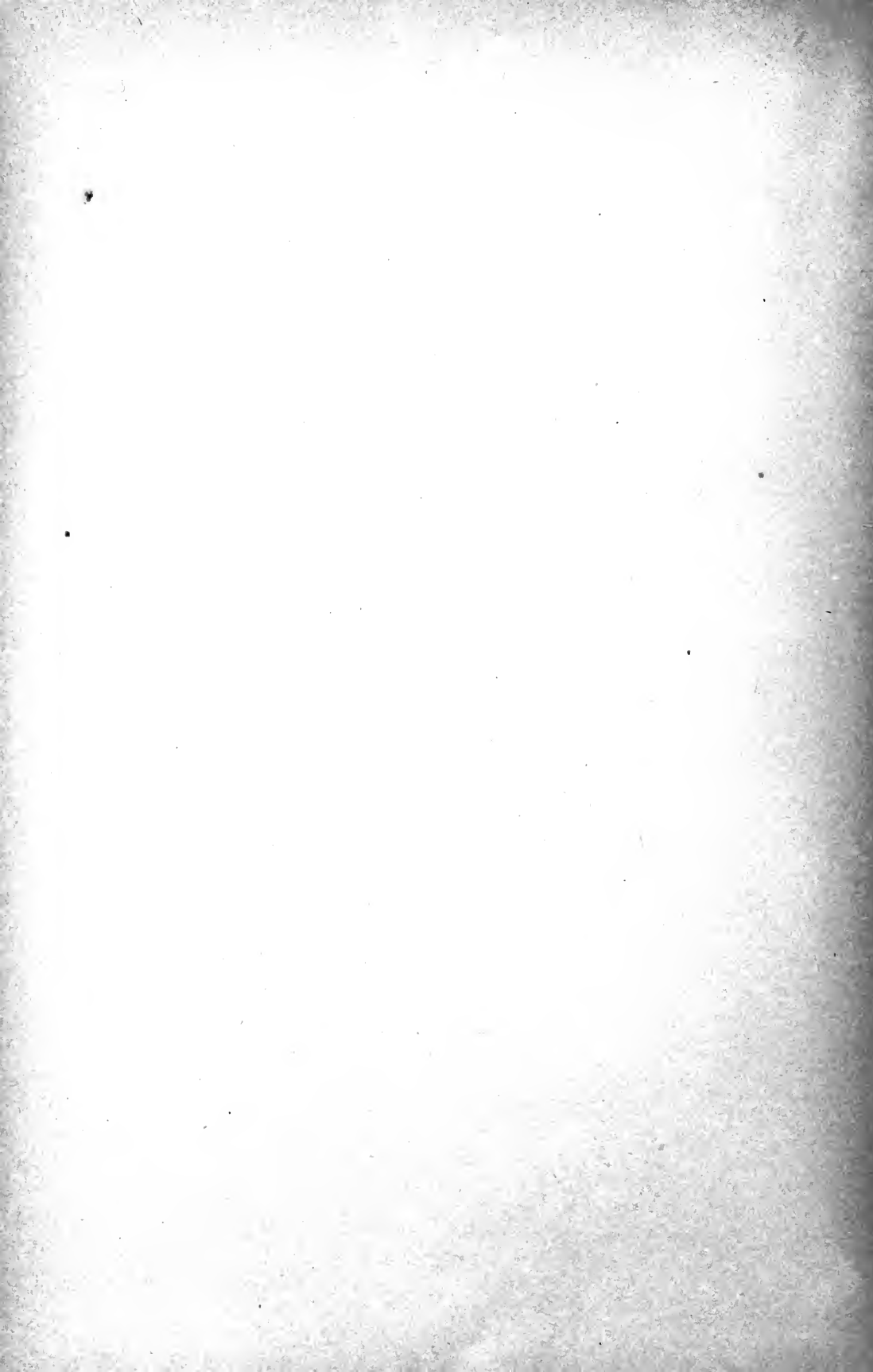


PLATE IV.

( 353 )

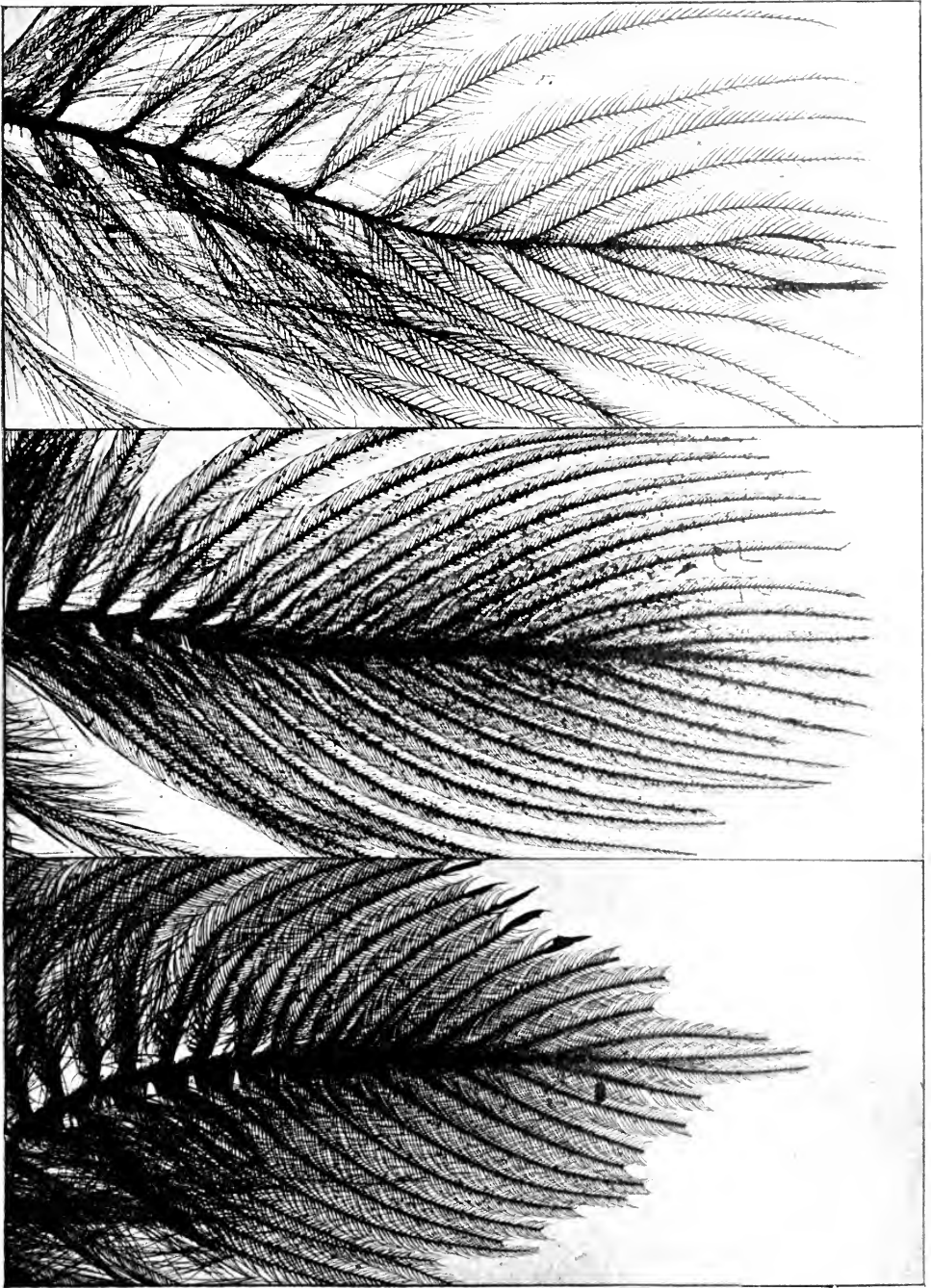
ANNALS N. Y. ACAD. SCI., XIII, Oct. 31, 1900-23.

PLATE IV

DWIGHT—PLUMAGE AND MOULT

*Carpodacus purpureus*.—Photomicrographs illustrating some of the plumages. (Enlargement about 20 diameters.)

- Fig. 1. Juvenal Plumage, crown feather, showing loose structure. (J. Dwight, Jr., No. 1288, July 23d.)
- Fig. 2. First Winter Plumage, crown feather, nearly new. (J. Dwight, Jr., No. 5223, Oct. 17th.)
- Fig. 3. First Nuptial Plumage, crown feather which is identical with a first winter feather plus wear, no moult intervening. (J. Dwight, Jr., No. 260, April 23d.)



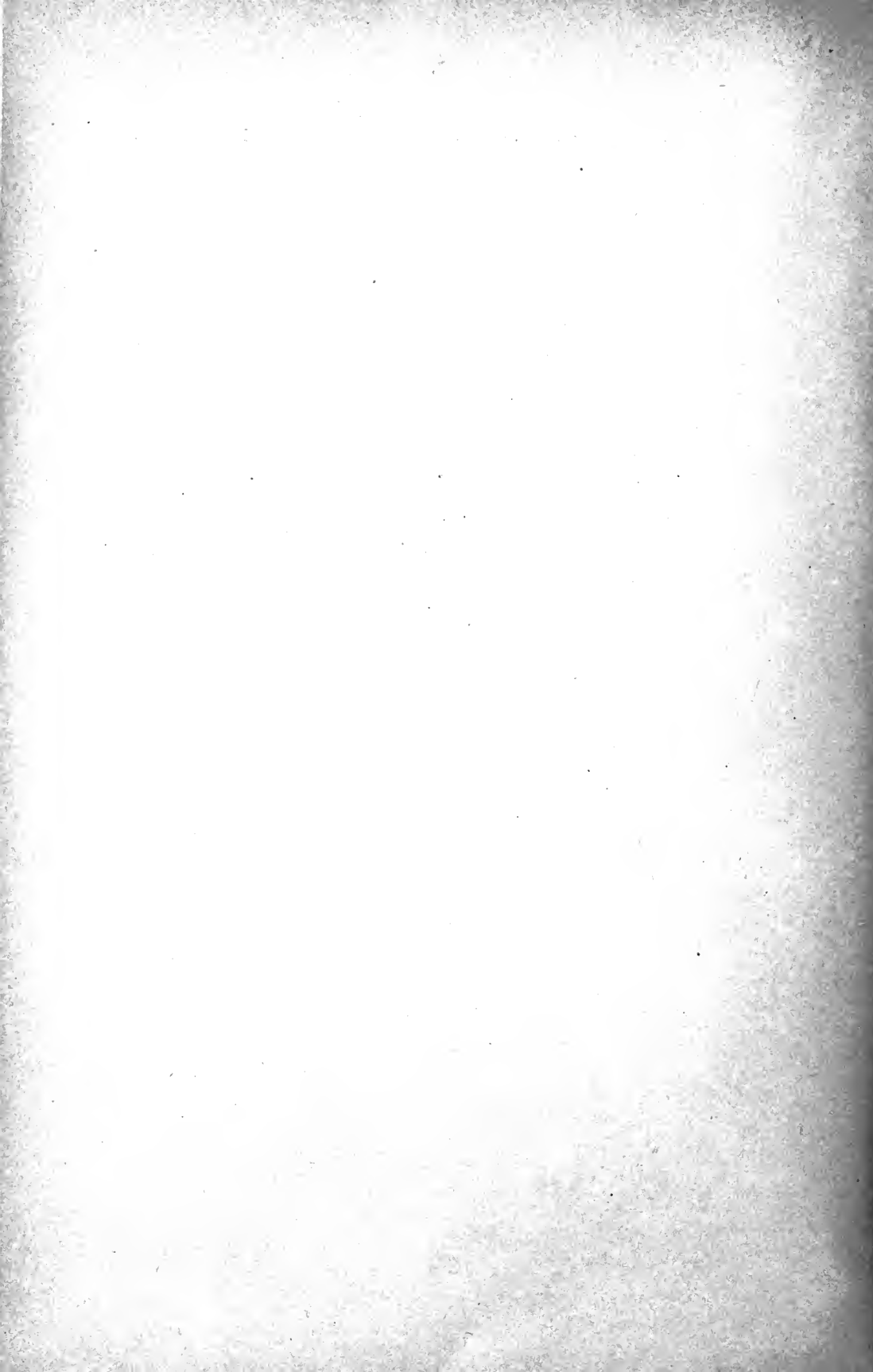




PLATE V.

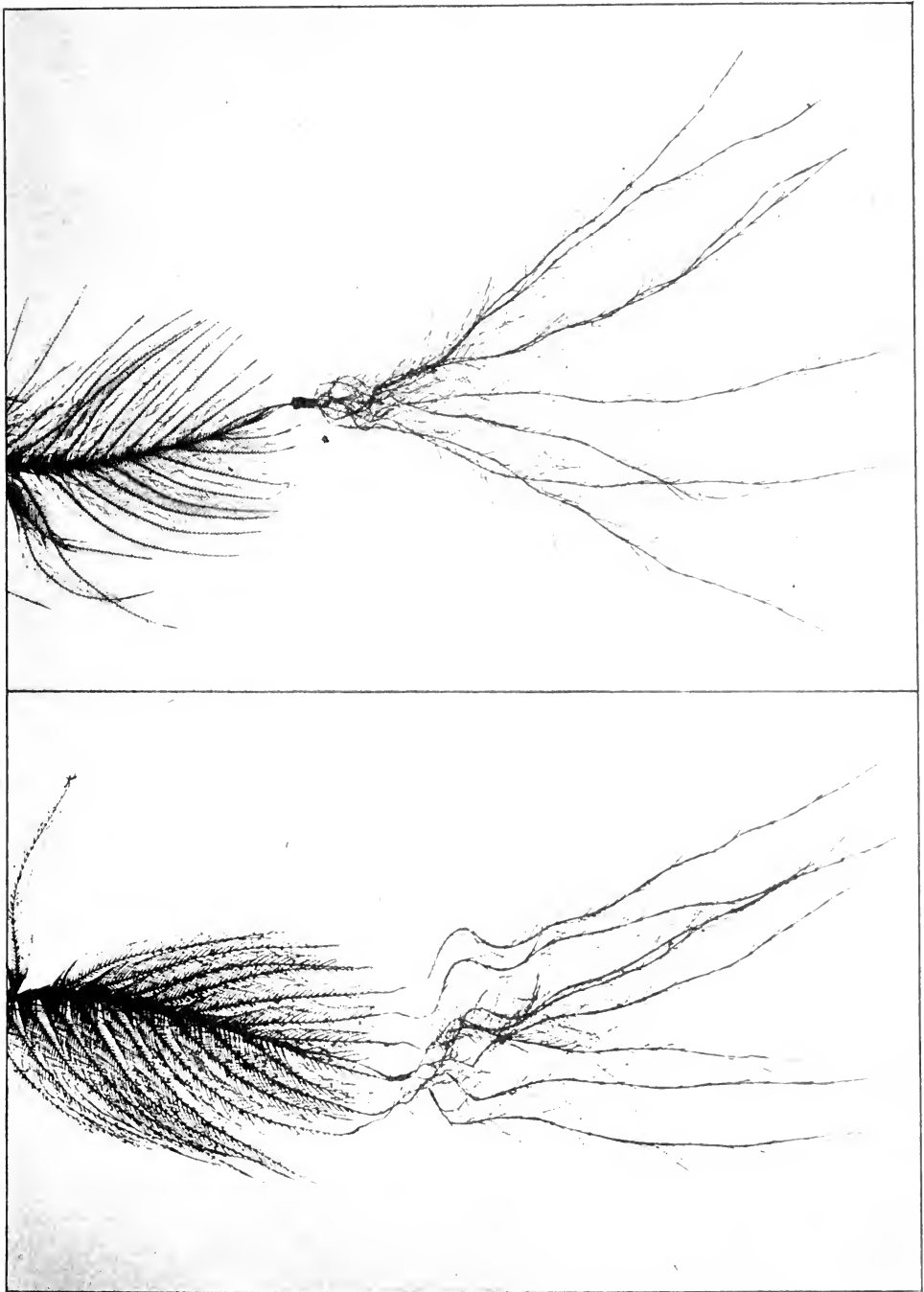
( 355 )

PLATE V

DWIGHT—PLUMAGE AND MOULT

Photomicrographs illustrating Natal Down adhering to tips of Juvenal Plumage feathers.

- Fig. 1. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, crown feather bearing Natal Down. Specimen in the collection of J. Dwight, Jr., No. 1943, July 28th. (Enlargement about 5 diameters.)
- Fig. 2. *Cistothorus palustris*, crown feather bearing Natal Down. Specimen in the collection of J. Dwight Jr., No. 4214, Aug. 20th. (Enlargement about 15 diameters.)



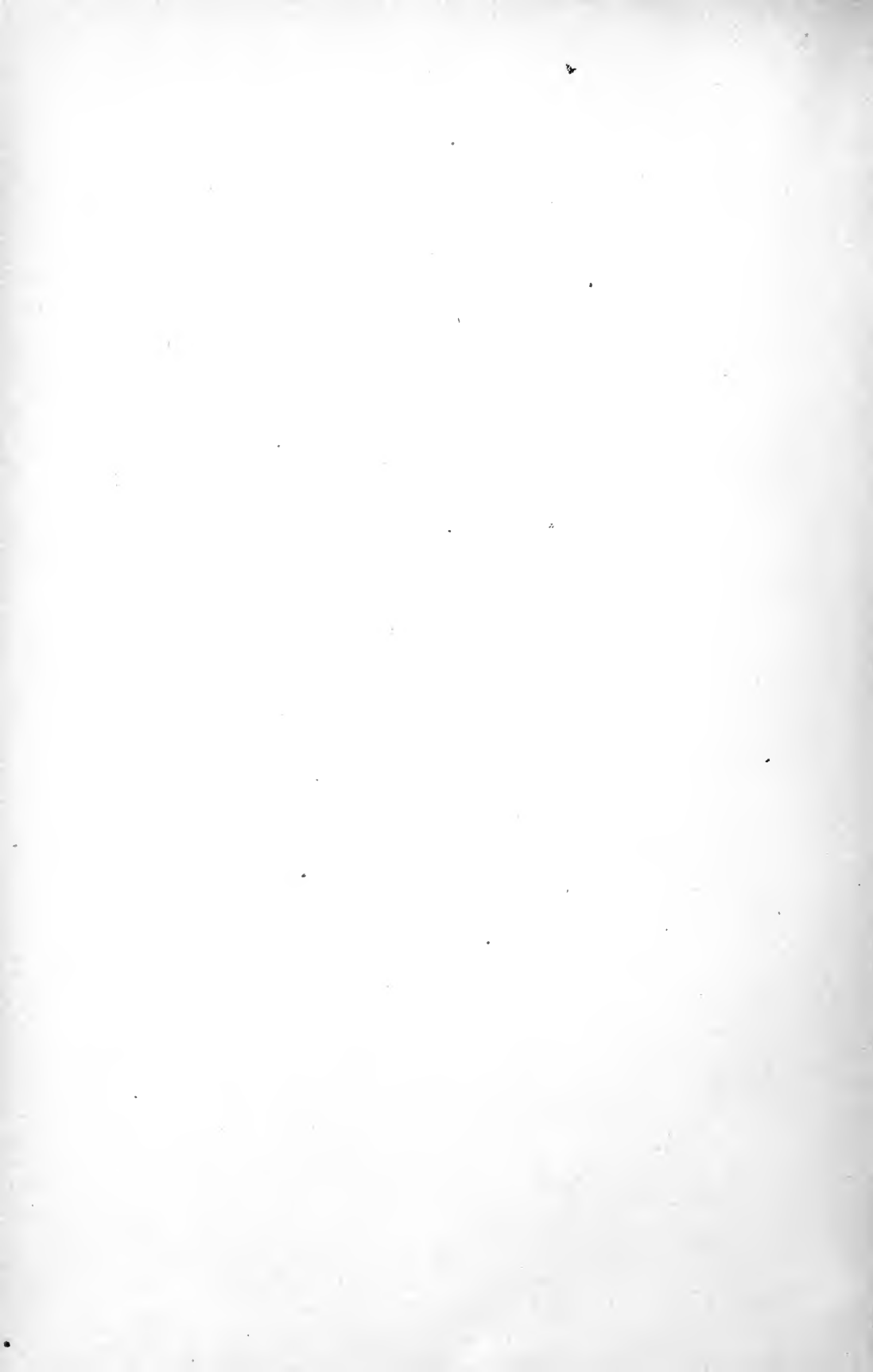


PLATE VI.

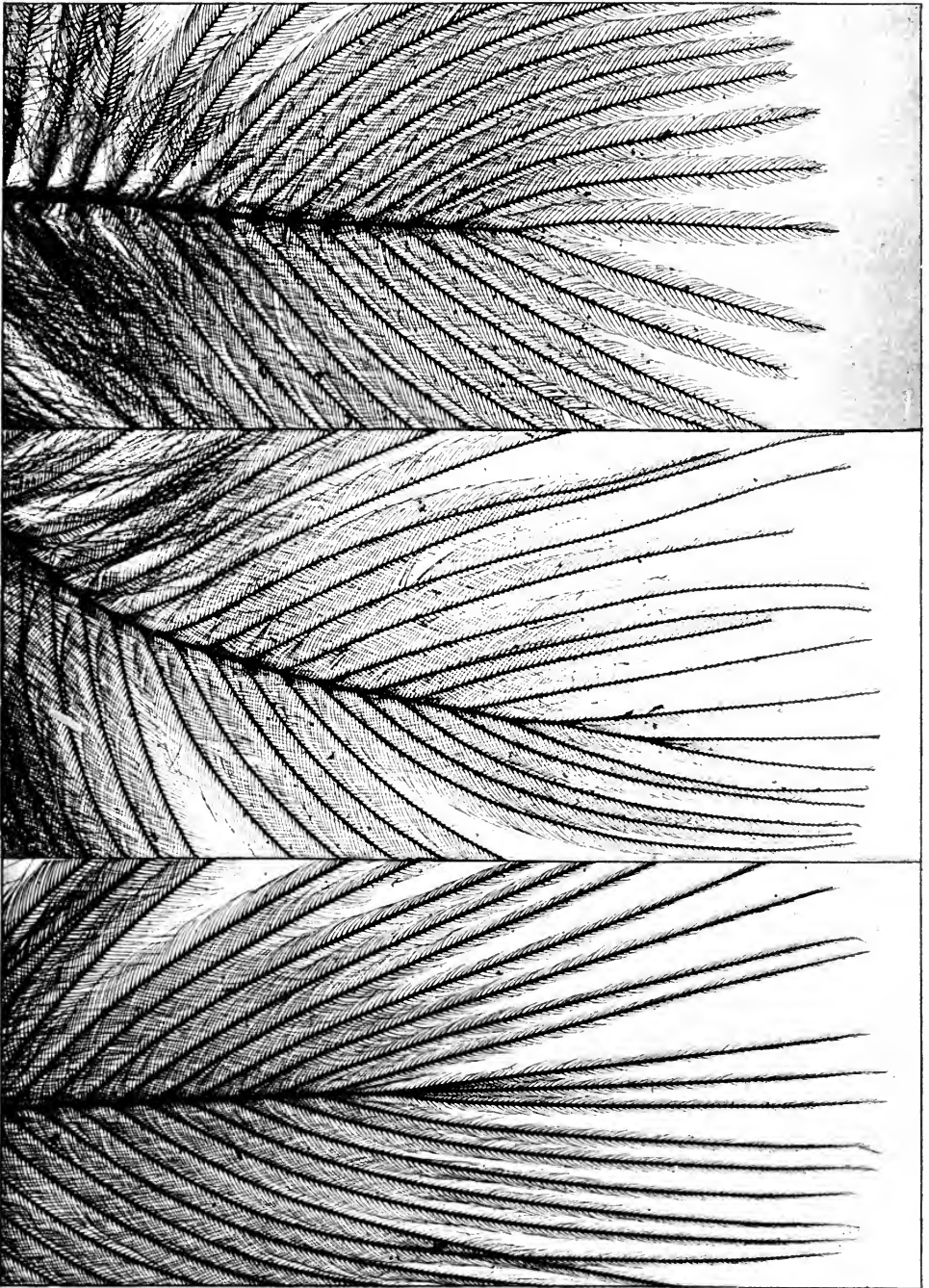
( 357 )

PLATE VI

DWIGHT—PLUMAGE AND MOULT

*Passerina cyanea*.—Photomicrographs illustrating some of the plumages. (Enlargement about 20 diameters.)

- Fig. 1. First Winter Plumage, brown throat feather, newly grown. (J. Dwight, Jr., No. 2451, Sept. 23d.)
- Fig. 2. First Winter Plumage, gray throat feather, worn. (U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 107845, March 11th.) This figure does not do the actual feather justice.
- Fig. 3. First Nuptial Plumage, blue throat feather, new. It was still clasped by its sheath, and was growing beside the gray feather shown as Fig. 2.



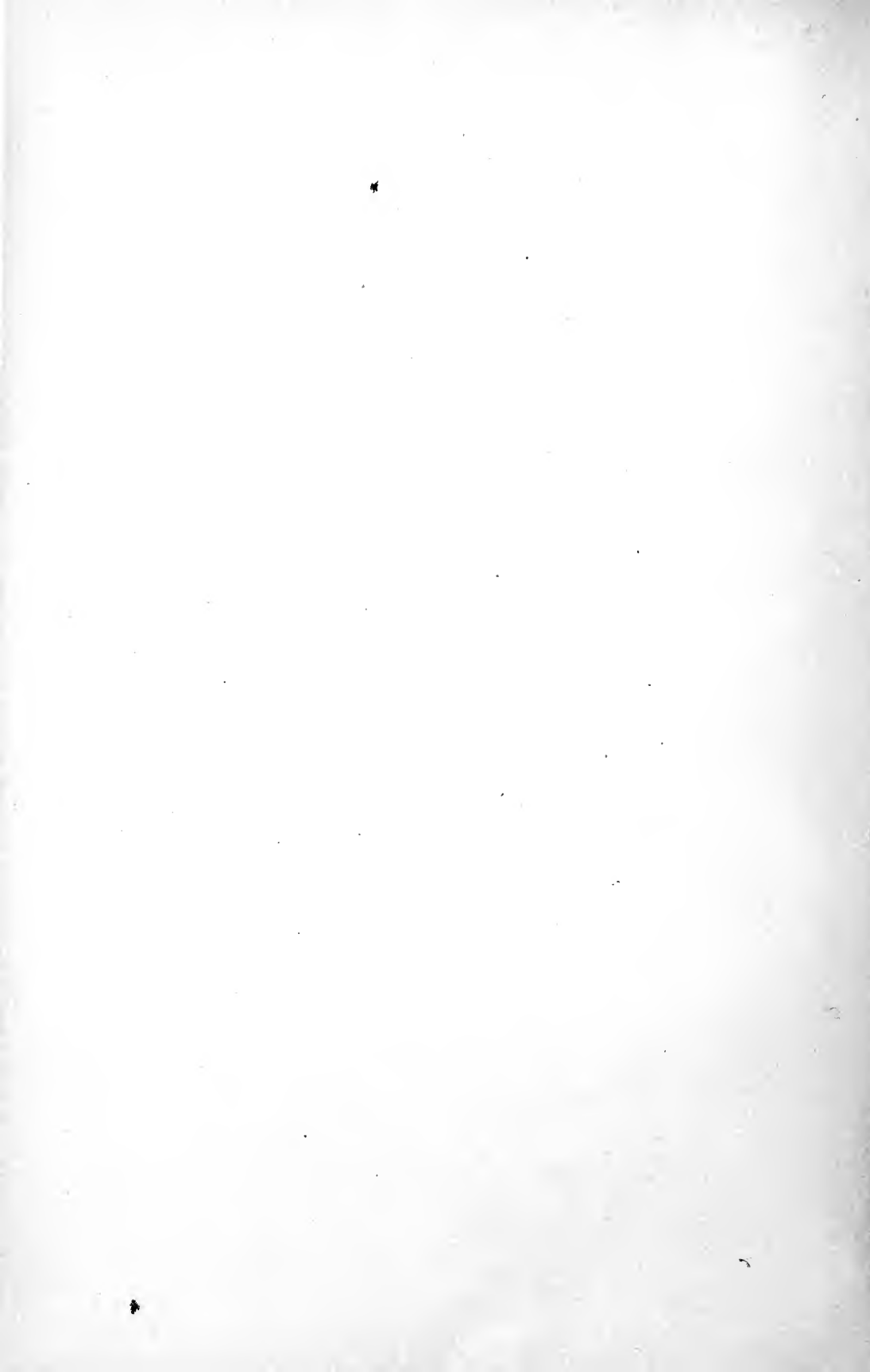




PLATE VII.

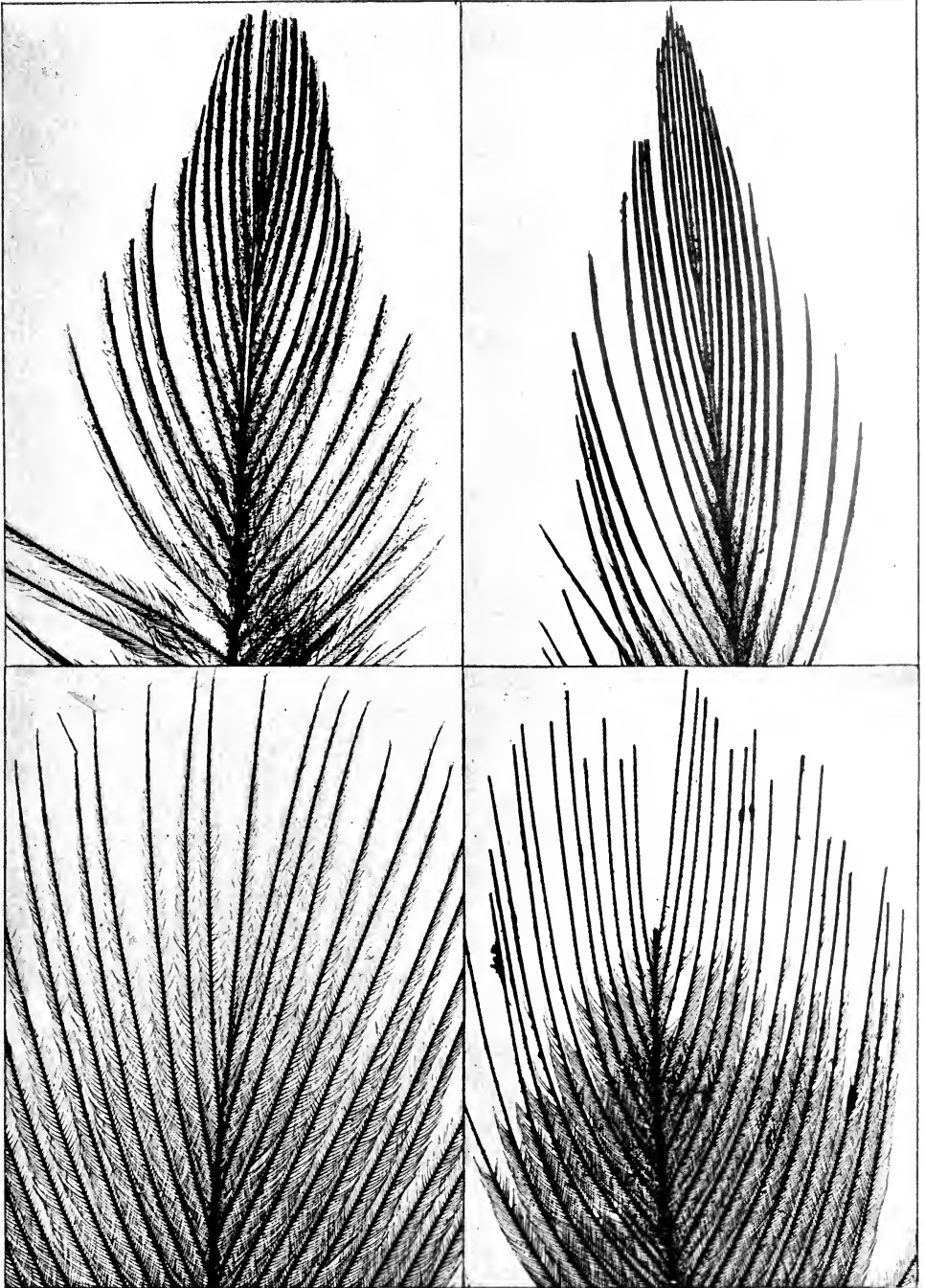
( 359 )

PLATE VII

DWIGHT—PLUMAGE AND MOULT

Photomicrographs illustrating the apparent brightening of color in certain feathers. See explanation on pages 80, 173-175. (Enlargement about 15 diameters.)

- Fig. 1. *Carpodacus purpureus*. Adult Winter Plumage, crown feather slightly worn. (Collection of J. Dwight, Jr., No. 894, Oct. 29th.)
- Fig. 2. *Carpodacus purpureus*. Adult Nuptial Plumage, crown feather, equivalent to Fig. 1 plus wear and consequent loss of barbules. (J. Dwight, Jr., No. 3616, July 7th.)
- Fig. 3. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. Adult Winter Plumage, newly grown breast feather (the sheath was adherent). (J. Dwight, Jr., No. 1529, Oct. 16th.)
- Fig. 4. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. First Nuptial Plumage, worn breast feather. It was situated beside the one just shown (Fig. 3), which it closely resembled when first developed, a year previously.



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