

HUTCHINSON, MINN.

July 19 1898

Mr Robert Ridgway

Dear Sir!

I have been a student and admirer of your "manual" for a number of years and therefore feel well enough acquainted to ask you some questions. In the second edition of the Manual on page 341 I find d_2 Lower parts partly white;

e_2 First quill longer than seventh. +

On looking I find Eupidomax pusillus absent also under d_2 - the key letter. e_1 is absent. Have these two omission any connection? - or, is the antithesis of e_2 - i.e. First quill not longer than seventh. description of the wing of E. pusillus? I used to be quite well acquainted with the latter in the field at least at Salem Ore.

And in looking over some Empidonax here I noticed that pusillus was absent from the new edition of the Manual.

I wrote once to Major Bendire about a flycatcher that is abundant in the Cascade mts about east of Salem say 50 miles but received in reply notice that the Major was dead.

The bird I have in mind now I think was not Hammondi nor wrightii and as I am familiar with both pusillus and difficilis you see I am left without a name but as I am also without a bird of the kind I am likely not to know until I go again to that region (which I hope to do in a year or so) I want to tell you of the locality so that if any collectors of your acquaintance go near there you may perhaps get some of the birds.

The place is as I said east of Salem - on the "big burn"
near a big mountain well known all over the Willamette
Valley as Table Rock ~~is~~ I think in Clackamas County.

The bird frequents the open - not the heavily timbered country
& was shot ^{on} several occasions from hazel bushes or small
vine maples - The note is somewhat like pusillus but not so
aggressive nor energetic. At the time I shot them I supposed
them to be pusillus but noticed enough difference to make
me believe now that I had another bird - Possibly you can say
definitely if hammondi has ever been shot in the Willamette
Valley or ^{on} western slope of the Cascades. It has perhaps that my bird.

^{or will}
If you can straighten me out on differential diagnosis
between trillix pusillus, I will be very glad to do
any little collecting in this district that you might want
done, to get even with you in the matter of favors.

Yours very truly,
Clinton J. Cooke.

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RECEIVED at _____ Jan 19 1898

Dated Washington D. C.

To R. Ridgway

Can't come very sorry

C. F. Cook