

FAMILY XX.*—VIREONINÆ. GREENLETS.

GENUS I.†—VIREO, *Viell.* GREENLET.

BELL'S VIREO OR GREENLET.

† VIREO BELLII, *Aud.*

PLATE CCCCLXXXV.—ADULT MALE.

On the same day that Harris' Finch was procured, Mr. J. G. BELL, who, as I have already said, accompanied me in my journey to the Yellow Stone river, &c., shot one of the species which I am now about to describe, and which I have named, it being also a new and hitherto undescribed species, with great pleasure, after Mr. BELL; the more especially as Mr. BELL is himself a person who possesses a good general knowledge of our birds, and was an excellent companion in our not unperilous rambles.

This species, like other Vireos of the smaller class, is usually found in the bottom lands along the shores of the Upper Missouri river, from the neighbourhood of the Black Snake Hills as far as we went up that river; finding it in many instances, whether in the bottom lands, overgrown with low shrubbery, or along the borders of ravines that discharge the water accumulating during the spring meltings of the snows that cover the upper country prairie land. In its habits it is probably more nearly allied to the White-eyed Vireo (*V. noveboracensis*) than to any other; as although it does not possess all the swiftness of movement and quaint look exhibited by that species, still it evinces all the movements usually observable in birds of this family.

We never found its nest, although it doubtless breeds in the countries which we traversed; as on many occasions, and during the very heat of summer, we found it as far up the Missouri river as Fort Union, one of the principal and handsomest factories of the American Fur Company.

BELL'S VIREO OR GREENLET, *Vireo Bellii*, *Aud.*

* See vol. iv. p. 140.

† Ibid.

$4\frac{1}{6}$, $6\frac{1}{6}$.

Shores and prairies of the Upper Missouri, and probably found on all streams of the Western Territories.

Male.

The upper parts are light greyish-olive, tinged with grey on the head and shoulders. Wings and tail brown, edged with yellowish-olive. The lower parts and sides of the neck tinged with yellow, which increases in depth on the sides, including the inferior tail coverts.

Bill along the ridge $\frac{3}{8}$ inch, along the gap $\frac{1}{2}$, to end of tail $4\frac{1}{6}$ inches; alar extent $6\frac{1}{6}$; wing from flexure $2\frac{1}{4}$; tail $1\frac{3}{4}$. Sides brown. Tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; middle toe $\frac{3}{8}$, its claw rather more than $\frac{1}{8}$; hind toe $\frac{1}{4}$, its claw $\frac{1}{8}$.

Bill and feet bluish-grey, lower mandible paler. Third quill longest. Female a trifle smaller, but resembling the male in every other respect.

FAMILY XIV.*—ALAUDINÆ. LARKS.

GENUS I.†—ALAUDA, *Linn.* LARK.

SPRAGUE'S MISSOURI LARK.

†ALAUDA SPRAGUEII.

PLATE CCCCLXXXVI.—MALE.

The first specimen of this truly interesting Lark, was procured by Mr. ISAAC SPRAGUE, another of my companions, who shot it on the 19th of June, 1843, near Fort Union, Upper Missouri.

On several occasions my friend EDWARD HARRIS sought for these birds on the ground, deceived by the sound of their music, appearing as if issuing from the prairies which they constantly inhabit; and after having travelled to many distant places on the prairie, we at last looked upwards, and there saw several of these beautiful creatures singing in a continuous manner, and soaring at such an elevation, as to render them more or less difficult to

* See vol. iii. p. 43.

† Ibid. p. 44.



Bell's Vireo.

Male.

Rattle-snake Root.



Audubon, John James. 1844. "Bell's Vireo or Greenlet, Vireo bellii, Aud. [Pl. 485]." *The birds of America : from drawings made in the United States and their territories* 7, 333–334. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.319602>.

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