

578. *DAFILA ACUTA*, Jenyns.—Sprig-tail ; Pin-tail.
 579. *NETTION CAROLINENSIS*, Baird.—Green-winged Teal.
 582. *QUERQUEDULA CYANOPTERUS*, Cassin.—Red-breasted Teal.
 583. *SPATULA CLYPEATA*, Boie.—Shoveller.
 585. *MARECA AMERICANA*, Stephens.—Baldpate.
 591. *AYTHYA AMERICANA*, Bonap.—Red-head.
 595. *BUCEPHALA ALBEOLA*, Baird.—Butter Ball.
 609. *ERISMATURA RUBIDA*, Bonap.—Ruddy-Duck.
 663. *LARUS CALIFORNICUS*, Lawr.—California Gull.
 698. *COLYMBUS TORQUATUS*, Brünn.—Loon.

SYRNIUM OCCIDENTALE, Xantus.

Sp. Char. A little smaller than *S. nebulosum*; general color liver brown, the feathers barred everywhere, even on the flanks. Axillars and under wing and tail coverts banded transversely with white, the bands towards and on the head are contracted into rounded spots.

General appearance that of *S. nebulosum*. Prevailing color light liver brown, each short feather with two transverse bars of white, the basal one tinged with rufous yellow; the subterminal pure white and not generally extending to the edges of the feathers. These bars have a marginal suffusion of brown darker than the ground color. On the top of the head and neck the subterminal bar exhibits a tendency to contraction into rounded or cordate spots, and in other places to a median interruption along the shaft. On the scapulars, axillars and other elongated feathers, there are several white bars. The facial disk is grayish, obscurely barred with brown, the posterior margin of the ear is uniform liver brown, then becoming banded with white. The longest quills and tail feathers show about 7 to 9 clouded transverse light bars, one of these at the end of the feather; those bars on the inner and outer margins are quite white, especially towards the base of the feather, elsewhere they are mottled yellowish brown, or brownish yellow; the legs are dirty yellowish, with obscure and rather transverse mottlings of brown. The bill is greenish yellow; the iris gamboge: the claws horn color; the toes are thickly feathered to within two scutellæ of the base of the claws. The fourth quill is longest, the fifth and then the third a little shorter, the second between the 6th and 7th; the first rather shorter than the eighth.

Length of male 18 inches; extent 40; wing 13; tail $8\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus about 2.

This species, with a general resemblance to the *Syrnium nebulosum*, is of rather smaller size, and readily distinguished by the entire absence of any of the longitudinal brown stripes so conspicuous on the belly, flanks and lower tail coverts of the latter species; these regions being barred transversely with white and brown. The white bars on the feathers are much less continuous and regular, and on the neck and head are restricted to rounded spots instead of forming regular zones. The under wing coverts are banded transversely instead of being uniform yellowish white. The bill is less pure yellow.

A single specimen (original number 1588) was collected at Fort Tejon, March 6th, 1858.

August 2d.

Major LE CONTE, Vice President, in the Chair.

Present seventeen members.

Dr. Hammond read a letter from Miss M. H. Morris of Germantown, giving an account of a luminous larva, two inches long, which was found in a forest, at the Delaware Water Gap. Miss M. observes, "the whole length of the 1859.]