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DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW BIRDS FROM MT. RORAIMA

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In July, 1927, the Museum despatched an expedition to Mt. Roraima under the patronage of Mr. Lee Garnet Day of New York City and the leadership of Mr. Geo. H. H. Tate of the Museum staff. The expedition returned to New York, February 15, 1928, with 1260 birds secured chiefly by Mr. T. D. Carter of the Museum staff, and also collections of mammals made by Mr. Tate.

A study of the birds, and particularly of their distribution in connection with that of their allies, has revealed a number of definite facts of exceptional interest but most difficult of interpretation.

Meanwhile, under the patronage of Mr. Sidney F. Tyler, Jr., the Museum has sent an expedition to Mt. Duida, also led by Mr. Tate. Mt. Roraima, it will be remembered, is at the junction of Brazil, British Guiana and Venezuela, while Duida is at the western end of the range with which Roraima is associated.

In the hope that collections from the higher portions of the Duida group will throw some light on the problems presented by a study of the life of Roraima it has been considered advisable to defer a full report on the Roraima collections until those from Duida are received. Pending their arrival I present the following descriptions of new forms, including a remarkably distinct flycatcher, secured by the Day Expedition.

In the belief that Mt. Roraima constitutes the larger part if not entire range of the birds here described, I make no apology for frequent use of the name *roraimæ*.

The color terms employed are, as usual in the publications of the Department of Birds, from Ridgway.¹

Columba albilinea roraimæ, new subspecies

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Columba albilinea albilinea* Bonaparte of the Subtropical and Temperate zones of the northern Andes but rump and upper tail-coverts much darker and strongly washed with the metallic olive-green of the back; the rectrices much darker, the black subterminal band much more pronounced and

¹Color Standards.

showing distinctly from above, the terminal band more slaty, deep mouse-gray, rather than mouse-gray; wing-quills and coverts darker, the underparts deeper, less glaucous.

TYPE.—No. 236,495, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Philipp Camp, alt. 6000 ft. Roraima, Venezuela; November 7, 1927; T. D. Carter.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Columba albilinea roraimæ.—VENEZUELA: Philipp Camp, 6000 ft., Roraima, 2 ♂ ad., 2 ♀ ad.; Rondon Camp, 6800 ft., Roraima, 1 ♂ im.

Columba albilinea albilinea.—COLOMBIA, 27. ECUADOR, 8.

This well-marked race is known only from the Subtropical Zone of Roraima. Here it is apparently widely separated from its species, the nearest point from which true *albilinea* has been recorded being the Cumbre of Valencia in northern Venezuela.¹ Thence it extends through the subtropics to Costa Rica and Bolivia.

Styellura ruficervix roraimæ, new subspecies

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Styellura ruficervix ruficervix* (Selater) but larger and darker, the whitish markings fewer; the brownish markings of the rump, upper tail-coverts, wing-coverts and tertials reduced in area and darker, tawny rather than ochraceous-tawny; mottled grayish bars on the central rectrices narrower than intervening black areas; white marking on the four outer primaries not an unbroken bar, the white spots on the web of each feather either not reaching to the shaft or separated by the black, instead of white, shaft; bend of the wing and a small mark on the outer web of the longest alula ochraceous-buff or tawny instead of white. Two males measure: wing, 167, 168; tail, 111, 111 mm.; five males of *r. ruficervix* from Colombia measure: wing, 152, 153, 156, 159, 161; tail, 106, 103, 109, 111, 112 mm.

TYPE.—No. 236,552, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Philipp Camp, alt. 6000 ft., Mt. Roraima, Venezuela; November 11, 1927; T. D. Carter.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Styellura ruficervix roraimæ.—VENEZUELA: Roraima, Philipp Camp, alt. 6000 ft., 2 ♂.

Styellura ruficervix ruficervix.—VENEZUELA: Mérida region, 5 ♂, 3 ♀. COLOMBIA, 8 ♂, 5 ♀. ECUADOR, 3 ♂, 3 ♀.

The nearest point to Mt. Roraima from which *Styellura ruficervix* has been recorded is the Mérida region of Venezuela. Here it is found in the Temperate Zone and it occurs in this zone southward to Bolivia. The Roraiman form is, therefore, completely isolated from its nearest relative.

¹Hellmayr and Seilern, 1912, *Archiv für Naturg.*, LXXVIII, p. 159.

Trogonurus personatus roraimæ, new subspecies

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Trogonurus personatus personatus* (Gould) of the Andean Subtropical Zone but central tail-feathers deep coppery-bronze instead of brassy-green; the crown, nape, back and breast more brassy, the white bars of the rectrices slightly wider, the black ones correspondingly narrower; size slightly smaller; 3 ♂; wing, 116, 120, 120 mm.; tail, 139, 140, 142 mm.

TYPE.—No. 236,600, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Rondon Camp, alt. 6800 ft., Mt. Roraima, Venezuela; December 2, 1927; T. D. Carter.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Trogonurus personatus roraimæ.—VENEZUELA: Mt. Roraima; above Paulo, between 5000 and 6000 ft., 1 ♂; Philipp Camp, 6000 ft., 1 ♂; Rondon Camp, 6800 ft., 1 ♂.

Trogonurus personatus personatus and *personatus assimilis*.—VENEZUELA: Mérida region, 2 ♂. COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR, 9 ♂, 9 ♀.

Eight of our nine males of *p. personatus* and *p. assimilis* show little variation in the general color of the upperparts and tail; the ninth, from El Eden in the central Andes of Colombia, is one of the brassy plumaged birds which seem almost to mark a color phase in trogons. It alone approaches *roraimæ* but the tail is brassy rather than bronzy.

The nearest point to Mt. Roraima from which *personatus* is known is the Mérida region of western Venezuela.

Elænia dayi, new species

SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—The largest and darkest species of the genus; wings of about the same length as tail, proportionately shorter and more rounded than in typical *Elænia*.

TYPE.—No. 236,810, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♀ ad.; summit of Mt. Roraima, 8600 ft., Venezuela; November 18, 1927; T. D. Carter.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE.—Upperparts olivaceous chætura drab, the crown chætura black; upper tail-coverts chætura drab, tail fuscous-black, the extreme tips of the feathers rusty; wings and their upper coverts fuscous-black; the inner quills margined externally with pale yellowish white, the lesser coverts broadly tipped on both webs, the greater covert on the outer web with soiled grayish white; bend of the wing yellowish; underparts citrine drab darker on the breast and sides, the chin paler, the center of the abdomen more yellow, under tail-coverts tinged with buffy brown; feet and bill black, the mandible brownish basally.

This remarkable new flycatcher is so unlike any recognized species that it is not possible to name with certainty its nearest relative. Geographically it is nearest *Elænia flavogaster flavogaster* of the slopes of Roraima; in color and in proportions it is nearest *Elænia obscura* of the Subtropical Zone of Peru and Bolivia. When compared with the species of *Elænia* that most closely approach it in size it will be observed that there is pronounced difference in the shape of the wing, the tail being

longer, the wing more rounded in *dayi*. These differences might be considered of generic value did they not largely disappear on comparison of *dayi* with *obscura*; and the fact that in color also *dayi* is nearest *obscura* suggests that, as in some other cases, the closest relative of the Roraiman bird is to be found in the Andes. But, whatever be its relationships, *dayi* agrees with *Brachyospiza capensis macconnelli*, also resident on the summit of Roraima, in being markedly larger and darker than any other species in its genus.

MEASUREMENTS

Name		Sex	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen	Longest Primary Longer Than Innermost
<i>Elænia dayi</i>	Summit of Roraima	♀	91	89	22	15	11
" <i>o. obscura</i>	Bolivia, 7700 ft.	♀	80	77	21	14	12
" " "	" "	♂	82	77	20.5	14	13
" <i>gigas</i>	E. Ecuador	♀	93	77	20	14	17
" <i>f. flavogaster</i>	Rio Janeiro	♂	77	66	20	12	16
" " "	" "	♂	80	67	20	13	15.5
" " "	" "	♀	77	66	20	12	15.5
" " "	Philipp Camp, Roraima	♂	85	76	20	15	14
" " "	" " "	♀	79	72	20	14	14
" <i>spectabilis</i>	N. Argentina	♀	89	74	22	13.0	17
" <i>pelzelni</i>	L. Amazon	♂	89	73	21	15	16.5

In naming this species after Mr. Lee Garnet Day of New York City, I pay a well-deserved tribute to him, not alone for the support which made our Roraima expedition possible, but for the interest he has long shown in the American Museum.

***Compsothlypis pitiaiyumi roraimæ*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Compsothlypis pitiaiyumi elegans* Todd, of northern South America, but with the dorsal patch smaller and darker, the white tail-spots smaller, the flanks tinged with olivaceous, the mandible basally horn, terminally black; tarsi black; the toes dark brown, their soles paler.

TYPE.—No. 237,071, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Arabupu, alt. 4200 ft., Roraima, Venezuela; January 7, 1928; T. D. Carter.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Compsothlypis pitiayumi roraimæ.—VENEZUELA: Roraima; Arabupu, 1 ♀; Paulo, 1 ♂.

Compsothlypis pitiayumi.—Other races; adequate series (see Amer. Mus. Novitates, 1924, No. 143, p. 2).

Compsothlypis pitiayumi is, generally speaking, a subtropical species which at the northern and southern limits of its range in subtropical latitudes, and locally elsewhere, occurs at sea-level.¹ In Guiana it is known only from Roraima, but *C. p. elegans* occurs in Trinidad, north-eastern Venezuela, central Venezuela and Colombia, whence other races carry the species south on the Andes to Argentina and north, chiefly in the mountains, to Texas.

One of our two Roraiman birds agrees with average specimens of *elegans* in the color of the underparts; the second specimen has the breast ochraceous-tawny. It is probably one of the highly colored individuals that sometimes occur in this species, but in our large series it cannot be matched, though it is approached by several specimens of *pacifica*.

***Brachyspiza capensis roraimæ*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Agrees with *Brachyspiza capensis macconnelli* Sharpe of the summit of Roraima and differs from other races of this species in having the wing short and rounded, the rump and flanks and sides gray, without brownish wash; differs from *B. c. macconnelli* in being smaller and having the black areas more restricted, the gray center of crown averaging as broad as the black lateral stripes instead of being nearly obscured by black.

TYPE.—No. 237,162, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Philipp Camp, 6000 ft., Roraima, Venezuela; November 9, 1927; T. D. Carter.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Brachyspiza capensis roraimæ.—VENEZUELA: Roraima; Paulo, 1 ♂, 2 ♂ juv., 1 ♀ juv.; Philipp Camp, 13 ♂, 8 ♀, 3 ♂ juv.; Rondon Camp, 5 ♂, 5 ♀, 1 ♂ juv.

Brachyspiza capensis macconnelli.—VENEZUELA: summit of Roraima, 2 ♂, 2 ♀, 1 ♀ juv.

Brachyspiza capensis.—Adequate series of other races.

The fact that the slopes of Roraima are occupied by one race of *Brachyspiza capensis*, the summit by another and quite distinct one, evidently derived from it, is one of the most interesting and definite discoveries we have made in the origin of zonal races.

Both these races agree and differ markedly from all the other described races of this wide-ranging species in their darker colors, absence of brownish wash on rump, and sides, and, particularly, rounded wing.

¹See my paper on the distribution of this species in *The Auk*, 1925, pp. 193-208.

The larger size and darker colors of the Roraiman form living on the summit of the mountain significantly associates its differentiating characters with the higher altitude and greater humidity of its haunts. If, therefore, this be an instance of evolution by environment, it is of the utmost significance to observe that the differences between adults are shown also by nestlings and that consequently the racial characters are inherited.

The large amount of unworked material we have representing this species tempts further remarks concerning its geographic variations, but the subject must be postponed for the present.

"*Brachyospiza capensis*," doubtless the race here described, is recorded from the Merumé Mountains.

MEASUREMENTS

			Wing	Tail
<i>Brachyospiza capensis roraimæ</i>	Rondon Camp	♂	61	54
" " "	" "	♂	64	56
" " "	" "	♀	64	56
" " "	" "	♀	61.5	53.5
" " "	" "	♀	61	55
" " <i>macconnelli</i>	Summit of Roraima	♂	71	65
" " "	" " "	♂	71	65
" " "	" " "	♀	71	65
" " "	" " "	♀	67	61
" " <i>capensis</i>	Cayenne	?	65	51
" " "	Therezopolis, Brazil	?	71	61
" " "	São Paulo	♂	70	65
" " <i>peruviana</i>	Huaral, Peru	♂	73	58
" " "	" "	♂	74	65
" " "	" "	♂	69	58
" " "	" "	♀	70	59
" " "	Vitarte	♂	73	59

***Cæreba guianensis roraimæ*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Cæreba guianensis guianensis* (Cabanis) of the Tropical Zone of Guiana but larger and darker, the back black, the throat-patch larger and deeper gray; the general color as in *C. luteola* but with no evident white spot at the base of the primaries.

TYPE.—No. 237,272, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Arabupu, 4200 ft., Mt. Roraima, Venezuela; December 29, 1927; T. D. Carter.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Cæreba guianensis roraimæ.—VENEZUELA: Roraima; Paulo, 1 ♂; Arabupu, 4 ♂, 1 ♀.

Cæreba guianensis guianensis.—GUIANA: Rockstone, Essequibo River, 2 ♂, 3 ♀; Wismar, Demarara River, 1 ♂, 3 ♀. BRAZIL: Rio Cotinga, 1 ♂. VENEZUELA: Ciudad Bolivar, 1.

The larger size and darker colors of this race apparently express the influences of its environment. It is evidently a true mountain form, confined to the higher altitudes, since typical *guianensis* occurs both to the north and south of it.

			MEASUREMENTS			
				Wing	Tail	
<i>Cæreba guianensis roraimæ</i>			Arabupu, Roraima	♂	61	37
"	"	"	"	♂	57	34
"	"	"	"	♂	62	38
"	"	"	"	♀	56	33
"	"	<i>guianensis</i>	Rockstone, B. C.	♂	54	31
"	"	"	"	♂	53	
"	"	"	Wismar, "	♂	53	32
"	"	"	Rockstone, "	♀	53	29
"	"	"	"	♀	52	30

