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NEW BIRDS FROM MEXICO AND PANAMA

BY LUDLOW GRISCOM

The Department of birds has recently received a collection of some 800 specimens made by Mr. Rex R. Benson during the past summer at Almirante and Boca del Toro on the Chiriqui Lagoon, on the Caribbean slope of western Panama, just south of the Costa Rican border. This collection, in connection with the previous one made by Benson and Gaffney on the Rio Calovevora much farther east, throws important light on previously unknown factors in distribution. Until very recently, it will be recalled, no collections existed from the Caribbean slope of western Panama. We knew that there was a well-marked fauna in eastern Costa Rica and a very different one in the Canal Zone (Caribbean slope), but where these faunas met and what causes separated them were not even within the range of speculation. It now transpires that the lowlands of the Chiriqui Lagoon are an integral part of the Costa Rican fauna, as might have been expected. This accounts for the long list below of species added to Panama, and it is probably by no means complete. In combination with this fact, not a single species in this collection extends the range of a Canal Zone species westward. In only one case is the bird of Almirante more closely related to that of the Canal Zone. This is *Manacus cerritus* Peters, and it is significant that it is specifically distinct. When we examine the list of species sent in from the Rio Calovevora, the situation is exactly reversed. The great majority of the birds are identical with those of the Canal Zone, and the Costa Rican element is represented by only two species.

Besides the forms described below, the following are additions to the known avifauna of Panama: *Columba leucocephala*, *Leptotila p. plumbeiceps*, *Gallinula chloropus centralis*, *Phæthon æthereus* (a breeding colony of some thirty pairs), *Pionus senilis*, *Chætura cinereiventris phæopygos*, *Celeus loricatus diversus*, *Dechonychura typica minor*, *Pipromorpha oleaginea assimilis*, *Pitangus sulphuratus derbianus*, *Myiarchus lawrencei nigricapillus*, *Pachyrhamphus polychropterus similis*, *Carpodectes nitidus*, *Thryophilus castaneus costaricensis*, *Thryophilus zeledoni*, *Pheugopedius atrogularis*, *Dendroica b. bryanti*, *Geothlypis semiflava bairdi*, *Basileuterus fulvicauda leucopygius*, *Tanagra gouldi*, *Tachyphonus axillaris*, *Icterus*

prosthomelas, and *Psilorhinus mexicanus cyanogenys*. The Tropic Bird has never been recorded on the Atlantic coast of Central America, and a breeding colony in Panama waters is a great surprise. The discovery of the White-crowned Pigeon is even more remarkable, as in Central America it has been known only from Cozumel and Ruatan Islands. The single specimen is an immature bird, which has not quite completed the post-juvenal moult, and was undoubtedly raised on the small key where it was collected.

***Eupsittula astec extima*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Nearest to *Eupsittula astec vicinialis* Bangs and Penard from Alta Mira, Tamaulipas, Mexico, but darker and duller green above and considerably darker green below, grayish greenish-olive instead of light yellowish-olive on throat and chest; radically different from typical *astec* (Souancé), Vera Cruz to eastern Costa Rica, which has a brownish buffy-olive chest, passing to olive-yellow or wax-yellow on the abdomen.

TYPE.—No. 233,593, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Almirante, Boca del Toro, western Panama; August 24, 1927; Rex R. Benson.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Eupsittula astec vicinialis.—MEXICO: Tamaulipas, Tampico, 1♂; San Luis Potosi, Valles, 1♂.

Eupsittula astec astec.—MEXICO: Mexico City, 1?; Vera Cruz, 1♀; Yucatan, 3♂, 3♀, 2? GUATEMALA, 3♂, 2♀. HONDURAS, 1? NICARAGUA, 1♂. COSTA RICA, 4♂, 2♀.

Eupsittula astec extima.—WESTERN PANAMA: Almirante, 2♂.

The paler and greener underparts of *vicinialis* make it appear almost specifically distinct from the brown and wax-yellow *astec*, as Messrs. Bangs and Penard justly remark. I have not cited above 1♂ and 2♀ from Rincon Antonio and Rio Givicia, Oaxaca, Mexico. Curiously enough, while quite different from typical *astec*, they are indistinguishable from *vicinialis* in color, but are very slightly smaller than any specimens in the series before me, or the minima given by Mr. Ridgway, the wing of the male 127, the two females 126–129. So minute a size difference, however, does not seem worthy of formal designation on the basis of three specimens only. The new form *extima* is even less yellow on the abdomen than *vicinialis*, but is greener and darker on the throat and chest, though totally lacking the buffy brownish olive of typical *astec*, from which it is distinguishable at a glance. Intergrades will presumably be found in south-eastern Costa Rica, where the species has not as yet been reported.

***Chalybura urochrysa incognita*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Chalybura urochrysa isauræ* (Gould) of "Bocca del Toro, Costa Rica" (now western Panama), but adult male with throat and breast greener, much less blue; under tail-coverts pure white, and tail more golden bronzy; rump and upper tail-coverts coppery bronze without purple or violet; female, easily separable on the same rump and tail characters.

TYPE.—No. 135,442, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Tacarcuna, eastern Panama; March 30, 1915; W. B. Richardson.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Chalybura urochrysa isauræ.—Western PANAMA: Boca del Toro and Almirante, 3 ♂.

Chalybura urochrysa incognita.—Eastern PANAMA: Tacarcuna, 10 ♂, 5 ♀.

Chalybura u. urochrysa.—Western COLOMBIA, 6 ♂, 1 ♀.

The receipt of three adult males of *Chalybura isauræ* from the type locality confirms Dr. Chapman's remarks in his 'Birds of Colombia,' p. 294, and shows that the series recorded by him from eastern Panama represents an undescribed form. Gould's description of *isauræ* was based on a "somewhat immature" specimen, which perhaps accounts for his guess that the adult would have a "fine green breast," whereas it is deep bluish-green. In my three specimens, the under tail-coverts are never pure white, either smoky gray or at least edged with that color, quite different from the pure white of *incognita* and *urochrysa*.

We now come to a totally different question, involving nomenclature. While the eastern Panama bird differs very radically from the Boca del Toro specimens, an old male from the Gould Collection labelled "Santa Fé, Veragua," Arcé (of course Caribbean, not Pacific slope) is intermediate, as is also a female from the Rio Calovevora. Turning now to *C. urochrysa*, we find that the same differences separating *incognita* from *isauræ* are merely carried a step farther. All trace of blue in the throat is lost, and tail and rump are golden bronze. It seems to me, therefore, that we can regard these three Hummingbirds either as distinct species or as representative subspecies, in which case the specific name would be *urochrysa*, which has page priority. It would be entirely illogical to regard *incognita* as a race of *isauræ*, and maintain *urochrysa* as specifically distinct.

***Chloronerpes simplex auroræ*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to typical *Chloronerpes simplex* Salvin of Costa Rica and extreme western Chiriqui (Pacific slope), but more golden brown above, particularly noticeable on the pileum of females; underparts less greenish olive, more golden brown, the spotting on throat and chest greatly reduced.

TYPE.—No. 233,594, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♀ ad.; Almirante, Boca del Toro, western Panama; May 20, 1927; Rex R. Benson.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Chloronerpes simplex simplex.—COSTA RICA, 1 ♂, 1 ♀. NICARAGUA, 2 ♂, 1 ♀.

Chloronerpes simplex auroræ.—Caribbean slope of western PANAMA: Boca del Toro, 3 ♂, 1 ♀; Rio Calovevora, Veraguas, 1 ♂.

It was a great surprise to find this species in a region from which *Chloronerpes callopterus* has been reported, as Arcé's specimen from "Veragua" must almost certainly have come from the Caribbean slope. The new form of *simplex* is slightly, but distinctly, characterized by its more golden brown, less greenish olive color.

***Hylopezus fulviventris flammulatus*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Nearest *Hylopezus fulviventris dives* (Salvin) of eastern Nicaragua and Costa Rica, but very slightly darker both above and below; wing quills browner, less olive and slaty, the exposed margins chestnut, rather than cinnamonaceous; chest much more heavily flammulated with black.

TYPE.—No. 233,595, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Almirante, Boca del Toro, western Panama; May 16, 1927; Rex R. Benson.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Hylopezus fulviventris dives.—Eastern NICARAGUA, 6 ♂, 2 ♀.

Hylopezus fulviventris flammulatus.—Western PANAMA, 2 ♂.

Hylopezus fulviventris barbacoæ.—Eastern PANAMA: Tacarcuna, 1 ♀. Western COLOMBIA, 4 ♂, 1 ♀.

The specimens here described serve to bridge most of the gap in range formerly existing between the Colombian and Central American representatives of this little Ant-Pitta. The more richly colored wings and the heavily flammulated chest are readily noticeable characters.

Through the generosity of Dr. L. C. Sanford, The American Museum of Natural History has recently acquired a small collection of birds made by W. W. Brown in recent years in various parts of San Luis Potosi, Tamaulipas, and Vera Cruz, which contains the following undescribed forms. I am greatly indebted to the authorities of the Biological Survey and the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy for the loan of indispensable comparative material.

***Nannorchilus leucogaster grisescens*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Nearest to typical *Nannorchilus leucogaster* (Gould) of southern Tamaulipas, but upperparts decidedly grayer brown, with no buffy or isabella tinge; underparts and superciliary stripe much grayer, the throat and abdomen nowhere nearly pure white, the flanks a grayer brown, less buffy or isabella.

TYPE.—No. 230,342, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♀ ad.; Ebano, San Luis Potosi, Mexico; April 19, 1922; W. W. Brown.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Nannorchilus l. leucogaster.—Southern Tamaulipas, 3 ♂, 6 ♀.

Nannorchilus l. grisescens.—San Luis Potosi, Ebano, 2 ♀.

Nannorchilus l. musicus.¹—Extreme southern Vera Cruz, 3 ♂.

Nannorchilus l. pacificus.¹—Colima, Manzanillo, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

Of the four described subspecies of this little Wren, the Yucatan race *brachyurus* is easily differentiated from the others by its distinctly barred tail. The typical form is intermediate between the other two, *pacificus* being the palest and most rufescent, *musicus* the darkest and most richly colored. All three are brown birds above, rufescent in *pacificus*, isabella or broccoli brown in *leucogaster*, deep russet or wood brown in *musicus*. The flanks vary through very similar color shades. In all three the throat and abdomen are nearly pure white. It will therefore be apparent that the form here proposed is apparently quite distinct from the others in its pronounced gray shading both above and below.

***Carpodacus mexicanus potosinus*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Carpodacus mexicanus rhodocolpus* Cabanis, but adult male in breeding plumage a darker bird throughout, the red areas more crimson or carmine, less scarlet; brown of upperparts darker, and brown streaking below heavier, darker and more distinct; adult male in winter plumage with the red areas a rose purple shade as in *rhodocolpus*, but more heavily and darkly streaked below, and upperparts with pronounced gray edgings, giving almost a hoary effect, particularly noticeable on the hind-neck and auricular region; females darker above and more heavily streaked below.

TYPE.—No. 25,953, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy; ♂ ad.; San Luis Potosi, Mexico; March 24, 1879; Dr. Ed. Palmer.

***Carpodacus mexicanus nigrescens*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Carpodacus mexicanus potosinus* nobis above, but adult male even darker throughout, the red areas slightly so, but upperparts, primaries and streaks below dark fuscous or blackish brown: adult female and young of both sexes also darker in the same respects.

TYPE.—No. 230,408, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Miquihuana, Tamaulipas, Mexico; July 11, 1922; W. W. Brown.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Carpodacus mex. rhodocolpus.—7 ♂, 5 ♀ from Durango, Jalisco and Zacatecas.

Carpodacus mex. potosinus.—San Luis Potosi, 21 ♂, 15 ♀.

Carpodacus mex. nigrescens.—Tamaulipas, Miquihuana, 2 ♂, 2 ♀.

Many years ago Mr. Ridgway referred a juvenile female from Miquihuana to typical *mexicanus* with a question mark. Breeding males now available from the same place show the greater extension of the red areas,

¹Courtesy of Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.

characteristic of *rhodocolpus* and its allies, but are darker than any other race of the species, and are distinguishable at a glance. Even the juvenal female in the Biological Survey collection shows this general darkness of coloration, which probably explains Mr. Ridgway's question mark.

The subspecies *potosinus* is geographically intermediate between *rhodocolpus*, *frontalis* and *nigrescens*. In darkness of coloration it is intermediate between *rhodocolpus* and *nigrescens*. It differs from *frontalis* in all the respects in which it differs from *rhodocolpus*, and in addition in all the characters separating those two races. In so variable a species it is highly desirable that the type of a new form should be based on a breeding bird. The type of *potosinus* is consequently fixed on a breeding specimen, one of many loaned by the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. The specimens in the American Museum are all winter birds.

In addition to the forms diagnosed as new above, this collection contains numerous rare or little-known species and subspecies of Mexican birds, new to this Museum. Perhaps the most notable bird in this group is *Chlorospingus sumichrasti* Ridgway (2 ♀ from Potrero, Vera Cruz). So far as I know only the type specimen is on record.

Notable extensions of range are as follows.

Colibri thalassinus (Swainson).—A series from Alvarez, San Luis Potosi.

Catharus occidentalis olivascens (Nelson).—This species seems to be rare in collections, and this very distinct subspecies is known only from Chihuahua. Much to my surprise a breeding male from Miquihuana, Tamaulipas, is quite indistinguishable from a series of *olivascens*, kindly loaned by the Biological Survey.

Ptilogonys c. cinereus Swainson.—Three from Alvarez, San Luis Potosi.

Geothlypis trichas melanops Baird.—Mr. Ridgway's guess that the breeding range of this imperfectly known form is toward the northern and western confines of the Mexican Plateau is apparently correct. A series of five males and two females taken in late May at Pacheco, Chihuahua, are typical of this strongly marked subspecies.

Atlapetes pileatus dilutus Ridgway.—This form is known only from Chihuahua. A small series from Alvarez, San Luis Potosi is inseparable.