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## DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW BIRDS FROM COSTA RICA

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The birds described below represent the outstanding results of a very fine collection made during the last four years by Austin Paul Smith, who deserves the greatest credit for discoveries of such interest in a country which has been generally regarded as thoroughly explored. We hope to publish later a complete report covering the entire collection.

### ***Crypturus boucardi costaricensis*, new subspecies**

**SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.**—Upperparts darker than in typical *boucardi*, blacker, less brown, especially noticeable on the rump; wing-coverts and scapulars lighter, more contrasted with the dark primaries, either immaculate or the buffy freckling greatly reduced; chin and throat paler, often white, this area more extended; gray of underparts paler, of a purer tone, less brown; the ochraceous area of the abdomen sometimes greatly reduced and always very much paler.

**TYPE.**—No. 53234, Dwight Collection; breeding ♂; Miravalles, alt. 1500 ft., Costa Rica; April 18, 1922; Austin Paul Smith.

### SPECIMENS EXAMINED

*Crypturus boucardi costaricensis*.—COSTA RICA: Miravalles, 1 ♂. NICARAGUA: Los Sabalos, 1 ♂; Peña Blanca, 1 ♂; Rio Grande, 1 ♀; Rio Tuma, 2 ♂; Savala, 2 ♂; Matagalpa, 1 ♀; Vizagua, 1 ♀; Rio Coco, 1 ♂.

*Crypturus boucardi boucardi*.—MEXICO: Tolosa, Vera Cruz, 1 ♂; Rio Givicia, Oaxaca, 1 ♀. NICARAGUA: San Rafael del Norte, 1 ♂; Jalapa, 1 ♂.

No discussion is required as to the propriety of recognizing two races of *Crypturus boucardi*, but we are strongly inclined to the opinion that there may be three. Years ago Salvin and Godman called attention to the variation in this species, and the relatively few specimens we have been able to examine confirm their remarks in the 'Biologia Centrali Americana,' III, p. 457. Mexican specimens have gray throats; Nicaraguan birds have white ones; and the Miravalles specimen and another from Los Sabalos in extreme southeastern Nicaragua are intermediate. The two last named are also the most extensively gray below, and have the palest wing-coverts. The majority of the Nicaraguan specimens are the least gray and the most extensively ochraceous below, but are pale below and dark above as in the Costa Rican specimen. The specimen

from San Rafael del Norte is just like Mexican specimens, but has less freckling on the wing-coverts. The Jalapa specimen, from a slightly lower altitude, is intermediate and might be referred with equal propriety to *costaricensis*, as it is paler below, but scarcely darker above. If we assumed that the Nicaraguan birds constitute a white-throated race with pale ochraceous underparts which would range north, in the lowlands at least, to British Honduras (cf. Salvin and Godman, *loc. cit.*), we would be at a loss to interpret the Rio Coco specimen, which is as dark below as Mexican birds and as dark above as more southern ones. It is also an intermediate like the Jalapa specimen, but its characters of intermediacy are exactly reversed. Finally, we have been privileged to examine a specimen, while in the U. S. National Museum, from San Jose, Costa Rica, a female, No. 33226, which differs from the type in having less gray and more ochraceous below.

We cannot correlate these variations with sex and are inclined to suspect the existence of two color-phases, as we will show is the case with *Crypturus soui* in a later publication. There is also a possibility that the freckling on the wing-coverts and scapulars represents a transition stage from the immature plumage, in which these parts are regularly and conspicuously barred with buff. Its presence or absence, therefore, would not be a subspecific character. Because of these facts we would prefer to see a far larger series from a greater number of localities before venturing to describe a third subspecies.

***Micromonacha lanceolata austinsmithi*, new subspecies**

**SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.**—Exactly resembling *Micromonacha lanceolata lanceolata* (Deville) of South America in coloration, but the bill much stouter, the rictal bristles and nasal plumes greatly developed, and the chin plumes almost as long as the bill.

**TYPE.**—No. 57427, Dwight Collection; ♀ ad.; Carrillo, Costa Rica; May 1, 1924; Austin Paul Smith.

**SPECIMENS EXAMINED**

*Micromonacha lanceolata austinsmithi.*—COSTA RICA: Carrillo, the type.

*Micromonacha lanceolata lanceolata.*—COLOMBIA: Buenavista, Nariño, 1 ♂. ECUADOR: Zamora, Prov. Loja, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

The discovery of this excessively rare genus in eastern Costa Rica at a locality where experienced collectors have resided for long periods of time is astonishing and is excellent testimony of the apparently inexhaustible avifauna of this little country. In South America it has only once been recorded west of the Andes. The measurements of the bill are as follows.

		WIDTH OF BILL AT NOSTRIL	DEPTH OF BILL AT NOSTRIL
<i>austinsmithi</i>	1 ♀	10	9
<i>lanceolata</i>	1 ♀	7	8
<i>lanceolata</i>	2 ♂	7-7.5	8-8.5

***Myiochanes brachytarsus rhizophora*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Differing from all races of *Myiochanes brachytarsus* in being pale brownish gray above with no tinge of olive; sides of breast and chest plain gray, not brownish or olivaceous; rest of underparts white, perceptibly tinged with yellow only on the flanks; culmen very short.

TYPE.—No. 57393, Dwight Collection; ♀ ad.; Punta Piedra, Guanacaste, Costa Rica; February 11, 1924; Austin Paul Smith.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

*Myiochanes brachytarsus brachytarsus*.—YUCATAN: 1 ♂. NICARAGUA: 1 ♂, 5 ♀. Eastern COSTA RICA: 3 ♂, 3 ♀. PANAMA: 1 ♂, 2 ♀.

*Myiochanes brachytarsus rhizophora*.—COSTA RICA: Punta Piedra, Guanacaste, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

*Myiochanes brachytarsus andinus* ?.—COLOMBIA: Santa Marta, 2 ♂, 1 ♀; Bogota, 1 ♀; El Consuelo, 1 ♀. VENEZUELA: Carupano, 1 ♂; Paria Peninsula, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Las Trincheras, Carabobo, 1 ♂; San Antonio, Bermudez, 3 ? TRINIDAD: 4 ♂, 3 ♀.

*Myiochanes brachytarsus guianarum*.—BRITISH GUIANA: 1 ?

The proposed new form would unquestionably be regarded as specifically distinct from typical *brachytarsus*, the greenest and yellowest of the races, were it not for the two South American subspecies which, in their paler coloration, are intermediate. We have used the name *andinus* for the subspecies of Colombia, Venezuela and Trinidad, but its application is in doubt (cf. Todd and Carriker, 'Birds of Santa Marta,' p. 352), and can only be settled by a re-examination of Taczanowski's type. Whatever the proper name of this subspecies, however, it is obviously paler than typical *brachytarsus* and longer winged. The subspecies *guianarum* is described as still grayer above, but as short-winged as typical *brachytarsus*. The new race differs from *guianarum* in being even paler above, much paler below, and in its shorter bill. The great amount of individual and seasonal variation still further complicates the problem, as worn specimens of all races are grayer and less olive, while fresh fall birds are greenest and yellowest, as in other wood pewees. Comparable material is, therefore, essential to an understanding of subspecific characters.

Mr. Smith, the discoverer of *rhizophora*, is familiar with typical *brachytarsus*, and immediately recognized his bird from Guanacaste as

distinct. He writes that it was found only in the mangrove jungle on the coast. It is another case of the tendency to pallid coloration in the avifauna of western Costa Rica, as exemplified by *Vireo pallens*, *Sublegatus arenarum* and *Myiarchus ferox actiosus*.

TABLE OF MEASUREMENTS

		WING	CULMEN
<i>brachytarsus</i>	6 ♂	68-74	13-15
"	9 ♀	65-70	12-15
<i>rhizophora</i>	1 ♂	74	11
"	1 ♀	67	11
<i>andinus</i> ?	6 ♂	71-78	13-15
"	4 ♀	70-75	12-13.5
<i>guianarum</i>	1?	72	12

### *Phœnicothraupis atrimaxillaris*, new species

**SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.**—Closest to *Phœnicothraupis gutturalis* in color and in the similarity of plumage of the two sexes, but crest deep orange red, not elongated; upperparts tinged with warm sepia, not pure slate-gray, the upper tail-coverts dark reddish-brown; throat bright peach-red, becoming very dull on abdomen, which is strongly washed with slate-gray, the flanks and sides slate-gray.

**TYPE.**—No. 55666, Dwight Collection; ♂ ad.; Puerto Jimenez, Golfo Dulce, Prov. de Puntarenas, Costa Rica; July 16, 1922; Austin Paul Smith.

**DESCRIPTION OF TYPE.**—Upperparts slate-gray, strongly tinged with warm sepia on the back, the upper tail-coverts dark reddish-brown; median portion of pileum bright orange-red, the feathers with slate-gray tips; wings and tail plain slate; lores, chin, malar region and sides of head jet black; a V-shaped area in center of throat bright peach-red, becoming dull crimson on breast and very dull on abdomen, which is strongly washed with slate-gray; axillars, under wing-coverts and flanks light slate-gray; "iris dark crimson; bill black; tarsus dark brown" (A. P. Smith on field label); wing, 98.5; tail, 87.5; culmen 18; tarsus, 27.

**OTHER PLUMAGES.**—Adult female very similar to adult male, but malar region duskie, duller red below, and crown-patch reduced to a few dark reddish-brown feathers. The immature male is paler as well as duller below, and all the dark areas are browner, with less gray.

### SPECIMENS EXAMINED

*Phœnicothraupis atrimaxillaris*.—COSTA RICA: Puerto Jimenez, 2 ♂ ad., 3 ♂ im., 2 ♀.

*Phœnicothraupis gutturalis*.—COLOMBIA: Honda, Tolima, 1 ♂.

*Phœnicothraupis fuscicauda fuscicauda*.—NICARAGUA: 6 ♂, 1 ♀. COSTA RICA, 8 ♂, 5 ♀.

This new species is a partial connecting link between *P. gutturalis* and *P. fuscicauda*, though much nearer the former. It differs from the latter in being much darker above with no suggestion of red; the crown-

patch and red of the underparts are very much paler. The great extent of the black on the chin and the broad black malar stripe are unique characters in the genus. The discovery of so distinct a species in western Costa Rica at the present time can only be regarded as astonishing and unexpected.

• We have not seen fit to cite a large series of *P. fuscicauda* "*erythrolæma*" from Panama, as it is a well-marked subspecies, which is even paler than the typical form, the female more olive, less brown. This subspecies was characterized by Thayer and Bangs (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., XLVI, No. 12, p. 222) and the name *erythrolæma* Sclater was applied to it. The alleged type locality "Santa Marta" was regarded as erroneous, recent thorough collecting having failed to detect any member of the genus in the region. Curiously enough, however, the American Museum possesses a male, No. 40891, from the old Lawrence Collection, labelled "Santa Martha." This bird apparently represents a third subspecies, slightly duskier above, with the red of the crown, throat and breast of a rosier shade. In this respect it is a dark edition of *P. salvini*, and, judging from the description only may be the same as the recently described *P. rubiginosa* Todd. There is the possibility, therefore, that *erythrolæma* does exist somewhere on the north coast of Colombia, that *P. rubiginosa* is a synonym of it, and that the Panama race of *P. fuscicauda* is unnamed. This question cannot be settled without critically comparing the type of *erythrolæma* with *rubiginosa* as well as with Panama examples of *fuscicauda*.

