

Article IX.—DESCRIPTIONS OF FIVE APPARENTLY
NEW BIRDS FROM VENEZUELA.

By FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

The American Museum has recently received from Mr. F. W. Urich of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, a small collection of birds made by him in Venezuela, about ninety miles from Cumana in the mountains near San Antonio, at an altitude of from 2000 to 4000 feet, at Campo Alegre and Caripe.

The collection contains only thirty-seven species, of which no less than seven were previously unrepresented in the Museum's collection, and five of these appear to have been undescribed, a fact which suggests that we have as yet only a superficial knowledge of the birds of this region.

***Setophaga verticalis palliventris*, subsp. nov.**

Char. Subsp.—Similar to *Setophaga verticalis* but somewhat smaller, with a smaller bill and the yellow of the under parts decidedly paler.

Description of Type.—(No. 70341, Coll. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Quebrada Seca, Venezuela, December 2, 1898. Collected by F. W. Urich. Collector's No. 50.)—Crown chestnut, rest of the upper parts, sides of the head, and the throat slate color, centre of the throat more blackish; wings black, the outer quills slightly margined with gray, the under surface and under coverts whitish; tail black, the two outer feathers with about the terminal half white, the third outer feather white for the terminal third; under parts, except throat, lemon-yellow. Wing, 2.42; tail, 2.56; exposed culmen, .33 inches.

Of this new race Mr. Urich sends five specimens. They show little variation in color, the amount of white on the third rectrix being the only variable character. From four specimens of *verticalis* from Bogota and Ecuador they can be at once distinguished by the decidedly paler color of the yellow under surface.

***Chlorospingus (Hemispingus) canipileus*, sp. nov.**

Char. Sp.—Most nearly related to *Chlorospingus superciliaris* (Lafr.) and *C. reyi* Berl., but differing from the former in the extension of the gray crown, and from the latter in the presence of a white ante-orbital stripe and in other particulars.

Description of Type.—No. 57391, Coll. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Los Pal-

males, Venezuela, December 3, 1898. Collected by F. W. Urich. Collector's No. 26.)—Crown, nape, and sides of the head, including the auriculars, bluish gray; chin, some of the feathers about the base of the sides of the bill, and a line from above the anterior border of the eye to the nostril white; back, rump, and exposed portions of the wings and tail bright olive-green; under parts, except chin, rich yellow, more greenish laterally. Wing, 2.52; tail, 2.42; exposed culmen, .48; depth of bill at nostril, .09 inches.

This species is based on a single well-plumaged, well-prepared, but, unfortunately, unsexed skin. Its nearest relationships are obviously with *C. superciliaris* and *C. reyi*; in fact, it appears to be intermediate between the two, though the region whence it comes prohibits the idea of considering it as a true connectant.

I have three Bogota examples of *C. superciliaris*, a species which appears to be restricted to Colombia, my three Ecuador specimens being referable to *nigrifrons* Lawr. *C. canipileus* differs from them in the restriction of the white superciliary line to the ante-orbital region, in its white chin, in the deeper shade of the gray of the head and its extension over the entire crown, nape, and sides of the head, in the greater intensity of the olive-green of the upper parts and yellow of the under parts, and in its slightly smaller size.

From *C. reyi*,¹ which is known only from Berlepsch's type from Merida, Venezuela, *canipileus* differs in the possession of a white ante-orbital streak and white chin, and, apparently, in the greater extension of the gray of the crown on the sides of the head. In *canipileus* this gray includes the auriculars and reaches the sides of the throat; in *reyi* a broad olivaceous stripe is stated to begin at the upper edge of the eye, and, including the upper edge of the auriculars, to join the olive-green of the back, while the rest of the sides of the head are described as yellow.

Mecocerculus nigriceps, sp. nov.

Char. Sp.—Similar to *Mecocerculus leucophrys* but crown blackish and back dark olive-green; superciliary line less distinct.

Description of Type.—(No. 70381, Coll. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., male, Las Palmes, Venezuela, December 7, 1898. Collected by F. W. Urich. Collector's No. 49.)—Whole top of head to upper margin of the auriculars blackish fuscous; an indistinct superciliary line; back dark olive-green, with brownish tinge; wings blackish, the greater and lesser coverts broadly tipped with buffy

¹ *Chlorospingus reyi* Berlepsch, Ibis, 1885, 288.

white, the secondaries externally margined with a deeper shade of the same color; tail fuscous, externally margined with the color of the back; throat and upper breast grayish white, passing into pale yellowish on the abdomen. Wing, 2.10; tail, 2.10; exposed culmen, .40 inches.

The single specimen on which this new species is based differs markedly from its nearest known ally, *M. leucophrys*, from which it appears to be specifically distinct.

***Mecocerculus urichi*, sp. nov.**

Char. Sp.—Most nearly related to *Mecocerculus consobrinus* (Berl.) but upper parts bright yellow green, head without "dark ashy or blackish,"¹ primaries without rusty yellowish, wings and tail shorter, etc.

Description of Type.—(No. 70384, Coll. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., female, Quebrada Seca, Venezuela, November 26, 1898. Collected by F. W. Urich. Collector's No. 7.)—Upper parts bright yellowish olive-green, slightly duller on the forehead; lores whitish, auriculars greenish yellow; wings blackish, all the quills, except the outer primary, margined externally with greenish yellow, this margin widening on the inner secondaries, and extending to include the tip of the feather where the color is whiter; greater and lesser wing-coverts broadly tipped with yellowish white; under wing-coverts and bend of the wing lemon-yellow; inner margin of the quills whitish, increasing in width on the secondaries; tail fuscous, margined externally with the color of the back; under parts bright lemon-yellow, somewhat whiter on the throat and greener on the sides of the breast. Wing, 2.30; tail, 2.20; exposed culmen, .32; height of bill at base, .15 inches.

The collection contains but one specimen of this interesting bird which evidently finds its closest relationships with *Mecocerculus consobrinus* described by Berlepsch from a single Bogota specimen. The differences separating the two birds, however, are apparently too numerous and important to leave any doubt of their specific distinctness. Aside from its smaller size, *M. urichi* is evidently a much greener bird, the back being bright olive-green instead of "dark" olive-green, the wings and their coverts being margined with yellowish instead of olive-green or rusty, and the crown lacks the "dark ashy or blackish color" ascribed by Berlepsch to *consobrinus*. The two birds, however, are evidently nearly related and in my opinion should be referred to a new genus distinguished from *Mecocerculus* by its more compressed bill and more convex culmen, resembling, in this respect, *Tyranniscus* rather than *Mecocerculus*.

¹ Cf. Berlepsch, *Orig. descr.*, *Ibis*, 1885, 289.

It gives me pleasure to name this species for its collector, Mr. F. W. Urich, who, as the honorary secretary of the Trinidad Naturalists' Field Club, has done so much to further the interests of science in that island.

***Synallaxis striatipectus*, sp. nov.**

Char. Sp.—Similar to *Synallaxis terrestris* Jardine but breast and abdomen heavily streaked.

Description of Type.—(No. 70393, Coll. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., female, Quebrada Seca, Venezuela, November 28, 1898. Collected by F. W. Urich. Collector's No. 19.)—Upper parts mummy-brown,¹ wing-coverts and exposed portion of quills chestnut-rufous, tail much darker than the back; throat white, the feathers laterally margined with black; breast and abdomen to the crissum heavily streaked with black and russet, paler posteriorly; flanks bistre, unstreaked. Wing, 2.22; tail, 2.70; exposed culmen, .50 inches.

This is an interesting addition to the group of birds composed of *Synallaxis terrestris* Jardine from Tobago, *S. carri* Chapm. from Trinidad, and *S. læmosticta* Scl. from Colombia. Of these three species it is, perhaps, most nearly related to *carri*, representing in a more marked degree the characters which distinguish *carri* from *terrestris*. In a measure it stands between *carri* and *læmosticta*, but whereas the streakings on the under surface of that bird are more or less obscure, in *striatipectus* they are well defined; furthermore, in coloration *læmosticta* is much more rufous throughout. In fact, in color *striatipectus* most nearly resembles *racri*, from which, however, it differs widely in the conspicuous striations of the under surface.

¹ Cf. Ridgway's 'Nomenclature of Colors.'