

Article XIII.—DESCRIPTIONS OF A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES
OF BIRDS FROM VENEZUELA.

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The mountainous region at the headwaters of the Orinoco is, zoologically, one of the least known areas in South America. Various attempts have been made to penetrate it but the obstacles presented by climate and transportation have not been wholly overcome.

Mr. L. E. Miller, who recently headed an American Museum expedition to this *terra incognita*, has more nearly achieved success than any of his predecessors, but through no fault of his he was obliged to retreat just as he was about to reap the reward of two months' constant exertion and exposure to the dangers incident to travel on the Orinoco.

Mr. Miller, accompanied by Mr. F. X. Iglseider, as assistant and cartographer, left Ciudad Bolivar, on December 17, 1912, in a small sloop bound for San Fernando de Atabapo. After a number of narrow escapes and the loss of one man, this remote settlement was reached January 28. On February 3, he re-embarked with a mandioca-hunter, whom he was fortunate enough to encounter, for his destination, Mt. Duida, farther up the Orinoco. This mountain being unscalable from the Orinoco side (site of the now abandoned village of Esmeraldas), it was proposed to attack it from the west by ascending the Cunucunuma, a small river which flows into the Orinoco about 20 miles west of the junction of the Orinoco and Cassiquiare, and on March 4, camp was established at Boca Sina, some 8 miles from the mouth of the Cunucunuma, and but two miles from the base of Duida.

Work was now begun on a trail through the forest to the mountain, but before it was completed Mr. Iglseider fell desperately ill with a complication of beri-beri and malaria, and in order to save his life Mr. Miller was compelled to return with him to San Fernando and, eventually, to the coast of the Paria Peninsula at Cristobal Colon.

Some 400 birds were collected on the Upper Orinoco; but none were taken above an altitude of 700 feet at the base of Duida, and the fauna of the mountain still remains unknown.

The six hundred specimens secured at Cristobal Colon represent a surprising number of species not found in Trinidad. An annotated list will be published later; in the meantime the more striking novelties of both collections are herewith described.

The color terms employed will be found figured in Ridgway's 'Color Standards and Nomenclature,' Washington, 1912.

Geotrygon pariae sp. nov.

Char. sp.— Similar to *Geotrygon venezuelensis* but darker throughout; nape with little or no gray, foreback washed with greenish or purplish; wings, etc. olive-brown rather than bay.

Type.— No. 120271, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., ♀ ad., Cristobal Colon, Paria Peninsula, Venezuela, alt. 1500 ft., June 1, 1913; L. E. Miller and F. X. Iglseeder.

Description of Type.— Forehead light vinaceous-tawny, the cheeks and auriculars paler passing into iridescent vinaceous-brown on the crown and nape; a narrow loreal stripe and broader submalar stripe black; post-ocular patch deep gull-gray; back olive-brown, the anterior portion iridescent purplish green, becoming purer purple on the posterior margin of the iridescent area; tail more ruddy than black, approaching Vandyke brown; wing-quills fuscous, externally sepia, the coverts browner, more russet in tone; under wing-coverts cinnamon; chin and throat white, chest gull-gray, narrowly tipped with pale cinnamon; flanks, thigh and under tail-coverts cinnamon-brown, paler, more buffy on the center of the breast and belly; feet coral, bill black. Wing, 143; tail, 106; tarsus, 39; culmen, 14 mm.

Remarks.— This species is represented by two specimens. It is doubtless the representative of *G. venezuelensis* and may be found to intergrade with that form, but comparison with three Merida specimens (topotypes) appears to indicate its specific distinctness. Probably it is more closely related to the Tobagan form to which Salvadori (Cat. Bds. B. M., XXI, p. 58) refers.

Neomorphus nigrogularis sp. nov.

Char. sp.— Similar to *Neomorphus rufipennis* (Gray), but smaller, the throat blackish, the lower breast, bill and flanks much darker; tail and wing-coverts greener.

Type.— No. 120273, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., ♂ ad., "testes enlarged." Foot of Mt. Duida, alt. 700 ft., Venezuela, March 28, 1913; L. E. Miller.

Description of Type.— Crown, nape and foreback shining, blackish blue, changing into olive-green on the middle-back which in turn becomes more bronzy on the rump and upper tail-coverts; tail externally olive-green with purplish reflections and a broad but ill-defined tip of indulin blue; primaries purplish black; secondaries brighter and widely margined externally with ferruginous chestnut; ocular region bare, the skin dull scarlet; cheeks, auriculars, chin and throat dark mouse-gray, the upper throat narrowly, the lower, more broadly tipped with shiny black becoming solid dark bluish black on the upper breast and sides of the neck; lower breast and abdomen deep mouse-gray becoming darker on the sides and deeper, more sooty, on the flanks and crissum; thighs mouse-gray; bill blackish basally, horn-color apically,

but the colors not sharply defined; maxilla yellowish basally. Wing, 151; tail 10.5, tarsus, 71; bill from posterior end of nostril, length, 38, depth, 12; gonys, 17 mm.

Remarks.— Of this form we have but a single specimen and of *N. rufipennis* an adult male and female, collected by Klages at Suapure, near the mouth of the Caura River, Venezuela, the latter agreeing well in essential details with the colored figure of Gould's type (P. Z. S., 1849, pl. 10). In view of the comparatively short distance between Suapure and the country at the foot of Duida it is somewhat surprising to find so old and apparently stable a type as *Neomorphus* represented at each locality by a different form. It may be suggested therefore that the differences exhibited by the Duida specimen are due to immaturity. The bird, however, appears to be adult and the collector's comment of "testes enlarged" indicates that it was at least sexually mature.

On the other hand, the differences shown may indicate the isolation of the Duida region and consequent specialization of some of the forms resident in it.

Nonnula duidæ sp. nov.

Char. sp.— Similar to *Nonnula cineracea* Sel., but lores, chin, throat and breast ochraceous tawny.

Type.— No. 120174, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., ♂ ad. (testes slightly enlarged). Foot of Duida, alt. 700 ft., Venezuela, March 28, 1913; L. E. Miller.

Description of Type.— Upperparts rich olive-brown, the crown slightly grayer, the forehead faintly tinged with cinnamon, becoming ochraceous tawny on the lores and base of the maxilla laterally; eye-ring whitish tinged with cinnamon, auriculars darker than auricular region, nearly the color of the back; tail, from above, blackish, the outer feathers lighter and with ill-defined grayish tips; from below, grayish, the central feathers with obscure blackish centers apically; wings fuscous, very narrowly bordered with buff externally, the inner margins of all but the outer primary and tertials margined with ochraceous-buff increasing in extent inwardly and coloring the under wing-coverts; chin, throat and breast ochraceous-tawny, lengthened bristly feathers of the former tipped with black; flanks paler, abdomen and under tail-coverts white, feet brownish; bill blackish, gonys yellowish. Wing, 64; tail, 52; tarsus, 13.5; culmen, 23.5 mm.

Remarks.— The collection contains a single specimen of this new form which considerably extends the range of the genus in the Amazon region. Doubtless it represents *Nonnula cineracea* with which it may be found to intergrade.

Microzenops gen. nov.

Char. gen.—Most nearly resembling *Xenops*, but gonys straight, not recurved, tail of ten instead of twelve feathers, square instead of rounded, and not reaching beyond the closed wings.

Description of Type.—A small, furnariine climbing bird, with a short, rather stout, laterally compressed bill, the depth at anterior border of nostril more than one-third greater than the width at the same place; gonydeal angle but slightly pronounced, the gonys straight; culmen slightly convex, the maxilla unnotched; commissure straight; nostril opening through a narrow, elliptical slit; second, third and fourth primaries of equal length, the fifth slightly shorter, the first and sixth subequal (all counted from without inward); tail of ten feathers, short, in skin not reaching beyond longest primaries in closed wing; the feathers rounded, all of about equal length and width; feet essentially as in *Xenops* but more slender, the toes joined basally, the inner to middle by its basal phalanx, the outer to middle by slightly more; hind-toe and claw longer than middle toe and claw; outer toe and claw reaching beyond, the inner toe and claw not reaching to the base of middle-toe without claw; tarsus scutellate, about equal in length to middle-toe and claw. Type, *Microzenops milleri*.

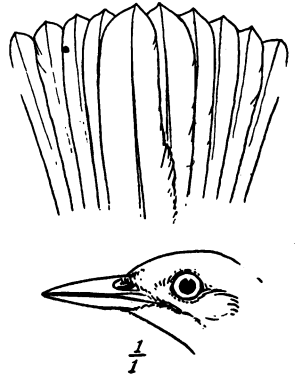


Fig. 1. Tail and bill of *Microzenops*.

Microzenops milleri sp. nov.

Char. sp.—A small (length skin, 96 mm.) furnariine bird with a general resemblance in color to species of the genus *Xenops* but with no white subauricular stripe and no black in the tail.

Type.—No. 120275, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. ♀ ad. Foot of Mt. Duida, alt. 700 ft., Venezuela, April 7, 1913; L. E. Miller.

Description of Type.—Crown blackish, conspicuously and evenly streaked from bill to nape with maize-yellow; a poorly defined maize-yellow superciliary stripe; interscapulars raw-umber with an olivaceous tinge, broadly striped with cream-color, deeper in tone terminally; rump cinnamon-rufous, unmarked; upper tail-coverts and tail deeper, more ferruginous; wing-quills black, the outer primary unmarked, the inner web of the second (from without) primary narrowly margined with ochraceous-buff, this color increasing in extent inwardly and forming a broad bar through the wing from the sixth primary (from without) inward, this bar on the outer vane of this feather being deeper cinnamon-rufous, the tertials largely cinnamon-rufous with an apical black shaft-streak; inner secondaries margined externally with cinnamon-rufous; greater wing-coverts black margined apically and externally with tawny olive; lesser wing-coverts black tipped with buff; under wing-coverts light ochraceous buff; throat, breast and cheeks cream-color laterally, margined with olive; flanks

and under tail-coverts grayish olive, the former obscurely streaked with cream-color, the latter more strongly marked with cream-buff; feet brownish black; toe-nails horn-color; bill black; lower mandible horn-color, its base blackish. Length (skin), 96; wing, 61; tail, 32; tarsus, 15.5; middle-toe and claw, 15; hind-toe and claw, 16; culmen, 12; bill at anterior margin of nostril, depth 4, width, 2.7 mm.

Remarks.— This interesting and apparently very distinct form is represented by but one specimen. Doubtless it resembles *Xenops* in habits, as it does in general appearance, but the marked difference in their structure suggests that the resemblance is superficial rather than indicative of close relationship. In its short, square tail *Microxenops* suggests *Sitta*, while the short wedge-shaped bill recalls, at first glance, that of *Picumnus* rather than that of any known genus of Furnariidæ or Dendrocolaptidæ.

I have named this species in honor of its collector, Mr. Leo E. Miller, in recognition of his services to science and to the American Museum as the leader of the expedition on which it was secured.

