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## Further Notes on Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

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Names of colors are capitalized when direct comparison has been made with Ridgway's "Color standards and color nomenclature."

### *Inezia inornata* (Salvadori)

*Serpophaga* [sic] *inornata* SALVADORI, 1897 (May 12), Boll. Mus. Zool. Torino, vol. 12, no. 292, p. 13—San Francisco, Bolivian Chaco [= Department of Tarija]; ♂ type or cotypes in Turin Mus.

This species has, at different times, been considered either as a subspecies of *Serpophaga subcristata* or as a distinct though congeneric species. There is no doubt that it has a remarkable superficial resemblance to *subcristata* but it is quite distinct. The tarsus is taxaspidean, while that of *subcristata* and other members of *Serpophaga* is exaspidean, perhaps slightly holaspidean at the upper end. The difference is certainly of generic value and definitely associates *inornata* with *Inezia* instead of *Serpophaga*.

*Serpophaga subcristata* sometimes has only a trace of the usually prominent black and white crest, but I have seen no more in *I. inornata* than a suggestion of obscure shaft marks without noticeable elongation of the feathers. The pectoral region of *inornata* is definitely, though not prominently, flammulated which it is not in *subflava*. The dorsal region

is more olivaceous; the yellow of the lower under parts is somewhat more greenish in tone and often restricted to the flanks; the tail lacks the pale or even whitish outer web that is of frequent occurrence in *subcristata*; and the bill is longer, more slender, and inclined to change the lateral outline to a more abrupt taper just before the tip, although there is no perfect distinction from *subcristata* in the form of the bill in every specimen. The tarsal feature, however, is constant.

None of the specimens I have examined has any definite development of the black-centered and white-margined crown feathers found in *Serpophaga subcristata*, as I have noted in the preceding paragraph, but various examples of *subcristata* have very little of this marking. The question arises, therefore, as to the possible misidentification of such specimens of *subcristata* as *inornata*. The tarsal character has been completely overlooked. Assignment of records of *inornata* is thus impossible until someone has examined the critical specimens. At any rate, in the material now before me are two skins of *inornata* from Embarcación, Salta, Argentina, that were labeled *subcristata*. They are, I believe, the first to be recognized from Argentina.

At the same time it is necessary to consider the bird known, at present, as *Phaeomyias tenuirostris* (*Camptostoma obsoletum tenuirostris* Cory, May 31, 1913, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., ornith. ser., vol. 1, p. 289—Río Aurare, Venezuela). Examination of a long series of this species, kindly lent by Dr. William H. Phelps, shows that it is a close relative of *inornata* and likewise a member of *Inezia*. The taxaspidean tarsus is present, the general style of coloration is the same (including the flammulated breast), and the bill is variably intermediate between the slender one of *inornata* and the broader one of *Inezia subflava*. The tail is intermediate in form and coloration, having the outer rectrices proportionately shorter, on average, than in *inornata*, but longer than in *subflava*, while the whitish outer margins and tips found in *subflava* but not in *inornata* are occasionally noticeably developed.

It is therefore no strain on the broad generic boundaries of *Inezia* to include in it these two species, which now should be called *Inezia inornata* and *Inezia tenuirostris*.

## SPECIMENS EXAMINED

### *I. inornata*.—

#### BOLIVIA:

Todos Santos, 2 ♂, 1 ♀, 3 ♂<sup>1</sup>, 2 ♀<sup>1</sup>;  
Villa Montes, Tarija, 1 ♂<sup>1</sup>, 1 ♀<sup>1</sup>;  
Chatarona, La Paz, 1 ♀<sup>1</sup>;  
Susi, Rfo Beni, 1 ♂<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Specimens in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

## BRAZIL:

Urucum, Mato Grosso, 3 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 (?).

## ARGENTINA:

Embarcación, Salta, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

## PARAGUAY:

Belén, 1 ♂;

Chaco, opposite Concepción, 1 ♂;

Zanja Morotí, 2 (?).

*I. tenuirostris*.—

## VENEZUELA:

Lara, El Cují, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 3 ♂<sup>1</sup>, 2 ? ♀<sup>1</sup>;

Barquisimeto, 1 ♂;

Carora, 31 ♂<sup>1</sup>, 16 ♀<sup>1</sup>, 19 (?)<sup>1</sup>;

Falcón, La Vela de Coro, 1 ? ♂<sup>1</sup>;

Sabaneta, 2 ♀<sup>1</sup>, 2 (?)<sup>1</sup>;

Dabajuro, 2 ♂<sup>1</sup>;

Urumaco, 1 (?)<sup>1</sup>;

Paraguaná, Moruy, 1 ♂<sup>1</sup>;

Goajira, Paraguaipoa, 1 (?)<sup>1</sup>.

## COLOMBIA:

Santa Marta, Ciénaga, 1 ♀.

*Capsiempis flaveola amazona*, new subspecies

TYPE: From Borba, Rio Madeira (right bank), Brazil. No. 279804, American Museum of Natural History. Adult male collected February 7, 1930, by the Olalla brothers.

DIAGNOSIS: Similar in size to *C. f. flaveola* of southeastern Brazil, but wing bars broader and more pronounced; upper surface darker olive, and under parts averaging lighter yellow with less development of the orange-buff pectoral area. Differs from *C. f. cerula* of Venezuela in smaller size and slightly darker and duller upper surface on average; wing bars about equally developed in both.

RANGE: Lower Amazon Valley of Brazil, from the left bank of the Rio Madeira eastward to the Rio Tapajoz; the north bank of the Amazon on the Rio Jamundá, and apparently northward to the upper Rio Negro, Brazil, Cayenne, and the Orinoco Delta, eastern Venezuela.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE: Upper parts near Olive-Citrine; top of the head varied by dusky centers on the feathers, not sharply defined; a broad superciliary stripe light Primrose Yellow above the lores, becoming duller above the auriculars; lores dusky; auricular and malar region dull yellowish; throat Citron Yellow × Amber Yellow; breast with a tinge of Primuline Yellow in the center; belly like the throat; under tail-coverts light Barium Yellow; thighs olive. Wings blackish brown; outer margins of primaries, except the outermost, narrowly

<sup>1</sup> Specimens in Phelps Collection, Caracas.

light olive; secondaries with outer margins broader and a little more yellowish basally, paler distally; tertials with outer marginal stripes still broader and more whitish on distal half but with a fine edging of olive; lesser upper wing-coverts with exposed portions like the back; median and greater series Chaetura Drab, with broad tips of Marguerite Yellow, forming conspicuous wing bars; inner margins of remiges Marguerite Yellow; under wing-coverts mostly light yellow, deeper along carpal margin. Tail graduated and with the feathers relatively slender; median rectrices above light Olive-Brown; remainder somewhat lighter brown; all edged exteriorly with light Yellowish Olive except that the outermost pair has the outer web near Pale Olive-Buff, darkening distally; outer two pairs with narrow and inconspicuous whitish tips. Bill and feet (in dried skin) blackish. Wing, 47 mm.; tail, 42.5; exposed culmen, 9; culmen from base 11.1; tarsus, 16.

REMARKS: Females similar to the males in coloration but averaging smaller.

The series of specimens from the Amazonian region (both banks) and a single male from Cayenne show the following measurements:

	MALES	FEMALES
Wing.....	45-49.5 (47.4)	44-46 (45.2)
Tail.....	40-47.5 (44.4)	40-44 (42.6)
Culmen from base.....	10.9-12 (11.4)	11-11.7 (11.4)

Venezuelan examples of *cerula* measure as follows:

	MALES	FEMALES
Wing.....	50-53 (52.2)	48-50.5 (49.9)
Tail.....	49-52 (49.7)	46.5-50.2 (48.4)
Culmen from base.....	12-13 (12.6)	12-13.2 (12.6)

The topotypical examples of *cerula* are slightly yellower olive on the upper parts than other Venezuelan examples I have seen, although some of the others approach them very closely. The series as a whole shows variation in this, with the darker extremes resembling *amazona* in the color of the dorsum. Light and dark birds, however, are at hand from the same localities, and geographical significance in the variation is not apparent. It is possible, however, that a longer series might show the greater tendency toward obscure upper parts in the southern parts of the range.

I am unable to appreciate the supposed white throat of *cerula*. In all the examples I have seen the throat is definitely yellow, although sometimes lighter yellow than the rest of the under parts. The entire under surface is lighter yellow than the average of *flaveola flaveola*, with little development of the buffy pectoral band that is found in

some degree in most *flaveola flaveola*. The lores and superciliary stripes are also lighter, being sometimes only slightly tinged with yellow. Furthermore, the wing bars are broader and more pronounced than in *flaveola* but about as in *amazona*.

A non-sexed bird from the Orinoco Delta, eastern Venezuela, has the wing 46 mm.; tail, 43; culmen from base, 11, agreeing well with *amazona*. A female (in the United States National Museum) from Providencia, Rio Negro, Brazil, is larger, with the wing 48 [tail in molt]; culmen from base, 12; but it is usually dark olive above and, in general, appears to be nearer *amazona* than *cerula*.

On the other hand, a male from Tamatama, upper Río Orinoco, Venezuela (also in the United States National Museum) is still larger, with wing, 51 mm.; tail, 52; culmen from base, 12.2, coming within the range of measurements of *cerula*. It also is dark above, being darker than any in my series of *amazona* except the still darker Providencia specimen mentioned above, but the darkest examples of *cerula* are not pronouncedly different in color. With the measurements and color in relative agreement, assignment to *cerula* is indicated. Additional material from the upper Negro and upper Orinoco would be useful in delimiting the two forms in this general area. Friedmann (1948, Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus., vol. 97, p. 516) referred the Tamatama and Providencia specimens to *flaveola flaveola*, but they do not fit well into the series of that form, regardless of the geographical problem that would be presented by such an assignment.

Three males from northeastern Ecuador were identified by Chapman as *magnirostris* (of western Ecuador), but they agree with the series of *cerula* both in color and measurements. The culmen from base is 12, 12.2, and 12.5, respectively, while in *magnirostris* males it is 12.8–14 (13.5); females, 12.2–13 (12.9). The dorsum is the darker olive of *cerula* instead of the usually lighter tone found in *magnirostris*. The wings are 50.5, 52.5, and 53.5, and the tails 49 in two of the specimens (in molt in the third). Assignment to *cerula* is again indicated instead of to *amazona*.

Curiously, there are no records from southeastern Ecuador or from the whole of Perú, and southwestern Brazil appears to be equally devoid of a population of the species. The records from Bolivia appear to mark the westernmost end of the range of *flaveola flaveola*, connected with *amazona* only by way of Paraguay, northeastern Argentina, and southeastern Brazil; I have seen no Bolivian material.

I am not fully convinced as to the proper treatment of *magnirostris* and *semiflava*. There is very little difference to be seen in specimens from western Ecuador and those from Panamá, representing the two

forms, respectively. Only two males of *magnirostris* (including the type) have the bill longer (14 mm.) than the maximum of *semiflava* (13 mm.), although it must be admitted that most of the series of *semiflava* show this dimension smaller than that found in the present series from western Ecuador. Furthermore, the Panamá birds and a few specimens from Costa Rica have the top of the head more uniform in color, with the dusky centers on the feathers that mark *magnirostris*, as well as the other South American subspecies, here weakened or obsolete.

Farther to the north, specimens from southeastern Nicaragua present still another problem. Most of a series of eight examples are decidedly grayer on the upper surface than the Costa Rican and Panamanian birds, and most of them also show noticeable dusky centers on the feathers of the cap. Unfortunately, most of them are in molt, although the gonads were enlarged in all but two of the birds, and one of the females was found to be laying. The specimens with the least indications of molt are least distinguishable (if at all) from the more southern examples of *semiflava*. Consequently, although I am unable to match the darkest examples by molting specimens of *semiflava*, I cannot be certain that the character is sufficiently valid to justify the proposal of subspecific distinction for the Nicaraguan series. Additional Nicaraguan material is much to be desired. It may be added that the Nicaraguan specimens at hand appear to have the bill slightly heavier, on average, than it is in Costa Rican and Panamanian specimens, and the lores whiter or paler yellow. All these characters need confirmation. For the present, therefore, the range of *semiflava* may be considered as including extreme southern Nicaragua.

#### SPECIMENS EXAMINED

##### *C. f. semiflava*.—

###### NICARAGUA:

(Los Sabalos, San Carlos, and San Francisco, 7 miles east of San Carlos),  
2 ♂, 6 ♀.

###### COSTA RICA:

(Puerto Jiménez, Boruca, and Buenos Aires), 4 ♂, 3 ♀.

###### PANAMÁ:

(Boquerón, Chiriquí, Corozal, Farfan, Savanna near Panamá, La Colorada, "Panamá," and Cebaco Island), 6 ♂, 2 ♀, 1 (?).

##### *C. f. magnirostris*.—

###### ECUADOR:

(Chimbo, Río Jubones, Bucay, and Santa Rosa), 4 ♂ (including type),  
4 ♀, 2 (?).

##### *C. f. leucophrys*.—

###### COLOMBIA:

Chicoral, 1 ♀, 1 (?);  
"Bogotá," 20 (?).

*C. f. cerula*.—

## VENEZUELA:

- Ocumaré de la Costa, 1 ♂<sup>1</sup>, 1 ♀<sup>1</sup>;  
 (Cumanacoa and La Florida) 1 ♂, 4 ♀;  
 (Agua Salada de Ciudad Bolívar, Suapure, Altagracia, Caicara, and La  
 Prisión), 6 ♂, 5 ♀;  
 Tamatama, upper Orinoco, 1 ♂<sup>1</sup>.

## COLOMBIA:

- Maipures, 1 ♂.

## ECUADOR:

- Río Suno above Avila, 2 ♂;  
 below San José, 1 ♂.

*C. f. amazona*.—

## VENEZUELA:

- Las Barrancas, 1 (?).

## CAYENNE:

- Approuague River, 1 ♂.

## BRAZIL:

- Providencia, Rio Negro, 1 (?)<sup>1</sup>;  
 Faro, Rio Jamundá, 4 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 (?);  
 Rio Tapajoz (Ilha Goyana, Piquiatuba, Caxiricatuba, and Igarapé Brabo),  
 3 ♂, 1 ♀;  
 Villa Bella Imperatriz (Santa Clara and Serra de Parintins), 6 ♂, 3 ♀,  
 2 (?);  
 Rio Madeira, Borba, 2 ♂ (including type), 1 (?);  
 (Rosarinho and Santo Antonio de Guajará), 2 ♀, 1 (?).

*C. f. flaveola*.—

## BRAZIL:

- Baía (Bôa Nova, Baixao, Itirussú, Bafa, and "Bahia-skins"), 4 ♂, 4 ♀,  
 1 ? ♀, 7 (?);  
 Pernambuco (Palmares and Brejao), 1 ♂, 1 ♀;  
 Espirito Santo, Santa Barbara de Capará, 2 ♂, 2 (?);  
 Rio de Janeiro, Therezopolis, 1 ♀;  
 Paraná (Foz de Iguassú, Guayra, and Porto Mendez), 9 ♂, 2 ♀, 2 (?);  
 São Paulo (Victoria, Fazenda Cayoá, and Franca), 3 ♂, 2 ♀.

## ARGENTINA:

- Misiones, Puerto Segundo, 1 ♂.

## PARAGUAY:

- (Colonia Independencia and east of Yhú), 3 ♂, 2 ♀.

*Euscarthmus meloryphus meloryphus* Wied

*Sylvia ruficapillus* (not *Sylvia ruficapilla* Latham, 1790) VIEILLOT, 1817, Nouveau dictionnaire d'histoire naturelle, nouvelle édition, vol. 11, p. 179—based on "Contra maestre coronado" Azara, no. 164; Paraguay.

[*Euscarthmus*] *meloryphus* WIED, 1831, Beiträge zur Naturgeschichte von Brasilien, vol. 3, pt. 2, p. 947—Campos Geral and boundary of Minas Gerais and Bafa; I propose restriction to Vallo Fundo, southern Bafa; ♀; Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.

<sup>1</sup> Specimens in the United States National Museum.

*Lepturus ruficeps* SWAINSON, 1838, The naturalist's library, Ornithology, vol. 10, p. 181, pl. 20—no locality given; I suggest Baía, Brazil.

*Hapalocercus meloryphus fulvicepsoides* SZTOLCMAN, 1926, Ann. Zool. Mus. Polonici Hist. Nat., vol. 5, pt. 3, p. 166—Candido de Abreu, Paraná, Brazil; 2 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 (?), Warsaw Mus.

I have already commented (1940, Amer. Mus. Novitates, no. 1095, p. 3) on the uncertainty of recognizing *fulvicepsoides* in spite of certain distinctions noted in the material examined at that time. Later study of the same material suggests the possibility that the distinctions noted in the birds from Baía, Pernambuco, and Ceará may be due in large part to the greater wear of their plumage (October to December) in comparison with the fresher condition of the specimens from other parts of Brazil and Bolivia (April to September). The Tucumán and Salta, Argentina, specimens that were found to be different from all the others are dated November and December also, and, although somewhat grayer than the Pernambuco-Baía-Ceará birds, are similarly dull and have less prominent yellow on the under parts than the April to September specimens. More material is still needed to clarify the situation in these southern regions.

Comparison of the entire southern series with birds from Venezuela and eastern Colombia shows, however, that there is a difference in length of tail in the two regions. This has already been noted by Hellmayr (1927, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 5, p. 359) who believed the difference to be inconsiderable. Dr. Phelps has kindly supplied me with measurements of Venezuelan specimens in his collection which show agreement with the skins in hand, and published figures for four specimens from Santa Marta, including the type of *paulus* (*Hapalocercus paulus* Bangs, Nov. 11, 1899, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 13, p. 96—Chirua, Santa Marta, Colombia; ♀; Mus. Comp. Zool.), fit into the same picture. Thirty-four northern birds thus show the tail to be 35–40 mm. (average, 38). The series of 25 birds from the south, with one exception, have the tail 40–44.5 (average, 41.7). The single exception shows the tail only 37, but the specimen appears to be immature and I believe may be disregarded in the present instance. With that exception, 51 of the remaining 58 birds are distinguishable. The difference is small, amounting to some 9 per cent of the average tail length of both populations, but the two regions are distant from each other and I believe may be justifiably recognized as supporting different subspecies of the present group. The name *Euscarthmus meloryphus paulus* (Bangs) may thus be applied to the northern population.

No positive differences appear in the lengths of wing which are

43.5–49 (average, 45.9) in *meloryphus* and 42.5–49 (average, 44.4) in *paulus* as here recognized. The sexes have not been segregated for either wing or tail measurements, as I have found no appreciable differences in these factors.

Since no certain identification of Swainson's "*ruficeps*" appears to be possible, in the absence of the type or any specification by the describer, I have suggested Baía as a satisfactory restricted locality from which Swainson's specimen or specimens could easily have come and which will place the otherwise uncertain name safely in the synonymy of *meloryphus*.

### SPECIMENS EXAMINED

#### *E. m. meloryphus*.—

##### BRAZIL:

- Baía, Orobó, 1 ♂;
- Pernambuco, Rio Branco, 4 ♂;
- Ceará, São Pedro, 2 ♂;
- Piauí, Gilbues, 1 ♀;
- Maranhão, Miritiba, 1 ♀;
- Minas Gerais, Serra de Caparaó, 1 ♂, 1 ♀;
- São Paulo, Victoria, 1 ♂;
- Mato Grosso, Chapada, 1 (?);
- Mato Grosso, Campanario, 4 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 (?);
- Brazil, 1 ♀ (type of *meloryphus*).

##### ARGENTINA:

- Salta, Arenal, 2 ♂;
- Tucumán, Concepción, 1 ♂;
- Tucumán, Simoca, 1 ♂.

##### BOLIVIA:

- Province of Sara, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

#### *E. m. paulus*.—

##### COLOMBIA:

- Chicoral, 1 ♀;
- Cúcuta, 1 ♀;
- "Bogotá," 6 (?).

##### VENEZUELA:

- Lara, Barquisimeto, 3 ♂, 2 ♀;
- Sucre, Cumaná, 1 (?);
- Sucre, Carúpano, 1 ♂;
- Bolívar, Ciudad Bolívar, 1 ♀, 1 (?).

### *Polystictus superciliaris* (Wied)

*E[uscarthmus] superciliaris* WIED, 1831, Beiträge zur Naturgeschichte von Brasilien, vol. 3, pt. 2, p. 953—"in den inneren Campos Geraës an den Gränzen der Provinzen Minas und Bahia"; I propose Vallo Fundo, southern Baía, as restricted type locality.

For many years the two cotypes of Wied's species were the only specimens known, or at least reported, of this form. Dr. Erwin Stresemann wrote me some time ago that he had found in the Berlin Museum a female credited to Friedrich Sellow who had accompanied Wied during part of his Brazilian travels. This specimen, since recorded by Stresemann (1954, Mitt. Zool. Mus. Berlin, vol. 30, no. 1, p. 52), may have been taken at the same place as the cotypes, although, as with Wied's birds, no locality other than "Brasilien" appears on the label. It is important to record, therefore, two more specimens, a male and a female, collected by Emil Kaempfer at Morro de Chapéo, central Baía, on May 5, 1928, now in the American Museum of Natural History.

Comparison of these two birds with Wied's specimens shows that the latter have faded greatly, being quite brownish above, including the darker cap, whereas the Kaempfer skins are gray and dark gray in the same regions. The under parts are rufous in both sets, but deeper in the fresher Kaempfer specimens with the mid-belly whitish in the male, creamy whitish in the female, characters that are less prominent, though present, in the cotypes. The pattern is the same in both sets, and the differences found are only those that can be ascribed to the fading of the old cotypes.

There are a few minor differences between *superciliaris* and *P. pectoralis*. The rictal bristles are a little longer than in *pectoralis* and the outer primaries are of slightly different relative lengths. The variation in a series of *pectoralis* suggests that a longer series of *superciliaris* would serve to erase some of the distinction noted. In any case, there appear to be insufficient grounds for the erection of a monotypic genus for *superciliaris*.

The locality where Wied obtained his specimens of the species is not stated except in the general terms given above in the original reference. However, Wied, in his "Reise nach Brasilien," noted that when he reached "Valo" on the border of Minas Gerais and Baía, he remained there some time in order to become acquainted with the "Campos Geraës," and he spoke of the numbers of new birds he found in the area. On leaving "Valo," he returned part way along his entrance route and did not penetrate the "Campos" farther. The evidence is fairly clear, therefore, that "Valo" is probably the place where he found the species under discussion.

On the "millionth map" of the American Geographical Society, there is a Vallo Fundo in Baía at latitude 15°6' S., and longitude 41°47' W., on the border of Minas Gerais, and the course of Wied's specified itinerary reaches just that point. Wied's map, an amended

copy of an Arrowsmith map, is too faulty to be of much service in locating the author's exact course, but his "Valo" is still in Baía on the boundary of Minas Gerais between longitudes 41° and 42° W. Accordingly I have proposed this place as the restricted type locality of the present species as well as of *Euscarthmus meloryphus* Wied.

I revert to the generic name *Polystictus* Reichenbach (1850) in place of *Habrura* Cabanis and Heine (1859) which was proposed in the mistaken belief that Reichenbach's term was preoccupied by *Polysticte* Smith (1835). *Polysticte* Eyton (1836) likewise does not preclude the use of *Polystictus*.

### SPECIMENS EXAMINED

*P. superciliaris*.—

BRAZIL:

No locality [probably Vallo Fundo, Baía], 1 ♂, 1 (?) (cotypes);  
Morro de Chapéo, Baía, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

*P. pectoralis bogotensis*.—

COLOMBIA:

Suba, 2 (?), (including type).

*P. p. brevipennis*.—

VENEZUELA:

Quiribana de Caicara, 1 ♂ (type);  
Roraima, 3 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 [?♀].

BRITISH GUIANA:

Annai, 3 ♂, 1 [♂], 1 ♀;  
upper Takutu Mountains, 1 [?♀].

*P. p. pectoralis*.—

BRAZIL:

Mato Grosso, Chapada, 2 ♂, 1 "♂" [? = ♀], 2 [?♂], 3 ♀.

PARAGUAY:

(Puerto Pinasco, Makthlawaiya, La Fonciere, and Belén), 4 [?♂], 3 ♀, 1 [?♀].

BOLIVIA:

Province of Sara, 1 "♀" [= ?♂].

### *Stigmatura budytoides gracilis*, new subspecies

TYPE: From Joazeiro, Baía, Brazil; altitude 1000 feet. No. 243787, American Museum of Natural History. Adult female collected March 27, 1927, by Emil Kaempfer; original no. 4774.

DIAGNOSIS: Similar to *S. b. inzonata* of Tucumán, Argentina, but smaller; darker and more grayish olive and less brownish dorsally; tail with more extensive white markings, including a well-marked patch on the submedian rectrices.

Compared with *S. napensis bahiae* from the same region, the size is larger; the upper parts are grayish olive instead of brown; the under

parts are bright yellow instead of buffy and are without brown on the flanks; the remiges and rectrices are more deeply blackish and are broader distally; the white patch on the submedian rectrices is distinctive; and the whitish margins of the tertials are restricted to the distal portion, not reaching so far basad as in *bahiae*.

RANGE: Known only from the state of Bafa, eastern Brazil.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE: Whole dorsal surface of head and body somewhat darker than Deep Grayish Olive; lores near Marguerite Yellow except for a blackish anteocular spot and with the yellow meeting across the front and continuing posteriad in a broad superciliary stripe; a dark olive stripe behind the eye and on sides of neck, involving the ends of the auriculars; rest of the sides of the head and most of the under parts Barium Yellow  $\times$  Straw Yellow; sides broadly Deep Olive-Gray. Primaries and secondaries dark brown, finely margined exteriorly with light olive gray, becoming broader and more whitish on distal part of the secondaries; tertials more blackish brown, with the distal part of the outer margins and the tips rather prominently whitish; lesser upper wing-coverts like the back; median and greater series blackish brown, with broad tips on the median series and broad outer margins on the greater ones pale buffy yellowish, forming a conspicuous patch; alula and primary coverts blackish, unmarked; inner margins of remiges narrowly and sharply yellowish white; under wing coverts pale yellowish. Tail blackish; median rectrices with a poorly marked grayish area on the outer margin near the middle of the length and a faint suggestion of a light tint on the inner margin; second to fifth pairs with a prominent white patch on the inner web near the middle, largest on the fifth pair; outermost with a similar white patch and, in addition, the entire outer web white; all but the median pair with broad white tips. Bill and feet (in dried skin) black. Wing, 54 mm.; tail, 63.2; exposed culmen, 9; culmen from base, 14; tarsus, 19.

REMARKS: I have already called attention to the present form but without giving it a name (1940, Amer. Mus. Novitates, no. 1095, p. 12). Through the kindness of the late Mrs. Naumburg, I am now enabled to describe it. As mentioned in the previous brief statement, although *S. napensis bahiae* occurs at some of the same localities as the present form (perhaps at all of them), there is no suggestion of intergradation between them.

All the specimens of *gracilis* at hand are females, of which the type is the smallest. The other specimens have their tails in molt, for which reason the individual selected as type was chosen as such in spite of its minimum dimensions. Even so, its tail is longer than that of any female of *bahiae* although in part equalled by the males of that form. The

series of *gracilis* has the wing, 54, 57, 57, 59; tail, 65.5, 66.5 (64+, 65.5+). Females of *bahiae* have the wing, 50; tail, 57.5, 59; males: wing, 53-54; tail, 59 (61+), 63.2.

As noted in the earlier paper, assignment of earlier records to this form or *bahiae* is problematical. Pinto (1944, *Catálogo das aves do Brasil*, pt. 2, p. 257, footnote) was unable to appreciate the differences in the material he had at hand, but it is quite possible that he had only one of the forms. In the material now before me, the two are pronouncedly different. One of the characters to which I drew no earlier attention is the white marking on the submedian rectrices. Even in the specimens with tail in molt, this feature is notable but appears to be lacking in all the other forms, including *napensis*.

The specimens of *bahiae* have a suggestion of immaturity in the somewhat less firm texture of plumage compared with that of *gracilis*, and the more slender remiges and rectrices, a feature they share with the series of *napensis*, but all four recently collected specimens (excluding the type) are marked as with at least slightly enlarged gonads, and one of the females is noted as having a ripe egg in the ovary. Two of the specimens of *gracilis* are similarly labeled as having ovaries slightly enlarged; the other two are not so marked.

The material examined has been listed in detail in the earlier paper and is summarized below.

### SPECIMENS EXAMINED

#### *S. n. napensis*.—

##### PERÚ:

Mouth of the Curaray<sup>1</sup>, 1 ♂ (type), 3 ♀.

##### BRAZIL:

Amazon Valley, 10 ♂, 15 ♀, 2 (?).

#### *S. n. bahiae*.—

##### BRAZIL:

Baía (Joazeiro and Barra), 2 ♂ (including type), 2 ♀;

Pernambuco, 1 ♂.

#### *S. b. budytoides*.—

BOLIVIA: 9 ♂, 4 ♀.

#### *S. b. inzonata*.—

##### ARGENTINA:

(Tucumán, La Rioja, Jujuy, Salta, Santiago del Estero, and Chaco), 14 ♂, 11 ♀.

#### *S. b. flavo-cinerea*.—

##### ARGENTINA:

Córdoba, 4 ♂.

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<sup>1</sup> Locality previously considered to be in Ecuador.

*S. b. gracilis*.—

BRAZIL:

Bafa, Joazeiro, 1 ♀ (type);

Barra, 1 ♀ ;

Remanso, 2 ♀ .

*Serpophaga subcristata munda* Berlepsch

*Serpophaga munda* BERLEPSCH, 1893 (Jan.), Ornith. Monatsber., vol. 1, p. 12—"Bolivia alta (Samaipata, Valle Grande, Olguin), ?Argentina septentr. (Cordova et Parana)"; Berlepsch Coll., Frankfort Mus.; I suggest Samaipata, Bolivia, as restricted type locality.

The present form is extremely difficult to analyze. It was based on specimens that were found to differ from "*S. subcristata*" by having the belly white instead of yellow, the back brownish gray instead of olivaceous, and the upper wing-coverts broadly tipped with white (which they are in many *subcristata*). Birds from the central and south-central highlands of Bolivia agree with this diagnosis and undoubtedly represent what was thus described, and as far as I know, only such white-bellied birds occur at the localities mentioned in the original account. The difficulty occurs elsewhere. In more eastern lowlands of Bolivia, the yellow-bellied *subcristata* appears to be the dominant if not the sole representative of this group, and only one specimen, an immature example in worn plumage, has come to hand from a locality where white-bellied birds also occur. Since both *munda* and *subcristata* are reported as migratory, the occurrence together in the non-breeding season is inconclusive. (*Subcristata* has been noted as a migrant in southern Santa Fé, Argentina, and *munda* as present only in the breeding season in Córdoba.)

In northwestern Argentina, apparently the white-bellied *munda* again predominates, perhaps exclusively, but farther to the eastward, in the Chaco and Santiago del Estero, as well as in Paraguay, birds of both sorts occur, at least in part of the year, although I do not know that both breed there. Still farther eastward, in southeastern Brazil and eastern Argentina, the yellow-bellied birds are almost alone, and evidences or specimens of white-bellied individuals are extremely rare. Where both sorts occur together in these places, the only distinguishing character is the presence or absence of yellow coloration. This yellow, however, is not a constant character, and there are numerous individuals that are not clearly assignable to one supposed form rather than to the other. There is sometimes only a suggestion of yellow on the under parts, varying in intensity, and it is possible to show a complete transition from one extreme to the other, from white to pronounced yellow. There is no certain line of distinction.

I believe, therefore, that it is impossible to maintain two species for this assemblage, based merely on the coloration. It is possible, however, to recognize subspecies in the group. As noted in the introductory paragraph, the birds from the central and southern highlands of Bolivia are apparently exclusively of the gray and white sort. In addition, they show a maximum size, particularly in the length of tail in the male sex; the difference is less pronounced in the females. Associated with the long-tailed Bolivian birds are the specimens from Salta, Jujuy, and Tucumán, and possibly Mendoza, northwestern Argentina. Twenty males from the combined range here indicated include only two examples (one of which is not certainly adult while the other may be wrongly sexed), as short-tailed as males from central-northern Argentina and Paraguay, including both yellow- and white-bellied individuals. It is possible, therefore, to recognize *munda* as a long-tailed, white-bellied form of *subcristata* restricted to northwestern Argentina and central Bolivia. Males have the tail 50–56 mm. in length, possibly rarely 48 and doubtfully 46. *Subcristata* males range from 45 to 49.5, and possibly lower if two specimens with tails 41.5 and 43 are correctly sexed; these minimum measurements agree with the minimum for females.

A further division of *subcristata* is suggested by the series at hand from eastern Brazil. These birds agree with the Paraguayan *s. subcristata* in general, with less frequent occurrence of white-bellied individuals, but the top of the head has stronger markings of black and white. In extreme southeastern Brazil, in the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Paraná, the character is not so well marked as in Minas Gerais where it appears at best advantage. São Paulo birds, also, are less well marked than the Minas Gerais examples. Nevertheless, in most of the specimens from the whole of southeastern Brazil there is an average difference of the sort mentioned. I suggest, therefore, that the name *straminea* (*Muscicapa straminea* Temminck, 1822, Nouveau recueil de planches coloriées, livr. 28, pl. 167, fig. 2—"Brésil," coll. Natterer = Ypanemá, São Paulo) be adopted for this population. It would include in its range the eastern states from Piauí and Baía south to Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, and possibly Uruguay, from which country I have seen no material. Specimens from Buenos Aires and environs, in eastern Argentina, appear to belong to *s. subcristata*.

A few of these easternmost individuals, both of *subcristata* and *straminea*, have tails a little longer than any of the more western specimens of *subcristata*. Two males from Rio Grande do Sul have the tail 50 and 51 mm.; two from Santa Catarina show 50 and 51.5; one from Buenos Aires, 50. This maximum length cuts into the minimum

measurements of *munda* in these five out of 43 males measured, leaving *munda* with less than half of its series, in the material at hand, over the maximum of the two eastern forms. Of these latter, there is only one *s. subcristata* (the other three are *straminea*), and it is exceeded by all but three of the 19 *munda* males (two of which, in turn, are possibly not comparable, as noted above). The distinction of *munda*, therefore, holds true in a total of 16 out of 19 *munda* males and 14 out of 15 *subcristata* males. In four out of 28 *straminea*, the tail length is within the range of 10 of the 19 *munda*, and the total separation in *munda* and *straminea* males is only 23 out of 47; with all three forms, it is 47 out of 62. This throws doubt on the advisability of recognizing *munda* at all on the basis of tail length, which is the only character that I am able to find after discounting the color. Nevertheless, in view of the long-established recognition of *munda*, the name may be preserved for the extreme western population, long-tailed and presumably never yellow-bellied.

That leaves *subcristata*, sometimes yellow-bellied and sometimes white-bellied, occupying the central-southern area of eastern Bolivia, southern Mato Grosso, Paraguay, and northern Argentina, and *straminea*, almost exclusively yellow-bellied, inhabiting southeastern Brazil and possibly Uruguay. The arrangement is not perfectly satisfactory, but with the 150 or more specimens examined in the present connection, it offers the best explanation of the puzzling features noted.

### SPECIMENS EXAMINED

#### *S. s. munda*.—

##### BOLIVIA:

- Cochabamba, Parotani, 2 ♀ ;
- Ele-Ele, 1 ♂<sup>1</sup>;
- Tujma, 1 ♀ ;
- Santa Cruz, California, 1 ♀ ;
- Samaipata, 1 ♂, 1 ♂<sup>1</sup>;
- Valle Grande, 1 (?) ;
- Sucre, Rfo Pilcomayo, 2 ♂ ;
- Rfo Cachimayo, 2 ♂ ;
- Tarija, San Lorenzo, 6 ♂<sup>1</sup>, 2 ♀<sup>1</sup>;
- La Merced, 1 ♀<sup>1</sup>;
- Fortn Campero, 1 ♂<sup>1</sup>, 1 ♀<sup>1</sup>;
- Chuisaca, Tomino, 1 ♂<sup>1</sup>;
- Potosí, Oploca, 2 ♀ .

##### ARGENTINA:

- Salta, Lerma Valley, 1 ♂ ;
- Rfo Seco, 1 ♂ ;

<sup>1</sup> Specimens in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Jujuy, San Lorenzo, 1 (?);  
 Tucumán, Taff Viejo, 1 ♂;  
 Sarmiento, 1 ♂;  
 Las Vasquez, 1 ♀;  
 Mendoza, 1 ♀.

*S. s. subcristata*.—

BOLIVIA:

Cochabamba, Todos Santos, 1 ♀<sup>1</sup>;  
 Santa Cruz, Province of Sara, 750 meters, 3 ♂;  
 Buenavista, 2 ♀<sup>1</sup>;  
 Tarija, Vermejo, 2 ♂<sup>1</sup>, 1 ♀<sup>1</sup>;  
 Fortín Campero, 1 ♀<sup>1</sup>.

ARGENTINA:

Chaco, Ocampo, 2 ♂;  
 Avia Terai, 1 ♀;  
 Santiago del Estero, Suncho Corral, 1 ♂, 1 ♀;  
 Buenos Aires, La Soledad, 2 ♂, 1 ♀;  
 Barracas al Sud, 2 ♂, 3 ♀;  
 La Plata, 1 ♀;  
 Quilmes, 1 ♂;  
 La Plata, 1 ♀, 1 ♂<sup>1</sup>;  
 La Soledad, 3 ♂.

PARAGUAY:

Puerto Pinasco, 3 ♂, 2 ♀, 1 (?);  
 Fort Wheeler, 2 ♀;  
 Río Negro, 1 ♀;  
 east of Caaguassú, 1 ♀;  
 Niu Pona, 1 ♂, 1 ♀;  
 opposite Concepción, 1 ♂;  
 La Fonciere, 1 (?);  
 Colonia Nueva Italia, 1 ♂, 2 ♀;  
 Zanja Morotí, 1 ♂;  
 Makthlawaiya, 2 ♂.

BRAZIL:

Mato Grosso, Campanario, 1 ♂, 2 ♀, 1 (?);  
 Rio Amambary, 1 ♂, 1 (?);  
 São Francisco Ranch, 1 ♀.

*S. s. straminea*.—

BRAZIL:

Minas Gerais (Varzea de Congonha, Rio Caparaó, Fazendinha, As Maceiras, west of Bôa Espera, Cachoeira de Fumaza, and Gruta da Pedra Menina), 3 ♂, 8 ♀, 2 (?);  
 Baía (Barra and Bôa Nova), 2 ♀;  
 Espírito Santo, Santa Barbara de Caparaó, 1 ♂;  
 Rio de Janeiro (Bemfica, Monte Serrat, and La Raiz), 3 ♂, 1 ♀;  
 São Paulo (Itararé, Victoria, and São Sebastião), 3 ♂, 1 (?);  
 Paraná, (Porto Britania, Foz de Iguassú, and Guayra), 5 ♂, 3 ♀;  
 Santa Catarina (Cerro Verde, Poço Prieto, and Hansa), 3 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 (?);

<sup>1</sup> Specimens in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Rio Grande do Sul (Arroyo del Rey, Vaccaria, Quinta, São Francisco de Paula, north of Tahyn, Sinimbú, Hamburgo Velho, Lagôa dos Patos, Candiota, south of Santa Victoria, Conceição de Avrão, Palmares, Erebangó, Nonohay, and Taquará de Mundo Novo), 12 ♂, 10 ♀, 5 (?).

*Suiriri suiriri suiriri* (Vieillot)

*Muscicapa suiriri* VIEILLOT, 1818, Nouveau dictionnaire d'histoire naturelle, nouvelle édition, vol. 21, p. 487—Paraguay; based on "*Suiriri ordinario*" Azara, no. 179; I suggest restriction to Puerto Pinasco, Paraguay.

*Pachyramphus albescens* GOULD, 1839, in Darwin, Zoology of the voyage of H.M.S. "Beagle," vol. 3, (pt. 9), p. 50, pl. 14—Buenos Aires, Argentina; cotypes in Brit. Mus.

*Suiriri improvisa* WETMORE, 1924 (Oct.), Auk, vol. 41, p. 595—Tapia, Tucumán, Argentina; ♀; U. S. Natl. Mus.

A series of over a hundred specimens of *suiriri* and the allied *affinis* have convinced me that there is no specific difference in the two forms and that they are conspecific. The only positive conflict in recorded ranges is at Pirapora, Minas Gerais, Brazil, where a male and a female were taken by Garbe in August, 1912; the male was assigned to *suiriri* and the female to *affinis*. In view of the variations observed in the series now at hand, I doubt the correct assignment of the male to *suiriri* unless it represents a possible migrant, for which possibility I have no other evidence.

At any rate, *suiriri* appears to inhabit eastern Bolivia, northern Argentina, most of Paraguay, Uruguay, and parts of southern Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul and presumably southwestern Mato Grosso, west of the Rio Paraguay). *Affinis* ranges from Mato Grosso east of the Paraguay and north to Rio de Calor to the mouth of the Tapajoz, east to Maranhão, and south across Goiaz, Minas Gerais, western Baía, and western Piauí to São Paulo.

Where the ranges of *suiriri* and *affinis* adjoin, in northeastern Paraguay, the population is variable and intermediate between the two forms. Laubmann (1940, Die Vögel von Paraguay, vol. 2, pp. 117–119) records examples from the same localities from which I have them that appear to be of the same nature as mine; although he records two of his as typical *affinis*, none of mine is other than intermediate in one detail or another. Laubmann considered his non-typical birds as hybrids, but the entire population of this limited area appears to be affected, and I believe it is better to consider these birds as intergrades between two subspecies. Beyond this area, a single specimen from Campanario, southern Mato Grosso, is also not typical of *affinis* but possibly nearer it than any of the northeast-Paraguayan specimens I have.

These intermediates are darker above, on average, than true *affinis* but not so dark as the darkest *suiriri*; the belly is paler yellow, in varying degree, and sometimes entirely white; the uropygium is near the color of the mantle and in no observed case with more than a slightly paler tint, never with a strongly contrasting one; the base of the rectrices sometimes has a noticeably yellow space, sometimes none, but usually with some development of a pale area as in certain examples of *suiriri*. The outer web of the outer rectrix is as in *affinis*, somewhat lighter than the inner web but not so clear and whitish as in most *suiriri*, although sometimes approaching it. The bill averages shorter than in *affinis* and longer than in *suiriri* but is nearer the latter and sometimes matches it. The whole pattern of this population is so variable and so exactly intermediate that I consider it not entitled to a separate name.

A different problem exists in parts of Baía, Piauí, and Pernambuco. Berlepsch described "*Empidagra bahiae*" [1893 (Jan.), Ornith. Monatsber., vol. 1, p. 12] from a "Bahia" trade-skin, comparing it to *suiriri*, from which he found it to differ by longer wing and tail, yellow belly, and duller outer web of the outer rectrices. Hellmayr (1927, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 5, pp. 444-445) recognized it as a subspecies of *affinis*, from the typical form of which he found it to differ by lacking the yellowish patch at the base of the tail and having the upper tail-coverts brown like the rectrices which, in turn, lacked the pale brownish apical band. Additional records have been published of *bahiae* from Rio do Peixe and Joazeiro, both in Baía.

The measurements given by Berlepsch (wing, 79 mm.; tail, 70.5) are under the maximum I have for *suiriri* (wing, 79.5; tail, 75) and below those of most *affinis*, but the other characters are relatively distinctive. Some of the specimens of the intermediate population of northeastern Paraguay almost meet the requirements, but show, in most cases, too much of the yellowish basal area of the rectrices to agree fully. On the other hand, a specimen from Bello Jardim, Pernambuco, although badly worn and in molt, shows the characters of *bahiae* well enough, and, since the locality is near the Baian localities of record, this Pernambuco specimen undoubtedly represents the subspecies in question.

Two birds from somewhere between Gilbués and Pindahyba, in eastern Piauí, are not so certain. They are neither *suiriri* nor *affinis*. They resemble *suiriri* in having the under parts white, but the outer web of the outer rectrix is dull as in *affinis* and *bahiae*; the base of the tail is not conspicuously pale, and the uropygium is like the mantle, not pronouncedly light; the tips of the rectrices are a little grayish, but not conspicuously and sharply pale as in many *affinis* and many *suiriri*;

the bill is as large as in most *affinis* and larger than in *suiriri*. I believe it possible that these two birds are lipochrom-deficient examples of *bahiae*, but more material will be needed before such assignment can be made without a query.

The problem is complicated by the fact that a specimen from Gilbués is normal *affinis* as is an example from Barra, northwestern Baía, while, as noted above, Joazeiro and Rio do Peixe, Baía, have produced specimens assigned by authors to *bahiae*. The local distribution of *bahiae* and *affinis* in this general area requires study with ample material.

The matter of the size of bill deserves comment. In *suiriri* the bill is relatively short, usually showing the culmen from base to be 13 to 14.5 or rarely 15 mm. The entire bill is black or sometimes dusky brown. In *affinis*, the culmen from base varies from 16 to 19 mm. as a general rule, while the color of the bill varies from black or blackish to light brownish over all or with a dark maxilla and flesh-colored mandible. As exceptions to this measurement are five examples now before me, two from Chapada, Mato Grosso, two from Rio de Calor, also Mato Grosso, and one from Rio Thesouras, Goiaz. These five birds have the bill only 13 to 14 mm. in length, but basally broad, giving an outline suggesting the bill of *Sublegatus modestus* on an enlarged scale. In addition, these five birds further agree in having the pale terminal band on the rectrices unusually wide and distinct, exceeding any other specimen at hand whether from the same or other localities and whether *suiriri*, *affinis*, or *bahiae*. The significance of this combination of characters is completely puzzling, since there is no allied group toward which these features, singly or together, suggest a trend.

The light terminal band on the rectrices is variable in both *suiriri* and *affinis*. Some examples of each subspecies have no very well-defined marking of the sort, although the tips of the feathers are irregularly a little paler than the middle portion. Other individuals have a noticeably whitish or pale grayish terminal margin, relatively narrow and following the curvature of the ends of the feathers. In the five short-billed specimens of *affinis* mentioned, the tips are light brownish, basally truncate, and 5 to 7 mm. wide at the shaft.

I have seen no specimens of *suiriri* with more than a suggestion of pale bases on the rectrices, nor any with a pale rump, although the upper tail-coverts are frequently a little lighter or browner than the dorsum. Occasionally, however, there is a little yellow on the belly, sometimes pronounced. On the other hand, I have seen no *affinis* without a yellow belly, although the depth of color may vary. As mentioned in a previous paragraph, however, the intermediate population from northeastern Paraguay shows both yellow-bellied and white-bellied

individuals. If the two specimens from somewhere between Gilbués and Pindahyba, Piauí, are *bahiae*, both extremes occur in that form. Possibly the male collected by Garbe at Pirapora, Minas Gerais, is a white-bellied example of *affinis*. I have seen no more than the bald assignment of the specimen to *suiriri*, without comment as to its characters. At any rate, I question its proper assignment to *suiriri* except as a possible migrant.

### SPECIMENS EXAMINED

#### *S. s. suiriri*.—

##### BOLIVIA:

(Mizque, Tujma, Parotani, California, Trigal, Province of Sara, and Río Pilcomayo), 11 ♂, 4 ♀, 2 (?).

##### ARGENTINA:

(Tucumán, Las Vasquez, and Taff trail), 3 ♂, 5 ♀;

(Suncho Corral and Lavalley), 5 ♂, 4 ♀;

(General Pinedo, Avia Terai, and Ocampo), 7 ♂, 2 ♀;

(Bahia Blanca, La Soledad, and Province of Buenos Aires), 2 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 (?).

##### PARAGUAY:

Puerto Pinasco, 2 ♂, 3 ♀;

Fort Wheeler, 3 ♂, 5 ♀;

Sapucay, 1 ♂;

Makthlawaiya, 5 ♂, 3 ♀, 1 (?).

##### BRAZIL:

Rio Grande do Sul, Uruguiana, 1 ♀.

#### *S. s. suiriri* × *affinis*.—

##### PARAGUAY:

La Fonciere (San Luis de la Sierra), 6 ♂, 4 ♀;

Zanja Morotí, 3 ♂, 2 ♀, 2 (?).

#### *S. s. affinis*.—

##### BRAZIL:

Mato Grosso (Campanario, Chapada, Rio de Calor), 4 ♂, 4 ♀, 2 “?♀”;

Pará, Santarem, 1 ♂, 1 ♀;

Maranhão, mouth of Rio Balsas, 1 (?);

Piauí (Therezina, Bello Horizonte, and Gilbués), 3 ♂, 4 ♀, 1 (?);

Goiaz (Rio Thesouras and “Goyaz”), 2 ♂, 4 ♀;

Bafa, Barra, 1 ♂.

#### *S. s. bahiae*.—

Pernambuco, Bello Jardim, 1 ♂;

?Piauí, Gilbués-Pindahyba, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

### *Xanthomyias reiseri* (Hellmayr)

*Phyllomyias reiseri* HELLMAYR, 1905 (June 5), Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, vol. 15, p. 73—Grotão, on the way from San Antonio to Santa Filomena, state of Piauí, northeastern Brazil; ♂; Vienna Mus.

It is with some hesitation that I propose to withdraw *reiseri* from the species *X. virescens* (*Muscicapa virescens* Temminck, 1824, May, Nouveau recueil de planches coloriées, livr. 46, text to pl. 275, fig. 3)

where Hellmayr eventually (1927, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 5, p. 462) placed it, and to reestablish it as a separate species. This proposal is made, not because the distinctions from *virescens* are so pronounced as to point to specific disunity (the reverse is the case), but because of certain distributional problems. A specimen of *reiseri* is at hand from southern Piauí, near the type locality, demonstrating the characters of that form to good advantage, but in addition, two specimens from northeastern Paraguay match the Piauí bird so closely that their identity as *reiseri* seems assured. On the other hand, 50 specimens of *v. virescens*, although somewhat variable among themselves, do not approach the characters of *reiseri* to any great extent except that one or two of the smallest individuals are as small as the two Paraguayan specimens mentioned. The series includes five birds from southeastern Paraguay, but also four from southern Mato Grosso that interpose their two localities between northeastern Paraguay and Piauí, as do some published records from Mato Grosso and Goiaz. The distribution of *reiseri* is thus interrupted by *virescens*, although the two forms are not at present known from the same localities, and until a logical pattern of range is demonstrable, specific relationship is questionable.

The situation is unfortunate because of the great resemblance between *virescens* and *reiseri*, with the distinctions no more than would ordinarily occur in related subspecies. *Reiseri* is smaller than most *virescens*, the upper parts are lighter green, the forehead is somewhat more grayish, the lores and superciliary are a little more broadly and clearly whitish, the auriculars and sides of the head are more whitish than in most *virescens*, the yellow belly is paler, and the breast is clearer yellowish, unclouded but slightly flammulated with whitish. As noted above, none of the 50 specimens of *virescens*, including those from near-by parts of Paraguay, matches these features in which the Piauí and northeast-Paraguayan birds agree amongst themselves.

The type (male) of *reiseri* was described as having the wing 53.5 mm.; tail, 50.5. The male Piauí bird before me has the wing 53.5; tail, 46.5. The male Paraguayan bird: wing, 57; tail, 51; female, wing 57; tail, 49.5.

Compared with these measurements, the males of *virescens* measured have the wing 59.5–66; tail, 55–61; females, wing, 55–62; tail, 49–55. There is thus a little overlap occasioned by two females and a non-sexed specimen, presumably also a female (wing, 56; tail 49) of *virescens*. If the Paraguayan bird sexed as a female is really a male (as its measurements in comparison with the sexed male suggest), the only overlap shown is that given by the non-sexed specimen.

## SPECIMENS EXAMINED

*X. v. virescens*.—

## BRAZIL:

Minas Gerais, Rio Jordão, 1 ♂;

São Paulo, Itararé, 1 ♂, 1 ♀;

Paraná (Roça Nova, Castro, Foz de Iguassú, Puerto Britania, Porto Mendez, and Guayra), 7 ♂, 8 ♀, 3 (?);

Santa Catarina (Ouro Verde and Salto Pirahy), 3 ♂, 1 (?);

Rio Grande do Sul (Nonohay, Lagôa Vermelha, Sananduva, São Francisco de Paula, and Erebangó), 5 ♂, 5 ♀, 4 (?);

Mato Grosso (Rio Amambary and Campanario [?Campeiro], 2 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 (?).

## PARAGUAY:

Sapucay, 1 ♂, 1 ♀;

Colonia Independencia, 3 ♂.

## ARGENTINA:

Puerto Segundo, Misiones, 2 ♀.

*X. v. urichi*.—

## VENEZUELA:

Quebrada Seca, 2 ♀ (including type);

Forest of Los Palmales, 1 ♀ (type of "*venezuelensis*");

"Cumana," 1 (?).

*X. reiseri*.—

## BRAZIL:

Piauí, Parnaguá, 1 ♂.

## PARAGUAY:

Zanja Morotí, 1 ♂, 1 "♀."

*Oreotriccus griseocapilla* (Sclater)

*Phyllomyias griseocapilla* SCLATER, 1861, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 382, pl. 36, fig. 2—"In Brasilia" = presumably Rio de Janeiro; Mus. Comp. Zoöl.

The species has usually been retained by authors in the genus *Phyllomyias* as originally described, but this placement is open to question. *Phyllomyias* has the tarsus holaspidean, while the present species has it well-marked exaspidean as in *Oreotriccus*. The bill is rather less broad than in most *Phyllomyias* but can be matched in some *Oreotriccus*. The nostril is equivocal and is matched in both genera in which I can detect no trenchant difference. (Berlepsch originally described the nostril of *Oreotriccus* as more oval and less rounded than in *Tyranniscus*; Hellmayr reversed the comparison!) The wing pattern of *griseocapilla* is similar to that of *Oreotriccus plumbeiceps*, with the pale margins narrower but of the same design; the pattern is different from that found in *Phyllomyias*. The only marked differences from *Oreotriccus* that appear are the shorter wing and proportionately still shorter tail, and the absence of the vertical blackish bar on the auriculars that led to the original description of *plumbeiceps* in the genus *Pogonotriccus* where that facial pattern is the

rule. It is found also, however, in *Tyranniscus cinereiceps* which vitiates its generic significance.

The exaspidean tarsus is, of course, the most common sort found in the Tyrannidae, and many genera possess it, but among these I have been unable to find any genus to which *griseocapilla* shows as much affinity as to *Oreotriccus*. In spite of the smaller tail/wing index and the different facial pattern, I believe *griseocapilla* is best assigned to *Oreotriccus*. The only other alternative, if the tarsal character is accepted as critical, would be to erect a new, monotypic genus for it.

In the same way, I prefer to keep the genus *Tyranniscus* with its present limits, although two quite different extremes are represented in it. The type species, *nigricapillus*, its near ally, *uropygialis*, and *cinereiceps* represent one extreme, with a small bill, usually pronouncedly arcuate culmen, strong wing bars composed of large terminal spots on the middle and greater upper wing-coverts, and a quadrate patch of black visible on the closed wing at the base of the secondaries.

The other species commonly assigned to *Tyranniscus* have the bill longer, with culmen straighter to near the tip; the pale markings on the upper wing-coverts are marginal, not terminal; the black speculum on the secondaries is usually only suggested but is sometimes conspicuous, but the inner primaries have little or no pale outer margins, thus making a blackish wedge in the middle of the half-opened wing. The boundaries of these characters are not very sharply drawn, and intermediacy exists.

Both groups of species have, without exception as far as I can determine, a quasi-pycnaspidian tarsus in spite of Ridgway's statement (1907, Bull. U. S. Natl. Mus., vol. 50, pt. 5, p. 406) that the tarsus is "typically exaspidean" in this genus. The scutes rarely reach the hinder edge of the tarsus on the outside, even at the lowest extremity, and do not pass around it but usually leave a wide bare space on both inner and outer sides. Rare traces of small rounded scutella on this bare space identify the structure as incomplete pycnaspidian in contrast to the conditions in *Oreotriccus* and *Phyllomyias*. *Xanthomyias* agrees with *Oreotriccus* in this respect.

*Tyranniscus* thus appears to form a somewhat variable but independent genus the subdivision of which appears undesirable.

#### SPECIMENS EXAMINED

*O. griseocapilla*.—

BRAZIL:

Minas Gerais, Rio Caparaó, 1 ♀ ;

Rio de Janeiro, Therezopolis, 3 ♀ ;

Santa Catarina, Hansa, 1 ♂.