

AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 367

Published by
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
New York City

August 9, 1929

59.88, 1 X (95)

A NEW BOWER-BIRD OF THE GENUS *XANTHOMELUS*

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Among the birds recently collected in New Guinea by Mr. R. H. Beck for The American Museum of Natural History there are three examples of a *Xanthomelus* which, though evidently a close ally of *X. aureus* and *X. ardens*, differs from them conspicuously in color, especially that of the underparts, and the shortness of the crown-feathers. It is undoubtedly a distinct species, of which I could find no published description; so to make sure that it has not been named, I have sent a pencil-sketch with measurements to Dr. Ernst Hartert. He replies that it is surely new.

I am happy, therefore, to be able to name it in honor of Mr. George F. Baker, Jr.

***Xanthomelus bakeri*, new species**

SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Related to *X. aureus*, but with short crown-feathering of scarlet color, wholly black underparts, and black upper wing-coverts—in the adult male plumage. The yellow area on the wing-quills is reduced to approximately the same size as in *Sericulus chrysocephalus*, but it extends to the outer webs of the bases of most of the primaries. On the other hand, the long cape of hair-like feathers overlying the upper back is very well developed, the tail is square, and the bill is stout, as in *Xanthomelus aureus*.

TYPE.—Male adult; Madang,¹ Territory of New Guinea; Aug. 29, 1928; A.M.N.H. No. 268253.

ADULT MALE (type).—Whole underparts black, with a faint bluish sheen on throat and chest, but becoming duller and more brownish black on abdomen. Under tail-coverts dull black, narrowly margined with olive-yellowish. From the throat the black area extends up over cheeks and ear-coverts to enclose the eye, so that there is a complete narrow band of black above the eye, connecting with the black loreal area, from which a narrow black border extends up behind the nostril to the base of the culmen.

Remainder of forehead and crown deep scarlet-red with pronounced silky sheen, and varied over the whole middle of the crown with black. The crown-feathers are only about 8 mm. long, mostly black, with only scaly tips of scarlet-red. Nape cadmium orange, washed with scarlet, especially behind the temporal region, this coloration continuing to the long decomposed feathers of the "cape" which arise

¹Madang is the name now in use for Friederich Wilhelm Hafen, on the northwest side of Astrolabe Bay, in the former German Colony.

from the hind-neck and conceal the plumage of the whole upper back. The longest feathers of this cape reach a length of 56 mm. The lateral margins of the cape are most strongly tinged with flame scarlet or grenadine red.

Scapulars, back, rump, and upper tail-coverts deep black, with very faint gloss. Tail square; the rectrices black, slightly brownish as seen from below. Wing rounded, the 10th (outermost) primary 60 mm. long, and 7th primary (4th from outer side) longest, nearly equalled by 6th. Alula and all upper wing-coverts, including primary-coverts, uniform black. Primaries black with light cadmium-yellow bases, the yellow area extending to the outer web on all but the outermost (10th) primary. The outer web of the innermost primary is yellow for a distance of 65 mm. from its base. The outermost secondary is yellow for about two-thirds of its length, with the distal third black. The black tips of the secondaries become gradually restricted on the proximal secondaries until the cadmium yellow on the outer web extends to within 12 mm. of the tip. Then the yellow becomes limited to the outer web, and the innermost secondaries are again entirely black. The under wing-coverts are black, except that the greater primary-coverts are yellow (outer ones tipped with blackish) and the longest under secondary-coverts are yellow, the next row black in middle, but broadly margined with light yellow.

Wing, 137 mm.; tail, 82; exposed culmen, 22; culmen to base, 25; depth of bill at nostril, 10 mm.; tarsus, 43 mm.

The colors of the eye and naked parts are not noted on the label; but the bill in the dried skin is blackish, shading at its base to light brownish; the feet are blackish with pads beneath toes light gray-brown.

IMMATURE MALE (from Madang, Sept. 3, 1928).—General color above raw umber, slightly lighter on crown and hind-neck, but much paler on anterior part of forehead, lores, and region about eye. The "cape" is faintly indicated by narrowing and very slight lengthening of feathers on hind-neck. Greater and middle upper wing-coverts have lighter, grayer margins, and the outer webs of remiges are tinged with orange-citrine. Inner webs of most of the remiges are light cadmium yellow, but this yellow color is limited to the basal part of the outer primaries, and there is no sharply limited yellow area as in adult male. Under wing-coverts dull yellowish, some of them with a little dusky mottling.

Tail-feathers olive-brown like back, but distinctly washed with greenish below, and shafts dull yellowish beneath.

Cheeks and ear-coverts dull buff, the feathers with faint dusky margins, and the color deepening to rufous buff on the longer ear-coverts. Chin and throat whitish buff, feathers of fore-neck with faint dusky tips. Breast and flanks pale cream-buff with irregular bars or lunulate marks of blackish brown; abdomen clear yellowish cream-color, and under tail-coverts similar but with a few narrow, wavy bars of dusky brown.

Wing, 134 mm.; tail, 78; exposed culmen, 21; tarsus, 43.

The third specimen is a male from Madang, Sept. 10, 1928, which has not quite reached maturity. It has scattered brownish feathers on its upperparts, a good deal of olive-buff, mottled with blackish, on the middle of the underparts, some blackish rectrices, and some brownish. The yellow patch on the wing is not so clearly defined as in the adult. Otherwise it resembles the fully adult male, and has the wing 141 mm.; tail, 85; exposed culmen, 21.5; tarsus, 43.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.—Besides the three individuals described above, the only specimens of *Xanthomelus* in the American Museum are two males of *X. aureus*. For comparison with *X. ardens* I have consulted the colored plate in Ogilvie-Grant's 'Report on the Birds Collected by the British Ornithologists' Union Expedition and the Wollaston Expedition in Dutch New Guinea,' Ibis, Jubilee Supplement No. 2, 1915, Pl. I.

In color-pattern this species emphasizes the relationship between the genera *Xanthomelus* and *Sericulus*; but in the form of its bill and the lengthening of its "cape-feathers" it clearly belongs with the former.

