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FROM HAITI

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DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW BIRDS FROM HAITI

By CHARLES W. RICHMOND

In a collection recently made by Dr. W. L. Abbott in the northwestern peninsula of Haiti, including Tortuga (or Tortue) Island, there appear to be two new subspecies, descriptions of which are given below. The birds collected on Tortuga represent twenty-three species (another was seen but not obtained), which, with the exception of a vireo, prove to be common Haitian forms.

The most interesting bird in the collection is a *Nyctibius*, a genus not heretofore recorded from the island. Through the friendly cooperation of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, it has been possible to compare this specimen with five good examples from Jamaica, for the purpose of establishing its subspecific distinctness.

NYCTIBIUS GRISEUS ABBOTTI, new subspecies

Type specimen.—Adult male, Cat. No. 250374, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Port de Pimente, northwestern Haiti, March 9, 1917, Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Characters.—Similar to *Nyctibius griseus jamaicensis*,¹ but differs in having the black markings on the pileum much reduced in size and extent (not predominating, as in *jamaicensis*), and feathers without any admixture of pale brownish buffy; general aspect of crown brownish gray and white, with black shaft marks, usually becoming broader toward the tips of the feathers, the black markings most pronounced on feathers over the eyes; hind neck and mantle grayer, less brownish; dark bars on rectrices less regular and more broken with gray mottlings and wavy lines; under tail-coverts with narrower and less prominent dark shaft markings; throat more ashy, less whitish, without any traces of cinnamon buff; black submalar streak less prominent; blackish post-ocular stripe barely indicated, not prominent as in *jamaicensis*, the auricular region being mostly gray, with very narrow black shaft lines, the edges of some feathers tinged

¹ Comparison is made with Ridgway's description (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 50, Pt. 6, 1914, p. 589) and with six skins of the Jamaican bird.

with buff; feathers anterior to and beneath eye grayish (with black shafts), not prominently marked with black. "Iris brownish yellow."

Measurements of the type.—Length (in the flesh), 448; wing, 297; tail, 218; tarsus, 12; culmen, 25 mm.

Remarks.—Only one specimen was obtained, but Dr. Abbott saw a mounted bird in a store at the Santo Domingo end of the island. The individual collected was "caught alive while sleeping." An analysis of its stomach contents, furnished by Mr. A. Wetmore, shows 83 per cent of moth remains, and 17 per cent other insects and locustid eggs.

VIREO CRASSIROSTRIS TORTUGÆ, new subspecies

Type specimen.—Adult male, Cat. No. 250495, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Tortuga Island, Haiti, Jan. 31, 1917, Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Characters.—Similar to *Vireo crassirostris crassirostris*, as described by Ridgway,¹ but differs in having the under surface (except lower abdomen and crissum) tinged with maize yellow,² becoming naples yellow or straw yellow on chest, sides and flanks; auricular region and sides of neck pale isabella color; under wing-coverts white, with a buffy tinge, more or less mingled with dusky on the under primary coverts. In *Vireo c. crassirostris* the under surface is tinged with sulphur yellow, the auricular region and sides of neck are light yellowish olive, and the under wing-coverts have a tinge of primrose yellow. The new form is slightly darker on the mantle, and the size is a little inferior to that of the Bahaman bird.

Measurements of the type (adult male).—Length (in the flesh), 134; wing, 60; tail, 51.5; tarsus, 20.5; culmen, 13 mm.

Average measurements of eight adult males.—Length (in the flesh), 131.5; wing, 60.7; tail, 49.9; tarsus, 20.4; culmen, 12.7 mm.

Average measurements of three adult females.—Length (in the flesh), 131.3; wing, 57.1; tail, 47.1; tarsus, 21; culmen, 12.5 mm.

*Average measurements of Vireo c. crassirostris.*³—Males: wing, 63.3; tail, 50.7; tarsus, 21.6; culmen, 12.6 mm. Females: wing, 61.2; tail, 48.8; tarsus, 21.1; culmen, 12.3 mm.

Geographical distribution.—Tortuga Island, off the northwest coast of Haiti.

Remarks.—The occurrence of a representative of the Bahaman *Vireo crassirostris* on Tortuga Island (only 50 miles from Great

¹ Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 50, Pt. 3, 1904, p. 189.

² Ridgway, Color Standards, pl. 4.

³ As given by Ridgway, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 50, Pt. 3, 1904, p. 189.

Inagua) is of interest, though of no special significance, since subspecies are known from the Cayman Islands and even from Old Providence, the last more than 700 miles distant from the nearest point in the Bahamas.

Dr. Abbott found this bird "in pairs and the commonest species in dense bush," and specimens were collected from Jan. 30 to Feb. 8. The iris is noted as "gray" or "grayish white"; the feet and bill "leaden."