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BY  
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Assistant Secretary, Smithsonian Institution



(PUBLICATION 3528)

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## FIVE NEW RACES OF BIRDS FROM VENEZUELA

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE

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In the course of study of a collection of birds made in northern Venezuela in 1937, several forms have been segregated that previously have not been recognized by name. They are described in the following paragraphs. During the progress of this work the author has had the advantage of examination of specimens in the American Museum of Natural History, and in the Field Museum of Natural History, for which privilege he expresses his thanks and appreciation. The new forms follow.

### BUCCONIDAE

#### **HYPNELUS BICINCTUS STOICUS**, subsp. nov.

*Characters*.—Similar to *Hypnelus bicinctus bicinctus* (Gould)<sup>1</sup> but lighter colored above, both in the ground color of the feathers, and in their lighter tips.

*Description*.—Type, U.S.N.M. no. 151670, male, Margarita Island, Venezuela, collected July 3, 1895, by Wirt Robinson (orig. no. 404). Crown slightly darker than hair brown, some of the feathers indistinctly drab at the tips; a faintly indicated spotting of avellaneous in center, just above base of bill; a very narrow line of white across forehead; stiffened bristles above nostrils white at base and black at tips; rictal bristles black, some of them white at base; lores, a line beneath the eye, and postocular space dull white, connected indistinctly with a narrow, partly concealed white band across hind-neck; sides of head above white postocular mark hair brown, washed with dull vinaceous buff; side of head at base of mandible dull fuscous, tipped posteriorly with dull vinaceous buff; hindneck, below white band, and back slightly darker than hair brown, the feathers tipped with dull white and avellaneous, producing indistinct spots; rump and upper tail-coverts fuscous, tipped slightly with vinaceous buff; wing-coverts dull hair brown, spotted indistinctly with dull white, and tipped

<sup>1</sup> *Tamatia bicincta* Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1836 (January 16, 1837) ("Cayenne"). Hellmayr and Seilern, Arch. Naturg., vol. 78, 1912, p. 156, have designated the type locality as Venezuela.

indistinctly with vinaceous buff; primaries and secondaries fuscous, edged narrowly with pale olive-buff, these light markings prominent at the centers of the sixth, seventh, and eighth primaries; dorsal surface of rectrices fuscous, the outer one margined all around with pale olive-buff; chin white; throat ivory yellow, the feathers white basally; a broad band of fuscous across lower foreneck, continuous at sides with the dark color of the sides of the head; behind this a narrower band of white, washed lightly with cream-buff; behind this, a band of fuscous-black across the upper breast, narrower than the anterior dark band, and somewhat irregular and broken centrally; rest of under surface white washed with cream-buff, with a line of spots of fuscous-black extending from the sides toward the central part of the breast as indication of a third dark bar which, however, remains broken in the center; flanks spotted with fuscous and fuscous-black; under wing-coverts cream-buff; inner webs of primaries at base dull white; of secondaries ivory yellow; under tail-coverts cream-buff. Bill black, tarsus and toes dull brownish black (from dried skin). Iris indicated by collector as yellowish buff.

*Measurements.*—Type, male, wing 91.5, tail 85.3, culmen from base 35.7, tarsus 19.0 mm.

Males (3 specimens), wing 89.8-91.5 (90.4), tail 83.4-85.3 (84.1), culmen from base 34.2-35.7 (35.1), tarsus 19.0-20.4 (19.6) mm.

Females (6 specimens), wing 89.7-93.3 (91.3), tail 86.7-89.3 (88.5), culmen from base 35.0-37.3 (35.7), tarsus 19.0-22.1 (20.1) mm.

*Remarks.*—Separation of the Margarita Island form is made after comparison of nine specimens from the island, two in the National Museum and seven loaned by the Field Museum, and nine from the mainland of Venezuela. The paler coloration is easily evident in series and though some individuals approach rather closely, all that I have seen can be allocated properly without particular difficulty.

It may be noted that Ridgway<sup>2</sup> observed the paler coloration of the Margarita Island bird but did not have material available on which to make the separation.

## DENDROCOLAPTIDAE

### **XIPHORHYNCHUS TRIANGULARIS HYLODROMUS, subsp. nov.**

*Characters.*—Similar to *Xiphorhynchus triangularis triangularis* (Lafresnaye)<sup>3</sup> but brighter olive brown above; exposed surfaces of secondaries darker, less reddish brown; under surface lighter, more

<sup>2</sup> U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 50, pt. 6, 1914, p. 382.

<sup>3</sup> *Dendrocolaptes triangularis* Lafresnaye, Rev. Zool., vol. 5, 1842, p. 134 (Bogotá, Colombia).

greenish olive, more abundantly spotted, the spots lighter colored; throat decidedly lighter, with the dark marginal lines on the feathers reduced in width.

*Description.*—Type, U.S.N.M. no. 351930, male, taken in the Cordillera de la Costa at 4,500 feet elevation above Rancho Grande, Estado Aragua, Venezuela, November 8, 1937, by A. Wetmore (original no. 9881). Feathers of crown brownish olive, with a border of dull black at the tip, and a central streak of cream-buff along the shaft, this more extensive on forehead; hind neck and back dull medal bronze, the hind neck with faint shaft lines of cream-buff; upper tail-coverts dull hazel, this color extending across the rump to merge with the medal bronze of the lower back; wing-coverts dull dresden brown; secondaries mars brown, with exposed margin dresden brown, and an indistinct line of russet along the shaft; inner webs of primaries russet, becoming fuscous at the tips, with the outer web mars brown; tail chestnut-brown; shafts of primaries, secondaries, and rectrices blackish; chin whitish, unmarked; throat colonial buff, the feathers with very narrow, rather indistinct blackish margins; sides of head brownish olive, with abundant but indistinct streakings and spottings of colonial buff; under surface olive, becoming a little lighter on center of breast and abdomen, darker on sides, marked abundantly with elongated spots of marguerite yellow; under tail-coverts streaked with dull marguerite yellow; under wing-coverts dull ochraceous-orange; under surface of tail somewhat paler than mars brown. Maxilla dull blackish, with a dull ivory white line along the center of the tomium; mandible dull slate at base, light brownish white at tip; tarsus and toes dull brownish black (from dried skin).

*Measurements.*—Type, male, wing 118.4, tail 91.6, culmen from base 29.7, tarsus 22.0 mm.

Male (an additional specimen), wing 117.5, tail 90.5, culmen from base 30.3, tarsus 22.3 mm.

Females (2 specimens), wing 104.7, 109.3, tail 82.9, 89.5, culmen from base 28.5, 29.4, tarsus 22.7, 22.7 mm.

*Range.*—Mountains of northern Venezuela, known from the Cumbre de Valencia, and near Rancho Grande.

*Remarks.*—In addition to those listed, there is another specimen in which the sex could not be determined when the bird was skinned. The four secured near Rancho Grande were obtained in rain forest at elevations of from 3,700 to 4,500 feet in the Cordillera de la Costa. Hellmayr and Seilern<sup>4</sup> note of specimens from the Cumbre de

<sup>4</sup> Arch. Naturg., vol. 78, 1912, pp. 109-110.

Valencia that they have "etwas helleren und mehr grünlichbraunen Rücken" but refer their birds to typical *triangularis*. They evidently belong to the present form. There are three specimens in the American Museum of Natural History from the Cumbre de Valencia, inland from Puerto Cabello, collected by S. M. Klages that are like the skins from Rancho Grande.

**DENDROPLEX PICIROSTRIS PHALARA**, subsp. nov.

*Characters*.—Similar to *Dendroplex picirostris longirostris* Richmond<sup>6</sup> but light spots on crown and hindneck larger, the light markings more abundant on the fore part of the crown, that area appearing lighter; markings on breast more buffy in tone; averaging browner and lighter on breast.

*Description*.—Type, U.S.N.M. no. 351915, male, collected at El Sombrero, Estado Guarico, Venezuela, November 14, 1937, by A. Wetmore (original no. 9962). Forehead and lores between cartridge buff and cream-buff; entire crown with large, tear-shaped markings of cartridge buff and cinnamon-buff covering the center of each feather, bordered with chaetura drab; feathers of hindneck and extreme upper back with large, elliptical central markings of cinnamon-buff bordered narrowly with dull black, and edged with snuff brown; entire side of head cartridge buff; upper back snuff brown, merging into russet, this color extending over the rest of the upper surface, including the wings and tail; rump verging toward tawny; throat and foreneck white with a wash of cartridge buff; extreme upper breast the same, with a few scattered, newer feathers of cinnamon-buff; a little lower down the feathers broadly cinnamon-buff centrally, with narrow borders of dull black, and an edging of saccardo's umber; central and lower breast and sides with the light central markings narrowed and elongated, and the brown edgings broader; abdomen saccardo's umber with a few indistinct central markings of cinnamon-buff and equally indistinct mottlings of chaetura drab; under tail-coverts sayal brown, slightly brighter, more cinnamon-buff along shafts; sides and flanks russet; under wing-coverts light cinnamon; under surface of remiges cinnamon, becoming fuscous at tips; under surface of tail verona brown. Bill pale smoke gray, with a faint line of fuscous along culmen, the base with a tinge of dull buff; tarsus and toes blackish brown, nails fuscous (from dried skin).

<sup>6</sup> *Dendroplex longirostris* Richmond, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 18, 1896, p. 674 (Margarita Island, Venezuela).



*Measurements.*—Type, male, wing 97.3, tail 83.3, culmen from base 30.0, tarsus 22.7 mm.

Male (a second specimen), wing 99.7, tail 81.3, culmen from base 30.7, tarsus 24.5 mm.

Females (2 specimens), wing 101.2-102.5, tail 82.0-84.1, culmen from base 32.2-33.6, tarsus 23.6-25.1 mm.

*Range.*—Known from Parapara and El Sombrero, Estado Guarico, Venezuela. Supposed to extend through the northern Llanos.

*Remarks.*—This new form shares with the race *longirostris* a larger bill and an extension of the light markings over the upper breast. It differs from *picirostris* (in which this light area is more restricted) in having the dark-bordered, light streakings extending farther down across the breast, the auricular region lighter, the forehead paler, and the dark-bordered, light markings on the hindneck greater in extent and the bill heavier.

## TYRANNIDAE

### PYRRHOMYIAS VIEILLOTOÏDES SPADIX, subsp. nov.

*Characters.*—Similar to *Pyrrhomyias vieillotoïdes vieillotoïdes* (Lafresnaye)<sup>6</sup> but dorsal surface lighter; dark feathers of pileum browner, less blackish; below lighter, especially on the abdomen, flanks and under tail-coverts; size slightly greater.

*Description.*—Type, U.S.N.M. no. 171139, male, collected at Los Palmales, elevation 450 meters, Estado Monagas, Venezuela, December 7, 1898, by F. W. Urich (original no. 48). Pileum (except in center) and hindneck mummy brown; a concealed crown patch strontian yellow, the feathers white basally; upper back between russet and cinnamon-brown; lower back sepia; rump somewhat dull yellow ocher, this color confluent with the flanks, forming a distinct band; upper tail-coverts auburn; wing-coverts black basally, this color entirely hidden by auburn tips on the lesser coverts; middle and greater wing-coverts edged broadly with hazel; primaries dull black at tips and on outer webs of sixth to tenth, with the inner webs and the basal parts of the outer webs hazel, except on eighth and ninth where there is a mere trace of this color; outer web of tenth primary edged with hazel for basal two-thirds; secondaries hazel with tips black, except for a narrow tip and edging of the brighter color; central rectrices dull black, tipped and margined narrowly with hazel; other rectrices dull black distally with the bases, external edging, and narrow tips hazel:

<sup>6</sup> *Muscicapa (Tyrannula) vieillotoïdes* Lafresnaye, Rev. Zool., vol. 11, 1848, p. 174 (Caracas, Venezuela).

throat cinnamon-brown, the feathers grayish black basally; sides of head cinnamon-brown; foreneck and most of breast hazel, becoming clay color on lower breast, flanks, abdomen and under tail-coverts; under wing-coverts ochraceous-tawny. Bill and tarsus dull black (from dried skin).

*Measurements*.—Type (male), wing 72.3, tail 60.4, culmen from base 13.8, tarsus 12.6 mm.

Males (7 specimens), wing 69.8-74.3 (72.2), tail 57.3-60.4 (59.1), culmen from base 13.3-14.7 (13.9), tarsus 12.3-12.6 (12.5).

Females (4 specimens), wing 66.9-70.0 (68.6), tail 52.8-56.2 (54.4), culmen from base 13.2-14.5 (13.9), tarsus 12.5-13.4 (12.9) mm.

*Range*.—Mountains of Monagas (and probably Sucre), northeastern Venezuela (Los Palmales near San Antonio, Santa Ana Valley, Los Dos Ríos).

*Remarks*.—This new form follows a tendency to paler coloration found in various species in the Cumaná region. *P. v. assimilis* of the Santa Marta region is decidedly brighter rufous above, with the light rump band rufescent rather than buffy. I have had available skins of *P. v. vieillotoides*, from the Silla de Caracas, Galipán in the Cerro de Avila, Los Riitos near Rancho Grande in the Cordillera de la Costa, and from the Cumbre de Valencia. It is interesting to note that two skins in the American Museum of Natural History from the mountains at Bucarito, near Tocuyo in Estado Lara, while to be placed with the race *vieillotoides*, are distinctly paler and so superficially resemble *spadix*, owing to their approach to the more rufescent *assimilis* of the Santa Marta region.

Measurements of typical *vieillotoides* are as follows:

Males (4 specimens), wing 68.1-70.5 (69.2), tail 56.2-59.7 (57.7), culmen from base 13.4-13.6 (13.5), tarsus 12.8-13.4 (13.1) mm.

Females (2 specimens), wing 65.8-66.8 (66.3), tail 52.9-53.2 (53.0), culmen from base 13.4-13.7 (13.5), tarsus 12.8-13.1 (12.9) mm.

#### CAPSIEMPIS FLAVEOLA CERULA, subsp. nov.

*Characters*.—Similar to *Capsiempis flaveola flaveola* (Lichtenstein)<sup>1</sup> but lores and feathers behind nostrils distinctly white or whitish (less yellowish); throat white.

*Description*.—Type, U.S.N.M. no. 352009, male, collected at Independencia, Ocumare de la Costa, Estado Aragua, Venezuela, October 28, 1937, by A. Wetmore (original number 9714). Crown dark yel-

<sup>1</sup> *Muscicapa flaveola* Lichtenstein, Verz. Doubl. Zool. Mus. Berlin, 1823, p. 56 (Bahia, Brazil).

lowish olive, the feathers edged with yellowish olive; lores and space behind nostril white with a faint yellowish tinge, forming a distinct spot, somewhat obscured by blackish hairs; back and rump yellowish olive; upper tail-coverts lighter, approaching light yellowish olive; lesser wing-coverts yellowish olive; middle and greater coverts chaetura drab, tipped with reed yellow to primrose yellow, forming two distinct wing-bands; primary coverts and alula chaetura drab; primaries and secondaries chaetura drab, outer webs edged with yellowish olive changing to reed yellow; inner secondaries edged with marguerite yellow; rectrices dark hair brown, with a very narrow edging of reed yellow basally; superciliary line reed yellow, somewhat obscured by yellowish olive tips to feathers; auricular region, light yellowish olive, with a spot of yellowish olive above and directly behind eye; chin and throat white, with a very slight yellowish tinge; upper breast strontian yellow, becoming yellowish citrine at sides; foreneck, lower breast, abdomen and under tail-coverts dark citron yellow; sides pale olive-yellow; under wing-coverts barium yellow, marked with chaetura drab along bend of wing. Maxilla dull black, tip of mandible chaetura black, base deep olive-buff, tarsus and toes chaetura black (from dried skin).

*Measurements.*—Type, male, wing 51.3, tail 50.1, culmen from base 11.4, tarsus 16.9 mm.

Males (9 specimens), wing 50.5-52.8 (51.6), tail 48.6-52.4 (50.1), culmen from base 10.7-11.6 (11.2), tarsus 16.8-17.4 (17.0) mm.

Females (9 specimens), wing 47.0-52.2 (49.3), tail 46.3-49.5 (47.7), culmen from base 10.7-11.9 (11.4), tarsus 15.9-17.2 (16.5) mm.

*Range.*—Venezuela, including the Orinoco and Caura Valleys, and the northern portion west at least through Estado Aragua.

*Remarks.*—From *Capsiempis flaveola leucophrys* the present form is distinguished by less extensive white on throat, brighter yellow underparts, brighter green dorsal surface, and slightly smaller size. In five Bogotá skins of *leucophrys* with the sex not indicated the wing ranges from 55.2 to 56.8 mm., which is distinctly larger than the dimensions given above regardless of sex.

In size the new form resembles typical *flaveola* from Bahia. The more typical specimens come from the northern section of Venezuela, skins from the Orinoco basin being slightly intermediate toward *flaveola* but to be placed with the present form. Specimens assigned to the new race have been seen from the following localities: Ocumare de la Costa (Estado Aragua); Cumanacoa (Estado Sucre); Ciudad Bolívar, Altigracia, Maipures, and Suapure along the Río Orinoco, and La Prición in the Caura Valley.