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Any attempt on my part to express my gratitude to Capt. J. M. Dow, of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, would fall pitifully short of the mark. He has both the ability and the will to render more aid to the naturalist in Central America than any one else in that part of the world.

C. C. N.

**ON SOME COSTA RICAN BIRDS, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF SEVERAL SUPPOSED NEW SPECIES.**

**By ROBERT RIDGWAY.**

The following interesting species are included in a small collection of birds lately received by the National Museum from Sr. Don José C. Zeledon, of San José, Costa Rica.

1. *Carpodectes antoniae*, Zeledon, MS., RIDG. Ibis, Jan. 1884, 27, pl. ii.

SP. CH.—*Adult* ♂ (No. 91832, Pirris, May, 1883; Juan Zeledon, collector). Similar to *C. nitidus*, but rather smaller, the bill mostly bright yellow, the wings wholly pure white, and the pileum much paler pearl-blue. Plumage, pure white, except the forehead and crown, which are pale pearl-blue, or glaucous, and back, scapular, rump, upper tail-coverts, and tail, which are a more delicate shade of the same. Bill, clear lemon-yellow ("wax-yellow" in fresh specimen) with distinctly marked black stripe along the culmen; "iris, dark; feet, black." Wing 5.40, tail 2.60, culmen .70, tarsus .90, middle toe .80.

This lovely species much resembles *C. nitidus*, except as pointed out above, and is clearly distinct.

Mr. Zeledon's notes respecting this species are as follows:

"You will be agreeably surprised to learn that I have made a most unexpected discovery in the shape of a new *Carpodectes*. The bird is snowy white, except on the back and top of the head, where a faint wash of gray is to be seen, all the back of the neck being pure white, like the rest of the body. No traces of the gray tinge are present on any other part of the plumage. The bill is somewhat smaller, less swollen, and more curved than in *C. nitidus*, and of a yellow color, with a black line along the culmen to the very tip; the feet are black, not plumbeous, as in the latter species; the dimensions are pretty much the same, excepting that the tail is rather shorter than in *C. nitidus*.

"There is but one specimen in my possession, which was obtained by my brother Juan, at Pirris, southwestern side of Costa Rica. It is a fine adult male, and was obtained in May last.

"The *C. nitidus* has been obtained only on the eastern side of the country. I am inclined, therefore, to believe that the present species is the western representative of the genus.

"I have named this charming bird *Carpodectes antoniae*, after the dear sister whose death I mourn."

2. *Vireo carmioli* Baird?

A single skin of a Vireo, from Pirris, much resembles the type of *V. carmioli*, but is larger and somewhat different in coloration, the colors being decidedly paler. It may be described as follows:

*Adult* (No. 91825, Pirris, 1882; J. Cooper): Above, dull olive-green, becoming slightly more brownish on the head; wings and tail, dusky; both rows of wing-coverts broadly tipped with pale sulphur-yellow, or yellowish white, and tertials broadly edged with the same; secondaries, primaries, and rectrices, narrowly edged with light olive-green. A broad and continuous superciliary stripe of dull sulphur-yellow, rendered more distinct anteriorly by contrast with a dusky spot immediately in front of the eye; lower eyelid whitish; sides of head otherwise olivaceous, like upper parts. Lower parts dull, light sulphur-yellow, much obscured laterally with olivaceous, the throat and crissum inclining to whitish. Maxilla, dusky; mandible pale, with brownish tip. Wing, 2.75; tail, 2.20; culmen, .45; tarsus, .70; middle toe, .40.

I am not able to make a satisfactory comparison of this bird with *V. carmioli*, for the reason that the National Museum possesses but a single adult example of the latter, the type, which, moreover, is a female. It measures, wing 2.50, tail 2, culmen .40, tarsus .70, middle toe .38, being thus smaller than the specimen described above.

3. *Phœnicothraupis carmioli* Lawr.

A second specimen of this rare species differs from the type in having the plumage of a duller or more sombre cast, and faintly tinted or stained here and there with dull red. These dull reddish stains occur on the pileum, back, rump, greater wing-coverts, breast, and sides. The specimen is, perhaps, a young male, since the bill is decidedly less arched than that of the type, and presents other evidences of imperfect development. Unfortunately, the sex and precise locality are not indicated. The two specimens compare in measurements as follows:

Museum No.	Locality.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Breadth of bill at base.	Depth of bill.	Tarsus.	Middle toe.
39039 .....	Angostura..	3.60	2.70	.90	.35	.37	.90	.55
91820 .....	.....	3.45	2.50	.80	.37	.37	.85	.55

This species seems wrongly placed in *Phœnicothraupis*, the proportions being quite different from those of all the species of that genus. Except in the form of the bill, which is much more compressed, it agrees better with *Pyranga*, while in many respects it comes very near to *Orthogonys*. Since it should probably constitute a new genus, some-

what intermediate between the last two, I propose the generic name *Chlorothraupis*.\*

4. *Tachyphonus nitidissimus* Salv.

An adult male from Pirris (No. 91822, May, 1883; Juan Zeledon) agrees with a typical example from Veragua, except that the brownish orange crown-patch is more deeply colored.

5. *Tachyphonus luctuosus* Lafr. & D'Orb.

Two Costa Rican specimens (No. 68158, Talamanca, and 91821, Dos Novillos, December) agree exactly with specimens from Panama, Bogota, Guayaquil, Demerara and Brazil (Eng. do Gama); but No. 39044, ♂ ad., from Tuiz (Carmioli, coll.), has a small, though distinct, spot of straw-yellow on the crown, thus showing an approach to *T. nitidissimus*.

6. *Chlorospingus pileatus* Salviu.

A male, apparently immature, differs from an unquestionable adult in the following particulars: The dark color of the head is of a quite different shade, being dull slate-color instead of blackish fuliginous; the olive-green on the upper parts is paler, as is also the yellowish olive of the lower parts.

A young specimen in first plumage (No. 91824, Pirris, 1882; J. Cooper) has the head colored as in the preceding, but upper parts are a dull olive, with little green tinge, except on the wings and tail, while the lower parts are almost entirely dull light grayish, inclining to white on the abdomen, the sides and flanks, however, especially the latter, tinged with olive-green. The mandible is whitish, whereas in the adults it is deep black, like the maxilla.

7. *Lanio melanopygius* Ridgw.

*Lanio leucothorax melanopygius* RIDGW. Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1883," SALV. & GODM. Biol. Centr. Am. Aves, Vol. I, Dec. 1883, 305.

A single adult male from Pirris differs from two others, apparently quite adult (Nos. 47445, Angostura, Jan. 10, 1867, J. Carmioli, and 39036, Payuriqui, March 14, 1865, same collector), in having the whole rump solid deep black instead of bright yellow, the crissum black instead of yellow, and the black of the wings and tail much more intense. The differences are in fact so great that a difference of race at least seems quite likely. The original description of the species (Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1864, p. 581) does not mention the color of the rump; but the plate in *Exotic Ornithology* (plate 32) represents unmistakably the black-rumped form. It appears from the text, however, that the figure of the male may have been taken from a Veraguan example, from which we may infer that Veraguan specimens and those from the southern portion of Costa Rica agree in having the whole rump deep black. Should the

\*In their *Biologia Centrali-Americana, Aves*, Vol. I., p. 297 (December, 1883.), Messrs. SALVIN & GODMAN have already adopted this name from my MS., quoting "Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1883," the quotation in question having reference to the present article which was submitted for publication early in August, 1883. Messrs. SALVIN & GODMAN include along with *C. carmioli* the *Orthogonys olivaceus* of Cassin; but my type of the genus *Chlorothraupis* is *Phænicothraupis carmioli* Lawr.

difference prove constant, one of the forms requires a new name; and *L. leucothorax* having been based upon specimens from Tucurrique, the central part of Costa Rica, it follows that the black-rumped one is the one to be named. Accordingly, in view of its probable distinctness, I propose for it the name *L. melanopygius*.

There appears to be little difference in dimensions, the three specimens measuring as follows:

Specimen.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Bill from nostril.	Tarsus.	Middle toe.
No. 91818, Pirris .....	4.00	3.70	.95	.60	.70	.50
No. 47445, Angostura.....	4.15	3.70	.90	.59	.75	.55
No. 39036, Payuriqui .....	4.00	3.70	.85	.52	.70	.50

8. *Empidonax atriceps* Salvin.

The single specimen of this species may be described as follows:

SP. CH.—*Adult* (No. 91829, Pirris, Costa Rica, 1882; J. Cooper): Pileum and nape uniform sooty black, somewhat paler on the forehead; back and scapulars dark sooty olive, or olive-sepia, the rump similar, but paler; tail uniform dull black; wings black, the middle coverts broadly tipped with the color of the back, the greater coverts broadly tipped with lighter brown, and tertials edged with the same. Orbital ring, chin, and throat, light grayish yellow; sides of head dull olivaceous, much the same tint as the rump; jugulum and breast raw-umber brown, becoming more ochraceous posteriorly, the abdomen and crissum, also axillars and lining of wing, pale dull yellowish buff; maxilla black, mandible whitish; legs and feet black. Wing 2.45; tail 2.25, deeply emarginated; culmen .45, width of bill at base .22, tarsus .65, middle toe .35.

It seems to me that this species has been wrongly placed in the genus *Empidonax*; at any rate, the specimen under examination seems strictly congeneric with *Mitrephanes aurantiiventris*, with which it agrees very minutely in details of structure, although of smaller dimensions.

9. *Empidonax viridescens* sp. nov.

SP. CH.—*Adult* (No. 91826, U. S. Nat. Mus., Cervantes, Costa Rica, 1882; J. Cooper): Above uniform bright yellowish olive-green or oil-green, becoming less yellowish on rump; tail dull grayish, feathers edged with olive-green; wings grayish dusky, except lesser coverts, which are rich oil-green, like back, &c.; middle coverts broadly tipped with deep olive-buff, greater coverts broadly tipped with paler, more yellowish buff; tertials edged with pale greenish; orbital ring (apparently interrupted at and above anterior angle of the eye) yellowish white or pale sulphur-yellow; anterior lower parts light yellowish olive, becoming pure yellow on the abdomen, the crissum similar but paler; middle of throat tinged with or inclining to yellow; edge of wing tinged with saffron-yellow. Maxilla deep black, mandible wholly whitish, in-

clining to orange along toms; legs and feet black. Wing 2.75; tail 2.35, culmen .62 (from extreme base), bill from nostril .35, width at base .32, tarsus .68, middle toe .40.

In coloration this species presents a remarkably close resemblance to *E. flavescens* Lawr. The breast, however, is paler and decidedly less fulvous, the yellow of the abdomen paler, the upper parts have less of a russet cast, and the wing bands are paler. Besides, it is considerably larger, the measurements of an adult male of *E. flavescens* being as follows: Wing 2.40, tail 2.05, culmen (from extreme base) .62, bill from nostril .35, width at base .28, tarsus .62, middle toe .35.

10. *Pittasoma michleri zeledoni*, subsp. nov.

SUBSP. CIL.—*Adult* ♂: Similar to *P. michleri*, but much larger, and with the head entirely black, except a few touches of chestnut on the auriculars. Wing, 4.35; tail, 1.60; culmen, 1.25; tarsus, 2; middle toe, 1.25.

Type, No. 91841, Rio Sucio, Costa Rica, 1881; J. Cooper, collector.

The measurements of an adult male of *P. michleri* (No. 53778, Panama; McLeannan), are as follows: Wing, 4.05; tail, 1.35; culmen, 1.05; tarsus, 1.85; middle toe, 1.10. In *P. michleri* only the pileum is uniform black, the entire cheeks and auriculars being chestnut, while the black of the chin, throat, and malar region is spotted with the same.

11. *Acanthidops bairdi* Zeledon, MS.

In the original description of this species (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 4, p. 336) the writer accidentally omitted to credit the specific name to Mr. Zeledon. The oversight is much regretted, and the present opportunity is taken to make amends.

Besides the foregoing species, the following were contained in the collection received from Mr. Zeledon, all of which are included in that gentleman's excellent list\* of Costa Rican birds.

1. *Dacnis venusta*. Cervantes, 1882. J. Cooper.
2. *Euphonia* (undetermined). Pacaca, November, 1875. J. C. Zeledon.
3. *Euphonia* (undetermined). San José, November, 1881. J. C. Zeledon.
4. *Euphonia* (undetermined). Pirris, May, 1883. Juan Zeledon.
5. *Phænicothraupis fuscicauda*. Pacuare, 1876. J. Cooper.
6. *Mitrephanes aurantiiventris*. Cervantes, 1882. J. Cooper.
7. *Mionectes olivaceus*. (Locality not given.)
8. *Myiobius erythrurus*. Dos Novillos, December, 1882. J. Cooper.
9. *Tyranniscus parvus*. Pirris, 1882. Juan Zeledon.
10. *Dendrorhynchus erythropygia*. Rio Sucio, 1881. J. Cooper.
11. *Dendrococcyzina homochroa*. Navarro, October 30, 1882. J. Cooper.
12. *Automolus rufescens*. Cervantes, 1882. J. Cooper.
13. *Anabazenops variegaticeps*. Rio Sucio, 1881. J. Cooper.

\* Cataloga | de las | Aves de Costa-Rica, | por | José C. Zeledon. | San José, Costa Rica, | Junio 1882. | — | Imprenta Nacional. | 8 vo., pp. 39. [701 species, 388 genera; 315 of the former represented in the author's collection.]

14. *Margarornis brunnescens*. Rio Sucio, 1881. J. Cooper.
15. *Cymbilanius lineatus (fasciatus)*. Rio Sucio, August 15, 1882. J. Cooper.
16. *Grallaricula costaricensis*. Navarro, October 30, 1882. J. Cooper.
17. *Phlogopsis macleanneni*. Rio Sucio, 1882. J. Cooper.
18. *Microchera parvirostris*. Rio Sucio, 1882. J. Cooper.

A larger collection of Costa Rican birds lately presented to the National Museum by Dr. Van Patten, for many years resident at San José, included, among others, the following interesting species, those marked with an \* being additional to Mr. Zeledon's catalogue.

- \* 1. *Selasphorus ardens*. ♂.
- \* 2. *Selasphorus torridus*. ♂ and ♀.
- \* 3. *Chætura gaumeri* Lawr. (Compared with types!)
- \* 4. *Glaucidium jardinei* (in rufous plumage; = "*lansbergi*, Ridgw.").
5. *Leucopternis princeps*. 3 adults.

Unfortunately no labels were attached to Dr. Van Patten's specimens, and we are therefore ignorant of the precise localities in which they were obtained.

**ON AN ANTIQUE ROMAN MOSAIC FROM CARTHAGE, NOW IN THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM.**

**Communicated by G. H. HEAP, Esq., United States Consul-General at Tunis.**

Many who visited the Centennial Exhibition will remember seeing in the Tunisian section the large and beautifully executed mosaic, representing a Numidian lion seizing an antelope. This admirable work, which probably dates from 100 to 50 years before the Christian era, is of Roman workmanship, and was discovered at Carthage in 1873. It formed a very small part of the vault floor of a temple dedicated to Astarte (Aphrodite), the tutelary deity of the Carthaginians. The Romans, who assimilated the gods of the people they conquered as easily as they absorbed their territories, erected a temple to the goddess of Carthage and adorned it with great splendor. It was situated on a commanding hill facing the sea, near the citadel and other public buildings.\*

The Tunisian Government a short time since enacted a law prohibiting private search for antiquities, but granted this privilege to the son of the prime minister at that time in power. The finder of treasures or antique works of art was required, under severe penalties, to give immediate information to this official. The Arabs, however, in spite of imprisonment, bastinado, or fire, not unfrequently appropriated what-

\* The remains of some of these edifices are still visible, although now the most conspicuous object is the chapel, erected in 1835, by Louis Philippe, King of the French, and dedicated to the memory of his ancestor, Louis IX, surnamed "the Saint," on the spot where tradition says he died of the plague in 1270 while besieging Tunis.