

ON A SMALL COLLECTION OF BIRDS FROM COSTA RICA.

BY

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The specimens referred to in the following notes were kindly submitted by the authorities of the Costa Rica National Museum, through Mr. George K. Cherrie, the ornithologist of that establishment.

1. *Rhodinocichla rosea* (Less.).

An adult female from Buenos Aires (No. 3660, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, March 13, 1892, George K. Cherrie), is similar to 53900, U. S. National Museum, from Panama (J. McLeannan); but owing to its fresher condition the colors are rather purer, particularly the dark slate-color of the upper parts, which becomes browner with age. Its measurements are as follows: Length (skin), 6.60; wing, 3.20; tail, 3.15; exposed culmen, 0.79; tarsus, 1.07; middle toe, 0.72.

2. *Microcerculus lusciniæ* Salv.

An adult female from Burica, Costa Rica (No. 2593, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, December 15, 1891, George K. Cherrie), is similar to No. 53901, U. S. National Museum, from Panama (J. McLeannan), but differs in the following particulars: There are no dusky terminal margins to the feathers of the upper surface; the innermost greater wing-coverts, on the other hand, have indistinct blackish tips; the general color of the wings, particularly the remiges, is appreciably darker; the middle portion of the lower breast and belly is much paler, inclining to dull brownish white, slightly tinged with rusty, each feather showing a central irregular (usually V-shaped) mark of dark grayish; the sides are more strongly tinged with raw-umber or tawny-olive. Length (skin), 4.00; wing, 2.15; tail, 0.87; exposed culmen, 0.60; tarsus, 0.87; middle toe, 0.60.

Some of the differences of coloration, as for example the darker hue of the wings and tail, and the stronger rusty tinge on sides, are doubtless due to the fresher condition of the plumage.

3. *Buthraupis cæruleigularis* Cherrie, sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Similar to *B. arcei* Sel. and Salv., but larger, sides and flanks extensively and uniformly bluish dusky, and chin and throat dull indigo-blue, scarcely darker than top of head.

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*Adult male* (type, No. 128840, U. S. Nat. Mus.,\* Buena Vista, Costa Rica, August 4, 1892; Castro y Fernandez): Head (all round), hind neck, sides of neck, entire upper parts, sides, and flanks, uniform dull indigo-blue, the larger wing-coverts, remiges, and rectrices, however, dull black except on edges; chest and breast (except laterally), belly, anal region, and under tail-coverts bright yellow, changing gradually from rich Indian-yellow on the chest to lemon-yellow on the under tail-coverts; axillars canary-yellow; under wing-coverts mixed primrose-yellow and white; inner webs of remiges dull brownish gray, paler on edges, these becoming whitish toward base of quills; thighs uniform dusky indigo-blue. Bill entirely black; legs dusky horn-color; feet dull blackish. Length (skin), about 5.60 (tail imperfect); wing, 3.42; exposed culmen, 0.60; depth of bill at base, 0.35; tarsus, 0.85; middle toe, 0.60.

Mr. Cherrie sent an excellent description of this bird, but it has unfortunately been mislaid and I have therefore been obliged to prepare a new one.

Although apparently very different from *B. arcai* Sel. and Salv. in the extensively and uniformly dusky sides and flanks, it is so closely similar in other features of coloration that I strongly suspect it may only represent an extreme variation of that species. At any rate, additional specimens will be necessary to establish its validity.

#### 4. *Tachyphonus rubrifrons* Lawr.

Although Dr. Sclater considers this to be the female of *T. xanthopygius*, two of the three specimens now before me are marked as males by their collectors (J. Carmiol and N. Carranza).

The pair collected by Señor Carranza (Nos. 7168 and 7169, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, Reventazón, Costa Rica, February 24, 1892), are almost exactly alike, and both very similar to No. 47454, U. S. National Museum, collected at Angostura, Costa Rica, January 8, 1867, by J. Carmiol. The two males differ from the female in the much stronger yellow tinge to the under tail-coverts, some of the middle feathers being, in fact, almost pure yellow, but no other difference of coloration is observable. The Carranza male differs from the Carmiol specimen in having the chin and throat purer gray, and the chest strongly tinged with yellowish olive.

If really referable to *T. xanthopygius*, the plumage represented by *T. rubrifrons* must, therefore, be that of the young male as well as the female.

According to the collector, the iris is reddish and the bill and feet black in both sexes.

\* No. 8287, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica.

Measurements of the three specimens, together with a male of *T. xanthopygius*, are as follows:

## TACHYPHONUS XANTHOPYGIUS ScL.

| Mu-<br>seum<br>No. | Mu-<br>seum. | Sex<br>and<br>age. | Locality.              | Date. | Wing. | Tail. | Ex-<br>posed<br>cul-<br>men. | Tar-<br>sus. | Middle<br>toe. |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 17875              | U. S.        | ♂ ad.              | Truando, Colombia..... |       | 3.80  | 2.80  | .....                        | 0.82         | 0.60           |

## TACHYPHONUS RUBRIFRONS Lawr.

|       |       |       |                           |               |      |      |       |      |      |
|-------|-------|-------|---------------------------|---------------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| 47454 | U. S. | ♂ ad. | Angostura, Costa Rica...  | Jan. 8, 1867  | 3.25 | 2.43 | ..... | 0.78 | 0.55 |
| 7169  | C. R. | ♂ ad. | Reventazón, Costa Rica... | Feb. 24, 1892 | 3.25 | 2.43 | 0.63  | 0.80 | 0.52 |
| 7168  | C. R. | ♀ ad. | .....do.....              | .....do.....  | 3.15 | 2.37 | 0.60  | 0.80 | 0.50 |

Should this bird prove to be distinct from *T. xanthopygius* ScL., as I believe it will, we must, if the A. O. U. canons of nomenclature are adhered to, restore the name *Tachyphonus rubrifrons* Lawr., for which Mr. Lawrence substituted the name *T. propinquus* when he discovered that the red color on the forehead of the type specimen was an accidental stain. (See Canon XXXI, A. O. U. Code of Nomenclature.)

5. *Pachyrhamphus ornatus* Cherrie. (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIV, No. 855, 1891, 338.)

An apparently immature female belonging to the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica (No. 1472, San José, J. C. Zeledon), is much like the type (an adult female), but differs in having the back, etc., more grayish olive-green, which, instead of being quite the same hue from upper back to tail-coverts is much tinged posteriorly with light sandy brown or fulvous, this being especially marked on lower and posterior scapulars and longer upper tail-coverts; the pileum is lighter, rather russet than chestnut; the broad pale margins to wing-coverts and secondaries are much paler, those of the coverts being chiefly buff, those of secondaries pale olive-buff; the sides of the head are paler, and the upper throat is nearly white, like chin. The white frontal mark is much less tinged with buff near base of culmen; the black patch covering nape and sides of occiput is less sharply defined and less intense black, and the adjacent color of hind neck is decidedly paler than the back, producing an indistinct collar. Length (skin), 5.50; wing, 2.85; tail, 2.20; exposed culmen, 0.42; tarsus, 0.70; middle toe, 0.45.

6. *Pachyrhamphus cinereiventris* ScL.

Four adult males in the collection of the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica are typical of this form, all having the whole back intense blue-black, without any gray across the hind neck. This is the case even in an immature male (same collection, No. 4432, May 3, 1890), in which the greater part of the rump is olive, instead of slate-gray, and the wings largely in immature plumage. The shade of color of under parts is very uniform (intermediate between slate-color and slate-gray),

some specimens showing a faint transverse freckling of a paler tint on the belly and other posterior portions.

Two immature females in the same collection differ from an adult (possibly a young male) in the collection of the U. S. National Museum from Greytown, Nicaragua (No. 40448, June 14, 1865, H. E. Holland), in the darker and richer color of the upper parts, the back being olive-brown in contrast with the olive-color of head and neck; wing markings rather deeper, especially the edges of secondaries; under parts considerably more richly colored, the prevailing hue being yellowish olive, clearing to olive-yellow on abdomen, under tail-coverts, etc., these parts in one specimen (No. 3465, Jiménez, August 12, 1889, A. Alfaro) being almost canary-yellow,\* while the yellow covers nearly the whole anterior portion of the under surface.

7. *Platyparis aglaiae obscurus* Ridgw. (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., xiv, 1891, p. 474.)

An adult male (No. 5409, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica), obtained at the same time and place with the type of *P. a. obscurus*, is similar in color to the type on upper parts, but is paler beneath, especially on the throat, where there is not the slightest indication of the dusky spotting, so conspicuous a feature in the type. In fact, the whole throat, especially its lower portion, is considerably paler than any other part of the lower surface, except under tail-coverts and anal region, the color being a pale, slightly brownish, gray. The average hue of the under parts is very nearly the same as in the type of *P. a. hypophæus*,† and still more like another specimen of that form (No. 120294, U. S. Nat. Mus.). From all the males of the latter form, however, it may be distinguished by the decidedly smaller size, large white spot at base of inner web of outer primary, and correspondingly more extended white patch covering the basal portion of other primaries on the under surface. Measurements are as follows: Length (skin), 6.50; wing, 3.30; tail, 2.35; exposed culmen, 0.58; tarsus, 0.82; middle toe, 0.48.

Two additional females from the same locality agree essentially with the one originally described, and differ even more from the La Palma specimen doubtfully referred to *P. a. latirostris* (cf. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., xiv, 1891, p. 474). No. 5410 (Museo Nacional de Costa Rica), Jiménez, February 7, 1891, has the upper parts somewhat more intense chestnut-rufous, with none of the grayish-brown tinge seen on the back of the type female; the black of the pileum, however, is slightly mixed with dull rusty brown. The under parts are rather deeper ochraceous than in the type. Length (skin), 6.00; wing, 3.30; tail, 2.45; exposed culmen, 0.58; tarsus, 0.78. "Iris black; bill and feet, horn-color."

No. 3461 (Museo Nacional de Costa Rica), Jiménez, August 6, 1889, A. Alfaro, is still deeper in color, the upper parts tending more decidedly toward chestnut, and the lower surface quite uniform, deep

\* This example is not sexed, and may be a young male.

† Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. xiv, 1891, p. 467. (Interior of Honduras.)

ochraceous-buff, inclining to tawny along sides. There is no admixture of brown in the black of the pileum. Length (skin), 6.30; wing, 3.40; tail, 2.58; exposed culmen, 0.60; tarsus, 0.75.

The three females of this form which are now on view agree in the much brighter or more castaneous coloration of the upper parts, by which character they may be immediately separated from females of any other of the local forms of this species. In the clearness of this rusty coloring of the upper parts they come nearest *P. a. latirostris*, in which, however, the color is very much paler, while the pileum is dull slate-color instead of glossy black.

8. *Sclerurus canigularis* Ridgw. (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XII, No. 762, February 5, 1890, 24.)

An immature female (No. 8281, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, Buena Vista, Costa Rica, August 14, 1892, Castro y Fernandez) is closely similar to the type of the species (an adult female), but has the upper parts rather more castaneous and the chest a little less so. Its measurements are as follows: Length (skin), 5.70; wing, 3.40; tail, 2.35; exposed culmen, 0.80; tarsus, 0.88; middle toe, 0.72.

This bird is certainly distinct, at least subspecifically, from *S. albigularis* Sel.

9. *Scytalopus argentifrons* Ridgw. (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIV, No. 869, 1891, 475.)

*Adult male* (No. 6379, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, Volcan de Irazú, July 31, 1891): Forehead and anterior half of crown (back to a little past posterior angle of eyes), delicate silvery gray or cinereous, this color extending backward laterally, above ear-coverts, to the hinder part of the occiput (terminating about half an inch from posterior angle of the eye); lores and anterior portion of the forehead a little darker and browner gray; orbital region nearly black, especially above the eye; postocular streak, occiput, hind part of crown, hind neck, back, scapulars, and wing-coverts uniform slate-black; remiges and rectrices similar but slightly browner; rump and upper tail-coverts dark bistre-brown, barred with blackish. Ear-coverts, malar region, chin, and throat slate-gray (slightly darker on the first), gradually deepening on sides of breast to dark slate-color, the sides and belly dark slate-color, with broad pale gray tips, these light tips still paler, and less pure, gray on lower median portion of belly; flanks, anal region, and under tail-coverts dusky black, each feather broadly tipped with light russet or tawny-brown, producing a heavily barred effect. Bill entirely deep black; legs and feet rather dark horn-color, the outer side of the former considerably darker. Length (skin), 4.70; wing, 2.00; tail, 1.55; culmen (to base), 0.52; exposed culmen, 0.43; tarsus, 0.83; middle toe, 0.70.

This specimen differs from the type and the example which accompanied it (as described in these "Proceedings," Vol. XIV, pp. 475, 476), as follows: The frontal silvery patch is more extensive,\* and exhibits

\* Regarding the extent and shape of this patch in the original specimens due allowance should be made for their imperfect condition.

a conspicuous lateral extension, over the ear-coverts, quite as far as the end of the latter; the anterior part of the forehead and lores are paler, slightly brownish, gray instead of dark slate-color; the general color of the upper parts is devoid of any brownish tinge, being a pure slate-black or blackish slate, and the wings are without any trace of brownish markings; the side of the head, together with the chin and throat, are paler gray. Possibly the type may be a younger bird, and the other specimen (No. 5419, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica) may also be an immature male, or perhaps an adult female.

*Young (?) female* (No. 5952, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, Volcan de Irazú, July 2, 1891): Above nearly uniform dusky brown (nearest "clove brown"), inclining to bistre posteriorly, where showing rather indistinct dusky central spots (a single subterminal one on each feather of hinder scapulars, lower back, and rump), the upper tail-coverts russet, with dusky bars; outer surface of remiges vandyke brown; sides of head a little paler than pileum, the ear-coverts nearly uniform dull slate-color; chin, throat, and chest mixed pale gray and pale isabella color, the latter on tips of feathers, and the prevailing color superficially; rest of under parts cinnamon-buff, deeper and brighter posteriorly, paler and grayer anteriorly, each feather marked with a partly exposed subterminal  $\cap$ -shaped mark of dusky; flanks, anal region, and under tail-coverts clear mummy-brown, rather broadly barred with dusky. Bill brownish black; legs and feet as in adult. Length (skin), 4.40; wing, 2.03; tail, 1.62; exposed culmen, 0.35; tarsus, 0.78; middle toe, 0.68.

10. *Antrostomus saturatus* Salvin. (*A. rufo-maculatus* Ridgw. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., xiv, 1891, 466.)

In redescribing this species as *A. rufo-maculatus*, I was not at the time aware of Mr. Salvin's previous name and description, my memoranda or references thereto having been somehow lost or mislaid. Since my attention has been called to the matter, I find there can be no question that I have thus, by accident, added a synonym to the nomenclature of this species.

Another adult male, from the same locality as the type, collected by Mr. Geo. K. Cherrie, July 24, 1891, has been received for examination. This example (No. 5893, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica) is almost exactly like the type, but differs in a few minor particulars, as follows: Along the sides of the occiput and across its posterior portion, some of the feathers have one or both webs mainly whitish, with black bars, producing a much interrupted series of irregular small whitish blotches; there is considerable light-colored (pale rusty buff) mottling on the scapulars and tertials, rendering the large black spots or blotches more conspicuous; the pale rusty-brown oblique bands on the middle tail-feathers are more interrupted, being much broken by irregular black markings, and there is even less light spotting on the throat, where the general color is an almost unbroken dusky black. Its measurements are as follows: Length (skin), 8.65; wing, 6.30; tail, 4.85; its graduation, 0.70; tarsus, 0.65; middle toe, 0.60.