



FRONTISPIECE.—Viridian Dacnis, Mielero Esmeraldino, *Dacnis vigieri*.

SMITHSONIAN MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS

VOLUME 150, Part 4

THE BIRDS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF PANAMÁ

Part 4.—Passeriformes:
Hirundinidae (Swallows) to
Fringillidae (Finches)

By

ALEXANDER WETMORE

Research Associate (Deceased)
Smithsonian Institution

ROGER F. PASQUIER

International Council for Bird Preservation
Smithsonian Institution

AND

STORRS L. OLSON

Curator, Division of Birds
Smithsonian Institution

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION PRESS

City of Washington

1984

670 pp

Copyright © 1984 by the Smithsonian Institution. All rights reserved.
Published in the United States by the Smithsonian Institution Press.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
(Revised for volume 4)

Wetmore, Alexander, 1886—

The birds of the Republic of Panama.

(Smithsonian miscellaneous collections ; v. 150)

Pt. 4 by Alexander Wetmore, Roger F. Pasquier, and
Storrs L. Olson.

Vols. 1–2: Publication 4617, 4732.

Includes bibliographical references.

Supt. of Docs. no.: SI 1.2:B53/2/pt.4

CONTENTS: 1. Tinamidae (tinamous) to Rynchopidae
(skimmers).—pt. 2. Columbidae (pigeons) to Picidae
(woodpeckers).—[etc.]—pt. 4. Order Passeriformes,
suborder Passeres, Hirundinidae (swallows) to Fringillidae
(finches).

1. Birds—Panama—Collected works. I. Pasquier,
Roger F. II. Olson, Storrs L. III. Title. IV. Series.
Q11.S7 vol. 150, etc. 598.297287 66-61061
ISBN 0-87474-122-X (v. 3)

Part 1 of *The Birds of the Republic of Panamá* by Dr.
Alexander Wetmore was published by the Smithsonian
Institution in 1965 as volume 150 of its *Miscellaneous
Collection* series. It covers in systematic sequence the
Tinamidae (Tinamous) through the Rynchopidae
(Skimmers).

Part 2 of *The Birds of the Republic of Panamá* by Dr.
Alexander Wetmore was published by the Smithsonian
Institution in 1968 as volume 150, Part 2, of its *Miscel-
laneous Collections* series. It covers in systematic sequence
the Columbidae (Pigeons) through Picidae (Wood-
peckers).

Part 3 of *The Birds of the Republic of Panamá* by Dr.
Alexander Wetmore was published by the Smithsonian
Institution in 1972 as volume 150, Part 3, of its *Miscel-
laneous Collections* series. It covers in systematic sequence
the Dendrocolaptidae (Woodcreepers) to Oxyruncidae
(Sharpbills).

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Acknowledgments	3
Order PASSERIFORMES	4
Family Hirundinidae: Swallows, Golondrinas	4
Family Corvidae: Crows and Jays, Cuervos y Urracas	41
Family Cinclidae: Dippers, Mirlos Acuáticos	52
Family Troglodytidae: Wrens, Cucaracheros	55
Family Mimidae: Thrashers, Mockingbirds	124
Family Turdidae: Thrushes, Zorzales	128
Family Ptilogonatidae: Solitaires and Silky-flycatchers, Solitarios y Dorales Sedosos	165
Family Sylviidae: Gnatwrens and Gnatcatchers, Cazajejenes ..	177
Family Motacillidae: Pipits and Wagtails, Bisbitas y Lavanderas	190
Family Bombycillidae: Waxwings, Chinitos	193
Family Ploceidae: Weaver Finches, Pinzones Tejedores.....	196
Family Sturnidae: Starlings, Estorninos	196
Family Vireonidae: Vireos, Peppershrikes and Shrike-Vireos, Vireos y Follajeros	196
Family Parulidae: Wood Warblers, Reinitas	242
Family Icteridae: Blackbirds and Orioles, Turpiales y Chacareros	332
Family Thraupidae: Tanagers, Tangaros, Tanagras y Fruteros	382
Family Coerebidae: Honeycreepers, Mieleros	498
Family Fringillidae: Finches, Gorriones y Pinzones	526
Appendix: Addenda to Volumes 1-3	623
Index	639

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

FRONTISPIECE—Viridian Dacnis, Mielero Esmeraldino,
Dacnis viguieri.

FIGURE

1. Mangrove Swallow, Golondrina Manglera, <i>Tachycineta albilinea</i>	9
2. White-thighed Swallow, Golondrina Muslos Blancos, <i>Neochelidon tibialis minima</i>	30
3. Portion of outer primary feather of the Rough-winged Swallow, Golondrina Ala de Sierra, <i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i> , showing hooklike leading barbs.	37
4. Black-chested Jay, Chochó, <i>Cyanocorax affinis zeledoni</i>	46
5. Silvery-throated Jay, Urraca Garganta de Plata, <i>Cyanolyca argentigula argentigula</i>	49
6. American Dipper, Mirlo Acuático Americano, <i>Cinclus mexicanus ardesiacus</i>	53
7. Black-capped Donacobius, Paralauta de Agua, <i>Donacobius atricapillus brachypterus</i>	58
8. White-headed Wren, Cucarachero Cabeciblanco, <i>Campylorhynchus albobrunneus</i>	61
9. Band-backed Wren, Cucarachero Listado, <i>Campylorhynchus zonatus costaricensis</i>	65
10. Bay Wren, Cucarachero Cabecinegro, <i>Thryothorus nigricapillus</i>	85
11. White-breasted Wood-wren, Cucarachero Pechiblanco, <i>Henricorhina leucosticta</i>	110
12. Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush, Zorzal Pizarreño, <i>Catharus fuscater</i>	154
13. Black-faced Solitaire, Solitario Carinegro, <i>Myadestes melanops</i>	168
14. Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher, Capulinero Colilargo, <i>Ptilogonys caudatus</i> , male	173
15. Tropical Gnatcatcher, Cazajején Tropical, <i>Polioptila plumbea</i> , male (below), female (above)	179
16. Yellowish Pipit, Bisbita Amarillenta, <i>Anthus lutescens parvus</i> .	191
17. Cedar Waxwing, Chinito Cedroso, <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	195
18. Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Pájaro Perico, <i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>	199
19. Green Shrike-Vireo, Follajero Verde, <i>Smaragdolanus pulchellus</i> .	205
20. Yellow-winged Vireo, Vireo Aliamarillo, <i>Vireo carmioli</i>	212
21. Scrub Greenlet, Verdecillo Rastrojero, <i>Hylophilus flavipes</i>	238
22. Black-and-white Warbler, Reinita Trepedora, <i>Mniotilta varia</i> , male	247

23. Yellow Warbler, Reinita Mangletera, <i>Dendroica petechia</i> , a male of the <i>erithachorides</i> (Mangrove Warbler) group.	260
24. Collared Redstart, Candelita Collareja, <i>Myioborus torquatus</i> . . .	312
25. Buff-rumped Warbler, Reinita de Rabadilla Anteada, <i>Basileuterus fulvicauda</i>	326
26. Zeledonia, Zeledonia, <i>Zeledonia coronata</i>	331
27. Montezuma Oropendola, Chacarero de Montezuma, <i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	337
28. Chestnut-headed Oropendola, Chacarero Común, <i>Psarocolius wagleri</i> , male	342
29. Giant Cowbird, Vaquero Gigante, <i>Scaphidura oryzivora</i> , male . .	356
30. Bronzed Cowbird, Vaquero Bronceado, <i>Molothrus aeneus aeneus</i> , female (left), male (right)	359
31. Yellow-tailed Oriole, Parao Coliamarillo, <i>Icterus mesomelas</i> . . .	370
32. Swallow-Tanager, Azulejo Golondrina, <i>Tersina viridis occidentalis</i> , male	389
33. Spot-crowned Euphonia, Tanagra Coronimanchada, <i>Euphonia imitans</i> , male (above), female (below)	406
34. Spangle-cheeked Tanager, Tangaro Carirrayado, <i>Tangara dowii</i> . . .	432
35. Crimson-backed Tanager, Sangretoro Común, <i>Ramphocelus dimidiatus</i> , male (above), female (below)	441
36. Rosy Thrush-Tanager, Frutero Rosaceo, <i>Rhodinocichla rosea eximia</i>	484
37. Black-and-yellow Tanager, Frutero Orinegro, <i>Chrysothlypis chrysomelas</i> , male (below), female (above)	488
38. Bananaquit, Mielero Platanero, <i>Coereba flaveola</i>	501
39. Slaty Flower-piercer, Mielero Picaflor, <i>Diglossa baritula plumbea</i> , male	506
40. Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, Mielero Patirrojo, <i>Dacnis venusta</i> , male . . .	523
41. Black-headed Saltator, Saltator Cabecinegro, <i>Saltator atriceps lacertosus</i>	531
42. Buff-throated Saltator, Saltador Gargantiantcado, <i>Saltator maximus</i>	533
43. Streaked Saltator, Saltador Pechirayado, <i>Saltator albicollis</i>	536
44. Slate-colored Grosbeak, Piquigrueso Apizarrado, <i>Pitylus grossus saturatus</i> , male	545
45. Blue-black Grassquit, Arrocerero Piquiagudo, <i>Geospiza jacarina splendens</i> , female (left), males (right)	558
46. Distribution of the races of <i>Sporophila americana</i> in Panamá (from Olson, 1981)	567
47. Volcano Junco, Junco del Volcán, <i>Junco vulcani</i>	610
48. Rufous-collared Sparrow, Gorrión de Collar Rojizo, <i>Zonotrichia capensis costaricensis</i>	612
49. Wedge-tailed Grass-finch, Pinzón Yerberero Coliacuñado, <i>Emberizoides herbicola hypochondriacus</i>	617

THE BIRDS OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMÁ
PART 4: ORDER PASSERIFORMES, SUBORDER
PASSERES, HIRUNDINIDAE (SWALLOWS)
TO FRINGILLIDAE (FINCHES)

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE

Research Associate, Smithsonian Institution (Deceased)

ROGER F. PASQUIER

*International Council for Bird Preservation,
Smithsonian Institution*

and

STORRS L. OLSON

Curator, Division of Birds, Smithsonian Institution

INTRODUCTION

As with so many ambitious works in ornithology, Alexander Wetmore's *Birds of the Republic of Panamá* unfortunately required more than a lifetime to complete. Those of us around the Division of Birds who were privileged to work with Dr. Wetmore could only hope that he would live to see his magnum opus finished, but even his indefatigable constitution inevitably gave way to the attrition of time. He was 86 years old in 1972, when Part 3 appeared, and it is a tribute to his endurance that he proceeded as far with the manuscript for Part 4 as he did. When his health failed, he had prepared accounts for almost all of the "ten-primaried oscines." Alexander Wetmore died at his home on December 7, 1978, at the age of 92 after a long illness.

Dr. Wetmore's colleague and friend of long standing, S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, approached me, when it became certain that Dr. Wetmore would be unable to continue his studies, to inquire into the feasibility of completing Part 4 of *Birds of the Republic of Panamá*. I agreed to be responsible for the identification of specimens and for systematic decisions, provided someone else could be found to compile the species accounts and descriptions that remained to be done. Happily for all concerned, we were able to enlist the services of Mr. Roger F. Pasquier, who has attended this task with determination and assiduity.

In addition to the large collections that Dr. Wetmore himself had made in Panamá, he worked simultaneously upon extensive collections

from Colombia obtained by M. A. Carriker. When I began work on the project, there still remained thousands of specimens of nine-primaried oscines and a few other families from Panamá and Colombia that had not been identified or incorporated in the main collections. I have evaluated the geographic variation in each of these remaining species and have made all of the decisions about subspecific limits. In some instances I was not able to recognize taxa that are currently held to be valid, whereas in others I was able to discern undescribed subspecies. Most major innovations I have proposed elsewhere in technical journals. I have made no attempt to try to guess how Dr. Wetmore might have interpreted each species; therefore, the systematics used in the section from the Ptilogonatidae onward is mine alone. An exception is made for the subspecies of North American migrants, where I have deferred to the judgment of my colleagues John W. Aldrich, M. Ralph Browning, and Allan R. Phillips, each of whom has been consulted regarding particular taxa.

Any sequence of species is bound to be to some extent arbitrary. Because Ridgely (1976) followed the sequence that Dr. Wetmore had used in the first three volumes of this series, we have simply adopted the sequence of species in Ridgely for the present volume, in order to make the two works compatible. Exceptions are *Donacobius*, now placed at the beginning of the Troglodytidae, *Myadestes*, which appears in the Ptilogonatidae, and *Spiza*, which now leads off the Icteridae. The artificial family "Coerebidae" we have placed after the Thraupidae, in which family most of the coerebid genera properly belong. Although we have included the Cyclarhidae and Vireolaniidae in the Vireonidae, and the Zeledoniidae in the Parulidae, this has not affected the sequence of species.

As mentioned, Dr. Wetmore had completed his studies on the taxa up to the Ptilogonatidae, and this portion of the text we have attempted to leave as intact as possible, although the effort has been made to include information published since the manuscript was originally completed. Mr. Pasquier has assembled the species accounts from the field notes and bibliographic index left by Dr. Wetmore and from the subsequent literature. Because so much of the information comes directly from Dr. Wetmore's field notes, the first person singular has been retained throughout, which also conforms with the first part of the volume, written by Dr. Wetmore alone. In places I have interjected my own comments, these being initialled and set off in brackets. Citations of "*in litt.*" refer to correspondence received by either Pasquier or Olson, unless indicated otherwise. From the Ptilogonatidae onward, all

descriptions and measurements were made by Mr. Pasquier. Spanish names through the Ptilogonatidae are from Dr. Wetmore's manuscript, with occasional modification by Eugene Eisenmann; the remaining Spanish names were kindly provided by Drs. Pedro Galindo and Eustorgio Mendez of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory in Panamá. Although the Canal Zone no longer exists as a political entity, we have continued to use this designation to reflect the localities that appear on specimen labels and to be consistent with the remainder of this series.

Several species belonging to families treated in the first three volumes have subsequently been found in Panamá for the first time. Accounts of these species appear in an appendix. As in the earlier volumes, accounts of species whose presence in Panamá has not been supported by specimens are bracketed, and literature citations appear within the text. We have resorted so frequently to Ridgely's indispensable *Guide to the Birds of Panama* (Princeton University Press, Princeton, N. J., 1976), that this reference is cited simply as "Ridgely, 1976," with the appropriate page number.

Dr. Wetmore originally intended to include a complete bibliography as well as an account of the history of ornithology in Panamá, but we have not attempted to provide either and have settled simply for finishing the species accounts. A gazetteer is in preparation to be published separately. As we could not hope to emulate the devotion that Dr. Wetmore invested in the production of the first three volumes in this series, we can only trust that the ultimate result will be judged better than nothing at all.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are especially indebted to the late Eugene Eisenmann and to Robert S. Ridgely, who read over drafts of the manuscript and used their special knowledge of Panamanian birds to suggest many valuable alterations and additions. We have also had the pleasure of consulting frequently with Mrs. Alexander Wetmore concerning various aspects of the production of this volume. Further information and specimens that were of use in the preparation of this volume were provided by John Farrand, Jr., John W. Fitzpatrick, Pedro Galindo, Frank B. Gill, John W. Hardy, C. Lynn Hayward, Ned K. Johnson, Lloyd F. Kiff, Wesley E. Lanyon, Marcy Lawton, Eustorgio Mendez, John P. O'Neill, Kenneth C. Parkes, Allan R. Phillips, Ralph W. Schreiber, Robert W. Storer, and Melvin A. Traylor, to all of whom we remain indebted.

Although many of the text drawings for this volume had already

been executed by the late Walter Weber, certain prominent taxa were lacking. We were fortunate to have Guy Tudor to remedy the deficiencies and also to render the color frontispiece. Finally, it should be recognized that were it not for the vigorous support and warm encouragement of S. Dillon Ripley, this volume would never have been completed.

STORRS L. OLSON
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C.
April 1982

Order PASSERIFORMES

Family HIRUNDINIDAE: Swallows, Golondrinas

The swallow family, almost worldwide in its distribution, has 11 species found regularly in Panamá. All are birds of active flight that feed on insects captured mainly on the wing. Winter migrants from the north include 6 kinds, one of them, the Rough-winged Swallow, also represented by a local race that nests widely through the Isthmus. Two others, less numerous, are recorded as visitors from South America during the months of southern winter, one of them—the Blue-and-white Swallow—also with a resident subspecies in the western highlands. The Southern Martin of southern South America is definitely known from a single specimen record in eastern San Blas. The Cave Swallow is reported only from a specimen of uncertain history.

Migrant flocks of swallows during the months of northern winter may include large numbers of a single kind, but it is usual to see 2 or more species in mixed company, joined where insects are abundant through this common source of food. While most common in the lowlands, swallows may be found in open lands at any elevation. The northern migrants, especially the Barn Swallow, most abundant in western Panamá, often gather at dusk in large groups to sleep in growths of rushes in marshy areas or in sugarcane. Mixed with others of the family, they range in companies through the day. The Brown-chested Martin, a southern season migrant, late April to October, from Brazil and Argentina, gathers at night to sleep in trees (at least in its breeding range) in large assemblages. It appears that this species, now common, may have extended its winter range to Panamá within recent years, as it was not reported by the early naturalists who made collections and observations in its present isthmian range.