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OBSERVATIONS ON THE BIRDS OF NORTHERN  
VENEZUELA

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AN extended journey in the southern republics of South America several years ago aroused a wish to know something in life of the birds of the northern section of that great continent, a desire that was finally gratified in the latter part of 1937 when arrangement was made for field work in Venezuela. In brief, in this second journey work began at the seacoast 50 miles west of La Guaira, was extended inland to the higher levels of the Cordillera de la Costa at Rancho Grande, and, with brief observations at Maracay in the valley of Aragua, was concluded with a stay at El Sombrero in the northern Orinoco Valley 80 miles due south of the capital city of Caracas. The studies thus included a transit through the arid tropical zone of the north coast, the subtropical rain forests of the coast range, the open valley of Aragua, and the northern section of the llanos down to that point where the blanket of thorny scrub that extends southward from the hills on the northern boundary of that great level plain begins to open out in the vast savannas that reach toward the Río Orinoco.

The collections from the region included in the Parque Nacional serve as a link to join work done by earlier investigators in the region of the Cumbre de Valencia and Puerto Cabello in Estado Carabobo, and in the vicinity of Caracas. The region between Ortiz and El Sombrero is one that has been known to ornithologists only casually.

## ITINERARY

At 7 o'clock on the morning of October 16, 1937, the S. S. *Stuyvesant* of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Co. came slowly in to the crowded dock at the port of La Guaira, Venezuela, where with the assistance of Louis B. Mazzeo, American vice-consul, free entry for my equipment for scientific work was soon arranged. Shortly after 11 I was on the way to Caracas by auto up the winding road that leads across the steep, dry, stony slopes of the coastal mountain range, partly covered with low, thorny scrub, and partly bare except for clumps of grassy vegetation. Near the summit, where the clouds hung low, the land is productive and vegetation more abundant.

Through the friendly cooperation of the American Minister, the Honorable Meredith Nicholson, and the gracious assistance of Dr. E. Gil Borges, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores of Venezuela, necessary permissions for travel and for the collection of specimens were quickly arranged. The Minister of the Departamento de Agricultura y Cria, Señor H. Parra Pérez, and the Director de Tierras Baldias, Bosques y Aguas, Señor Miguel Parra Sanoja of the same department, were interested in my proposed studies and afforded the fullest cooperation. I had also the friendly assistance of Dr. Henri Pittier, the veteran botanist, long a friend and correspondent of the Smithsonian Institution. While these arrangements were going forward I had opportunity to visit the bird market in Caracas, the Museum Bolívar, where I saw the sundial said to have been made by Humboldt, and many other historical objects of interest, and to become familiar with the city.

On October 20 I moved to Maracay where field work began the following day, when Ventura Barnés, Jr., took me to an old estate at La Providencia, 10 kilometers east of Maracay. Here I worked through an area of level land divided between small, open fields and woodland in which much of the undergrowth had been cleared. Beyond lay rolling hills grown with grass, with thick scrub filling the valleys. My first birds were obtained in this area.

On October 22, Dr. Pittier, strong and active at the age of 80, took me into the great Parque Nacional, recently established by the Venezuelan Government as a wildlife reserve under the Department of Agriculture. It was my privilege here to make a preliminary survey of the birdlife of this vast area where few observations had been made before, with highly interesting results that are detailed in the pages that follow.

A paved auto road extends through the park from the southern border at Guamitas, 14 kilometers northwest of Maracay, over the mountain range of the Cordillera de la Costa, down through broken foothills and across the lowlands on the north to the sea, with a

branch toward the west to Turiamo. On the way over we stopped briefly near Los Riños to examine the beautiful rain forest and then continued to Ocumare de la Costa, where I was established near the beach at Independencia in an airy, comfortable little house belonging to the park administration. The small bay of Ocumare, about 2 miles across, is bounded by rocky headlands extending on either side into the sea. A rush-grown lagoon or cienaga lay back of the house in a level, open playa, indicating a former greater extent for the lake. This led to steep, rocky hills grown with great cacti and thorny scrub, while in the background was the sprawling village shaded with coconut palms, with the distant mountains beyond. This was typical arid tropical zone.

Farther inland, along the Río Ocumare, the climate seemed more humid, and the tree growth was heavier and more verdant. Here were extensive plantations of cacao and a few rubber trees with tall shade trees overhead.

On October 23 in company with Dr. Pittier I collected along the Río Ocumare at La Trilla at about 250 feet elevation in the foothills, 10 kilometers south of the village of Ocumare de la Costa. Here were small brush-grown pastures, small plantations along the river, and brush-grown hill slopes above. On October 24 and 31 Mr. and Mrs. Ventura Barnés, who had come over for these week ends, took me to the winding valley of the Río Cumboto toward Turiamo, where we climbed to an elevation of 700 feet. The valley was given over to cacao plantations, with partly open slopes above on which grew a gallery forest that in places tended to become very dense.

For the rest of the time I worked near Independencia, about the lagoon, back into the hills on either side, and on the west crossed over a high, narrow ridge into the wooded valley behind the uninhabited Playa de Maya. Inland the sun was extremely hot, but at my house on the beach there was always a cooling breeze.

On the evening of October 31 I returned to Maracay, and remained the following day, having opportunity to visit the zoological gardens at Las Delicias, 6 kilometers from town, and the shores of Lake Valencia. That evening I returned to the mountains, where through the kindness of Señor Tacito A. Martínez I was established in the country house called Quinta Rancho Chico, built on a mountain shoulder on the southern slope at an elevation of 3,320 feet, less than half a mile from the hotel under construction at Rancho Grande, also on the south slope but nearer the crest. The highest point on the pass through which the road passes is known as El Portachuelo, where the elevation is 3,540 feet. Slopes were steep, so that in my work I climbed either up or down, sometimes laboriously because of wet and slippery ground. Seldom did I find an extensive space of level trail.

The mountain slopes above 3,000 feet on the south and above 2,000 feet on the north were covered with a magnificent rain forest that extended over all the higher region. In many places huge trees rose from buttressed roots to heights of 150 feet or more, and everywhere the growth was dense. Tree trunks were wound with climbing figs and other vines, masses of parasitic plants covered their limbs, and from their higher branches long, slender lianas hung like ropes, sometimes extending down for 50 to 75 feet without leaf or branch to break their straight, symmetrical lines. Below these the undergrowth was dense, forming heavy shade. On the mountain slopes a small palm with the trunk set closely with long, black, needle-sharp spines was something to be avoided with care. On the higher pitches were masses of a climbing bamboo. Only along the roadway were there small clearings.

It rained daily in the afternoon, and for much of each day clouds of mist swept across the mountains so that the undergrowth was always saturated with water.

Trails in this forest were few, and in general I worked along the ridges in going into the higher levels. One of the best localities for birds lay along an old trail leading along the crest of the ridge to the west from El Portachuelo. Here the air currents were such that there was greater freedom from fog than elsewhere nearby, so that birds seemed to come up the slopes from either side and to congregate along the ridge. This trail ascended to about 3,700 feet elevation. It was not particularly difficult to go to the same altitude or a little higher on the slopes above the house, and on November 8 I climbed up the Cumbre de Rancho Grande to the summit of the lower of the two peaks of this range at 4,500 feet elevation. Above 3,700 feet the land rose less steeply and the undergrowth was more open, so that it was possible to see about. Here I found an old trail, formerly used in crossing the mountain to Ocumare de la Costa, but now abandoned, leading across the ridges. A small, creeping bamboo, also found lower down, at 4,000 feet, gave some trouble. I had expected to climb the higher peak, but by the time I had reached the ridge leading to it the clouds swept over the mountain, so that there was no point in going farther, as there was no view and birds could not be found.

In the deep shadows of the undergrowth of this forest it was always wet and birds were frequently difficult to see. A number of small species ranged through the forest in little flocks, so that sometimes I would travel for some distance without seeing the flutter of a wing, and then the branches all around would be alive with quickly moving forms of a dozen species of birds. Other kinds were solitary and ranged in pairs or alone. In working here I had always a man with me to retrieve my specimens, and when a bird fell I had to watch carefully until he had laboriously reached the spot, as otherwise the

specimen would certainly have been lost. Daily I heard strange birds, often close at hand, that I could not identify, and daily novel species that I had not seen before came to hand.

The air in these mountains was cool and pleasant, and rushing streams furnished an abundance of pure water, uncontaminated, as there were no human inhabitants in the forest above. Morning and evening I had wonderful views of Lake Valencia and the broad valley of Aragua, and at other times I never tired of looking out as I worked during the afternoon with specimens or with notes to watch the swift, soundless drift of fog across the slopes. Rain, which fell daily, came mainly in the afternoon or at night and so did not interfere with morning field work. On one or two days when fog covered the mountains and birds could not be found I descended to 3,000 feet on the north toward Guamitas to the open slopes below the forest. I worked down also to 2,500 feet below Los Riitos on the north.

On the evening of November 10 I returned to Maracay, and on November 11 I collected again in the area of little fields and partly cut-over woodland at La Providencia. The sun seemed almost oppressively hot after the work of the last few days in the cool, shaded forests of the mountains, and mosquitoes were very bad. Birds abounded, and I marveled at their number as well as at their almost bewildering variety.

At dawn on November 12 Ventura Barnés and I left Maracay by auto for the northern llanos. Near Turmero we turned south, passed an extensive swamp near Cagua, and then crossed through a low pass to San Juan de los Morros, the latter being two high points of stone of picturesque form. A huge statue of San Juan, 60 or 70 feet tall, recently erected, dominated the flat-topped village.

From this point the hills became lower and the valleys broader, with the land everywhere covered with low thorn scrub. We stopped to collect at points north and south of Parapara. Beyond Ortiz the hills disappeared and the land was level except for slight undulations. The thorn scrub here was dense and in places rose to the dimension of trees. By noon the heat was intense, and we stopped for a time at a farm called Hato Paya, 28 kilometers north of El Sombrero, to prepare the birds we had secured, before they spoiled. The elevation here was 400 feet above the sea. Our host had not seen motion pictures as yet, but had heard a radio. There was much complaint of malaria.

At nightfall we reached the town of El Sombrero, where we located in a small hotel, and the following day collected at a point 12 miles to the south. Barnés then returned to Maracay.

El Sombrero is a town of a few hundred people at an altitude of 400 feet on the Río Guarico, which here runs beneath a low bluff, the

town and the region north of it called La Meseta being elevated about 40 feet above the surrounding plain. El Sombrero is at the point where open savannas appear, there being one of some extent on the Meseta near town and others to the south. The Great Banco de la Sabana begins below Calabozo. In these savannas the soil is stony and poor, the vegetation mainly clumps of grass, and the earth is visible everywhere. The prairies are surrounded by dense thorn scrub and are dotted with occasional bushes. Along the edge of the Meseta are small lagoons, about which several species of trees grew to good height.

The Río Guarico here is a shallow, muddy stream running swiftly, 50 to 60 yards wide, with many winding sloughs leading back into its flood plain. These were bordered with bushes, and in places there were heavy stands of low trees or thickets with scattered larger trees among them. The ground was open beneath because of floods. Where the land was higher some of it was farmed, but most of the area was used only for grazing. Heavy, driving rains came during my stay here but fell in afternoon or at night, the mornings being clear.

On November 21 I returned to Maracay, stopping en route briefly to collect in the thickets and woods along a little stream at Hato Paya. The following day was given to packing, and on the morning of November 23 I returned to Caracas. On November 24 I sailed north from La Guaira on the Grace Line steamer *Caracas* (of the old Red D Line).

#### NORTH AMERICAN MIGRANTS

To appreciate fully the intricate marvel of the great migrations that annually carry millions of our birds south and then bring them again to their northern homes one needs to see the arrival, movement, and departure of these familiar birds in the Tropics. Here well-known species stand out in bold relief among the scores of strangers with whom they mingle, and the fact of their long journeys, known in the abstract before, becomes concrete and definite. Never have I had this impressed on me more forcefully than during my observations at Ocumare de la Costa, Venezuela, during the latter part of October 1937.

Beyond the sandy beach in front of my veranda the blue waters of the Caribbean Sea reached to the north to distant Puerto Rico and Hispaniola, interrupted only by the nearby islands of Curaçao, Bonaire, and Los Roques and a few scattered islets, all out of sight below my horizon. To the northeast lie the Lesser Antilles, and much farther to the northwest are Jamaica and Cuba.

The southward movement of migration was in full swing during the period of my observation, and daily birds of the North, familiar friends since boyhood, passed before me. Spotted and solitary sand-

pipers, greater and lesser yellowlegs, and western sandpipers fed about the lagoon, bobolinks called to me from the rushes, barn swallows circled about the kiosk (built for Gómez) where I ate my meals, and scores of blackpoll warblers fluttered through the trees and bushes. In my collecting I scanned birds indistinctly seen with field glasses to avoid shooting more of these migrant individuals than my studies required. Here daily I had self-evident fact that northern birds did winter in the Tropics, and I was literally forced to ponder on the irresistible urge that had carried them over the vast intervening distance and the mysterious force that had guided them to the shores of northern South America over routes that to those individuals hatched that year at least were wholly unknown.

There was brought home to me also more definitely than ever before the tremendous loss of life that this journey entails. The wastage of modern human battlefields, though terrible beyond words, is as nothing in comparison. Here on this open shore small, feathered migrants often made a land fall in a state of evident exhaustion. Blackpoll warblers that travel south through the Eastern United States late in September with their bodies so cased in oily fat that the skin is fairly distended reached the Venezuelan coast with this reserve entirely exhausted and even the body muscles obviously thin and wasted. Often in early morning I found little groups of them feeding rather listlessly on the short herbage of the open flats where they hopped slowly about in search of food. Others ranged through weeds and bushes without caring at the moment to proceed farther inland to the more secure shelter of the forests.

Some obviously had barely made a land fall after an exhausting sea journey, as in some of those that I handled the flight muscles that move the wings were reduced to thin bands through which the angular ridges of the breast bone projected. One yellow-billed cuckoo found freshly dead in the bushes back of the beach in early morning had evidently arrived too exhausted to survive, as little remained of its once strong muscles except flaccid bands over its bones.

It was easy to visualize the hundreds and thousands that wandered over the water until they fell to drown, and the hundreds of others that arrived only to succumb to the strains imposed by the exhausting journey.

## ANNOTATED LIST OF SPECIES

## Family COLYMBIDAE

## COLYMBUS DOMINICUS SPECIOSUS (Lynch Arribálzaga)

*Podiceps speciosus* FELIX LYNCH ARRIBÁLZAGA, La Ley, Buenos Aires, July 2, 1877, p. 1 (Baradero, Buenos Aires, Argentina).

A number of these small grebes lived in the lagoon at Independencia, below Ocumare de la Costa, where they were seen daily from October 22 to 31. On October 29 I collected two males. They swam about on the open water when undisturbed, but at any alarm pattered off across the surface or dived to the cover of rushes.

So far as I am aware smaller size and the absence of decorative plumes in the breeding plumage are the only definite criteria for using *Poiocephalus* Selby as a genus separate from *Colymbus* for the present species of grebe and its relatives. The distinction does not appear to me sufficient to sanction such procedure.

A number of years ago I called attention to the description of *Podiceps speciosus* by Felix Lynch Arribálzaga in La Ley, a daily paper published in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for a short period under the editorship of Enrique Lynch Arribálzaga, indicating that this might become a valid name.<sup>1</sup> Recently Steullet and Deautier<sup>2</sup> have used *speciosus* as a subspecific name, giving as its range western Ecuador and Matto Grosso to Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina. *Colymbus dominicus brachyrhynchus* Chapman,<sup>3</sup> currently used for these grebes from South America, becomes a synonym, as the name *speciosus* apparently should apply to these grebes throughout the entire range in South America. The only specimen I have seen from Argentina, a male that I collected at Kilometer 182 in the Territory of Formosa, is paler than others from farther north, the difference in color apparently being due to the fact that it is an immature individual. Birds from Matto Grosso southward, including the type of *brachyrhynchus*, have slightly longer wings than most of those from the northern part of the continent. There is, however, much variation, some of the northern birds being as large as the southern ones. With the material at hand it is not possible to work out two distinct groups on the basis of size.

## Family PELECANIDAE

## PELECANUS OCCIDENTALIS Linnaeus: Brown Pelican

*Pelecanus occidentalis* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 12, vol. 1, 1766, p. 215 (Jamaica).

My first view of the brown pelican came at La Guaira on October 16 as our ship came into harbor. From October 22 to 31 they were

<sup>1</sup> Wetmore, A., U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 133, 1926, pp. 43-44.

<sup>2</sup> Cat. Sist. Aves República Argentina, Obra Cincuentenario Mus. La Plata, vol. 1, pt. 1, 1935, p. 175.

<sup>3</sup> *Colymbus dominicus brachyrhynchus* Chapman, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 12, December 23, 1899, p. 255 (Chapada, Matto Grosso, Brazil).



so common in the Ensenada de Ocumare that they were constantly in view from the house where I had my quarters. Birds in immature and adult plumage were observed, with some of the adults in winter and some in breeding dress. They seemed to roost on the rocky islet called El Morro opposite the eastern headland of the bay, and it appeared that there was a breeding colony there. One morning at dawn two pelicans came flying out from this island past the house to begin their fishing while it was still so dark that bats were circling over the beach.

It is unfortunate that the short time available and preoccupation with other birds did not allow me to carry out my intention of collecting specimens of this pelican, since there is some question as to the form that occurs here. Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy<sup>4</sup> refers a specimen from Cumaná, Venezuela, to the northern race, *P. o. carolinensis*. Additional material should be examined to determine definitely which form breeds in this area, as there is possibility that the northern bird may reach Venezuela as a migrant or wanderer.

### Family SULIDAE

#### *SULA LEUCOGASTER LEUCOGASTER* (Boddaert): Brown Booby

*Pelecanus Leucogaster* BODDAERT, Table des planches enluminées, 1783, p. 57 (Cayenne).

From October 23 to 31 a single bird was seen at intervals fishing with the brown pelicans in the Ensenada de Ocumare.

### Family FREGATIDAE

#### *FREGATA MAGNIFICENS ROTHSCHILDI* Mathews: Caribbean Man-o'-war-bird

*Fregata minor rothschildi* MATHEWS, The birds of Australia, vol. 4, 1915, p. 280 (Aruba Island).

In the Ensenada de Ocumare the man-o'-war-bird was as common as the brown pelican, so that it was seen daily from October 22 to 31. The birds roosted on the rocky islet of El Morro opposite the eastern headland bounding the bay and very probably nested there. On October 31 I saw one flying with the throat pouch enlarged, bright red in color, and evidently in mating stage.

When schools of small fishes broke at the surface before the drive of submarine predators I saw the man-o'-war-birds sweeping down repeatedly to snatch at them with their bills, darting their heads into the crests of the waves as, supported by their broad wings, they poised or rose and fell. On other occasions they were observed pursuing royal terns carrying fish, in their common parasitic role of robber.

<sup>4</sup> Oceanic birds of South America, vol. 2, 1936, p. 803.

To me, though I have cited these notes under the name *rothschildi*, there is still uncertainty as to the distinctness of an eastern race of this bird in the Caribbean-Gulf of Mexico area as distinguished from the group found on the Galápagos Islands.

### Family ARDEIDAE

#### BUTORIDES VIRESCENS VIRESCENS (Linnaeus): Eastern Green Heron

*Ardea virescens* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 144 (South Carolina).

On October 29 I found two green herons in low bushes and trees standing in water in the lagoon behind the beach north of Ocumare de la Costa and collected a female. The birds were shy, and the one secured was obtained with difficulty.

The specimen is evidently a bird of the year as it has the sides of the neck duller, less rufescent than in adults, agreeing in this with immature individuals. The wing measures 179 mm. It is assumed to be a migrant, from the date at which it was obtained, and is apparently the first record of this race for Venezuela. Todd and Carriker<sup>5</sup> report *B. v. virescens* from the coastal area of the Santa Marta region, Colombia, in October and December.

#### BUTORIDES STRIATUS STRIATUS (Linnaeus)

*Ardea striata* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 12, 1766, p. 238 (Surinam).

At El Sombrero two herons of this group (with gray necks) were seen along the Río Guarico on November 20. Their allocation to the typical subspecies is based on supposition, since specimens were not taken.

#### FLORIDA CAERULEA CAERULESCENS (Latham)

*Ardea caerulescens* LATHAM, Index ornithologicus, vol. 2, 1790, p. 690 (Cayenne).

Recorded daily at the lagoon near the beach at Ocumare de la Costa from October 22 to 31, and seen near El Sombrero on November 14 and 20.

#### LEUCOPHOYX THULA THULA (Molina): Snowy Heron

*Ardea Thula* MOLINA, Saggio sulla storia naturale del Chili, 1782, p. 235 (Chile).

Single individuals were observed about the lagoon near the beach below Ocumare de la Costa on October 28 to 31, at La Providencia near Maracay on November 11, and near El Sombrero about small lagoons and along the Río Guarico November 18 to 20.

<sup>5</sup> Ann. Carnegie Mus., vol. 14, 1922, p. 135.

**TIGRISOMA LINEATUM LINEATUM (Boddaert)**

*Ardea lineata* BODDAERT, Table des planches enluminées, 1783, p. 52 (Cayenne).

Near a small slough leading into the Río Guarico below El Sombrero on November 20 I watched a tiger bittern for some time as it rested quietly in the open branches of a low shrub.

## Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE

**GUARA ALBA (Linnaeus): White Ibis**

*Scolopax alba* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 145 (South Carolina).

At Independencia, below Ocumare de la Costa, an immature bird was seen daily in the lagoon from October 25 to 30.

## Family ANATIDAE

**QUERQUEDULA DISCORS (Linnaeus): Blue-winged Teal**

*Anas discors* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 12, vol. 1, 1766, p. 205 (South Carolina).

From October 22 to 30 from 6 to 20 of these teals were seen daily on the lagoon at Independencia, below Ocumare de la Costa. No one hunted them and they were quite tame, paying little attention to my shooting at other birds except when I was working about the shores of the lagoon. On October 28 at sunrise while watching with 8-power binoculars a man-o'-war-bird far out at sea, I saw in the distance beyond it a bird flying low over the water coming from due north toward the land. Gradually its form became larger and larger in my vision until finally as it reached the beach and rose a little to cross over to the lagoon I identified it as a swiftly flying blue-winged teal. I realized then that I had actually seen a northern migrant as it made a landfall on the Venezuelan coast after its long flight across the Caribbean Sea.

## Family CATHARTIDAE

**CORAGYPS ATRATUS FOETENS (Lichtenstein)**

*Cathartes foetens* LICHTENSTEIN, Verzeichniss von ausgestopften Säugethieren und Vögeln, 1818, p. 30 (Paraguay).

The black vulture, known ordinarily as the zamuro, was seen constantly in the air over the towns and cities and was widely distributed in the lowlands where it was seen daily. The humid forested section near Rancho Grande in the mountains was less to its liking, so that it appeared over the higher slopes only on exceptionally clear days. In the llanos it was especially common. At times a hundred or more were seen gathered in a close band on the ground about some dead animal.

## CATHARTES AURA RUFICOLLIS Spix

*Cathartes ruficollis* SPIX, Avium species novae . . . Braziliam, vol. 1, 1824, p. 2 (interior of Bahia and Piauhy).

The turkey vulture though less abundant than the black vulture was observed in all the localities visited. One was seen near La Guaira on October 16, and these birds were common at Ocumare de la Costa October 23 to 31. They were observed regularly in the mountains near Rancho Grande November 4 to 10. In the northern llanos they were more common, so that many were noted near El Sombrero from November 13 to 21.

From field observation of birds resting in the sun with outspread wings it seemed to me that the end of the wing was more rounded than in *C. a. septentrionalis*, the bird of the Eastern United States. In subsequent examination of specimens in museums this supposition seemingly is verified, as in three skins from Venezuela I found the length of the wing tip (i. e., the extension of the longest primary beyond the end of the longest secondary) to range from 85 to 106 mm., while the total length of the wing varied from 495 to 503 mm. In 11 birds from the Eastern United States the wing tip varies from 97 to 170 mm., 7 of this series measuring from 130 to 170 mm., the total wing length being 520 to 570 mm. The matter should be checked with more specimens of *ruficollis*.

## Family ACCIPITRIDAE

## HARPAGUS BIDENTATUS BIDENTATUS (Latham)

*Falco bidentatus* LATHAM, Index ornithologicus, vol. 1, 1790, p. 38 (Cayenne).

On November 6 in heavy forest along the trail at El Portachuelo above Rancho Grande my attention was attracted by the insistent chipping calls of a large hummer (*Cyanolesbia kingii margarethae*), and I looked up to see it scolding one of these hawks resting on an open limb a few feet above my head. The bird proved to be a female, very fat. In color this specimen is somewhat darker above than four skins in the National Museum from Demerara. It measures as follows: Wing 227, tail 145, culmen from cere 16.2, tarsus 44.8 mm. The iris was orange-red; maxilla black, except for a dull-gray area extending across the posterior tooth and the base of the tomium behind; mandible dull gray; cere dull greenish; tarsus bright yellow; claws black.

## HETEROSPIZIAS MERIDIONALIS MERIDIONALIS (Latham)

*Falco meridionalis* LATHAM, Index ornithologicus, vol. 1, 1790, p. 36 (Cayenne).

One was seen near Ortiz on November 12, and from November 13 to 21 one or two were recorded nearly every day near El Sombrero.

The call is a high-pitched scream, suggesting that of the red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*).

**BUTEO PLATYPTERUS PLATYPTERUS (Vieillot): Broad-winged Hawk**

*Sparvius Platypterus* VIEILLOT, Tableau encyclopedique et methodique . . . , vol. 3, 1823, p. 1273 (Schuylkill River, Pa.).

On the evening of November 5 at Rancho Grande I was told that there was a hawk resting in a tree nearby and walked out to shoot a female broadwing. This bird was thin and poor like other recently arrived migrants from the north. On November 6 I saw another, and on November 9 I killed another female in the lower garden at the house.

**BUTEO MAGNIROSTRIS MAGNIROSTRIS (Gmelin)**

*Falco magnirostris* GMELIN, Systema naturae, vol. 1, pt. 1, 1788, p. 282 (Cayenne).

At Ocumare de la Costa this hawk was fairly common at the end of October, but none were seen in the rain forest area at Rancho Grande. Near Maracay several were seen on October 21, when a male was taken, and on November 11. Areas of open forest seem best suited to the needs of this species so that in the scrubs covering the northern llanos it was abundant. I secured a male near Parapara on November 12 and from November 13 to 21 saw several daily near El Sombrero. Usually they rested quietly on open branches and when I approached protested with shrill, squalling calls, finally flying off through the trees.

As indicated by Peters<sup>6</sup> the group of hawks that has been called *Rupornis* is not separable generically from *Buteo*. As a group *Buteo magnirostris* differs from such ordinary Buteos of the New World as *B. jamaicensis*, *B. lineatus*, and *B. platypterus* in having the color pattern of the immature little different from that of the adult. But this can hardly be considered a generic character.

The hawks of this type from northern Venezuela have been listed as *Buteo magnirostris insidiatrix* (Bangs and Penard), which differs from *magnirostris* in paler color particularly above, but if this race occurs in the Republic it must be in the coastal region of the north-western section. The two specimens secured at Maracay and Parapara are slightly darker above than *magnirostris* as represented by skins from British Guiana, and a male in the National Museum from Valle in the Mérida region is also dark, all being very distinct from the paler *insidiatrix*.

**HYPOMORPHNUS URUBITINGA URUBITINGA (Gmelin)**

*Falco Urubitinga* GMELIN, Systema naturae, vol. 1, pt. 1, 1788, p. 265 (Brazil).

Near Ocumare de la Costa from October 25 to 31 these hawks were seen occasionally resting on tall cacti or agave stalks on the dry

<sup>6</sup> Check-list of birds of the world, vol. 1, 1931, p. 228.

hillsides above the lagoon. Others were observed near El Sombrero from November 17 to 20. Once a bird in partly adult plumage screamed shrilly at me from the branches of a low tree but did not fly as I approached, though finally I shot a small bird within 50 yards of it, merely hopping and walking through the limbs to the farther side of the tree.

**GERANOSPIZA CAERULESCENS (Vieillot)**

*Sparvius caerulescens* VIEILLOT, Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat., vol. 10, 1817, p. 318 (Cayenne).

Near El Sombrero this hawk was fairly common. On November 13, 12 miles south, as Ventura Barnés and I were examining some birds we had just shot in a dense growth of scrub, one alighted on a limb near us and was taken. This was a male. Others were seen on November 15 and 18.

While it has been proposed to consider all the forms of *Geranospiza* conspecific it appears to me that they should be separated into three distinct species as follows:

**GERANOSPIZA GRACILIS (Temminck):**

With buff to nearly white under tail coverts, and underparts barred narrowly with black and white. Two races *gracilis* and *flexipes*.

**GERANOSPIZA CAERULESCENS (Vieillot):**

Slate gray below, including the under tail coverts. When white bars are present these are narrow, separated by wide spaces of slaty gray.

**GERANOSPIZA NIGRA (Du Bus):**

Dark neutral gray to almost black below. White cross bars almost obsolete separated widely by the darker color. Three races, *nigra*, *livens*, and *balzarensis*.

**Family FALCONIDAE**

**MICRASTUR RUFICOLLIS ZONOTHORAX (Cabanis)**

*Climacocercus zonothorax* CABANIS, Journ. für Orn., 1865, p. 406 (Puerto Cabello, Venezuela).

On November 9 at an elevation of 3,300 feet below Rancho Grande I heard a loud, squalling call coming from heavy woods near the highway. After I had "squeaked" a time or two this beautiful hawk came flying to a branch in heavy shade where I shot it. Apparently this was a regular perch as the ground beneath was covered with droppings. The specimen is in the rufescent color phase and had

the maxilla, tip of the mandible, and the cere dull black; the bare skin about the eye and loreal region, and the base of the mandible dull orange-yellow; tarsus and toes orange-yellow; claws black; and the iris rufous-brown, of the same shade as the back. On November 10 I heard the barking calls of another in the woods above the house but could not find the bird. These small forest hawks seem rather inactive, probably because with food abundant and easily secured there is little reason for them to move about.

The female taken has the following measurements: Wing 182, tail 173, culmen from cere 15.8, tarsus 56.2 mm.

**MILVAGO CHIMACHIMA CORDATUS** Bangs and Penard

*Milvago chimachima cordata* BANGS and PENARD, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., vol. 62, 1918, p. 35 (San Miguel Island, Pearl Islands, Bay of Panamá).

Near Ocumare de la Costa these birds were seen October 24 and 30, and at El Sombrero they were common from November 12 to 21. They perched familiarly on the backs of burros and on cattle, which ordinarily paid no attention to them. I saw the birds on occasion tearing at the sores made by parasitic fly larvae. As no specimens were taken identification is made on geographic grounds.

**POLYBORUS CHERIWAY CHERIWAY** (Jacquin)

*Falco cheriway* JACQUIN, Beyträge zur Geschichte der Vögel, 1784, p. 17, pl. 4 (Aruba, and coast of Venezuela).

The caracara was found in small numbers near Ocumare de la Costa, was fairly common near Maracay, and was observed daily at El Sombrero from November 13 to 21.

**FALCO FUSCO-COERULESCENS FUSCO-COERULESCENS** Vieillot

*Falco fusco-coerulescens* VIEILLOT, Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat., vol. 11, 1817, p. 90 (Paraguay).

On November 13 Ventura Barnés and I found a beautiful pair of these falcons in a tree at the edge of a small savanna 12 miles south of El Sombrero. They rested quietly, facing the wind, while we walked up within easy shooting distance. On November 15 I saw two more pairs flying across open country on the Meseta. The male taken measures as follows: Wing 237, tail 157, culmen from cere 15.0, tarsus 44.5 mm.

The geographic races of this falcon are not clearly outlined at the present time in material that I have seen, which includes the specimens in the U. S. National Museum and the American Museum of Natural History. According to Swann<sup>7</sup> there are four forms, of which three are found in South America—a very large one, *pichincae*,

<sup>7</sup> Monograph of the birds of prey, pt. 14, Dec. 1936, pp. 424-427.

in the northern Andes; a very small one, *femoralis*, in Venezuela and Brazil; and a larger one, *fusco-coerulescens*, in Argentina and Chile. In specimens that I have examined birds from Venezuela are slightly smaller than those from elsewhere, the wing in 5 males ranging from 226 to 237 and in 5 females from 245 to 262.5 mm. From Matto Grosso 4 males measure 235 to 237 and 4 females 250 to 264 mm., and from Bolivia 1 female 249 mm. From Argentina, a male from the Territory of Formosa has the wing 239 mm., and a male from the Territory of Chaco is 243 and a female 269. One female from Salta is 251; from Tucumán 4 males measure 235 to 259 and 1 female 269. Small birds extend down into Chubut as two males from Rio Chico and Valle del Lago Blanco have the wing 238 and 240 mm. These smaller birds extend thus through the type locality of *Falco fusco-coerulescens* Vieillot so that they must bear this name with *Falco femoralis* Temminck<sup>8</sup> as a synonym. It seems quite certain that some of the larger birds that have been collected in northern South America are migrant *F. f. septentrionalis* from North America. Whether these migrants extend to the far south and so account for the larger individuals from Chile and Argentina remains to be established. From Buenos Aires I have seen one female that measures 280, from Chile a female with the wing of 285 mm.

FALCO SPARVERIUS ISABELLINUS Swainson

*Falco isabellinus* SWAINSON, Animals in menageries, 1837, p. 281 (Demerara, British Guiana).

On November 13, 1937, I collected a female 12 miles south of El Sombrero, as in company with another it rested in a tree near the road. On November 21 I observed two pairs 5 miles north of town and was interested to note that in one instance one bird was distinctly white on the breast while the other was strongly rufescent. The two rested only 2 or 3 feet apart so that comparison was easy.

The female taken is in the white-breasted phase, the gray of the crown being pale with a fair-sized patch of brown. It measures as follows: Wing 180, tail 118, culmen from cere 12.4, tarsus 33.7 mm. It seems to agree in characters best with the most eastern race of northern South America.

Family PHASIANIDAE

COLINUS CRISTATUS SONNINI (Temminck)

*Perdix Sonnini* TEMMINCK, Histoire naturelle générale des pigeons et des gallinacés, vol. 3, 1815, pp. 451, 737 (Cayenne).

Quail are found about Maracay, but I did not encounter them until I came to El Sombrero. Here they were common in the scrub, particularly near open ground but were so secretive that they were

<sup>8</sup> Nouveau recueil de planches coloriées d'oiseaux, 1822, pls. 121, 343 (Brazil).



recorded only when I came directly on them. On November 15 at the edge of a prairie I walked onto a family flock of 15 or more with young barely large enough to fly, the chicks buzzing off through the branches while adult birds ran about on the ground beneath calling excitedly. As I moved to get a clearer view a dozen grown birds flushed from the same covert with roaring wings and went off into the thicket. As they rose again I dropped a female bird. The following day I flushed one bird in heavy scrub, and on November 17 I encountered several coveys and shot another female that was not quite adult. These birds frequently alighted on the branches of the thorn scrub. On another day I found several in weedy fields near the Río Guarico, and on November 21 found my last in patches of weeds near Hato Paya. In notes and appearance these birds are the counterpart of the bobwhite of the United States.

While *Eupsychortyx* has been recognized as a genus for these quail and their relatives because of the long, slender crest, intergradation between these crested birds of northern South America and the smooth-headed *Colinus virginianus* of the North through various species in Central America is so definite that I feel that this name can be used only in a subgeneric sense. There is no trenchant line between *Colinus* and *Eupsychortyx* when all the forms involved are considered.

Todd<sup>9</sup> considers *sonnini* as a distinct species. Peters<sup>10</sup> includes it and related forms as races of *cristatus*.

## Family OPISTHOCOMIDAE

### OPISTHOCOMUS HOAZIN (Müller): Hoatzin

*Phasianus hoazin* P. L. S. MÜLLER, Natursystem, Suppl., 1776, p. 125 (Cayenne).

On November 19, while following a muddy, 10-foot-wide channel leading back from the Río Guarico just above the town of El Sombrero, I heard a harsh, aspirated call without particular accent, that might have come from bird or mammal. As I peered among the dense branches of the low trees overhanging the water to locate the sound there was a sudden, heavy beating of wings and to my utter astonishment a hoatzin came blundering out to perch with raised crest, spread tail and partly opened wings within 40 feet of me. Immediately I saw another, and heard others calling near at hand. Those in sight held the mouth open with the feathers over the body loosely raised, and continued in harsh reiteration the calls that had attracted my attention. For nearly an hour I worked along this channel and its branches watching and studying the uncouth birds,

<sup>9</sup> Auk, 1920, pp. 194-201.

<sup>10</sup> Check-list of birds of the world, vol. 2, 1934, pp. 50-51.

my first encounter with this interesting form in life. They were in pairs or little groups of half a dozen, and though many seemed to be completing a molt I believed that they were about to breed. The birds were tame, and though they moved heavily, flew easily from the top of one low tree to another, being far less sedentary than I had supposed from what I had read of their habits. I selected one in fair plumage and shot it, and skinning my specimen for ease in carrying, I found it to be a male. A native boy who saw it called it the roble. The large crop with its muscular walls resembled an external stomach. The breast and wing muscles were red and well supplied with blood, indicating definite use, being quite different in appearance from the paler flesh of ground-haunting gallinaceous birds. In spite of the name "stinking pheasant" that has been given to this bird I detected no particular odor in the flesh, no more so, in fact, than in that of hawks that I have skinned in the field in the same way. The odor of an ani to me is far more disagreeable.

On the following day I found several more hoatzins in low, dense trees bordering sloughs on the opposite side of the Río Guarico.

While the hoatzin is known to be common along the Río Orinoco and its larger branches, it was unexpected to find it so far from these main channels. Apparently its range is more extensive than has been supposed.

## Family RALLIDAE

### ARAMIDES CAJANEA CAJANEA (Müller)

*Fulica Cajanea* P. L. S. MÜLLER, *Natursystem*, Suppl., 1776, p. 119 (Cayenne).

In the cacao plantations back of Ocumare de la Costa I had an occasional glimpse of a wood rail but did not obtain a specimen until I reached El Sombrero. In the evening the curious calls of these birds came regularly from low woods along the Río Guarico, and on November 19 I came across a little group of half a dozen in a wet thicket below the town. They ran instantly away and disappeared. The following day, when in heavy forest near the bank of the river several began to call near me, their notes seeming more musical than my remembrance of those of the larger *Aramides ypecaha* found farther south. Slipping behind the cover of a large tree I finally saw one wading in shallow water beneath some bushes and secured it, finding it to be a male.

### GALLINULA CHLOROPUS PAUXILLA Bangs

*Gallinula chloropus pauxilla* BANGS, *Proc. New England Zool. Club*, vol. 5, May 17, 1915, p. 96 (Guabinas, Río Cauca, western Colombia).

The supposition of Outram Bangs in his original description that this race, distinguished from *G. c. galeata* by decidedly smaller size,

might extend into western Venezuela is borne out by a male collected on the lagoon at Independencia below Ocumare de la Costa on October 29. This specimen has the following measurements: Wing 159.5, tail 64.4, tarsus 54.8 mm.

There were a number of these birds on this lagoon, where they were observed daily from October 22 to 31. They were seen constantly on the water or in the grass near the shore but at any alarm entered dense growths of cattails where they were safe from guns.

### Family JACANIDAE

#### JACANA JACANA INTERMEDIA (Sclater)

*Parra intermedia* P. L. SCLATER, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1856 (1857), p. 282 (Venezuela).

About the lagoon at Independencia near the beach below Ocumare de la Costa jaçanas were the most common water bird from October 22 to 31, and an adult female was taken on October 29. Compared with a good series of *Jacana j. jacana* this individual shows very definitely the character of darker chestnut back that characterizes the race *intermedia*. The bird has the following measurements: Wing 130.5, tail 43.0, bill from nostril 18.4, tarsus 56.1 mm.

Recent treatment of the jaçanas by Hellmayr and Peters gives the russet-backed forms of South America as conspecific with those of Central America and Mexico, and the West Indies. The birds from Panamá northward, with those of the Greater Antilles, have the posterior margin of the frontal shield with three definite lobes while the rictal wattle is rudimentary or absent. The birds of South America have two lobes only on the posterior margin of the frontal shield and have a large rictal wattle. The differences indicated are definite and certain with no intermediate stages that I have seen. They appear in immature individuals as soon as they are fully grown though still in the light-colored immature plumage. I have not seen any fully grown specimens in which these characters were not readily evident. I can therefore find no justification for combining both types under one species name. The birds from South America should be separated as *Jacana jacana* distinct from *Jacana spinosa* from farther north.

These birds ranged over the short grass bordering the lagoon where they walked about pecking at the ground like long-legged chickens. At any alarm they flew off with cackling calls to a safe distance. One day I saw one swimming across an open pool, something that I have not observed previously.

Near El Sombrero several were seen on the shores of a small lagoon on November 14. As no specimens were taken it is not certain that these were of the race *intermedia*.

## Family CHARADRIIDAE

## BELONOPTERUS CHILENSIS CAYENNENSIS (Gmelin)

*Parra cayennensis* GMELIN, Systema naturae, vol. 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 706 (Cayenne).

Near El Sombrero these handsome plovers, known as *alcaravan*, were found in small numbers on the open prairies or along the gravel bars of the Río Guarico. They ranged in pairs and were rather wild, so that they usually kept out of gun range. When I shot one, three or four came flying over and circled around me much disturbed. One evening I heard the notes of this species from birds passing overhead in the darkness shortly after sunset.

The female taken is typical of its race, having the black line of the throat narrowed and interrupted below by gray so that it does not connect with the black of the breast. It has the following measurements: Wing 222.0, tail 92.8, culmen from base 30.3, tarsus 73.8.

## HOPLOXYPTERUS CAYANUS (Latham)

*Charadrius cayanus* LATHAM, Index ornithologicus, vol. 2, 1790, p. 749 (Cayenne).

About the lagoon at Independencia below Ocumare de la Costa I found this bird on several occasions. At noon on October 27 as I looked out across the water my eye caught the beautifully contrasted black and light markings of one as it walked quickly and alertly across the short-cropped turf. As I approached it flew when I could only admire its pleasing color pattern, as grazing burros everywhere in the background prevented a shot. A few moments later, however, I secured it as it flew again, to find that it was a male. The feet and margin of the eyelids in life were brilliant orange-scarlet. One of the wing spurs was aborted. The following day I observed another at the edge of the water and watched as it walked quickly for a few steps, paused with a graceful swing of its body, and then walked again. Two were seen on October 29 and one on October 31.

At El Sombrero I found this bird along the Río Guarico and heard its call, a low-toned, mellow whistle.

As this plover has been supposed to range in Venezuela mainly in the Orinoco Basin, its occurrence on the north coast is of particular interest.

## PAGOLLA WILSONIA CINNAMOMINA Ridgway

*Pagolla wilsonia cinnamomina* RIDGWAY, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 50, pt. 8, 1919, pp. 108, 113 (Sabanilla, Colombia).

One was recorded with other shorebirds at the lagoon near the beach below Ocumare de la Costa, October 25 and 26. Allocation to subspecies is made on geographic grounds, as the bird was not collected.

## Family SCOLOPACIDAE

## TOTANUS FLAVIPES (Gmelin): Lesser Yellow-legs

*Scolopax flavipes* GMELIN, Systema naturae, vol. 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 659 (New York).

Several found each day from October 23 to 31 about the lagoon below Ocumare de la Costa.

## TOTANUS MELANOLEUCUS (Gmelin): Greater Yellow-legs

*Scolopax melanoleuca* GMELIN, Systema naturae, vol. 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 659 (Chateaux Bay, Labrador).

Several seen each day at the lagoon below Ocumare de la Costa from October 23 to 31.

## TRINGA SOLITARIA SOLITARIA Wilson: Eastern Solitary Sandpiper

*Tringa solitaria* WILSON, American ornithology, vol. 7, 1813, p. 53, pl. 58, fig. 3 (Pocono Mountain, Pa., Kentucky, and New York).

A male taken at the lagoon below Ocumare de la Costa on October 29 has the following measurements: Wing 122.6, tail 50.2, culmen from base 25.9, tarsus 30.0 mm. The inner web of the outer primary is plain without mottling, and there is no buff in the light spotting of the upper surface. This individual was in good condition but had no fat whatever on the body.

Other solitary sandpipers were observed near El Sombrero from November 14 to 20 about small lagoons or sloughs. None were taken, so that the geographic race of these individuals is uncertain.

## ACTITIS MACULARIA (Linnaeus): Spotted Sandpiper

*Tringa macularia* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 12, vol. 1, 1766, p. 249 (Pennsylvania).

Two or three were recorded daily about the lagoon at Independencia below Ocumare de la Costa from October 23 to 31. On November 19 one was seen along the Río Guarico near El Sombrero.

## EREUNETES MAURI Cabanis: Western Sandpiper

*Ereunetes Mauri* CABANIS, Journ. für Orn., vol. 6, Nov. 1856 (1857), p. 419 (Cuba).

From October 22 to 31 small sandpipers of this type were common in little flocks about the lagoon at Independencia below Ocumare de la Costa. A male taken October 29 has the culmen 22.7 mm. in length and belongs clearly to the western species. Whether *Ereunetes pusillus* was present also is not known.

**PISOBIA BAIRDII (Coues): Baird's Sandpiper**

*Actodromas (Actodromas) Bairdii* COUES, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1861, p. 194 (Fort Resolution, Great Slave Lake, Canada).

On October 27 several were noted at the lagoon below Ocumare de la Costa.

**PISOBIA MELANOTOS (Vieillot): Pectoral Sandpiper**

*Tringa melanotos* VIEILLOT, Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat., vol. 34, 1819, p. 462 (Paraguay).

A migrant was seen at the lagoon near Ocumare de la Costa October 28, and on October 31 one was taken there by Ventura Barnés. At El Sombrero on November 14 half a dozen fed at a rain pool on open prairie.

**PISOBIA FUSCICOLLIS (Vieillot): White-rumped Sandpiper**

*Tringa fuscicollis* VIEILLOT, Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat., vol. 34, 1819, p. 461 (Paraguay).

Two were seen with other sandpipers at the lagoon below Ocumare de la Costa on October 29.

**MICROPALAMA HIMANTOPUS (Bonaparte): Stilt Sandpiper**

*Tringa himantopus* BONAPARTE, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, vol. 2, 1826, p. 157 (Long Branch, N. J.).

At the lagoon below Ocumare de la Costa eight waded in water nearly to their bodies on October 24, and half a dozen more were seen on October 28.

**Family RECURVIROSTRIDAE****HIMANTOPUS MEXICANUS (Müller): Black-necked Stilt**

*Charadrius Mexicanus* P. L. S. MÜLLER, Natursystem, Suppl., 1776, p. 117 (Mexico).

A few were seen daily at the lagoon at Independencia below Ocumare de la Costa from October 23 to 31. A male, taken on October 29, has the following measurements: Wing 208, tail 71.4, culmen from base 65.0, tarsus 103.0 mm.

As there is absolutely no indication of intergradation in pattern, I can see no reason for considering *Himantopus mexicanus* a geographic race of *H. himantopus* as is currently suggested. The recurrence of style of pattern in cases of this kind is not to be considered as indication of conspecific relationship. It happens that among the stilts there are only two plumage colors involved, black and white (gray

being a blend of these two). The combinations of these colors in pattern arrangement are therefore limited and are paralleled in different parts of the world where there is no probability of close relationship.

### Family LARIDAE

#### LARUS ATRICILLA Linnaeus: Laughing Gull

*Larus Atricilla* LINNAEUS, *Systema naturae*, ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 136 (Bahamas).

Several in winter dress were observed in the harbor at La Guaira on October 16.

#### THALASSEUS MAXIMUS MAXIMUS (Boddaert): Royal Tern

*Sterna maxima* BODDAERT, *Table des planches enluminées*, 1783, p. 58 (Cayenne).

From October 22 to 31 I found this tern common along the beach at Independencia below Ocumare de la Costa. One evening at sunset one was diving rapidly in the surf, when its activity was noted by keen-eyed fishermen who came running up to cast their nets to secure the sardines that were present in schools. The tern, their guide, was driven away by this human invasion. On November 25 a flock of 25 royal terns circled about the harbor at La Guaira and then alighted on a large buoy.

### Family COLUMBIDAE

#### COLUMBA GYMNOPHTALMOS Temminck

*Columba Gymnophthalmos* TEMMINCK, *in* Knip, *Les pigeons*, 1809, p. 48, pl. 18 (no type locality).

In view of current statements in literature that in Venezuela this is a species of the arid coastal region, it was a surprise to me to find it common near El Sombrero in the northern llanos. A male collected on November 19 had the iris light orange, the bare eyelids neutral gray, the bill light brownish white, with the cere slightly darker, and the tarsus and toes rose-red. The papillae forming the prominent circle about the eye were blackish distally, and brownish at the concealed bases. The birds were most common near the Río Guarico but were found also inland. They had the habits usual to this group of birds of resting in the tops of trees concealed among the leaves, or in early morning on open branches in the sun. When alarmed they flew out with a clapping of wings.

#### ZENAIDURA AURICULATA VINACEO-RUFA (Ridgway)

*Zenaida vinaceo-rufa* RIDGWAY, *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, vol. 7, 1884, p. 176 (Curaçao, Dutch West Indies).

In the llanos about El Sombrero these doves were common, particularly at the borders of savannas, where they were usually seen in

swift, direct flight. Two females taken on November 16 were shot at a lagoon where a number had come in to water about 9:30 a. m. Others were recorded on the two days following.

Peters<sup>11</sup> has pointed out that the species *auriculata*, formerly placed in *Zenaida*, agrees with *Zenaidura* in having 14 rectrices and belongs properly in the latter genus. The doves included in *Zenaida* have only 12 tail feathers.

As indicated in a recent review of *auriculata* by Mrs. E. M. B. Naumburg,<sup>12</sup> this species is one ranging widely over South America and is separated into a number of geographic races. According to Mrs. Naumburg's findings the specimens here listed under *vinaceo-rufa* would be called *rubripes*, but with this treatment I do not agree after examination of a fair series of specimens in the U. S. National Museum. The material at hand from northern South America seems properly grouped in the following categories:

ZENAIDURA A. VINACEO-RUFA (Ridgway):

Reference given above.

Grayer, less vinaceous below than the two forms that follow; wing, males 135.4–138.3 (3 specimens), females 127.0–133.6 (5 specimens).

Grenada, Trinidad, Curaçao to Margarita Islands, and Venezuela (except western part) south to the Orinoco River, and the Guianas, probably into northern Brazil.

ZENAIDURA A. JESSIEAE (Ridgway):

*Zenaida jessieae* RIDGWAY, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 10, Aug. 6, 1888, p. 527 (Diamantina, near Santarem, Brazil).

Darker, deeper vinaceous below, tips of external rectrices paler than in *robinsoni*.

Region of lower Amazon River.

ZENAIDURA A. ROBINSONI (Ridgway):

*Zenaida ruficauda robinsoni* RIDGWAY, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 28, May 27, 1915, p. 107 (Honda, Colombia).

Like *jessieae* but deeper in color below, particularly on the under tail coverts, tips of external rectrices decidedly darker, wing, males 129.8–134.6 (two specimens).

Magdalena Valley, Colombia, probably to western Venezuela.

ZENAIDURA A. RUFICAUDA (Bonaparte):

*Zenaida ruficauda* BONAPARTE, Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris, vol. 40, 1855, p. 97 (Colombia).

<sup>11</sup> Condor, 1934, pp. 213–215.

<sup>12</sup> Amer. Mus. Nov., No. 648, July 21, 1933, pp. 1–15.



Similar to *robinsoni* but definitely larger, wing, male 142.9 (one specimen from Capás, 2,500 m., Mérida region, Venezuela).

Temperate zone of eastern Andes in Colombia (Bogotá savanna) to the Mérida region of Venezuela.

This survey does not include other forms described from the Andean region and from Brazil. According to this two forms are definitely recorded from Venezuela, with probability of a third.

**SCARDAFELLA SQUAMMATA RIDGWAYI** Richmond

*Scardafella ridgwayi* RICHMOND, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 18, Aug. 12, 1896, p. 660 (Margarita Island, Venezuela).

Near Ocumare de la Costa this small, long-tailed dove was fairly common from October 23 to 30, many were seen in driving from Maracay to El Sombrero November 12, and in the vicinity of El Sombrero they were common from November 13 to 21. They feed on the ground in the shelter of dry scrub, often near trails or other openings, in pairs or groups of three or four. They fly with a considerable flutter of wings to concealed perches among limbs where their position is often indicated by a rapid up-and-down motion of the tail. While fairly tame it was often difficult to see them, as they flew or walked among the branches to keep behind cover as I approached. The call is a rapid *coo coo coo* rather strongly accented, while an alarm note is guttural and explosive.

An adult and an immature male were taken near Ocumare de la Costa on October 26, and a female near El Sombrero on November 16.

Examination of a considerable series verifies the conclusions of Hellmayr<sup>13</sup> as to the character and distribution of this race. In a fair series, including the type of *ridgwayi*, birds from Margarita Island do not seem separable from those of the Venezuelan mainland.<sup>14</sup> The specimens from Margriata seen are somewhat more heavily barred with black above and below, but many skins from scattered localities in Venezuela are identical. Probably with more specimens the apparent preponderance of heavier markings from the insular locality would disappear.

**COLUMBIGALLINA PASSERINA ALBIVITTA** (Bonaparte)

*Chamaepelia albivitta* BONAPARTE, Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris, vol. 40, 1855, p. 21 (Cartagena, Colombia).

Near Ocumare de la Costa these small doves were common through the dry scrubs, and as I passed they flushed constantly from the ground or from perches in the trees to fly swiftly with a flash of reddish brown

<sup>13</sup> Nov. Zool., vol. 15, June 1908, pp. 92-93.

<sup>14</sup> See Berlepsch and Hartert, Nov. Zool., vol. 9, Apr. 1902, pp. 119-120.

from their wings. I heard their insistent, monotonous, cooing calls constantly, and on October 25 I found a nest on the ground that contained two white eggs, placed in a fairly substantial cup of fine twigs and grasses. An immature male, fully grown, was taken on this same day.

At Maracay ground doves were common on November 11 in little scattered groups in open pastures and fields. The following day in my travel to El Sombrero many were observed along the highway, and near El Sombrero from November 13 to 21 they were common.

The specimen taken, like others from Venezuela, averages slightly darker than skins from northern Colombia but seems best identified as *albivitta*. Whether the bird of Curaçao and Margarita is also to be included here appears to me to be a matter for further consideration.<sup>15</sup> It appears to me from examination of a small series that birds from these islands average paler below and browner above, so that the form *perpallida* of Hartert may be valid.

**COLUMBIGALLINA TALPACOTI RUFIPENNIS (Bonaparte)**

*Chamaepelia rufipennis* BONAPARTE, Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris, vol. 40, 1855, p. 22 (Cartagena, Colombia).

Near Ocumare de la Costa on October 28 I found several of these ground doves in dense scrub in a little valley where they flew ahead with a rapid flutter of wings, keeping out of sight among the leaves. A little later I collected one that flew up from the ground near a road leading through a cacao plantation. Others were seen here on October 30 and 31. On November 11 I recorded several in brush grown pastures and along hedgerows near Maracay, and found them fairly common on the road to El Sombrero the following day. Several were noted near El Sombrero November 16, and on November 18 I collected a female in juvenile dress.

**LEPTOTILA VERREAUXI VERREAUXI Bonaparte**

*Leptotila verreauxi* BONAPARTE, Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris, vol. 40, 1855, p. 99 (Colombia).

Near Ocumare de la Costa these pigeons were common in the thorny scrub, where they walked on the ground or rested on low perches, hidden by limbs. When flushed they rise with a flutter of wings in which there is a prominent display of brown, and dart immediately behind cover. If they alight on the ground they walk quickly away, while among branches they remain concealed from sight. Shooting them here was difficult. The only one taken was very fat. Below Rancho Grande, on the south slope of the Cordillera

<sup>15</sup> See Todd, Ann. Carnegie Mus., vol. 8, 1913, p. 555.

de la Costa, I heard these birds calling on November 9, and on November 11 saw several in open woodland near Maracay.

The single specimen from near Ocumare de la Costa is an immature female that is allocated under the typical race on geographic grounds. It is dark in color but because of its age is not exactly comparable with other material at hand. The species is one in which a complete revision is needed.

**LEPTOTILA VERREAUXI BRASILIENSIS (Bonaparte)**

*Peristera brasiliensis* BONAPARTE, Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris, vol. 43, 1856, p. 945 (French and Dutch Guiana, British Guiana and Rio Branco).<sup>16</sup>

Near El Sombrero these pigeons were common through the dry scrubs and were abundant in the low woods near the Río Guarico, from November 12 to 21. A male taken on November 17, while intermediate toward those at hand from Panamá and western Costa Rica, is distinctly dark and is believed to be nearer the type found along the Río Orinoco, which I have identified as *brasiliensis*.

From the few specimens at hand it appears to me that *L. v. insularis* Richmond of Margarita Island is distinct. More material is needed to establish the races of this pigeon found in Venezuela.

**Family PSITTACIDAE**

**ARATINGA PERTINAX AERUGINOSA (Linnaeus)**

*Psittacus aeruginosus* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 98 (Calamar, lower Magdalena River, Colombia).

Around El Sombrero this parakeet, called *loro cara sucia* by the native boys because of its dull-brown cheeks, was common. The birds ranged in the forest growth and showed little fear of me, except to sidle behind cover as I approached and to utter chattering calls. On November 17 when I collected a pair the others paid no attention to the fall of their companions. On November 21 I noted several at Hato Paya.

With regard to the generic placement of this species, it appears necessary to include it in *Aratinga* rather than to segregate it in a separate group *Eupsittula*, as it does not appear to have characters of generic value. As Peters has indicated,<sup>17</sup> the original basis for Linnaeus' *Psittacus aeruginosus* is Edwards' brown-throated parakeet,<sup>18</sup> which that author was told came from the "West Indies." The female in question refers to the race of this bird found from Colombia to north-central Venezuela so that Chapman's designation of the type

<sup>16</sup> See Hellmayr, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 12, 1929, p. 471.

<sup>17</sup> Check-list of birds of the world, vol. 3, 1937, p. 190.

<sup>18</sup> Edwards, George, A natural history of birds, pt. 4, 1751, p. 177, pl. 177.

locality as given above may be accepted. The locality of Cumaná, Venezuela, suggested by Berlepsch and Hartert<sup>19</sup> is incorrect, since the color of the bird of eastern Venezuela does not agree with Edwards' plate, according to Peters' statement.

**ARATINGA HAEMORRHOUS NEOXENA (Cory)**

*Conurus neoxenus* CORY, Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Publ., orn. ser., vol. 1, 1909, p. 243 (Boca del Río, Margarita Island, Venezuela).

Near El Sombrero these birds were common in pairs and little flocks from November 14 to 19. A male was taken on the first date mentioned.

I agree with Peters<sup>20</sup> that the genus *Aratinga* includes the group segregated by Ridgway as *Thectocercus*, though the slender, acuminate tip of the bill of the latter is sufficient to separate it as a subgenus. Another character assigned by Ridgway to *Thectocercus*, that of lack of feathering behind the nostrils, does not hold, as this condition is found also in related species.

While *Aratinga acuticaudata* is closely allied to *haemorrhous*, the definite blue color of the sides of the head seems sufficient to set it off specifically, at least until intergradation can be proved. The skin from El Sombrero is definitely darker green than one from Paranahyba, Brazil, and so bears out the characters given by Cory to his race *neoxena*.

**ARATINGA WAGLERI TRANSILIS Peters**

*Aratinga wagleri transilis* PETERS, Proc. New England Zool. Club, vol. 9, June 24, 1927, p. 111 (Cuchivano, northeastern Venezuela).

While Peters has listed this distinct form, separated from *A. w. wagleri* by dark color and slightly smaller size, only from the Paria Peninsula, it ranges westward as far as San Esteban, near Puerto Cabello. A male in the National Museum from the latter locality measures as follows: Wing 173, tail 144, culmen from cere 25.1, tarsus 15.7 mm. This bird is definitely darker than several from Palomina, in the Santa Marta region of Colombia. Two males that I secured at Rancho Grande at 3,400 feet in the Cordillera de la Costa on November 3 are very dark and measure as follows: Wing 173.5, 175; tail 136, 146; culmen from cere 25.7, 26.2; tarsus 17.9, 17.9 mm.

Near Rancho Grande I found these parakeets so numerous from November 3 to 10 that I heard their calls constantly through the day both from birds at rest in the woodlands and from little flocks passing in flight overhead, their notes being the usual raucous screech common to species of this group. In flock formation on the wing they were always grouped in pairs. The two taken were shot from

<sup>19</sup> Nov. Zool., vol. 9, 1902, p. 107.

<sup>20</sup> Check-list of birds of the world, vol. 3, 1937, p. 135.

the top of a dead tree standing in the open on the crest of a steep-sided ridge.

**FORPUS PASSERINUS VIRIDISSIMUS (Lafresnaye)**

*Psittacula viridissima* LAFRESNAYE, Rev. Zool., 1848, p. 172 (Caracas, Venezuela).

At Ocumare de la Costa on October 26 I found two feeding in the tops of low trees in dense scrub and collected a female, and on October 30 secured another female from a little flock feeding in low trees above a road. Near Maracay on November 11 I recorded several flocks in level pastures dotted with trees and shrubs and heard their twittering, finchlike notes. The birds flew in rather close formation twisting and turning considerably. Near El Sombrero I saw them on November 17 and 19. Many were kept in captivity.

**AMAZONA OCHROCEPHALA OCHROCEPHALA (Gmelin)**

*Psittacus ochrocephalus* GMELIN, Systema naturae, vol. 1, pt. 1, 1788, p. 339 (Venezuela).

Near El Sombrero I found these parrots common around the Meseta, but rather wild. On November 20 in low woods near the Río Guarico many were feeding in the trees, seeming indifferent to my approach unless I came quite near, and then flying only for a short distance. Even when I shot one the others paid little attention, though several saw the bird as it fell to the ground with a loud thump.

The male taken I have identified as the subspecies *ochrocephala*, though I am not satisfied with the present limits assigned to the typical race and to *panamensis*. It measures as follows: Wing 199.0, tail 112.1, culmen from cere 31.4, tarsus 24.1, mm. On the left side of the crown the yellow color extends to the cere with a faint barely distinguishable line of green extending along its anterior margin. On the right the green color spreads across behind the cere cutting off completely the yellow of the crown. It will be noted that in size and in head marking there is approach to the characters ordinarily attributed to *panamensis*.

**Family CUCULIDAE**

**COCYZUS AMERICANUS AMERICANUS (Linnaeus): Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

*Cuculus americanus* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 111 (South Carolina).

At Ocumare de la Costa I collected a male on October 26 in low bushes back of the beach near the lagoon. I had the impression that it had just arrived from the north as its thin, gaunt body with no fat whatever and the shrunken pectoral muscles, so reduced that the keel and the posterior margin of the sternum projected prominently, were most striking. On October 29 one was seen in a sea-grape tree on the beach, and a freshly dead bird, found in low bushes near the shore,

was brought to me. It showed no signs of injury but was emaciated to such an extreme that its frame was merely a skeleton covered with skin and feathers. It appeared that it had made a landing too exhausted by its long flight to recover. I wondered how many did not arrive at all.

On November 4 I recorded one at an elevation of 3,500 feet at Rancho Grande.

**PIAYA CAYANA COLUMBIANA (Cabanis)**

*Pyrrhococyx columbiana* CABANIS, Journ. für Orn., 1862, p. 170 (Cartagena, Colombia).

Near El Sombrero these cuckoos were fairly common from November 13 to 20 in rather heavy woods. They move alertly and quietly, usually along horizontal or gently sloping limbs. One uttered a rattling cuckoolike call audible for only a few yards. They were seen sometimes low down near the ground in bushes.

A female taken on November 13 is slightly paler in its brown tints than those from farther north in Venezuela, has the black on the rectrices considerably restricted, and the underparts somewhat paler.

**CROTOPHAGA ANI Linnaeus**

*Crotophaga ani* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 105 (Jamaica).

Near Maracay on November 11 I found a small flock of anis in a brush-grown pasture and collected a male. Others were seen at Ortiz on November 12 and near El Sombrero on November 16 and 17.

**CROTOPHAGA SULCIROSTRIS SULCIROSTRIS Swainson**

*Crotophaga sulcirostris* SWAINSON, Philos. Mag., new ser., vol. 1, June 1827, p. 440 (Tableland, Temascaltepec, Mexico).

Seen at Ocumare de la Costa on October 28 and 30. At El Sombrero they were fairly common, and specimens were secured on November 15 and 18.

**CROTOPHAGA MAJOR Gmelin**

*Crotophaga major* GMELIN, Systema naturae, vol. 1, pt. 1, 1788, p. 363 (Cayenne).

Near El Sombrero I found an occasional flock of the large ani in heavy growths of low trees at the edge of the Meseta and near the Río Guarico on November 17, 19, and 20. They were quite wary, began to call as soon as they saw me, and immediately flew away to safety behind the protection of heavy cover. One that I shot on November 17 near the Meseta was a bird of predatory appearance, strongly muscled, and very fat. The peculiar odor of the flesh found in anis was pronounced. The iris was light grayish white.

It was an interesting experience at El Sombrero to see all three species of anis in the course of a day.

## Family TYTONIDAE

## TYTO ALBA (Scopoli)

*Strix alba* SCOPOLI, Annus I: Historico-naturalis, 1769, p. 21 (Friaul, northern Italy).

On several evenings during my stay in El Sombrero I heard the familiar notes of young barn owls from a hole in the side of the church tower but by day was never able to see the birds. Whether these should be listed as *Tyto alba stictica* (Madarász)<sup>21</sup> can be ascertained only when specimens are obtained.

## Family STRIGIDAE

## GLAUCIDIUM BRASILIANUM PHALOENOIDES (Daudin)

*Strix phaloenoides* DAUDIN, Traité . . . d'ornithologie, vol. 2, 1800, p. 206 (Trinidad).

On November 13 Ventura Barnés, Jr., killed one of these small owls for me in dense scrub 12 miles south of El Sombrero. On November 15 on the Meseta a short distance from town one flew into the top-most branches of a tree in a little grove on the open prairie and remained there in bright light looking about until I shot it. The numerous small birds in the same grove paid little attention to it.

Both of these birds are in the gray phase. In identifying them as *phaloenoides* I have followed current practice, which allocates birds from northern Venezuela to that race as the series of these owls at hand does not allow critical consideration.

## Family CAPRIMULGIDAE

## NYCTIDROMUS ALBICOLLIS ALBICOLLIS (Gmelin)

*Caprimulgus albicollis* GMELIN, Systema naturae, vol. 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 1030 (Cayenne).

At Ocumare de la Costa on October 30 and at Hato Paya, northwest of El Sombrero, on November 21, I saw individuals in dense thickets where the cover was heavy above and the ground open beneath, but in each case the birds eluded capture.

## CHORDEILES MINOR (Forster): Nighthawk

*Caprimulgus minor* FORSTER, Catalogue of the animals of North America, 1771, p. 13 (South Carolina).

Near Guamitas at dusk on November 10 a nighthawk rested on the paved road flying only a few feet as our car passed. We stopped and I saw the bird again but was not successful in collecting it. I was certain, however, that it was the larger, northern bird. The light

<sup>21</sup> *Strix stictica* Madarász, Ann. Hist. Nat. Mus. Nat. Hungarici, vol. 2, June 25, 1904, p. 115 (Mérica, Venezuela).

markings were very pale. At dawn on November 12 at the Hotel La Barraca in Maracay several flew about the large patio.

### Family MICROPODIDAE

#### CHAETURA BRACHYURA (Jardine)

*Acanthylis brachyura* JARDINE, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., vol. 18, Aug. 1846, p. 120 (Tobago).

In Tropical America swifts are tantalizing birds usually seen out of range, so that it was with keen interest that on October 28 near Ocumare de la Costa I found a dozen short-tailed swifts circling rapidly over an open pasture just above the scattered trees, and I secured one of them. While I was searching for this bird in thick grass the others disappeared. On November 4 at Rancho Grande several circled out of range. This species appears very black as it flies overhead, so that at first glance it suggests the black swift (*Nephoecetes niger*), but a second look distinguishes it by the shorter, light-colored tail. The specimen taken, a male, measures as follows: Wing 118.7, tail 29.0, culmen from base 5.8, tarsus 11.8 mm.

#### STREPTOPROCNE ZONARIS ALBICINCTA (Cabanis)

*Hemiprocne albicincta* CABANIS, Journ. für Orn., 1862, p. 165 (Guiana).

While I was collecting in El Portachuelo above Rancho Grande on November 3, 6, and 10, groups of these large swifts dashed at intervals through the pass at lightning speed with a great rushing of wings. Occasionally I observed them circling high in air.

### Family TROCHILIDAE

#### PHOETHORNIS AUGUSTI (Bourcier)

*Trochilus augusti* BOURCIER, Ann. Sci. Phys. Nat. Agric. Ind., Lyon, vol. 10, 1847, p. 623 (Caracas, Venezuela).

On the south slope of the mountains at 3,000 feet elevation near Rancho Grande I saw several of these large hummers on November 9 and collected two females. The first one was in a deeply shaded ravine, where it flew up to hover in the air directly in front of me and only 4 or 5 feet away for a minute or more apparently attracted by the openings in the end of my double-barreled gun. As it turned from side to side the long median tail feathers were opened widely scissors-fashion, but when the bird poised they remained together. Another was taken gleaning at flowers. In life the basal three-fourths of the mandible was light red; rest of bill black; tarsus and toes flesh color; nails black.

While easily confused in the field with the closely allied *Phoethornis a. anthophilus*, the form of the tail readily distinguishes the two. In



*augusti* the pair of tail feathers adjacent to the central ones are also narrow and much elongated, extending for nearly half their length beyond those on either side. In *anthophilus* the tail, while much graduated, has only the central pair narrowed and elongate, the fourth (adjacent) pair being broad and extending little beyond the next pair at the side.

**PHOETHORNIS ANTHOPHILUS ANTHOPHILUS (Bourcier)**

*Trochilus anthophilus* BOURCIER, Rev. Zool., vol. 6, Mar. 1843, p. 71 (Upper Magdalena Valley, Colombia).

At Ocumare de la Costa October 27 I found a male of this species flying quickly but rather heavily about branches in the scrub in search for food. The white-tipped tail was prominent in life, while in the hand I noticed particularly the very long neck. The sexual organs were somewhat enlarged. I shot another in dense scrub near the Río Cumboto on October 31, and as the tip of the bill was broken I preserved it as a skeleton.

**AGYRTINA FIMBRIATA FIMBRIATA (Gmelin)**

*Trochilus fimbriatus* GMELIN, Systema naturae, vol. 1, pt. 1, 1788, p. 493 (Cayenne).

A common, widely distributed species in lowland areas that was taken at Ocumare de la Costa on October 25, near Maracay on November 11, and near El Sombrero on November 14. They were found about flowers or resting on shaded perches at moderate elevations in the trees. The white abdomen was prominent in birds that I had in the hand. These specimens appear very slightly darker gray on the back than skins seen from British Guiana.

**SAUCEROTTIA TOBACI MONTICOLA Todd**

*Saucerottia tobaci monticola* TODD, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 26, Aug. 8, 1913, p. 174 (Guarico, Estado Lara, Venezuela).

This was the most common hummingbird in the vicinity of El Sombrero, where I collected two males on November 16 and 17. They were found about small trees and shrubs that were in flower and in places congregated until they were actually abundant. On November 17 I saw one male in a typical display in which it swung in a broad curve that started high up, descended to pass closely to a hummer at rest on a twig, and then continued to rise again on the other side. It moved in this arc several times, making a curious rattling sound on the rise. Others were perching quietly in low branches of thorn trees. In handling freshly killed birds the white feathers of the tibiae are a striking mark. The two taken are darker, less bronzy in color than a series of *S. t. feliciae* from La Guaira, and so agree with Todd's description of *monticola*.

## CHRYSURONIA OENONE OENONE (Lesson)

*Ornismya oenone* LESSON, Histoire naturelle des Colibris, Suppl., 1832, p. 157, pl. 30 ("Trinidad").

The only one identified was a female taken on November 6 at 2,800 feet elevation on the north slope of the Cordillera de la Costa below Rancho Grande. The bird was working over flowers on a steep bank adjacent to heavy woodland.

The rather long, brassy-colored tail, green back, and bluish-green head seem characteristic. Identification to subspecies follows custom in allocating birds from northern Venezuela to the typical race as comparative material is not at hand. While the type locality is given in the original description as Trinidad, Hartert<sup>22</sup> indicates that it probably should be Venezuela.

## CHLOROSTILBON CARIBAEUS Lawrence

*Chlorostilbon caribaeus* LAWRENCE, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, vol. 10, 1871, p. 13 (Curaçao).

Near Ocumare de la Costa on October 25 these little hummers swarmed about a small tree to feed at its blossoms, sometimes hovering and sometimes resting for a few seconds with extended wings on the flower clusters. I collected two adult males here on October 26, secured a female, and a male in immature dress, and saw others feeding at flowers or searching over branches in the dry scrub. Many were observed the day following.

The two adult males taken are peculiar in having a distinct blue sheen extending over the entire under surface, a region that ordinarily is glittering green. I have seen only a few other birds that resemble these two; where blue is present ordinarily it is restricted to the breast. They apparently represent the extreme of the type named *lessoni*,<sup>23</sup> which was alleged to have the middle of the breast with a bluish tinge. This, however, seems to be individual variation as has been pointed out by Hartert.<sup>24</sup>

## CHLOROSTILBON ALICE (Bourcier and Mulsant)

*Trochilus alice* BOURCIER and MULSANT, Rev. Zool., 1848, p. 274 (Caracas, Venezuela).

On November 9 at an elevation of 3,000 feet on the north slope of the Cordillera de la Costa near Rancho Grande I found these hummers common about roadside flowers. Two males were collected. The specific name, usually given as *aliciae*, is as written above.

<sup>22</sup> Nov. Zool., vol. 5, 1898, p. 518.

<sup>23</sup> *Chlorostilbon caribeus lessoni* Simon and Dalmas, Ornith., vol. 11, 1901, p. 212 (Carúpano, Carisaco, Andes de Cumaná, Ciudad Bolívar).

<sup>24</sup> Nov. Zool., vol. 9, 1902, p. 86.

**CHALYBURA BUFFONII AENEICAUDA** Lawrence

*Chalybura aeneicauda* LAWRENCE, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, vol. 17, 1865, p. 38 (Venezuela).

A female was taken on October 31 from several seen feeding at the flowers of an orange-colored morning-glory at 4,000 feet elevation in the valley of the Río Cumboto near Ocumare de la Costa.

**ANTHRACOTHORAX NIGRICOLLIS NIGRICOLLIS** (Vieillot)

*Trochilus nigricollis* VIEILLOT, Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat., vol. 7, 1817, p. 349 (Brazil).

A female was taken as it fed at flowers near the road at Hato Paya, 18 miles northwest of El Sombrero.

**ADELOMYIA MELANOGENYS AENEOSTICTA** Simon

*Adelomyia aeneosticta* SIMON, Mém. Soc. Zool. France, vol. 2, pt. 2, 1889, p. 223 (San Esteban, Venezuela).

From November 3 to 10 these birds were common in the vicinity of Rancho Grande. Four specimens were taken, including a male on November 4 and females on November 3 and 6. They were especially common in dense, wet forest at El Portachuelo, where often I heard the subdued humming of their wings when the birds themselves were hidden from sight in the shrubbery. Frequently they appeared within a few feet of me. They were feeding mainly at the flowers of a peculiar shrub in which the blossom grows directly from the sides of little branches. As the twigs were fairly thick, free wing movement for a hummer was often difficult. In such circumstances the birds perched to probe the blossoms and, when finished with one, to reach a further food supply often hopped from one twig to another, sometimes with a flit of the wings, but more often without such aid. The method of progression for these short distances was like that of a perching bird, and entirely different from anything that I have seen a hummingbird do before.

These hummers were found also at times about other flowers at the border of the forest, and once I found several working over herbage on a steep bank. I recorded them from 2,800 feet on the north slope of the Cordillera de la Costa to 3,700 feet above El Portachuelo.

**CYANOLESBIA KINGII MARGARETHAE** (Heine)

*Lesbia Margarethae* HEINE, Journ. für Orn., 1863, p. 213 (Caracas, Venezuela).

Fairly common in heavy forest near Rancho Grande. On November 5 I saw several at 3,700 feet feeding at large, deep-red flowers growing in shade, and collected a male. On November 6 one scolded with an insistent chipping call at a hawk perched in dense growth, and when I shot the hawk the hummer came and hovered for several seconds in front of me. On November 8 I found them to 4,000 feet

elevation. The wings of these birds produce a resonant humming sound; and I saw males opening and closing the long tail like a pair of scissors. The male taken shows clearly the green color of the middle rectrices that marks this race.

**KLAIS GUIMETI (Bourcier and Mulsant)**

*Trochilus guimeti* BOURCIER and MULSANT, Ann. Sci. Phys. Nat. Agric. Ind., Lyon, vol. 6, 1843, p. 38, pl. 2 (Caracas, Venezuela).

The only one seen was a female shot as it poised before flowers on the open roadside near Los Riitos at 2,600 feet elevation.

No type locality is given in the original description, but Hellmayr and Seilern<sup>25</sup> indicate that the type comes from Caracas.

**Family TROGONIDAE**

**TROGONURUS COLLARIS COLLARIS (Vieillot)**

*Trogon collaris* VIEILLOT, Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat., vol. 8, 1817, p. 320 (Cayenne).

In the early morning of November 9 at Rancho Grande I heard a curious mewing call that drew my attention to the steadily jerking tail of a bird concealed in heavy brush. After the shot it was a distinct surprise to have my *peón* bring me a male of this trogon. The bird was in the rain forest at 3,300 feet elevation.

**PHAROMACHRUS FULGIDUS FULGIDUS (Gould)**

*Trogon fulgidus* GOULD, A monograph of the Trogonidae, 1838, pl. 24 and text ("Guiana" = Venezuela).

At Rancho Grande I saw these resplendent birds at elevations ranging from 2,800 to 3,300 feet on November 5 and 6 but did not secure a specimen until November 9. On that day while hunting through a section of open forest at 4,500 feet I shot a beautiful male. I was working slowly along a slope searching for tinamous, intent on the ground in front of me, when suddenly my companion Zembrano gave an exclamation that attracted my eye to one of these birds resting on an open branch where it was visible for a considerable distance. Intent on other game we had approached within a hundred feet before we saw it. It rested in the usual trogon position with the body against the limb, tail straight down, and head drawn in. From time to time it turned the head to look about, but otherwise was motionless. On preparing it I found the skin noticeably tougher and the feathers more firmly attached than in the smaller trogons.

Comparison of this specimen with Gould's plate of *Trogon fulgidus* leaves no question that this bird is the form of Venezuela, since the details of the white on the outer tail feathers, the brief length of the antrorse frontal feathers, and the extension of the longest upper tail

<sup>25</sup> Arch. Naturg., vol. 78, 1912, p. 148.

covert beyond the tail are identical. These details are repeated in the second plate in Gould's second edition,<sup>26</sup> where it is stated that the bird had been sent "in tolerable abundance from Venezuela." Peters<sup>27</sup> therefore is correct in using *fulgidus* as the older name, though the typical name should be applied to the bird found in Venezuela west at least to the Cumbre of Valencia. The Santa Marta race, named *festatus* by Bangs, is distinguished in part by the longer upper tail coverts and the greater development of the loreal plumes. According to Todd and Carriker<sup>28</sup> the upper tail coverts in the adult male of *festatus* extend "more than an inch" beyond the tail in the adult male. In my specimen from Rancho Grande this difference is only 10 mm. Mr. Todd informs me (in litt.) that in three Santa Marta males in the Carnegie Museum the upper tail coverts project 32, 34, and 39 mm., respectively, beyond the tail, while in two from Colonia Tovar and Mirasol (near Cumanacoa), Venezuela, this projection is only 16 to 19 mm. Measurements for my specimen are as follows: Wing 183, tail 154, culmen from base 22.8, tarsus 18.8 mm.

### Family ALCEDINIDAE

#### MEGACERYLE TORQUATA TORQUATA (Linnaeus)

*Alcedo torquata* LINNAEUS, *Systema naturae*, ed. 12, 1766, p. 180 (Mexico).

On November 11 I recorded one at La Providencia near Maracay, and on November 19 saw another along the Río Guarico near El Sombrero. To hear a blackbirdlike *chuck* and then to look up to see this large kingfisher always amuses me.

#### CHLOROCERYLE AMAZONA (Latham)

*Alcedo amazona* LATHAM, *Index ornithologicus*, vol. 1, 1790, p. 257 (Cayenne).

A pair seen along a small stream near Parapara.

### Family GALBULIDAE

#### GALBULA RUFICAUDA RUFICAUDA Cuvier

*Galbula ruficauda* CUVIER, *Le règne animal*, vol. 1, 1817, p. 420 (Cayenne).

My first acquaintance with this interesting species of jacamar was on the morning of October 26 near Ocumare de la Costa when, as I came over the slope of a little hill, I saw one perching quietly on an open, shaded perch under the spreading top of a thorny tree. The bird, a female, rested rather erect, with the tail hanging straight down, turning the head slowly from side to side. Near the tip of its bill it held a small butterfly with orange in the wings that fluttered away as I walked up after shooting my specimen. Two days later I collected

<sup>26</sup> A monograph of the Trogonidae, ed. 2, 1858, pl. 3 and text.

<sup>27</sup> *Auk*, 1929, pp. 115-116.

<sup>28</sup> *Ann. Carnegie Mus.*, vol. 14, 1922, p. 243.

another, a male, in dense scrub. These jacamars are more active and alert than I had anticipated, with nothing of the stolidness of the puffbirds. I saw them fly quickly and gracefully, even through crowded branches, and when at rest occasionally they twitch the tail slightly. One called *kwee kwee kwee* in a somewhat petulant tone. Occasionally I saw them resting as high as 35 feet from the ground but always in shade.

At La Providencia near Maracay I noted several and collected one on November 11, and shot another in wet woods near El Sombrero November 20. I saw a pair near Hato Paya on November 21. Many of the country people confused jacamars with hummingbirds, and some of them told me that they were hummers that nested in holes in the ground.

The bird from El Sombrero, a male, has the green of the chest band partly covered by a suffusion of a metallic-coppery shade. The few specimens that I have seen from the northern coastal region of Venezuela (Puerto Cabello, Ocumare de la Costa, and San Julián) have the brown of the under surface faintly paler than in those from inland, in this showing some approach to the paler *Galbula ruficauda pallens* found on the coast of Colombia and that probably occurs in extreme northwestern Venezuela in the coastal area.

Berlepsch and Hartert<sup>29</sup> indicate the type locality of *ruficauda* as "La Guyane, sc. Cayenne," so that Cory<sup>30</sup> is wrong in citing it as "Colombia."

## Family BUCCONIDAE

### MALACOPTILA MYSTACALIS (Lafresnaye)

*Monasa mystacalis* LAFRESNAYE, Rev. Mag. Zool., 1850, p. 215 (Valparaiso, Santa Marta Mountains, Colombia).<sup>31</sup>

A female was taken on November 7 at an elevation of 2,600 feet near Los Riitos on the northern slope of the Cordillera de la Costa below Rancho Grande, the point being within the cloud forest that covers the upper reaches of those mountains. The bird was found at the edge of a high bank along the auto road where it rested motionless in the woodenlike, dumpy attitude common to all puffbirds. I was much interested in the fresh specimen in the white mustachial streaks as these could be made to stand out in a very prominent marking, which no doubt is used in display.

Hellmayr and Seilern<sup>32</sup> have listed a specimen from Las Quiguas, near San Esteban, Venezuela, under the name *Malacoptila aspersa* Sclater, saying that it differs from *M. mystacalis* of western Colombia in smaller size, weaker bill, less extent of white on the forehead, and

<sup>29</sup> Nov. Zool., vol. 9, 1902, p. 103.

<sup>30</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 2, 1919, p. 383.

<sup>31</sup> Fixed by Chapman, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 36, 1917, p. 342.

<sup>32</sup> Arch. Naturg., vol. 78, 1912, pp. 156-157.

streaked breast and sides. These distinctions do not apply in the case of my bird from Los Ritos, which differs from the Colombian specimens that I have seen only in being a little paler below, probably only an individual variation. Two skins in the American Museum from Cumbre Chiquito near San Esteban do not appear to differ from birds from Santa Marta.

**HYPNELUS BICINCTUS BICINCTUS (Gould)**

*Tamatia bicincta* GOULD, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1836 (1837), p. 80 (Venezuela).<sup>22</sup>

On October 26 I collected two near Ocumare de la Costa as they rested stolidly on shaded, open perches beneath the crown of spreading trees. They perched with the body inclined somewhat forward, tail held at an angle, and impressed me as rather dull and stupid. October 28 I recorded one eating a large insect. At El Sombrero on November 16 one flew from near the ground to an open limb in a tall tree, uttering a croaking note. The two from Ocumare were molting the primaries.

**Family RAMPHASTIDAE**

**AULACORHYNCHUS SULCATUS SULCATUS (Swainson)**

*Pteroglossus sulcatus* SWAINSON, Quart. Journ. Sci. Lit. Arts, vol. 9, 1820, p. 267 (Venezuela).

Near Rancho Grande on November 8 I saw several of these birds in heavy forest at 4,000 feet elevation; I shot one but lost it over the edge of a steep slope. The following day, lower down at 3,000 feet, a grunting note called my attention to one of these birds in a tree at the edge of the road. This one also fell far below and was lost. I was told that the bill was prized by the country people for medicine, for what purpose I did not learn, and that it was worth 5 bolívars.

**Family PICIDAE**

**VENILIORNIS KIRKII CONTINENTALIS Hellmayr**

*Veniliornis kirkii continentalis* HELLMAYR, Nov. Zool., vol. 13, Feb. 1906, p. 39 (Caripé, near Cumaná, Venezuela).

At La Providencia, near Maracay, on November 11 I found two working over open tree trunks in a grove and collected a male. One was seen at Parapara on November 12, and on November 21, I collected a female in heavy woods at Hato Paya north of El Sombrero as it climbed busily over the larger limbs. These specimens measure as follows: Male, wing 82.3, tail 49.5, culmen from base 21.4, tarsus 15.3 mm.; female, wing 84.1, tail 49.8, culmen from base 19.0, tarsus 15.7 mm. The female differs decidedly from the male in much narrower dark bars below, so that it is lighter colored on the lower

<sup>22</sup> Hellmayr and Seilern, Arch. Naturg., vol. 78, 1912, p. 156.

surface. From examination of other material, however, it appears that this is due to individual variation.

**VENILIORNIS OLEAGINUS REICHENBACHI (Cabanis and Heine)**

*Phaeoerpes Reichenbachi* CABANIS and HEINE, Museum Heineanum, pt. 4, 1863, p. 141 (Caracas, Venezuela).

Near Rancho Grande on November 2 I secured a female in heavy forest at 3,900 feet elevation. Others were seen at the borders of the woodland on November 3 and 7. The one taken measures as follows: Wing 94.3, tail 52.6, culmen from base 21, tarsus 16.8 mm.

While I have followed current usage in taking the name *reichenbachi* for birds from northern Venezuela, I am uncertain as to the characters of the races of this bird from South America.

**PHLOEOCEASTES MELANOLEUCOS MELANOLEUCOS (Gmelin)**

*Picus melanoleucos* GMELIN, Systema naturae, vol. 1, pt. 1, 1788, p. 426 (Surinam).

This handsome woodpecker was found in the forests of the Sierra de la Costa where, near Rancho Grande on November 5, I heard one drumming on a dead tree trunk, producing two rapid blows followed after a slight interval by another. The performance was decidedly like that of the related species *leucopogon*<sup>34</sup> of more southern range. On November 7 at Los Riitos on the north slope of the mountains I saw a fine pair of these birds flying overhead and collected them as they moved rather deliberately over the trunk of a huge tree. They peered and postured with alertly moving heads but were silent. Both were heavily infested with a large mite that crawled on my hands and arms and immediately began to bite. At El Sombrero on November 17 a beautiful bird was taken at the edge of heavy woodland, and on November 20 near the Río Guarico I watched one for some time within a distance of 20 feet. This species has a tough skin, firmly attached to the body, especially to the skull.

The present species, since Ridgway's review<sup>35</sup> of the generic status of the ivory-billed woodpeckers as a group (the old genus *Campephilus*) has been treated usually in the genus *Scapanus*. After careful examination I can see no trenchant separation in structure between the species placed in *Scapanus* and those allotted in *Phloeoceastes*. The only apparent difference is in the relatively greater length of the tenth primary in *Phloeoceastes robustus* (type of that genus). It appears to me necessary to unite these two, and the generic name will be *Phloeoceastes* as that is the older appellation of the two.

The male specimens obtained agree in color with *melanoleucos* from farther south and east. The female appears somewhat intermediate toward *Phloeoceastes melanoleucos malherbii* from farther west in more

<sup>34</sup> See Wetmore, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 133, 1926, p. 215.

<sup>35</sup> U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 50, pt. 6, 1914, pp. 9-10.



buffy coloration and heavier barring of the under surface. A female in the National Museum from San Julián, a short distance east of La Guaira, seems also to show this intermediate character. It may be noted that this specimen and the one from Los Riitos come from the north slope of the coastal mountains. Birds from the Mérida region in Venezuela and from the mountains of the Santa Marta region in Colombia are typical *malherbii*, while skins from Fundación and from Los Pendales, Atlántico, in Colombia are somewhat intermediate but are to be called *malherbii*.

**CENTURUS RUBRICAPILLUS RUBRICAPILLUS** Cabanis

*Centurus rubricapillus* CABANIS, Journ. für Orn., 1862, p. 328 (Barranquilla, Colombia).

The first specimen was taken at La Providencia near Maracay on October 21, and others were seen there on November 11. Near Ocumare de la Costa they were common from October 23 to 30 and were found in a variety of situations from the large cacti growing over the arid hills or isolated trees in fields and pastures to the tall, rather dense groves of trees used as shade over the cacao plantations. Near El Sombrero they were recorded from November 14 to 21. My attention was usually attracted to them by their shrill, chattering calls. Four specimens taken come from the three localities mentioned.

After comparison of a considerable series I find it difficult to distinguish races in these birds except for the very distinct *seductus* found on San Miguel Island in the bay of Panamá. In general, in birds from Colombia, Venezuela, Trinidad, and Tobago the male has the light frontal band between the red of the crown and the base of the bill averaging wider. In some there is also a gray band across the back of the pileum separating the red of the crown from that of the nape. Both sexes have the white markings on the tail usually less extensive. This is typical *rubricapillus*.

Specimens from Panamá and Costa Rica have the light frontal band in the male averaging narrower, and the red of the crown always unbroken. In both sexes the white markings on the tail are usually more extensive. If these are recognized as distinct they will bear the name *wagleri*.

There is much individual variation among them, so that the characters given hold for only a part of the specimens from either area.

**CHRYSOPTILUS PUNCTIGULA PUNCTIPECTUS** Cabanis and Heine

*Chrysoptilus punctipectus* CABANIS and HEINE, Museum Heinecanum, pt. 4, 1863, p. 163 (Venezuela).

Near El Sombrero these woodpeckers were found regularly from November 14 to 20, working over open branches in the trees. A male

taken November 14 measures as follows: Wing 103, tail 63.4, culmen from base 25.7, tarsus 21.6 mm.

**PICUMNUS SQUAMULATUS OBSOLETUS** Allen

*Picumnus obsoletus* ALLEN, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 4, Apr. 6, 1892, p. 55 (El Pilar, near Carúpano, Venezuela).

On October 28 I found one of these tiny birds in dense scrub near Ocumare de la Costa, resting across a branch, yawning prodigiously and stretching its neck, apparently to aid in ejecting a pellet of hard, indigestible insect remains. Near El Sombrero on November 16 I collected another as it rested on a vertical branch, which it hammered vigorously, clinging with its relatively huge feet while the tail swung clear. On November 20 one worked actively through small branches, 20 feet from the ground in wet woodland near the Río Guarico.

All three specimens are males. The one from Ocumare, in fresh plumage, is lighter colored above than the two from El Sombrero, which are somewhat worn. Measurements are as follows: Wing 51.5, 50.8, 50.8, tail 27.2, 24.5, 27.4, culmen from base 11.8, 12.4, 11.8, tarsus 11.8, 12.8, 11.8 mm.

Family DENDROCOLAPTIDAE

**DENDROPLEX PICIROSTRIS PHALARA** Wetmore

*Dendroplex picirostris phalara* WETMORE, Smithsonian Misc. Coll., vol. 98, No. 4, Mar. 10, 1939, p. 4 (El Sombrero, Estado Guarico, Venezuela).

The first of these birds was seen on November 12 near Parapara, where one was collected as it worked among the larger branches of a thorny tree. Near El Sombrero they were fairly common, so that three were obtained on November 14, 18, and 19. They were found in the more open scrub and also in low, wet woods. They climbed like *Lepidocolaptes*. On November 20 I found two chattering and calling about holes in trees in heavy forest near the Río Guarico.

These birds are distinct from typical *picirostris* in the greater extent of light color over the upper breast, lighter auricular region, paler forehead, more extensive light streakings on the hindneck, and heavier bill. They are nearly allied to *longirostris* of Margarita Island in greater extent of white on the breast and in larger bill, but they have the light spots on the crown and hindneck larger, the light area on the forehead more extensive, and the breast markings more buffy. The breast is browner and lighter colored, less blackish. While I have seen specimens from Parapara and El Sombrero only, it is probable that this race extends across the northern llanos.

**XIPHORHYNCHUS TRIANGULARIS HYLODROMUS** Wetmore

*Xiphorhynchus triangularis hylodromus* WETMORE, Smithsonian Misc. Coll., vol. 98, No. 4, Mar. 10, 1939, p. 2 (4,500 feet elevation above Rancho Grande, Estado Aragua, Venezuela).

Near Rancho Grande these birds were fairly common in heavy forest, two being taken on November 3 and 5 at 3,700 feet elevation and two on November 8 at 4,500 feet. They were seen climbing over the stems of large creepers, or the trunks of trees, probing in crevices with the bill. The two last mentioned were calling loudly and seemed to be mated.

Hellmayr and Seilern,<sup>36</sup> in discussing a small series of this bird from the Cumbre de Valencia, remarked on a slight difference in the color of the back when their birds were compared with those of Bogotá. The four skins obtained at Rancho Grande indicate other distinctions that set off a well-marked race, distinguished from the typical form by brighter olive-brown color above, with the secondaries darker, less reddish brown, the under surface lighter, more greenish olive and more abundantly spotted, the spots being lighter colored. The throat is decidedly lighter, with the dark marginal lines on the feathers reduced in width. The present form is now known from Rancho Grande and the Cumbre de Valencia.

**XIPHORHYNCHUS NANUS DEMONSTRATUS** Hartert and Goodson

*Xiphorhynchus nanus demonstratus* HARTERT and GOODSON, Nov. Zool., vol. 24, 1917, p. 419 (San Esteban Valley, Venezuela).

Specimens were taken at Maracay on October 21 and at Ocumare de la Costa on October 28. A third was secured at an elevation of 3,600 feet in El Portachuelo above Rancho Grande on November 7. The birds were seen climbing about in trees, sometimes among the higher branches and sometimes near the base. The one taken at Rancho Grande gave a loud, whistled song. The bird last mentioned, which comes from heavy rain forest, is distinctly brighter colored, with the spots and streakings lighter than the other two from lowland areas. While Hellmayr gives this form and *nanus* as races of *guttatus*, they differ so in duller color and slenderer bill that I prefer to consider them specifically distinct.

**LEPIDOCOLAPTES SOULEYETHI LITTORALIS** (Hartert and Goodson)

*Picolaptes albolineatus littoralis* HARTERT and GOODSON, Nov. Zool., vol. 24, 1917, p. 417 (Quebrada Seca, "Estado Bermudez," Venezuela).

On October 24 I saw several in the lower edge of the rain forest at an elevation of 700 feet in the valley of the Río Cumboto west of Ocumare de la Costa. My attention was attracted to one by its

<sup>36</sup> Arch. Naturg., vol. 78, 1912, p. 110.

steady pecking at the trunk of a tree, a noise that I attributed at first to some woodpecker. On November 11 I collected two from several seen climbing over the trunks of trees in an open grove at La Providencia near Maracay, and on November 12 I shot one in open scrub near Parapara, Estado Guarico. Others were seen at El Sombrero on November 18 and 20 and at Hato Paya on November 21.

**LEPIDOCOLAPTES LACHRYMIGER LAFRESNAYI (Cabanis and Heine)**

*Thripobrotus Lafresnayi* CABANIS and HEINE, Museum Heineanum, vol. 2, 1859, p. 38 (Caracas, Venezuela).

A female was taken November 8 at an elevation of 4,000 feet above Rancho Grande in heavy forest. It measures as follows: Wing 94.2, tail 80.3, culmen from base 27.0, tarsus 19.3 mm.

From *L. s. littoralis* of the lowlands this bird is distinguished by slightly larger size and by spotted rather than streaked crown.

**CAMPYLORHAMPHUS TROCHILIROSTRIS VENEZUELENSIS (Chapman)**

*Xiphorhynchus venezuelensis* CHAPMAN, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 2, 1889, p. 156 (Venezuela).

Near El Sombrero on November 18 I collected a female in a stand of good-sized trees bordering a shallow ravine near La Meseta. Two days later I recorded another in low, wet woods near the Río Guarico. The specimen secured measures as follows: Wing 94.7, tail 89.7, culmen from base 73.4, tarsus 23 mm.

**SITTASOMUS GRISEICAPILLUS GRISEUS Jardine**

*Sittasomus griseus* JARDINE, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., vol. 19, 1847, p. 82 (Tobago).

On November 2 at 3,700 feet elevation in the Cordillera de la Costa above Rancho Grande I shot a male from a little flock of forest birds traveling in company. Another was seen on November 6, like the first one creeping over a tree trunk. Without comparative material at hand I have identified this bird in accordance with Hellmayr's treatment.<sup>37</sup>

**DENDROCINCLA FULIGINOSA MERULOIDES (Lafresnaye)**

*Dendrocops meruloides* LAFRESNAYE, Rev. Mag. Zool., 1851, p. 467 (near Cumaná, Venezuela).<sup>38</sup>

The only one secured was a male, taken on November 6 at 3,000 feet elevation near Rancho Grande. It was climbing rather slowly over the trunk of a tree in heavy forest. Zimmer<sup>39</sup> includes this form as a race of *fuliginosa*.

<sup>37</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 4, 1925, pp. 359-360.

<sup>38</sup> According to Hellmayr, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 4, 1925, p. 366.

<sup>39</sup> Amer. Mus. Nov., No. 728, 1934, p. 18.

## Family FURNARIIDAE

## SYNALLAXIS CINNAMOMEA BOLIVARI Hartert

*Synallaxis terrestris bolivari* HARTERT, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vol. 37, Mar. 6, 1917, p. 31 (Silla de Caracas, Venezuela).

On November 6 at 2,800 feet elevation on the north slope of the mountains near Rancho Grande, I heard a high-pitched, excited call from a tangle of morning-glory and other low growth beside the road and finally secured an adult male of this bird as it moved about under heavy cover.

## SYNALLAXIS ALBESCENS OCCIPITALIS Madarász

*Synallaxis occipitalis* MADARÁSZ, Ann. Hist. Nat. Mus. Nat. Hungarici, vol. 1, pt. 2, Nov. 18, 1903, p. 463 (El Valle, 3,000 metres, Venezuela).

On November 10 at 3,500 feet elevation near Rancho Grande I heard the chattering call of this bird from high grass on an open bank beside the highway, and after long watching I secured a female in worn plumage. In identifying this specimen I have followed Zimmer<sup>40</sup> who includes the area eastward to Caracas in the range of this form. The crown and shoulder are dark in hue.

## SYNALLAXIS ALBESCENS TRINITATIS Zimmer

*Synallaxis albescens trinitatis* ZIMMER, Amer. Mus. Nov., No. 819, Sept. 17, 1935, p. 2 (Princetown, Island of Trinidad).

On November 19 near El Sombrero I found these birds very common in high grass and weeds near the Río Guarico and collected a male. All seen were in very worn plumage. This bird compared with the one from Rancho Grande has the crown and shoulder distinctly paler, the breast lighter, the flanks distinctly paler, and the sides of the head lighter gray.

## CERTHAXIS CINNAMOMEA FUSCIFRONS (Madarász)

*Synallaxis fuscifrons* MADARÁSZ, Orn. Monatsb., vol. 21, Feb. 1913, p. 22 (Araucaca, Santa Marta District, Colombia).

A female taken at El Sombrero, November 17, typical of this form in having the entire forehead dull olive-gray, marks a southern extension of the range. Near the Meseta this bird flew to a small tree with a little brush about its base growing on a slight hummock in a shallow, very muddy lagoon, and proceeded to move leisurely with constantly jerking tail first through the higher branches and then lower down near the ground. It seemed entirely intent on its own affairs, paying no attention to the passing of other birds, disregarding even hawks. It was equally oblivious to the sticks and stones that I

<sup>40</sup>Amer. Mus. Nov., No. 861, June 22, 1936, pp. 14, 18.

threw at it in an attempt to frighten it to another situation where I could secure it, even when these missiles struck within a foot or two. Finally it flew with quickly undulating flight to a tree on the shore when I shot it.

**CRANIOLEUCA SUBCRISTATA (Sclater)**

*Synallaxis subcristata* SCLATER, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1874, p. 20, pl. 4, fig. 1 (near Caracas, Venezuela).

The only one seen was taken in the valley of the Río Cumboto at 400 feet elevation near Ocumare de la Costa, October 31, as it climbed actively about a tangle of vines at the edge of dense scrub. The dusky streaking on the crown is so indistinct as to be barely made out, and there is no suggestion of a superciliary streak.

**PHACELLODOMUS RUFIFRONS INORNATUS Ridgway**

*Phacellodomus inornatus* RIDGWAY, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 10, July 2, 1887, p. 152 (Caracas, Venezuela).

The nest of sticks of this bird, pendant at the end of a branch, met my eye as I entered the grounds of the Agricultural School, at La Providencia near Maracay, on October 21, my first day afield in Venezuela, and these same structures were seen constantly as I traveled through the country. They were noted at Ocumare de la Costa, where I collected a bird on October 31, at Parapara (specimen) and Ortiz on November 12, and near El Sombrero from November 13 to 21 (specimen November 16). Two skins were secured at Maracay on October 21. The birds frequented tangles of brush and vines, usually in pairs or little groups of half a dozen, and often chattered and scolded about their nests.

**XENICOPSOIDES MONTANUS VENEZUELANUS (Hellmayr)**

*Philydor venezuelanus* HELLMAYR, Rev. Franç. Orn., vol. 2, Apr. 7, 1911, p. 49 (Cumbre de Valencia, Estado Carabobo, Venezuela).

Near Rancho Grande these birds were fairly common. On November 4 two were seen and one taken in dense brush at the edge of the forest, where they appeared near at hand to utter low, querulous notes. The following day I collected a pair at an elevation of 3,700 feet as they clambered about among twigs and leaves. One was seen in a display in which it circled with spread wings among the trees while it called excitedly in a high-pitched tone. Another was taken on November 10 near this same point while it moved rather slowly through low growth in heavy forest.

**PHILYDOR RUFUS COLUMBIANUS Cabanis and Heine**

*Philydor columbianus* CABANIS and HEINE, Museum Heineanum, pt. 2, 1859, p. 29 (Cumbre de Valencia).

The three taken include two females collected at 3,700 and 3,900 feet elevation near Rancho Grande, November 2 and 4, and a male

from lower down on the north slope of the Cordillera de la Costa at 2,600 feet near Los Riitos on November 7. The birds were found working about among creepers and leafy branches in dense forest, except for the one from Los Riitos, which was shot as it flew across the road.

While Cabanis and Heine have given the type locality as "Porto Cabello," Hellmayr<sup>41</sup> has corrected this to Cumbre de Valencia, as the bird is found in the forested mountains and not on the coast.

**THRIPAECTES VIRGATICEPS KLAGESI** (Hellmayr and Seilern)

*Automolus klagesi* HELLMAYR and SEILERN, Verh. Orn. Ges. Bayern, vol. 11, 1912, p. 157 (Cumbre de Valencia, Estado Carabobo, Venezuela).

The only specimen seen was a male taken on November 10 at an elevation of 4,000 feet in El Portachuelo above Rancho Grande. It was moving quietly about in low brush growing in the shade of dense forest. It measures as follows: Wing 89.5, tail imperfect, culmen from base 25.0, tarsus 27.1 mm.

**XENOPS MINUTUS NEGLECTUS** Todd

*Xenops genibarbis neglectus* TODD, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 26, Aug. 8, 1913, p. 173 (Las Quiguas, Estado Carabobo, Venezuela).

The only one seen was taken on October 31 in a tangle of vines at the edge of dense scrub along the Río Cumboto near Ocumare de la Costa. It hung often back down like a titmouse, the light marks on the side of the head showing prominently.

**SCLERURUS ALBIGULARIS ALBIGULARIS** Sclater and Salvin

*Sclerurus albigularis* SCLATER and SALVIN, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1869, p. 630 (Cumbre de Valencia, Estado Carabobo, Venezuela).<sup>42</sup>

At 3,600 feet elevation in El Portachuelo above Rancho Grande, Venezuela, one was taken low down in heavy growth on November 7. Measurements are as follows: Wing 86.8, tail 61.7, culmen from base 23.7, tarsus 23.4 mm.

Family FORMICARIIDAE

**TARABA MAJOR GRANADENSIS** (Cabanis)

*Diallactes granadensis* CABANIS, Journ. für Orn., 1872, p. 234 (Bogotá, Colombia).

Found only at 400 feet elevation along the Río Cumboto near Ocumare de la Costa on October 31. In dense brush one came hopping slowly toward me through the branches, scolding and chattering.

<sup>41</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 4, 1925, p. 205.

<sup>42</sup> Hellmayr, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 4, 1925, p. 247.

It proved to be a juvenile bird fully grown but with the indistinctly barred juvenal plumage on breast, flanks, and back. A few minutes later I secured an adult female.

**SAKESPHORUS CANADENSIS INTERMEDIUS** (Cherrie)

*Hypolophus canadensis intermedius* CHERRIE, Brooklyn Inst. Mus. Sci. Bull., vol. 2, No. 6, 1916, p. 277 (Caicara, Orinoco River, Venezuela).

A common species of highly attractive appearance found in dense scrub. At Ocumare de la Costa specimens were taken on October 28 and 31. Near El Sombrero I collected one each on November 16, 20, and 21, the last one coming from Hato Paya. The birds chattered and scolded at me from cover but were often difficult to find. When seen the raised crest always attracted the eye.

There is considerable variation in color of the back, both in males and females, but all are distinct from the brighter brown *S. c. pulchellus* of farther west. They are identified as *intermedius* tentatively only, with the assumption that probably at least two forms are represented. Males from Ocumare are decidedly grayish brown on the back and have the under tail coverts white without black at the base. The female is duller brown than a female from Trinidad. The males from El Sombrero have larger bills and are lighter, brighter brown on the back. Below the black of the breast is restricted, and the sides are whiter. The female is lighter on the back, has the black streaks on the breast nearly obsolete, and shows more white on the abdomen. It is probable that the specimens from Ocumare represent an undescribed form.

**THAMNOPHILUS DOLIATUS FRATERCULUS** Berlepsch and Hartert

*Thamnophilus doliatus fraterculus* BERLEPSCH and HARTERT, Nov. Zool., vol. 9, 1902, p. 70 (Altagracia, Río Orinoco, Venezuela).

This interesting bird was first taken at Parapara on November 12 and was fairly common near El Sombrero from November 16 to 20. One was observed at Hato Paya on November 21. It was encountered in thorn scrub, where it moved about under cover but was called out into sight without much difficulty. The three collected are females.

**DYSITHAMNUS PLUMBEUS TUCUYENSIS** Hartert

*Dysithamnus tucuyensis* HARTERT, Nov. Zool., vol. 1, 1894, p. 674, pl. 15 (Eucaquito, Tucuyo, Venezuela).

Near Rancho Grande three males were taken on November 3, 6, and 8 at elevations ranging from 3,700 to 4,000 feet. The birds were found in heavy forest, twice in low undergrowth, and once with a little flock of forest birds moving quickly through the treetops. Their



dark-gray coloration made them difficult to see. Two of the birds are immature, one with indistinctly streaked throat suggesting the markings of the female, the other with tiny spots of dull white on the throat and the sides of the head. An adult with the throat plain has a concealed shoulder marking of white that is lacking in the youngest of the other two and only faintly indicated in the other.

**DYSITHAMNUS MENTALIS CUMBREANUS** Hellmayr and Seilern

*Dysithamnus mentalis cumbreanus* HELLMAYR and SEILERN, Verh. Orn. Ges. Bayern, vol. 12, 1915, p. 203 (Las Quiguas, San Esteban Valley, Estado Carabobo, Venezuela).

At Rancho Grande on November 2 and 8 I collected six of these little birds at elevations of 3,900 and 4,000 feet. They ranged in little groups through medium or high levels in heavy forest. They made a regular part of little roving bands of forest birds and hopped and flitted actively, ordinarily behind the cover of leaves. At a distant glance they often suggested warblers.

**MYRMOTHERULA SCHISTICOLOR SANCTAE-MARTAE** Allen

*Myrmotherula sanctae-martae* ALLEN, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 13, Aug. 25, 1906, p. 160 (Valparaiso, Santa Marta region, Colombia).

The four taken near Rancho Grande on November 3, 5, and 6 were obtained at elevations of 3,700 and 3,800 feet in heavy forest. They are tiny birds that ranged in dense brush or in masses of creepers, feeding actively and nervously through the twigs. The series includes one immature male that is paler colored than the adult, that lacks the white tips on the wing coverts, and that has the black throat patch only faintly indicated.

**NEORHOPIAS GRISEA INTERMEDIA** (Cabanis)

*Formicivora intermedia* CABANIS, Arch. Naturg., 1847, p. 225 (Aragua,<sup>43</sup> Venezuela).

In the region around Ocumare de la Costa where five specimens were collected these small birds were common from October 23 to 31, several were seen near Maracay on November 11, and one was taken at Parapara on November 12. Near El Sombrero they were common. They were found in dense scrubs and in growths of weeds and vines near the ground, ordinarily not going higher than the lower limbs of the trees. Near Maracay they were noted in brush-grown pastures, and at El Sombrero I found them in low woods near the river as well as in the drier scrubs. Many were seen at Hato Paya. At a little distance the males often appear entirely black except for the flash of white in the wing bars. The notes are a trilling chatter.

<sup>43</sup> Designated by Hellmayr, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 3, 1924, p. 187.

## CHAMAEZA RUFICAUDA CHIONOGASTER Hellmayr

*Chamaeza turdina chionogaster* HELLMAYR, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vol. 16, May 28, 1906, p. 91 (E. Guacharo, near Caripé, Estado Monagas, Venezuela).

Near Rancho Grande this interesting bird was fairly common. Specimens were taken on November 6 at 3,700 feet and on November 8 at 4,000 feet. Soon after my arrival in this section I began to hear a loud, whistled song from dense growth with no clue as to the musician until one day in El Portachuelo one sang near at hand. I called and watched intently until suddenly a bird moved in the dark shadows of the undergrowth with a rattling of its wings and a moment later I had it in my hand. On November 8 at 4,000 feet elevation in heavy forest with the ground fairly open beneath I saw one within a few feet of me. It walked easily and alertly and then, suddenly, sang its song, a steady repetition of a single whistled note, given slowly at first and then more rapidly and insistently to die away again quickly toward the end. To me this was one of the most interesting of the forest birds.

## GRALLARICULA LORICATA (Sclater)

*Grallaria loricata* SCLATER, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1857, p. 129 (near Caracas, Venezuela).

The only one seen was taken on November 7 at 3,600 feet elevation in El Portachuelo above Rancho Grande. It flew up in heavy undergrowth to rest quietly only a few feet away.

## GRALLARIA HAPLONOTA HAPLONOTA Sclater

*Grallaria haplonota* SCLATER, Ibis, 1877, p. 442 (Venezuela near Caracas<sup>44</sup>).

These interesting birds were found in small numbers along a winding trail through dense, wet forest in El Portachuelo above Rancho Grande. Here I shot an immature female at 3,600 feet on November 4 and a male at 3,900 feet on November 10. One morning as I descended this trail toward noon I had a glimpse of an alert, long-legged bird that ran quickly across a little open space and then disappeared. The following day at the same place one ran down the sloping path and into the cover of leaves at the side. A moment later at a call it ran out suddenly with a quick, robinlike movement and in another moment was in my hand. On November 10 a little higher on the same trail, following a shot I heard a call that for a moment I thought came from some laborer giving me warning that he was in the forest. I wondered casually what had brought a workman into this remote woodland, when suddenly the note came more clearly and I recognized that it was a bird. It was a sound difficult to describe except to say that it was a low-pitched, rather hollow-sounding whistle that I could imitate with sufficient accuracy to

<sup>44</sup> According to Hellmayr, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 3, 1924, p. 338.

draw the bird up within a few feet. It answered me regularly, coming nearer and nearer, until suddenly I found the caller in one of these ant-pittas that appeared with a thrushlike flirt of its wings on a log a few feet away. It eyed me for an instant and then dropped out of sight, but presently it came up again and I secured it. Another was heard farther on at 4,000 feet. The natives know this bird as *pichón*. The breast muscles were moderate in size and light in color, indicating little use. The juvenile bird has a few streaks of cinnamon-buff scattered over the back and sides of the crown.

### Family COTINGIDAE

#### EUCLORNIS FORMOSA FORMOSA (Hartlaub)

*Ampelis formosa* HARTLAUB, Rev. Mag. Zool., 1849, p. 275, pl. 14, fig. 1 (Caracas,<sup>45</sup> Venezuela).

These were birds of the rain forest at Rancho Grande where I secured specimens on November 4, 7, and 10 and where I found them from 3,600 feet upward. They ranged low in heavy undergrowth where they came to feed on a blue colored berry. They moved about rather actively at times and again slowly and deliberately but stopped frequently to rest for a few minutes so that I sometimes had difficulty in seeing them. They are heavy bodied, have a very small oil gland, and the feathers on back and rump are very loosely attached. The adult male is one of the most beautifully colored of all forest birds, with its black head and throat, green back, wings, and tail, white spots on the ends of the tertials, green flanks, and yellow underparts with a large spot of deep red on the upper breast and lower foreneck.

#### PACHYRAMPHUS POLYCHOPTERUS TRISTIS (Kaup)

*Psaris marginatus tristis* KAUP, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1851 (Oct. 28, 1852), p. 48 (Cayenne).<sup>46</sup>

Seen on three occasions near El Sombrero—on November 13, when a female was shot as it moved actively through the branches of a thorn bush; on November 14, when one was seen in dense scrub; and on November 21, when a female was taken in dense woods near Hato Paya, 18 miles northwest.

### Family PIPRIDAE

#### CHIROXIPHIA LANCEOLATA (Wagler)

*Pipra lanceolata* WAGLER, Isis (von Oken), 1830, p. 931 ("Guiana sive Cajenna").

On October 30 near Ocumare de la Costa at the edge of a patch of dense scrub I heard a whistled call, reminiscent of Guatemala, and

<sup>45</sup> The original description says Venezuela only. Caracas is indicated by Hellmayr, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 6, 1929, p. 121.

<sup>46</sup> Designated by Bangs and Penard, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. 64, 1921, p. 337.

soon determined that the note was that of the present species. I secured two here in heavy growth, one low down and the other about 20 feet from the ground. The call seemed somewhat louder than that of *C. linearis*, which I had known elsewhere, and the birds ranged somewhat higher in the thickets. On the following day, now that I knew the note, I found this a common bird along the valley of the Río Cumboto. Here its whistled calls and an occasional mew-ing, scolding note came constantly from the brush where the birds kept to dense cover. As they ordinarily present the breast to the observer and are usually seen indistinctly because of intervening leaves they give the impression of being entirely black. When one flew across the highway, however, my eye caught a flash of light blue from the back.

### Family TYRANNIDAE

#### SAYORNIS NIGRICANS LATIROSTRIS (Cabanis and Heine)

*Aulanax latirostris* CABANIS and HEINE, *Museum Heineanum*, pt. 2, 1859, p. 68 (Bolivia).

In crossing the Cordillera de la Costa on October 22 I was delighted to see this friendly bird as soon as we had reached the elevation of the rain forest below Rancho Grande, and the following day Ventura Barnés, Jr., brought me my first specimen. Later, I secured others on November 3, 5, and 9. The birds were found from an elevation of 1,500 feet on the north side to the summit of the pass in El Portachuelo and were most common above 2,500 feet. They were observed only along the roadway, about cutbanks and at the crossings of barrancas, never penetrating into the forest. In all their mannerisms they recalled the race of the black phoebe of the Southwestern United States. The four taken have the white edgings of wings and tails decidedly more extensive than the three other *latirostris* I have seen (two from Perú and one from the Santa Marta region), a difference due possibly to fresher plumage.

#### FLUVICOLA PICA (Boddart)

*Muscicapa Pica* BODDAERT, *Table des planches enluminées*, 1783, p. 42 (Cayenne).

At Ocumare de la Costa on October 25 I took a male from a shaded perch in a little tree on the playa at Independencia. With steadily twitching tail it moved actively near the ground. On October 29 I watched another for some time as it circled above the water of the lagoon, flapping and turning for minutes at a time and after a rest on some projecting stub continuing its flight. With its pointed wings it resembled a little swallow. At El Sombrero on November 16 I collected one at a nearly dry lagoon located in a small opening in the woods.

*Fluicicola pica* in its broadly white shoulders and the extent of white on the rump and upper tail coverts is so different from *F. albicenter* in which the back is wholly dark and there is only a narrow line of white on the rump that I do not believe it proper to consider them conspecific, at least until intergradation is proved. All that I have seen refer definitely to one group or the other.

**PYROCEPHALUS RUBINUS SATURATUS** Berlepsch and Hartert

*Pyrocephalus rubinus saturatus* BERLEPSCH and HARTERT, Nov. Zool., vol. 9, Apr. 1902, p. 34 (Altagracia, Río Orinoco, Venezuela).

At Ocumare de la Costa I secured a fine adult male as it rested on a shaded perch beneath a little tree on the open playa. This bird is not quite in full plumage, being dark brown on the back. Others were seen here on October 29 and 30. On November 12 and 21 I observed them frequently between Maracay and El Sombrero, and at the latter point they were common from November 13 to 20. A male taken on November 16 is in full plumage, with the upper surface and the under wing coverts sooty black, as is characteristic of this dark race.

**MACHETORNIS RIXOSA FLAVIGULARIS** Todd

*Machetornis rixosa flavigularis* TODD, Ann. Carnegie Mus., vol. 8, May 20, 1912, p. 210 (Tocuyo, Estado Lara, Venezuela).

The southern race of this curious flycatcher has been so well known to me that it was a delight to make the acquaintance of the somewhat yellower northern form when on October 17 I saw two perched on the back of a horse near the little stream in the lower part of the city of Caracas. At Ocumare de la Costa on October 25 and 28 I collected two specimens on the open playa at Independencia, where the birds rested in the tops of small, solitary trees or ran about on the ground among grazing goats and burros. They were seen alone or in groups of two or three and were alert and tame, calling occasionally with weak, squeaky notes. One was taken at La Providencia near Maracay on November 11, and at El Sombrero I saw them on the open prairies from November 15 to 21. On the latter date they were recorded at Hato Paya.

**MUSCIVORA TYRANNUS MONACHUS** (Hartlaub)

*Tyrannus (Milvulus) monachus* HARTLAUB, Rev. Zool., vol. 7, 1844, p. 214 (Guatemala).

The only one recorded was a male taken on November 15 on an open prairie on the Meseta at El Sombrero. In early morning, following a heavy rain, the bird rested on a stick a foot from the ground.

The specimen shows the characters assigned by Zimmer<sup>47</sup> in his review of this species. The two outer primaries are much narrowed at the tip, the narrowed portion being from 2.0 to 2.7 mm. wide and 13.0 to 13.4 mm. long, set off by an abrupt, deep notch from the rest of the feather. The third primary has the narrowed portion 4.5 to 5.0 mm. wide and 15 mm. long, the basal notch not deeply incised. The fourth feather is not modified. The breast is pure white and the back light gray with an indication of a narrow white collar on the hindneck.

**TYRANNUS DOMINICENSIS DOMINICENSIS (Gmelin)**

*Lanius dominicensis* GMELIN, Systema naturae, vol. 1, pt. 1, 1788, p. 302 (Hispaniola).

At Ocumare de la Costa one was taken on October 30, and another was observed the day before. Near El Sombrero a second specimen was collected on November 18, and one was seen on the sixteenth.

**TYRANNUS MELANCHOLICUS CHLORONOTUS Berlepsch**

*Tyrannus chloronotus* BERLEPSCH, Ornith., vol. 14, 1907, p. 474 (Temax, Yucatán).

Three males were taken at Ocumare de la Costa on October 23 and 27 and at El Sombrero on November 18. The birds were common and were seen in the grounds of the American Legation at Caracas on October 17, at Maracay on October 21 and November 11, and along the highway from Maracay to El Sombrero on November 12 and 21.

**EMPIDONOMUS VARIUS SEPTENTRIONALIS Todd**

*Empidonomus varius septentrionalis* TODD, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 29, June 6, 1916, p. 96 (El Trompillo, Estado Carabobo, Venezuela).

At El Sombrero on November 18 I found one in the dry scrub where it rested on open perches.

**MYIODYNASTES CHRYSOCEPHALUS INTERMEDIUS Chapman**

*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus intermedius* CHAPMAN, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 31, July 23, 1912, p. 152 (Las Nubes, 5,000 feet, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia).

Three males were secured in heavy forest near Rancho Grande at elevations ranging from 3,000 to 4,000 feet, where they were found at the edge of an open trail, or in small openings made by a falling tree. They seemed to be true forest birds, reminding me in their choice of haunt of the *Tolmarchus* with which I had been familiar in Haiti and Puerto Rico. The birds are probably commoner than these few observations indicate since they perch quietly in the smaller trees and in the dense growth are easily overlooked.

<sup>47</sup> Amer. Mus. Nov., No. 962, 1937, pp. 4-7.

**CONOPIAS INORNATA (Lawrence)**

*Myiozetetes inornatus* LAWRENCE, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, vol. 9, 1869, p. 268 (Valencia, Venezuela).

At El Sombrero I saw this unusual bird on several occasions. A female was taken on November 15 in a small grove on the open prairie at the Meseta. Others were seen later in similar situations or about small lagoons. In the field they are easily confused with *Myiozetetes c. rufipennis*, as the color pattern is the same in both. *C. inornata* is distinguished by lack of the yellow and orange crown patch, deeper yellow under surface, and slightly larger size. The one taken measures as follows: Wing 93.7, tail 80.8, culmen from base 17.3, tarsus 22.0 mm.

**MYIOZETETES CAYANENSIS RUFIPENNIS Lawrence**

*Myiozetetes rufipennis* LAWRENCE, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, vol. 9, 1869, p. 267 (Valencia, Venezuela).

A common bird in northern Venezuela that was recorded at Caracas on October 17, near Ocumare de la Costa October 28 to 31, and near El Sombrero in November. At Ocumare where the birds were especially common I took a female on October 28. They were found along roads, in pastures, or about lagoons, where the trees grew in open formation. Often they were seen in pairs or in little groups that flew ahead of me with chattering calls, and a flash of yellow color, sometimes displaying the yellow and orange in the crown. The bird taken measures as follows: Wing 83.5, tail 67.5, culmen from base 15.4, tarsus 17.8 mm.

**PITANGUS SULPHURATUS RUFIPENNIS (Lafresnaye)**

*Saurophagus rufipennis* LAFRESNAYE, Rev. Mag. Zool., 1851, p. 471 (Caracas, Venezuela).

Recorded at Maracay on October 21 and November 11 (specimen), Ocumare de la Costa October 23 to 31, and El Sombrero November 13 to 21 (specimen). This is one of the common birds seen in travel in this country.

**MYIARCHUS FEROX VENEZUELENSIS Lawrence**

*Myiarchus venezuelensis* LAWRENCE, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1865, p. 38 (Venezuela).

One was taken on November 20 in wet woodland along the Río Guarico near El Sombrero. It was a long, slender bird that moved slowly through the branches, in such a peculiar manner that at first I took it for a small cuckoo. It proves to be an immature bird, though fully grown, with the rectrices bordered on both webs very narrowly with cinnamon and a brownish wash on the upper tail coverts. Identification to subspecies is made on geographic grounds.

**MYIARCHUS TYRANNULUS TYRANNULUS (Müller)**

*Muscicapa tyrannulus* MÜLLER, Natursystem, Suppl., 1776, p. 169 (Cayenne).

Recorded as follows: Maracay, October 21 (specimen); Ocumare de la Costa, October 25 to 30 (two specimens); El Sombrero, November 13 to 21 (specimen). Birds seen on the open south slopes below the rain forest at Rancho Grande on November 4 and 9 are supposed to have been this form, but of this I was not certain. At Maracay they were found in the tops of fair-sized trees in open groves, but in the dry scrub they rested usually on shaded perches in the larger bushes. I saw them also in the high shade trees over cacao plantations.

**MYIARCHUS TUBERCULIFER TUBERCULIFER (d'Orbigny and Laf. esnaye)**

*Tyrannus tuberculifer* D'ORBIGNY and LAFRESNAYE, Synopsis avium, Mag. Zool., vol. 7, pt. 2, 1837, p. 43 (Guarayos, Bolivia).

One was taken October 21 as it rested on the middle branches of a tree in a grove at La Providencia near Maracay. Another was seen here on November 11.

**NUTTALLORNIS BOREALIS (Swainson): Olive-sided Flycatcher**

*Tyrannus borealis* SWAINSON, Fauna Boreali-Americana, vol. 2, 1831 (Feb. 1832), p. 141, pl. 35 (Carlton House, Saskatchewan).

From November 3 to 10 I saw occasional individuals resting in the dead limbs at the tops of tall trees standing on ridges, where the birds had commanding views over the valleys, or heard their calls as I traveled hidden mountain trails below. Truly this flycatcher must be a connoisseur of mountain scenery, since similar localities make favorite haunts for it on its breeding grounds in the north. The birds are quite fearless, as I shot two parakeets one after the other from a dead tree only a few feet distant from one of these flycatchers, which merely turned its head to watch its larger companions fall.

A male olive-sided flycatcher taken on November 3 was in good flesh but was not fat. It had already begun the molt and renewal of the inner wing feathers. This specimen measured as follows: Wing 107.5, tail 65.8, culmen from base 18, tarsus 15.5 mm.

Recently van Rossem<sup>48</sup> has shown that the name *Muscicapa mesoleuca* Lichtenstein<sup>49</sup> that has been attributed by Hellmayr<sup>50</sup> to the olive-sided flycatcher in reality is *Elaenia mesoleuca* of South America, allowing return to the familiar specific name of *borealis* for the bird here under discussion.

<sup>48</sup> Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., vol. 7, 1934, pp. 350-352.

<sup>49</sup> Prels-Verzeichniss mexicanischer Vögel . . . , 1830, p. 2.

<sup>50</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 5, 1927, p. 189.



The contention that there are two subspecies of olive-sided flycatchers, one that breeds in the eastern part of the United States and Canada and the other in the West, is not borne out by examination of a long series of specimens. There is no difference in color evident that is not due to individual variation. As for size differences, while it is true that the smallest individuals as indicated by wing measurement come from the East and the largest from the West, and that a small average difference in a considerable series from the two areas is evident, the overlap in wing size is so extensive that it covers more than half the individuals seen. In other words, if two races are distinguished more than half the birds examined could be placed in either group. Under these circumstances recognition of two forms is not justified, a matter in which I agree with John T. Zimmer, who has investigated this question with the extensive series in the American Museum of Natural History.

**MYIOCHANES CINEREUS BOGOTENSIS (Bonaparte)**

*Tyrannula bogotensis* BONAPARTE, *Conspectus avium*, vol. 1, 1850, p. 190 (Bogotá, Colombia).

The first one seen was taken in an open grove at La Providencia near Maracay, October 21. Near Ocumare de la Costa I shot another at an elevation of 700 feet in the Río Cumboto Valley, where it rested on an open perch above the road. Another was seen there on October 31. Twelve miles south of El Sombrero on November 13 I obtained one in thorn scrub, where it was flying out from a perch to capture passing insects with a snap of the bill. The bird from Ocumare de la Costa, a female, is darker and a little larger, and measures as follows: Wing 69.0, tail 59.0, culmen from base 13.6, tarsus 12.8 mm. The other two are a little paler above and in the gray of the sides and breast. They measure as follows: Maracay, female, wing 69.0, tail 57.6, culmen from base 13.3, tarsus 12.7 mm.; El Sombrero, male, wing 67.3, tail 56.2, culmen from base 14.5, tarsus 13.4 mm. While indicating perhaps an approach toward the paler forms of farther south they are definitely *bogotensis*.

**MYIOCHANES FUMIGATUS CINERACEUS (Lafresnaye)**

*Tyrannula cineracea* LAFRESNAYE, *Rev. Zool.*, vol. 11, 1848, p. 7 (Caracas, Venezuela).

Two were taken at Rancho Grande on November 4 and 9. The birds were common in the rain forest and were observed from 2,600 to 3,500 feet, probably ranging higher. Like the olive-sided flycatcher they seek perches on dead branches in the tops of tall trees where they have a commanding outlook. They were seen frequently near the highway as it was open here, and in the forest I often heard

their clear calls of *whit pray teer*, when the birds themselves were invisible above.

Measurements of these two are as follows: Male, wing 88.8, tail 72.0, culmen from base 17.0, tarsus 14.7 mm.; female, wing 80.4, tail 71.6, culmen from base 16.6, tarsus 14.1 mm.

While I have used here the generic name *Myiochanes*, under the International Code there will be return to the older title *Contopus* for the generic name of this group of flycatchers.

**PYRRHOMYIAS VIEILLOTOIDES VIEILLOTOIDES (Lafresnaye)**

*Muscicapa (Tyrannula) vieillotoides* LAFRESNAYE, Rev. Zool., vol. 11, 1848, p. 174 (Caracas, Venezuela).

On October 22 as I crossed the Cordillera de la Costa in company with Dr. Henri Pittier at an elevation of 2,850 feet near Los Riitos below Rancho Grande I collected a fine pair of this species. The birds were resting among vines hanging from the face of a steep bank at the edge of heavy forest and were evidently mated.

These two attracted attention by their darker coloration and led to the description of the paler race *spadix* from the Cumauá region.<sup>51</sup>

**TOLMOMYIAS SULPHURESCENS EXORTIVUS (Bangs)**

*Rhynchocyclus sulphurescens exortivus* BANGS, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 21, July 27, 1908, p. 163 (La Concepción, Santa Marta region, Colombia).

At El Sombrero these birds were fairly common, three specimens being taken on November 18 and 21 (the last at Hato Paya). These three appear brighter yellow on the under surface and greener on the crown than the single specimen from the Santa Marta region at hand, and they are also a little smaller. They measure as follows: One male, wing 64.5, tail 51.3, culmen from base 12.6, tarsus 17.9 mm.; two females, wing 59.5, 62.8, tail 52.3, 55.5, culmen from base 13.0, 14.7, tarsus 17.8, 18.0 mm.

**TOLMOMYIAS FLAVIVENTRIS AURULENTUS (Todd)**

*Rhynchocyclus flaviventris aurulentus* TODD, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 26, Aug. 8, 1913, p. 171 (Mamatoco, Santa Marta region, Colombia).

The three taken come from Ocumare de la Costa, October 30; Maracay, November 11; and El Sombrero, November 14. The birds were found in thickets and open brush where they moved about actively. At El Sombrero it was interesting to find this species, smaller and brighter yellow in color, with the somewhat larger, more greenish *T. sulphurescens exortivus*.

<sup>51</sup> *Pyrrhomyias vieillotoides spadix* Wetmore, Smithsonian Misc. Coll., vol. 98, No. 4, Mar. 10, 1939, p. 5 (Los Palmes, elevation 450 meters, Estado Monagas, Venezuela).

**TODIROSTRUM SYLVIA GRISEOLUM** Todd

*Todirostrum schistaceiceps griseolum* TODD, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 26, Aug. 8, 1913, p. 170 (El Hacha, Bolívar Railroad, Estado Lara, Venezuela).

A male was taken in dense scrub at La Trilla at an elevation of 250 feet inland from Ocumare de la Costa on October 23. The several species of small flat-billed flycatchers with grayish breasts, yellowish flanks, and more or less greenish backs found in this area make field observations difficult. The present race has the bill entirely black, the head darker, and the back and the wing feathers unmodified.

**TODIROSTRUM CINEREUM CINEREUM** (Linnaeus)

*Todus cinereus* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 12, vol. 1, 1766, p. 178 (Surinam).

Two females were taken at Maracay October 21, and 12 miles south of El Sombrero on November 13. Several were seen at Ocumare de la Costa on October 28 and 30. They were found in dense brush or scrub, or in tangles of branches and vines, sometimes 30 feet from the ground, where they often moved about actively, more like warblers than flycatchers.

**EUSCARTHMORNIS IMPIGER** (Sclater and Salvin)

*Euscarthmus impiger* SCLATER and SALVIN, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1868, p. 171, pl. 13, fig. 1 (near Caracas, Venezuela).

At Ocumare de la Costa a female was taken on October 27, and others were seen on October 28 and 31. They were observed at Maracay on November 11, and two more were taken at El Sombrero on November 13 and 19, the last locality being a definite extension of the previously known range. It is probable that in common with certain other species they range down through the belt of thorn scrub to the region of savannas. The iris in a female was pale yellow. These birds hopped among the branches like little vireos, moving deliberately and pausing to look quietly about with tail hanging straight down. Sometimes one darted out to seize an insect on the wing. The light-colored eye was always noticeable.

**ATALOTRICCUS PILARIS VENEZUELENSIS** Ridgway

*Atalotriccus pilaris venezuelensis* RIDGWAY, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 19, Sept. 6, 1906, p. 115 (San Antonio, Estado Monagas, Venezuela).

A female taken at Maracay on October 21 hopped quickly about in vines and branches 20 feet from the ground. On November 19 I secured a male near El Sombrero as it moved slowly near the ground in dry scrub. Neither of these birds shows any approach to the dark-headed race *griseiceps* of farther south, back and crown being uniform clear green. Specimens in the American Museum of Natural History from the hills of Quebrada Seca, the Santa Ana Valley, and Rincón of San Antonio, in northeastern Venezuela (from the area from which the race *venezuelensis* was described), have the crown very slightly darker

than the back. The two birds that I secured seem to represent a transition stage from the bird of the region mentioned to the Colombian form *A. p. pilaris*, which is duller green above.

**POGONOTRICCUS OPHTHALMICUS** Taczanowski

*Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus* TACZANOWSKI, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, June 1874, p. 135 (Amable-Maria, Montaña de Vitoc, Dept. Junín, Perú).

Near Rancho Grande a female was taken November 2 at 3,900 feet, and a male November 5 at 3,700 feet. Both were hopping about among vines in dense forest. While these birds from Venezuela are listed as the same as those from Perú I doubt very much that this is true, without having material for definite comparison. Measurements of the two from Rancho Grande are as follows: Male, wing 59.7, tail 54.3, culmen from base 10.6, tarsus 16 mm.; female, wing 54.7, tail 49.6, culmen from base 10.8, tarsus 14.7 mm.

**CAPSIEMPIS FLAVEOLA CERULA** Wetmore

*Capsiempis flaveola cerula* WETMORE, Smithsonian Misc. Coll., vol. 98, No. 4, 1939, p. 6 (Independencia, Ocumare de la Costa, Estado Aragua, Venezuela).

Near Ocumare de la Costa these birds were fairly common, specimens being taken on October 23, 28, and 31. They were found in growths of scrub, sometimes in more open localities, and sometimes in the denser growth. They move alertly among the leaves like vireos or titmice. On October 23 I saw a female collecting nesting material.

These specimens from Ocumare de la Costa with a considerable series from the Orinoco region serve to separate the Venezuelan birds as a distinct race, a matter that has been suspected by other workers. The new form differs from *Capsiempis flaveola flaveola* in having the lores and the feathers behind the nostril distinctly whitish and the throat whiter. Skins from the Orinoco Valley vary slightly toward the typical form but still are distinct. *Capsiempis flaveola leucophrys* has the throat much more extensively white, the underparts duller yellow, the back duller green and is larger in size. The race *cerula* ranges throughout Venezuela so far as is known at present.

**INEZIA SUBFLAVA CAUDATA** (Salvin)

*Capsiempis caudata* SALVIN, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vol. 7, 1897, p. 16 (Ourumee, British Guiana).

On November 14 I secured one of these interesting birds in dense scrub near El Sombrero. Another was seen on November 18, and on November 20 I shot two in low woods along the Río Guarico. They were found moving through branches low down near the ground. This seems to be a northern record for the species.

From specimens from the upper Orinoco and the Casiquiare, which I have called *I. s. subflava*, these differ in lighter, more brownish

upper surface with a grayish wash on the forehead, broader white wing bars, more white on the throat, and slightly lighter yellow under surface. A male measures as follows: Wing 51.8, tail 52.3, culmen from base 11.5, tarsus 17.8 mm. The sex could not be determined on one of the other specimens, and the third seems to be immature.

**ELAENIA CRISTATA** Pelzeln

*Elainea cristata* PELZELN, Zur Ornithologie Brasiliens, pt. 2, 1869, p. 177 (City of Goyaz, Brazil).

Near La Trilla, toward the mountains to the south of Ocumare de la Costa, at an elevation of 250 feet, I secured an adult female with a grown young bird, in the tops of bushes in an open thicket. The identification of these two birds has offered some difficulty and has been made only after careful study of extensive material in the National Museum and in the American Museum of Natural History. There is no question that they represent *cristata*, which heretofore has been recorded north only to the Orinoco, and also there is little doubt that they belong to a race that has still to be recognized systematically. *E. cristata* differs from related species in decidedly larger bill and in larger, heavier feet and tarsi. In these characters the two birds from La Trilla are well marked. The adult female, however, is definitely darker above than skins from farther south and seems to have bill and feet even larger than the average. As has just been stated these two represent an undescribed form but more material is required to properly delimit it. The specimens represent a new record for northern Venezuela.

**ELAENIA VIRIDICATA PALLENS** (Bangs)

*Myiopagis placens pallens* BANGS, Proc. New England Zool. Club, vol. 3, Mar. 31, 1902, p. 85 (Santa Marta, Colombia).

At El Sombrero on November 15 I shot an adult male as it moved about near the ground in a little grove at the edge of the prairie on the Meseta. On November 18 I secured an immature bird in heavy growth when it was working quietly through the limbs. This individual, which is decidedly smaller than the other, apparently because of its immaturity, has the crown dull brown except for two or three small feathers that mark the anterior section of the light crown streak. The back has a mixture of dull brown, and the wing coverts are dull brown centrally, with slightly paler, brighter edgings.

**ELAENIA FLAVOGASTER FLAVOGASTER** (Thunberg)

*Pipra flavogaster* THUNBERG, Mem. Acad. Imp. Sci. St. Pétersbourg, vol. 8, 1822, p. 286 (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

This common species was taken first at Maracay on October 21, when I found one hopping actively through a treetop at La Provi-

dencia. Near Ocumare de la Costa on October 28 and 30 they were common about berry-bearing shrubs in dense scrub where they kept carefully under cover. Three were taken there. Near El Sombrero they were seen on various occasions, and one was taken on November 13.

Lönberg<sup>52</sup> who identified Thunberg's type said that it was marked as from Brazil. Hellmayr<sup>53</sup> has designated Rio de Janeiro as the type locality.

**SUBLEGATUS MODESTUS GLABER** Sclater and Salvin

*Sublegatus glaber* SCLATER and SALVIN, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1868, p. 171, pl. 13, fig. 2, and text figure (Caracas, Venezuela).

One was taken at Ocumare de la Costa on October 27 and another at El Sombrero on November 18. The birds were found in growths of scrub where they moved about in the branches of low trees.

While in the original description Sclater indicates only "in Venezuela" as a locality, on page 168 in a table in which "the exact localities are added when they are stated on the specimens," the bird is listed from "Caracas." Specimens from Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, and Margarita at first glance appear paler, grayer above than others, but while many of the mainland birds appear darker numerous specimens can be found from Venezuela that match the island skins exactly.

**PHAEOMYIAS MURINA INCOMTA** (Cabanis and Heine)

*Elainea incomta* CABANIS and HEINE, Museum Heineanum, pt. 2, 1859, p. 59 (Cartagena, Colombia).

The four specimens obtained were secured at Maracay, October 21, Ocumare de la Costa, October 28, and El Sombrero, November 17 and 19. The birds were found in thorn scrub, or other thickets, sometimes where the growth was fairly open and again in the denser areas. They were usually rather low down and moved slowly through the branches. The light line, partly concealed by overlying feathers, running along the side of the head behind the eye is a distinctive mark with the bird in the hand. The bird from Ocumare is partially albinistic with a few yellowish-white feathers scattered over the back.

**CAMPTOSTOMA OBSOLETUM NAPAEUM** (Ridgway)

*Ornithion napaenum* RIDGWAY, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 10, Aug. 6, 1888, p. 520 (Diamantina, near Santarem, Brazil).

The only one seen, a female, was taken near El Sombrero, November 18, as it worked about a clump of a parasitic plant in a small

<sup>52</sup> Ibis, 1903, pp. 241-242.

<sup>53</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 5, 1927, p. 402.

thorn bush. The tips of the greater coverts are white, those of the lesser coverts deep olive-buff, the two wing bands being thus distinctly different in color. The bird is slightly grayer above than specimens from the type locality. It measures as follows: Wing 46.3, tail 33.9, culmen from base 9, tarsus 14.1 mm.

**MIONECTES OLIVACEUS VENEZUELENSIS** Ridgway

*Mionectes olivaceus venezuelensis* RIDGWAY, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 19, Sept. 6, 1906, p. 116 (Guacharo, Estado Monagas, Venezuela).

The first of these curious birds was shot at an elevation of 700 feet in dense rain forest in a deep ravine above the Río Cumboto near Ocumare de la Costa. Others were taken in heavy forest near Rancho Grande on November 5 and 10. They moved through the branches with the mannerisms of a titmouse or a vireo, ranging low down in undergrowth near the ground.

These three differ slightly from three others examined, including the type, in the American Museum of Natural History in being slightly brighter yellow below, not only on the abdomen but also on the chest and foreneck. In this they indicate a slight approach toward *M. o. galbinus* from the Santa Marta region in Colombia.

**Family HIRUNDINIDAE**

**IRIDOPROCNE ALBIVENTER** (Boddaert)

*Hirundo albiventer* BODDAERT, Table des planches enluminées, 1783, p. 32 (Cayenne).

On November 14 on the Meseta at El Sombrero several alighted on bare spots of ground on the open prairie and remained there for some time. Others flew actively about or rested on vines. In the air or at rest the white markings were striking. Two adult males were taken. On November 20 I saw several along the Río Guarico.

**STELGIDOPTERYX RUFICOLLIS AEQUALIS** Bangs

*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis aequalis* BANGS, Proc. New England Zoöl. Club, vol. 2, 1901, p. 58 (Santa Marta, Colombia).

This swallow was common along the roadside through the coast range near Guamitas above Maracay and through the foothill country back of the northern coastal plain from October 22 to November 10. The birds were found alone, in pairs, or in little groups where the highways were bordered by rocky cuts. As I approached they circled out from little openings in the bank where they were evidently preparing to nest, sometimes alighting on bare, dead branches in the tops of trees nearby, but more often disappearing out over the valleys not to return until I had passed. The fact that they seemed rather

shy was explained by the small boys who practiced marksmanship on them with stones if they stopped nearby.

Near El Sombrero from November 14 to 20 these swallows were recorded in open country, or more frequently along the Río Guarico. In early morning they often alighted on bare ground on the prairies or along the roads.

On the wing this swallow appears plain gray-brown and white, the rufous brown of the throat and upper breast and the yellowish color of the abdomen showing rarely and then only under the most favorable conditions of light. They have the circling indecisive flight of all small swallows, and in general appearance and habits suggest the northern roughwing, though the call note is louder and sharper.

Three specimens were obtained, a male taken at El Limón, above Maracay, October 30, by Ventura Barnés, Jr., and two females shot near Rancho Grande on November 3 and 9. All these have the rump decidedly paler than the back, the extent of this lighter color varying in the three. One of the females is renewing the outer primaries in molt. In the male the roughened serration of the outer web of the outer primary is decidedly more evident than in the females.

**HIRUNDO RUSTICA ERYTHROGASTER** Boddaert: Barn Swallow

*Hirundo erythrogaster* BODDAERT, Table des planches enluminées, 1783, p. 45 (Cayenne).

At Ocumare de la Costa from October 23 to 31 the migrant barn swallow was common, resting on wires at the houses near the beach at Independencia or circling over the open flats. On November 13 I saw one 12 miles south of El Sombrero.

On my return north, on November 26 a female followed the ship, the *Caracas*, all day, and at nightfall we were only a short distance from the southeastern coast of Puerto Rico. The bird through following this course thus was returning northward, though it was the time of fall migration.

I have indicated elsewhere my belief that our American barn swallow is a geographic race of the bird of the Old World.

**PYGOCHELIDON CYANOLEUCA CYANOLEUCA** (Vieillot)

*Hirundo cyanoleuca* VIEILLOT, Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat., vol. 14, 1817, p. 509 (Paraguay).

At Rancho Grande numbers of these swallows were found about the hotel near El Portachuelo during the early part of November.



## Family CORVIDAE

## XANTHOURA YNCAS CAERULEOCEPHALA (Dubois)

*Cyanocorax yncas* var. *caeruleocephala* DUBOIS, Bull. Acad. Roy. Belgique, vol. 38, 1874, p. 493 (Caracas, Venezuela).

In the mountain forests at Rancho Grande this jay was fairly common and was seen to 3,600 feet elevation. They ranged in heavy cover and were secretive but usually could be decoyed out into the open by an imitation of their notes. They were found here and elsewhere in little flocks of 6 to 10. One morning at sunrise such a band came into the lower garden at the house, where I could watch them from above as they worked through low bushes or came out to hop about on the ground, a beautiful and attractive sight. One was taken here on November 2. They were also noted near El Sombrero, one flock being seen in the scrub 12 miles south, which must be near the southern limit of their range. Another was shot near the town on November 18. In this area they frequented dense growths of the larger trees, often in localities where the ground was open underneath. Sometimes through curiosity they came within a few feet of me, and frequently two or three perched near together on the same branch. While some of their notes were peculiar other calls resembled those of the blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) of the Eastern United States. They were known as *kinkin* from one of their common notes.

## Family TROGLODYTIDAE

## HELEODYTES NUHALIS BREVIPENNIS (Lawrence)

*Campylorhynchus brevipennis* LAWRENCE, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, vol. 8, 1866, p. 344 (Venezuela).

At Maracay these birds were seen on November 11; at Cagua, Estado Aragua, one was taken on November 12; and at El Sombrero, where the birds were common, one was collected on November 14. They were observed at Hato Paya on November 21. These wrens are found in dense thickets or in tangles of vines and branches, ranging from near the ground to the tops of tall trees. Attention is called to them ordinarily by their explosive, grating, croaking notes, so grotesque in sound as to be most amusing, and so unusual in type as to suggest some strange frog rather than a bird. The wrens move about actively but when alarmed remain motionless and hide so that a little flock seen in vines in some treetop may disappear completely.

The barred, spotted plumage of black and white, with gray on the crown and more or less brown on the hind neck and upper back, is subject to considerable variation in these birds. After examining

considerable material I offer the following segregation into geographic races:

**HELEODYTES NUCHALIS NUCHALIS (Cabanis):**

*Campylorhynchus nuchalis* CABANIS, Arch. Naturg., vol. 13, 1847, p. 206 (Cumaná, Venezuela).

Less heavily spotted below, throat and upper foreneck unmarked, bill smaller.

A fair series from Cumaná and San Felix show the extreme development of these characters, being less heavily marked below than birds from the Orinoco.

Orinoco Valley from Caicara to Ciudad Bolívar (probably farther) extending to the northeast to the Cumaná region.

**HELEODYTES NUCHALIS BREVIPENNIS (Lawrence):**

*Campylorhynchus brevipennis* LAWRENCE, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, vol. 8, 1866, p. 344 (Venezuela).

Much more heavily spotted below, the markings extending over foreneck, blackish crown markings more extensive and prominent, gray of crown darker, bill large and heavy.

Northern Venezuela south through the Aragua Valley.

**HELEODYTES NUCHALIS PARDUS (Sclater):**

*Campylorhynchus pardus* SCLATER, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1857 (Jan. 1858), p. 271 (Santa Marta, Colombia).

Black spottings on lower surface reduced, pileum lighter gray, bill large and heavy.

Northern Colombia, including Santa Marta region.

The specimen from El Sombrero is intermediate toward *nuchalis* but shows more of the characters of *brevipennis*. The bird from Cagua also seems to verge a little toward the southern form.

**HELEODYTES MINOR MINOR Cabanis**

*Heleodytes minor* CABANIS, Museum Heineanum, pt. 1, 1851, p. 80 (Venezuela).

Near El Sombrero these large wrens were found in groves on the Meseta or along the borders of the adjacent scrub. Their croaking, choking calls were similar to those of the related form with barred and spotted plumage *Heleodytes nuchalis*, but were harsher, suggesting even more the grotesque calls of some frog or toad. In calling they often pose with swelling throat, bill pointed perpendicularly, and the tail hanging straight down. These birds sought cover but were found both near the ground and high in the trees, where they examined bark and leaves in search of food. They were seen usually in pairs and were quite tame.

These specimens show no approach to *H. m. albicilius*.

**THRYOPHILUS RUFALBUS CUMANENSIS (Cabanis)**

*Troglodytes cumanensis* "Licht." CABANIS, Journ. für Orn., 1860, p. 408 (Cartagena, Colombia).

On October 24 in a deep, wooded ravine above the Río Cumboto, near Ocumare de la Costa, I saw two of these wrens working about near the ground. They scolded in wren fashion and then disappeared, but by careful watching I took one, an immature female. This bird has the duller dorsal coloration of these wrens in northern Venezuela.

While Hellmayr<sup>54</sup> has adopted van Rossem's suggestion<sup>55</sup> that *Pheugopedius* and *Thryophilus* be merged, as well as possibly *Thryothorus*, I am not prepared to accept this until the whole matter has been more carefully studied.

**THRYOPHILUS LEUCOTIS VENEZUELANUS (Cabanis)**

*Thryothorus venezuelanus* CABANIS, Museum Heineanum, vol. 1, 1851, p. 78 (Venezuela).

At Ocumare de la Costa on October 30 I secured two of these wrens after much patient labor in low scrub where they inhabited the densest cover. One is an immature female that has just completed the molt into the first adult plumage. This specimen measures as follows: Wing 59.5, tail 40.8, culmen from base 18.3, tarsus 19.7 mm. The other, an adult female, is in full molt on the body and head.

**THRYOPHILUS LEUCOTIS HYPOLEUCUS Berlepsch and Hartert**

*Thryophilus albipectus hypoleucus* BERLEPSCH and HARTERT, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vol. 12, Oct. 30, 1901, p. 12 (Altagracia, Río Orinoco, Venezuela).

On November 20 I secured an adult male at El Sombrero in a tangle of vines and branches in low woods near the Río Guarico. This specimen is much paler than the two from Ocumare de la Costa, being nearly white on the throat and breast, with the color of the flanks and posterior underparts paler, and is grayer above, except for the tail, which is lighter, brighter brown. It measures as follows: Wing 62.1, tail 43.8, culmen from base 18.5, tarsus 21.3 mm. It agrees with skins from Soledad and Ciudad Bolívar and marks a considerable extension in the range of this form.

**PHEUGOPEDIUS MYSTACALIS RUFICAUDATUS (Berlepsch)**

*Thryothorus ruficaudatus* BERLEPSCH, Ibis, 1883, p. 491 (Puerto Cabello, Venezuela).

The only specimen of this rare bird secured was shot in heavy forest at an elevation of 3,900 feet above Rancho Grande, where it was working through branches and creepers not far above the ground

<sup>54</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 7, 1934, p. 153.

<sup>55</sup> Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., vol. 6, 1930, p. 208.

in company with other small forest birds. It seemed a most unusual type of wren.

**TROGLODYTES MUSCULUS CLARUS** Berlepsch and Hartert

*Troglodytes musculus clarus* BERLEPSCH and HARTERT, Nov. Zool., vol. 9, Apr. 1902, p. 8 (Bartica Grove, British Guiana).

This house wren was seen at all points visited, beginning with the grounds of the American Legation at Caracas on October 17. At Ocumare de la Costa one was taken on October 28, and birds were in song about the house where I lived during the rest of my stay. In the mountains, near Rancho Grande, the wren was found in clearings about houses, and one was taken on November 7 at Los Riitos. Near El Sombrero the bird was common, and a breeding male was taken on November 20 near the Río Guarico, where, with a female in attendance, it was singing about holes in trees along an old road. The song, while generally similar to that of *Troglodytes aëdon* of the United States, is sharper in tone and more emphatic, particularly at its close. Part of the scolding notes, however, are distinctly different. The bird frequents tangles of vines and low bushes near the ground, and in its habits seems identical with the northern house wrens.

**HENICORHINA LEUCOPHRYS VENEZUELENSIS** Hellmayr

*Henicorhina leucophrys venezuelensis* HELLMAYR, Journ. für Orn., 1903, p. 530 (Mount Bucarito, near Tocuyo, Estado Lara, Venezuela).

Near Rancho Grande from November 2 to 10 this wren was one of the commonest birds of the heavy forest. Six specimens were taken. The birds ranged in the densest woodland, and were seen up to 4,000 feet elevation, probably going higher. They were also found where the thickets were sufficiently dense along the roadways when the forest proper had been cleared away. They ranged near the ground, being partial to dead falls and similar shelter, always in damp, shadowy locations where their dull colors made it difficult to see them except when they were in motion. They were tame and frequently came within a few feet of me.

They were found always in pairs. The loud, clear song, to be described as vociferous rather than highly musical, was given ordinarily as a duet in which both male and female joined. One bird, presumably the male, begins with notes of two or three kinds, while the other sounds a single call that is given in sequence in the intervals between calls of the other, so that at a little distance the whole sounds like the effort of one individual. Only with the birds near the observer can the two be separated. If one gives the calls first mentioned without response from its mate immediately it ceases to sing. The two range in company exactly as do the Carolina wrens *Thryothorus ludovicianus* of the United States.

The specimens taken at Rancho Grande are slightly grayer on the breast than one from El Limón, near Caracas.

### Family MIMIDAE

#### MIMUS GILVUS MELANOPTERUS Lawrence

*Mimus melanopterus* LAWRENCE, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, vol. 5, May 1849, p. 35, pl. 2 (Venezuela).

At Ocumare de la Costa from October 22 to 31 these large, light-colored mockingbirds were common through the dry scrub and in scattered trees over the open playa back of the lagoon. As I approached them in this open area they retreated to little thorny trees to hide. They sang, sometimes from the tops of houses, with leisurely effort, without great energy. Two were taken on October 25 and 26. Along the highway from Maracay to El Sombrero on November 12 and 21 mockers were fairly common, and at El Sombrero I noted them daily from November 13 to 21. Two were shot here on November 14.

### Family TURDIDAE

#### TURDUS FUMIGATUS AQUILONALIS (Cherrie)

*Planesticus fumigatus aquilonalis* CHERRIE, Mus. Brooklyn Inst. Arts Sci., Sci. Bull., vol. 1, June 30, 1909, p. 387 (Heights of Aripo, Trinidad).

On October 23 at an elevation of 250 feet near La Trilla, inland from Ocumare de la Costa, I shot one of these brown-breasted thrushes from a shaded perch where it had flown from a fruit-bearing tree.

#### TURDUS LEUCOMELAS ALBIVENTER Spix

*Turdus albiventer* SPIX, Avium species novae . . . Brasiliam, vol. 1, 1824, p. 70, pl. 69, fig. 2 (Pará, Brazil).<sup>56</sup>

On November 17 near El Sombrero I shot an immature female from a little group of three or four that flew up from near the ground to shaded perches in the tops of tall trees. The others disappeared instantly at the discharge of my gun.

This northern race is given as *epphipialis* by Hellmayr,<sup>57</sup> but with only limited material at hand for comparison, it appears to me that Todd<sup>58</sup> is correct in calling it *albiventer*.

<sup>56</sup> The original description gives "Minas Geraes et Parae," which is restricted to Pará by Hellmayr, Abb. Kön. Bayer. Akad. Wiss., Kl. II, vol. 22, 1906, p. 618.

<sup>57</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 7, 1934, p. 401.

<sup>58</sup> Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 44, June 29, 1931, p. 52.

## Family SYLVIIDAE

## POLIOPTILA PLUMBEA PLUMBICEPS Lawrence

*Polioptila plumbeiceps* LAWRENCE, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, vol. 17, 1865, p. 37 (Venezuela).

In the somewhat open scrub covering the hot hillsides near Ocumare de la Costa, from October 23 to 31, this was one of the most prominent of the small birds, as whenever I paused for a moment in the shade of a tree in traveling the trails I was almost certain to see a gnatcatcher working through the twigs with wings dropped and tail at a jaunty angle above its back. Four were taken here, a pair at La Trilla on October 23 and others near Independencia on October 25 and 26. Near Maracay I shot another on November 11, and at El Sombrero I saw them regularly from November 13 to 20. In form and mannerisms these birds are identical with other gnatcatchers that I have known. The song is a simple *swees swees swees swee*, a pleasing trilling note of more volume than that of *Polioptila caerulea* of the United States. Natives at Ocumare called them *blanquitas*, though I was not entirely certain that this was not a descriptive term rather than a true name. Both male and female had the dark spot on either side of the base of the tongue that I have seen in other species of the genus.

The male and four females at hand all have the feathers behind the nostrils distinctly whitish, a marking that I do not find in any other specimens assigned to *plumbiceps* that are available. The mark is especially prominent in the male.

## Family CYCLARHIDAE

## CYCLARHIS GUYANENSIS FLAVIPECTUS Sclater

*Cyclorhis flavipectus* SCLATER, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1858 (1859), p. 448 (Trinidad).

The four specimens taken include a male from Maracay, November 11, another from Ortiz, November 12, and a pair from El Sombrero, November 16 and 21, the latter from Hato Paya. One chattered harshly from concealment among leaves in the grounds of the American Legation at Caracas on October 17. The bird collected at Ortiz was singing a clear, whistled song as it moved leisurely through a treetop. At El Sombrero they were seen in open scrub on the uplands and in wet woodlands along the Río Guarico.

The specimens are identified in accordance with the treatment of Hellmayr,<sup>69</sup> who notes that the type specimen in the British Museum is from Trinidad.

<sup>69</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, p. 8, 1935, p. 193.

## Family VIREONIDAE

## HYLOPHILUS AURANTIFRONS SATURATA (Hellmayr)

*Pachysylvia aurantiifrons saturata* HELLMAYR, Nov. Zool., vol. 13, Feb. 1906, p. 12 (Rincón de San Antonio, Estado Sucre, Venezuela).

These are little forest birds that I encountered first at Ocumare de la Costa, where one was taken on October 24, at an elevation of 700 feet above the Río Cumboto in the middle level of the trees in heavy forest. It was in company with a band of other small forest birds. At El Sombrero on November 20 I found a little flock in low, wet woods near the Río Guarico and shot three. One sang steadily in a most amusing manner repetition of the phrase *re-seárch re-seárch* as all fed with the restless motion of little warblers through the smaller branches.

The skins from El Sombrero are slightly more yellowish below than the average of those from farther east and north.

## HYLOPHILUS FLAVIPES ACUTICAUDUS Lawrence

*Hylophilus acuticaudus* LAWRENCE, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1865, p. 37 (Puerto La Cruz, Estado Aragua, Venezuela).<sup>60</sup>

Near Ocumare de la Costa two were taken on October 26 and 28 in dense scrub, where they moved rather slowly through branches near the ground, in habits suggesting somewhat the typical vireos. One shot near El Sombrero on November 18 was rather more active in dense tree growth bordering a dry wash.

## Family COEREBIDAE

## COEREBA FLAVEOLA LUTEOLA (Cabanis)

*Certhiola luteola* CABANIS, Museum Heineanum, vol. 1, 1851, p. 96 (Puerto Cabello(?), Venezuela).

A common bird in suitable localities. On October 17 several were seen in the grounds of the American Legation in Caracas. Near Ocumare de la Costa from October 25 to 31 they were found in numbers in the dry scrub near Independencia, particularly about flowering trees, where they flitted about, pursuing one another, and then turned to the nectar of the blossoms. Three were taken here on October 25 and 26. Others were seen in shade trees over a cacao plantation, and in woodlands along the Río Cumboto. At La Providencia near Maracay on November 11 one was seen carrying nesting material, and a female taken was in breeding condition. Others were seen at Parapara and Ortiz November 12, and from November 13 to 21 they were found in fair numbers near El Sombrero, one being taken on November 19.

<sup>60</sup> Type locality designated by Todd, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 42, 1929, p. 198.

The specimens from Ocumare de la Costa and Maracay are typical of *luteola* in dark dorsal coloration, deep yellow of underparts and rump, and large white spot on the outer primaries. The skin from El Sombrero is distinctly grayer above but otherwise is similar. It indicates the beginning of an approach to *guianensis*.

### Family COMPSOTHYLPIDAE

#### MNIOTILTA VARIA (Linnaeus): Black and White Warbler

*Motacilla varia* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 12, vol. 1, 1766, p. 333 (Hispaniola).

At Rancho Grande on November 3 I shot an adult female in heavy forest at 3,700 feet elevation. The bird was not fat but was in good condition. On November 8 at 4,000 feet I collected an adult male from a flock of small forest-inhabiting birds. The men with me examined it as a curiosity and considered it the most interesting of the many strange birds that I took this day, an interest that increased when I told them that it was a migrant from my own country.

#### COMPSOTHYLPIS PITIAYUMI ELEGANS Todd

*Compsothlypis pitiauyumi elegans* TODD, Ann. Carnegie Mus., vol. 8, May 20, 1912, p. 204 (Anzoategui, Estado Lara, Venezuela).

On October 24 I shot one in rain forest at 700 feet elevation above the Río Cumboto southwest of Ocumare de la Costa, where the bird was found in the higher branches of the trees. On November 13 I took one in dense scrub 12 miles south of El Sombrero and recorded another near the town on November 18.

#### DENDROICA AESTIVA AESTIVA (Gmelin)

*Motacilla aestiva* GMELIN, Systema naturae, vol. 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 996 (Canada).

One seen at Caracas in the grounds of the American Legation, October 17, an adult male taken at Maracay, October 21, from a tall tree in open forest at the border of a plantation, and one seen on November 19 and an adult female taken on November 20 near the Río Guarico at El Sombrero constitute the records made for this northern migrant.

#### DENDROICA CAERULESCENS CAERULESCENS (Gmelin): Black-throated Blue Warbler

*Motacilla caerulescens* GMELIN, Systema naturae, vol. 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 960 (Hispaniola).

At Ocumare de la Costa on October 27 I watched a female for some time in a sea-grape tree growing on the beach. The light was exceptionally good, and the warbler most of the time only a few feet away so that I could easily see that it was distinctly light colored. In view of this, though the bird was not taken I venture to record it as



the typical form, since that is the race that has been reported from northern South America.

**DENDROICA CERULEA (Wilson): Cerulean Warbler**

*Sylvia cerulea* WILSON, American ornithology, vol. 2, 1810, p. 141, pl. 17, fig. 5 (Philadelphia, Pa.).

At Rancho Grande in the early morning of November 4 a dozen or more were feeding actively through the treetops at the house where I was living.

**DENDROICA STRIATA (Forster): Black-poll Warbler**

*Muscicapa striata* J. R. FORSTER, Philos. Trans., vol. 62, 1772, p. 428 (Fort Severn, west coast of Hudson Bay).

At Ocumare de la Costa on October 25 I shot two of these migrant warblers from the north as they fed in the tops of low trees in the dry scrub. Accustomed for years to the layers of oily fat that cover the bodies of black-polls as they pass south through the Eastern United States in fall migration, it was a great surprise to find these two thin to emaciation. The following day I saw one, and on October 27 observed several and collected another. Evidently they were arriving regularly from the north as I saw them constantly in a large sea-grape tree on the beach near my porch as I worked on specimens during the afternoon. As they became more common I sometimes found little groups feeding on the ground on the open flats near the lagoon at Independencia, at some distance from trees or bushes. When I first noted them I thought they must be some other bird and was much surprised to find that they were this species, ordinarily restricted to trees. I was of the opinion that these ground-feeding individuals had just arrived from the long flight over the sea as they appeared quiet and listless. One or two that I handled were so thin that there was noticeable shrinkage in the large muscles of the breast. Four taken here at Ocumare were all adults and included birds of both sexes.

At Rancho Grande I recorded black-polls on November 5, 6, and 7, observing them up to 3,700 feet, and there can be no doubt that they spread over the entire mountain. Birds taken here were in good flesh though not fat, so that their recovery from the rigors of their long journey apparently is rapid. At El Sombrero I noted them on November 13 and 15.

While under the International Code the name of this species will become *Dendroica brevilinguis* (Spix) as given by Hellmayr,<sup>61</sup> I prefer here to use the name *Dendroica striata* (Forster), since this is the name that is current among North American ornithologists. The code of

<sup>61</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 8, 1935, p. 403.

nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union does not recognize secondary homonyms, a change that might be accepted in the International Code for reasons that will be obvious, on a little reflection to those interested in such matters.

**SEIURUS NOVEBORACENSIS NOVEBORACENSIS (Gmelin): Northern Water-thrush**

*Motacilla noveboracensis* GMELIN, Systema naturae, vol. 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 958 (New York).

On October 23 at La Trilla, elevation 250 feet, inland from Ocumare de la Costa, I saw and heard several water-thrushes along the rapidly running Río Ocumare. An adult female taken was very thin in flesh, so that I assumed that it was a recently arrived migrant. It measures as follows: Wing 73.4, tail 48.7, culmen from base 14.4, tarsus 22.0 mm. On October 29 two were seen near the lagoon at Independencia. Near El Sombrero I saw one in low, wet woods near the Río Guarico on November 20, and on November 21 shot an adult female at Hato Paya, 18 miles northwest. This bird measures as follows: Wing 73.5, tail 48.5, culmen from base 14.4, tarsus 20.2 mm. Both specimens taken are decidedly yellow below and definitely olive rather than grayish above; this coloration with the measurements identifies them as the eastern form.

**OPORORNIS AGILIS (Wilson): Connecticut Warbler**

*Sylvia agilis* WILSON, American ornithology, vol. 5, 1812, p. 64, pl. 39, fig. 4 (Connecticut).

On October 23 I collected an adult male at an elevation of 250 feet near La Trilla, inland from Ocumare de la Costa, as it hunted among weeds near the ground in the shade of a spreading tree. The bird was thin and in poor flesh, so that I assumed that it was a recently arrived migrant.

**SETOPHAGA RUTICILLA (Linnaeus): American Redstart**

*Motacilla Ruticilla* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 186 (Virginia).

This migrant from the north was recorded as follows: Caracas, October 17; Maracay, October 21 (specimen) and November 11; Ocumare de la Costa, October 23 (specimen from La Trilla), 29, and 30 (seen at sea level); El Sombrero, near the Río Guarico, November 20.

**MYIOBORUS MINIATUS PALLIDIVENTRIS (Chapman)**

*Setophaga verticalis pallidiventris* CHAPMAN, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 12, 1899, p. 153 (Quebrada Seca, near San Antonio, northeastern Venezuela).

Near Rancho Grande these alert, active birds were common, so that I secured three specimens on November 5 and 8. They were

seen almost daily about the house in which I lived where they ranged through the tops of the tall trees that grew up from deep, steep-sided valleys to the level of the yard, but in such locations it was impossible to secure them, as specimens shot here would have fallen into the depths below to be lost. They were regular parts of the flocks of small birds that ranged through the forest and were seen up to 4,000 feet. The yellow underparts and white in the tail made prominent field marks. Once I saw one spread the tail feathers in a wide fan and hold them thus for several seconds, a striking display that was repeated several times. The gradual transition by graded steps from this yellow form to the one with red breast found in Mexico and Guatemala is truly remarkable.

**BASILEUTERUS MERIDANUS MERIDANUS** Sharpe

*Basileuterus meridanus* SHARPE, Catalogue of the birds in the British Museum, vol. 10, 1885, p. 387 (Mérida, Venezuela).

Near Rancho Grande these birds were fairly common in dense forest, where they worked among the lower branches of the trees or in the tops of undergrowth, often in company with little groups of other small, forest-loving kinds. The five shot on November 2, 5, 8, and 10 were taken at elevations ranging from 3,700 to 4,000 feet.

In my opinion Todd<sup>62</sup> is correct in considering that *meridanus* is specifically distinct from *tristriatus* because of the difference in head markings. From examination of a good series it appears that true *meridanus* ranges from the Mérida region east in the mountains to the vicinity of Rancho Grande, birds from the mountains about Caracas being separable under the subspecific name *bessereri* of Hellmayr, on basis of duller, less yellowish color below and lighter greenish tinge of the back. I have seen specimens of *bessereri* from El Limón, Cotiza, Silla de Caracas, Galipan in the Cerro de Avila, near Caracas, and from Colonia Tovar, Estado Aragua. The specimens secured at Rancho Grande agree perfectly with birds from the Mérida region and mark the easternmost point from which true *meridanus* is at present known.

**BASILEUTERUS CULICIVORUS CABANISI** Berlepsch

*Basileuterus Cabanisi*, BERLEPSCH, Ornith. Centralbl., vol. 4, 1879, p. 63 (Puerto Cabello, Venezuela).

On October 24 I collected two in heavy rain forest at an elevation of 700 feet above the Río Cumboto, southwest of Ocumare de la Costa. The birds ranged through the middle level of the trees with other small

<sup>62</sup> Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 74, art. 7, 1929, pp. 55-56.

forest species. The elevation where my specimens were taken is lower than the 1,000-foot level indicated by Todd.<sup>63</sup>

**BASILEUTERUS FLAVEOLUS (Baird)**

*Myiothlypis flaveolus* BAIRD, Review of American birds, 1865, p. 252 (Río Paraguay, Paraguay).

Near Ocumare de la Costa on October 30 I collected two of these birds and saw several others in an area of dense brush, where the ground beneath was open. They walked gracefully and alertly, sometimes half raising the wings for an instant. Near El Sombrero on November 20 one sang as it walked along the ground, the song being a repetition of a single note given rather forcefully, in tone suggestive of warblers of the *Oporornis* group.

The type specimen, in the U. S. National Museum, collected by the expedition under Capt. T. J. Page in June 1859, marked "Paraguay," was without question collected along the Río Paraguay.

**DOLICHONYX ORYZIVORUS (Linnaeus): Bobolink**

*Fringilla oryzivora* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 179 (South Carolina).

Shortly after sunrise on October 16 as our ship entered the harbor at La Guaira a flock of about 75 small birds swept in along the shore in close formation and rose to pass over the docks. At a casual glance I took them for sandpipers, but as I obtained a better look I saw that they were bobolinks. I supposed that they had just arrived in migration and were making a landfall as there was no place here for them to feed. At Ocumare de la Costa before seven on the morning of October 28, one flew with a low call from a large sea-grape tree on the beach and went uncertainly toward the marsh beyond. It seemed to be newly arrived. The following day I flushed half a dozen from rushes growing in the lagoon.

**STURNELLA MAGNA PARALIOS Bangs**

*Sturnella magna paralios* BANGS, Proc. New England Zool. Club, vol. 2, Feb. 15, 1901, p. 56 (San Sebastian, 6,600 feet elevation, Santa Marta region, Colombia).

Near Cagua, Estado Aragua, I saw one of these birds on November 12 but did not have opportunity to collect it. I noted a few others offered for sale alive in the bird market in Caracas. An old specimen in the U. S. National Museum collection from Valencia, Venezuela, agrees in color and size with a skin from San Sebastian, the type locality of *paralios*.

<sup>63</sup> Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 74, art. 7, 1929, p. 72.

## GYMNOMYSTAX MEXICANUS (Linnaeus)

*Oriolus mexicanus* LINNAEUS, *Systema naturae*, ed. 12, vol. 1, 1766, p. 162 (Cayenne<sup>64</sup>).

This fine species was recorded at Cagua on November 12, and in the vicinity of El Sombrero it was common from November 13 to 20. The birds were found in flocks sometimes in cultivated fields, sometimes on open prairies, while often I saw them passing in flight overhead. While they walked about over open ground and perched on posts and other low elevations, at any alarm they flew into trees where they often moved behind masses of leaves and creepers so that I could not see them. Aside from this habit they resembled in mannerisms and even in notes the familiar yellow-headed blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* of the Western United States. While often called orioles, in manner of life they belong certainly with the blackbird group. As they fly overhead the black feet show distinctly against the clear yellow of the abdomen. At this season they were in molt. Two adult females were prepared as skins on November 13 and 15.

## ICTERUS ICTERUS ICTERUS (Linnaeus)

*Oriolus Icterus* LINNAEUS, *Systema naturae*, ed. 12, vol. 1, 1766, p. 161 ("Cayenne").

The *trupial* is a favored cage bird in Venezuela and is kept in many homes. I frequently saw them in a wild state about Maracay but did not have opportunity to collect specimens until I reached El Sombrero, where I secured a pair on November 17. They frequent densely leaved trees, and though I heard their pleasant whistled calls daily it was often difficult to catch sight of them. Birds kept in captivity after a time become decidedly paler in color.

## ICTERUS NIGROGULARIS NIGROGULARIS (Hahn)

*Xanthornus nigrogularis* HAHN, *Vögel aus Asien, Africa, America und Neuholland*, livr. 5, 1819, pl. 1 (Jamaica, Mexico, and Cayenne).<sup>65</sup>

The first of these orioles obtained was a female shot from a tree at the edge of a pasture near Ocumare de la Costa on October 30. Near El Sombrero, where they were common, five more were taken on November 14, 15, 17, 18, and 21 (the last from Hato Paya). They were found about groves of trees growing on the prairies, at the borders of heavy woodlands, in open scrub growth, or along roadways, living among branches and at this season of the year rather silent.

<sup>64</sup> Designated by Berlepsch and Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, vol. 9, 1902, p. 32.

<sup>65</sup> Hellmayr, *Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser.*, vol. 13, pt. 10, 1937, p. 132, says that the type, in the Munich Museum, is labeled Brazil.

**HOLOQUISCALUS LUGUBRIS LUGUBRIS (Swainson)**

*Quiscalus lugubris* SWAINSON, Animals in menageries, 1838, p. 299 (British Guiana).<sup>66</sup>

Near Ocumare de la Costa, where three females were taken on October 25, 27, and 29, these grackles were fairly common on the open, pastured flats around the lagoon at Independencia. They ranged in flocks of six or eight birds that walked about on the ground and when alarmed took shelter in low trees or in the rushes of the lagoon. Occasionally a whole flock would fly suddenly to perch on the back of some grazing goat, which paid no attention to them whatever. At Maracay these birds came about the hotels, and one flew familiarly through a broad, high-ceilinged room with large patios on either side. A male in full molt was taken at the school at La Providencia on November 11. At El Sombrero grackles were common, especially in the pasturelands along the Río Guarico, and many were found in the town itself. The dining tables at the hotel were set under the shelter of a little balcony that looked out on a small, paved patio with a few shrubs and flowers. After the noon meal when all was quiet one or two grackles often came to search for food about the tables, eyeing me sharply as I sat preparing specimens, but without fear. The iris in this species is yellow.

**MOLOTHRUS BONARIENSIS VENEZUELENSIS Stone**

*Molothrus venezuelensis* STONE, Auk, Oct. 1891, p. 347 (Lake Valencia, Venezuela).

On November 11 a considerable flock walked among the cattle in the grounds of the Agricultural School at La Providencia near Maracay. The type specimen, in the U. S. National Museum, is from Lake Valencia, not from San Esteban as stated by Hellmayr.<sup>67</sup>

**CACICUS CELA CELA (Linnaeus)**

*Parus Cela* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 191 (Surinam) <sup>68</sup>

The *arrendajo* is universally known in northern Venezuela, and several times I had glimpses of birds that I was sure were this species. But it was not until November 16 at El Sombrero that I shot my first specimen, an adult male, as it ranged in good-sized trees near a small lagoon, where I heard it giving a musical, oriolelike call. Others were seen in heavy timber on November 18, and on the following day I found a number about the blossoms of a flowering shrub and collected an adult and an immature female. Many were seen on November 20 in low woods near the Río Guarico. The adult female is duller black than the male, and the immature female is distinctly more grayish, especially on the lower surfaces of the body, than the adult. Like *Ostinops* the plumage of these birds has a distinct musky odor.

<sup>66</sup> Designated by Berlepsch and Hartert, Nov. Zool., vol. 9, 1902, p. 33.

<sup>67</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 10, 1937, p. 64.

<sup>68</sup> Designated by Hellmayr, Nov. Zool., vol. 13, 1906, p. 20.

**OSTINOPS ANGUSTIFRONS OLEAGINEUS** Sclater

*Ostinops oleagineus* SCLATER, Ibis, 1883, p. 154, pl. 7 (Venezuela).

At Rancho Grande in early morning on November 5 a flock came about the house with much chattering and calling to investigate the banana plantation, and then to continue into the woods. Some of their odd notes suggest in a way some of the calls of the male cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). A male taken was molting the wings and tail. Others were seen on the two days following. The natives call this bird *conote*.

The proper generic name for this group of species is *Ostinops*, Hellmayr<sup>69</sup> being completely in error in using *Xanthornus*, and in his statement that through vote at the International Zoological Congress at Padua Brissonian names are no longer recognized as valid. While such a motion was introduced at the Congress it was not sanctioned or accepted by the International Committee on Zoological Nomenclature, which has power in these matters. The generic names of Brisson are accepted and have definite status.

**OSTINOPS DECUMANUS DECUMANUS** (Pallas)

*Xanthornus decumanus* PALLAS, Spicilegia zoologica, fasc. 6, 1769, p. 1, pl. 1 (Surinam).

A male was taken on October 30 at Ocumare de la Costa from a flock of half a dozen found scattered through the tall trees shading a cacao plantation. The throat of this bird was filled with banana pulp. Near El Sombrero yellow-tails passed overhead daily in early morning, and on November 20 I found them common in woods near the Río Guarico. One that I shot was in bad plumage and was injured so that I preserved only the skull. The one taken, with a specimen from San Julián, Venezuela, and two from Demerara agree in having a faint indistinct edging or wash of deep chestnut bordering the feathers of the middle and lower back, in this differing from skins from Colombia west to Panamá, which are blacker above, thus supporting Todd's contention that the Colombian birds represent a distinct race, *O. d. melanterus*.

## Family THRAUPIDAE

**CHLOROSPINGUS OPHTHALMICUS JACQUETI** Hellmayr

*Chlorospingus venezuelanus jacqueti* HELLMAYR, Anz. Ornith. Ges. Bayern, vol. 4, Mar. 1921, p. 28 (Galipán, Cerro de Avila, near Caracas, Venezuela).

In the subtropical forest of the Cordillera de la Costa near Rancho Grande this was one of the common birds, so that seven skins were prepared between November 3 and 10. These small tanagers ranged

<sup>69</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 10, 1937, pp. 10-11.

from low bushes at the borders of the woodlands to the tops of the tallest trees in heavy growth and were found usually with companies of other small forest-loving birds. When low down they sometimes came within a few feet of me, to hop quickly and alertly through the branches with a flutter of wings, with the tail jerking sideways. At such times the light-yellow iris showed clearly, while at a distance the white mark forming a semicircle around the posterior margin of the eye and the yellow breast band were prominent. These specimens agree closely with birds in the National Museum from Colonia Tovar and from Pico Naiduata, Estado Miranda.

**TACHYPHONUS RUFUS (Boddaert)**

*Tangara rufa* BODDAERT, Table des planches enluminées, 1783, p. 44 (Cayenne).

This wide-ranging bird, known to me previously in northern Argentina, I saw on October 17 in the grounds of the American Legation in Caracas. At Ocumare de la Costa they were common, but it was October 30 before I secured my first specimen, a female, as the birds frequented the borders of dense scrub where it was difficult to see them. A male in molt into adult black plumage, with brown feathers still remaining in the wings, was taken on October 31 along the Río Cumboto. Near Rancho Grande they ranged in the brush along the highway or in growths of heavy weeds, being seen to an elevation of 3,500 feet. Several were seen at Maracay on November 11, and I shot a male 9 miles north of Parapara, Estado Guarico, on November 12.

**RAMPHOCELUS CARBO VENEZUELENSIS Lafresnaye**

*Ramphocelus Venezuelensis* LAFRESNAYE, Rev. Mag. Zool., 1853, p. 243 (Caracas, Venezuela).

At La Trilla, inland from Ocumare de la Costa, I collected an adult male on October 23, and on the 28th shot two more from a little company of four chattering in the lower branches of the shade trees in a cacao plantation. They were seen also in the valley of the Río Cumboto. At Rancho Grande they were recorded on November 9 and 10 about growths of dense brush along the open roadway. One called loudly *whis whis* as it rested with jerking tail on an open perch.

**HEMITHRAUPIS GUIRA NIGRIGULA (Boddaert)**

*Tanagra nigrigula* BODDAERT, Table des planches enluminées, 1783, p. 45 (Cayenne).<sup>70</sup>

On November 12 I shot a male in a small thorn tree 2 miles south of Parapara, Estado Guarico. The following day I saw another near El Sombrero working through the branches of thorny trees almost as actively as a warbler.

<sup>70</sup> While Boddaert says Cayenne, Buffon, Histoire naturelle des oiseaux, vol. 4, p. 283, gives "Guyane."



The specimen taken, which is just completing the molt, has the following measurements: Wing 67.5, tail 55.3, culmen from base 11.8, tarsus 17.0 mm. While it is identified as *nigrigula* it must be pointed out that the lengths of wing and tail suggest the characters assigned to *roraïmae*. More specimens are desirable to check the identity of the bird from this area, and the name assigned here is given only tentatively because of lack of material.

**PIRANGA RUBRA (Linnaeus): Summer Tanager**

*Fringilla rubra* LINNAEUS, Systema naturae, ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 181 (South Carolina).

At Rancho Grande on November 4 one was calling from trees on an open slope at an elevation of 3,400 feet.

**PIRANGA LEUCOPTERA ARDENS (Tschudi)**

*Phoenisoma ardens* TSCHUDI, Arch. Naturg., vol. 10, 1844, p. 287 (Vitoc, Department Junín, Perú).<sup>71</sup>

In the great forests near Rancho Grande this handsome tanager was fairly common, and it was always a delight to look from the yard at my house and see a glowing red male resting in the morning sun among the tops of trees rising from deep valleys to the level of my eyes. The birds moved deliberately, resting for minutes at a time, so that their beauties could be appreciated to the fullest advantage. Yellow-breasted females were taken at 3,700 feet on November 4 and at 2,600 feet near Los Riitos on November 7. The broad, white wing bars are a prominent field mark in both sexes.

**COMPSOCOMA SOMPTUOSA VENEZUELANA Hellmayr**

*Compsocoma somptuosa venezuelana* HELLMAYR, Verh. Orn. Ges. Bayern, vol. 11, 1913, p. 317 (Cumbre de Valencia, Estado Carabobo, Venezuela).

An adult female was taken in heavy forest at 3,700 feet elevation above Rancho Grande on November 10 as it fed about the ends of branches. Another had been seen earlier at about this same elevation. *Compsocoma flavinucha* of Bolivia differs in its extensively blue rump so definitely from the northern members of this group that it can hardly be held to be conspecific though it has been so indicated recently by Hellmayr,<sup>72</sup> who lists the bird of northern Venezuela under the name *Compsocoma flavinucha venezuelana*.

<sup>71</sup> Designated by Hellmayr, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 9, 1936, p. 269.

<sup>72</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 9, 1936, pp. 199-204.

**THRAUPIS EPISCOPUS CANA (Swainson)**

*Tanager cana* SWAINSON Ornithological drawings, pt. 3, 1836, pl. 37 (Caracas, Venezuela).<sup>73</sup>

This, one of the abundant birds in forested regions, is found in pairs or little groups, ranging well above the ground. They move rather rapidly through the higher branches and make bounding flights for considerable distances above the forests. They were observed as follows: Caracas, October 17 (in the grounds of the American Legation); Maracay, October 21 (specimen) and November 11; Ocumare de la Costa, October 23 (at La Trilla, at an elevation of 250 feet), 24 (valley of Río Cumboto), and 30 (specimen near Independencia); Rancho Grande, November 3 to 10 (specimen, November 4; seen up to 3,600 feet elevation); El Sombrero, November 13 to 21 (specimen, November 19).

**CALOSPIZA CHRYSOPHRYS CHRYSOPHRYS (Sclater)**

*Calliste chrysophrys* SCLATER, Jardine's Contr. Orn., vol. 4, Jan. 1851, p. 24, pl. 69, fig. 2 (near Caracas, Venezuela).

The only one seen was an adult male taken on November 7 near Rancho Grande at an elevation of 3,200 feet, where it was feeding at the berries of a small tree in company with other species of this genus.

**CALOSPIZA RUFIGENIS (Sclater)**

*Calliste rufigenis* SCLATER, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1856 (Mar. 10, 1857), p. 311 (Venezuela).

These tanagers were fairly common in the heavy forest of the Cordillera de la Costa at Rancho Grande where I secured three skins on November 3 and 10. They were most easily seen when they came to small trees laden with berries, but were observed occasionally working quickly through the limbs of large trees in company with related tanagers and warblers. Some of its colorful relatives so far outshine this species in hue that by comparison *rufigenis* seems dull and ordinary until examined by itself alone.

**CALOSPIZA VIRIDISSIMA VIRIDISSIMA (Lafresnaye)**

*Aglaja viridissima* LAFRESNAYE, Rev. Zool., vol. 10, Sept. 1847, p. 277 (Trinidad).<sup>74</sup>

These beautiful birds were found through the heavy rain forest at Rancho Grande, where four skins were obtained on November 4, 5, 7, and 9. Ordinarily they moved actively about in the treetops, though I saw them also about trees bearing small berries.

<sup>73</sup> Designated by Hellmayr, Arch. Naturg., vol. 90, 1924, p. 185.

<sup>74</sup> Designated by Hellmayr, Nov. Zool., vol. 13, 1906, p. 14.

The four taken when compared with *C. v. toddi* of the Santa Marta region have the brown of the head distinctly darker and the coloration of the lower surface more bluish green, resembling thus the typical form of Trinidad. The shade of green is duller in my November skins than in others that I have seen taken in February and June, but this I assume is due to wear in the case of the latter. While Hellmayr<sup>75</sup> has united *viridissima* and *toddii* as races of *Calospiza gyrola*, that bird is so different in its blue-marked underparts and yellow shoulders that I can see no reason for this action. While generally similar the two groups are specifically distinct.

**CALOSPIZA ARTHRUS (Lesson)**

*Tanagra Arthrus* LESSON, Illustrations de zoologie, livr. 3, Oct. 1832, pl. 9, with text (Caracas, Venezuela).<sup>76</sup>

One of the most pleasing of forest birds in its beautifully contrasted markings of chestnut, yellow, and black this tanager had the fortunate additional merit of being common over the timbered slopes at Rancho Grande, where four skins were prepared on November 2, 4, and 5. The birds ranged from the undergrowth to the tops of the tallest trees, coming with others to small berry-bearing trees in the lower growth. In their movements they suggested titmice at times as they moved quickly and then paused to look about. While under proper light conditions their colors were visible at some distance, on many occasions they appeared as dark silhouettes so that their beauty in the hand was a surprise.

Until intergradation is known it seems to me useless and confusing to try to list the related members of this group as geographic races of *arthrus*. The only resemblance is in the colors represented, the pattern arrangement and the extent of the various colors being widely divergent.

**TANAGRA XANTHOGASTER EXSUL (Berlepsch)**

*Euphonia ruficeps exsul* BERLEPSCH, Verh. V Int. Orn.-Kongr. Berlin, 1912, p. 1017 (San Esteban, Estado Carabobo, Venezuela).

At Rancho Grande I collected a female at 3,700 feet elevation on November 4 and a male at 3,000 feet on November 6. Both had the intestinal tract filled with the seeds of a mistletoe, and on November 10 I saw one at close range with a mistletoe berry in its bill. This species seems to be more sluggish and to move more slowly than the smaller ones with which I have been familiar. They were not heard giving the whistled notes of related species.

<sup>75</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 9, 1936, p. 148.

<sup>76</sup> Designated by Hellmayr, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 9, 1936, p. 106.

**TANAGRA TRINITATIS (Strickland)**

*Euphonia trinitatis* STRICKLAND, Jardine's Contr. Orn., pt. 2, 1851, p. 72 (Island of Trinidad).

At El Sombrero I shot a male on November 19; a small species found usually in pairs, and seen ordinarily near the clumps of mistletoe whose berries form its food. Until more information is available I prefer to list this as a distinct species rather than as a race of *chlorotica*.<sup>77</sup>

**TANAGRA LANIROSTRIS CRASSIROSTRIS (Sclater)**

*Euphonia crassirostris* SCLATER, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1856 (Jan. 26, 1857), p. 277 (Bogotá).

The only one seen was an immature male, barely grown, taken from the top of a medium-sized tree at 700 feet elevation above the Río Cumboto, inland from Ocumare de la Costa, on October 24. My attention was attracted to this bird by its high-pitched whistle, common to many euphonias. The specimen has no trace of the adult plumage.

**CHLOROPHONIA FRONTALIS FRONTALIS (Sclater)**

*Euphonia frontalis* SCLATER, Jardine's Contr. Orn., pt. 3, 1851, p. 89 (Caracas, Venezuela).

An adult male was taken from a tall tree at the edge of the forest near Rancho Grande at an elevation of 3,700 feet on November 4. The alimentary tract resembled that of *Tanagra*<sup>78</sup> and was filled with seeds of mistletoe. Until further information is available it seems to me desirable to retain this bird as a species distinct from *Chlorophonia cyanea*, rather than unite the two groups as is done by Hellmayr.<sup>79</sup>

**Family FRINGILLIDAE****SALTATOR ORENOCENSIS ORENOCENSIS Lafresnaye**

*Saltator Orenocensis* LAFRESNAYE, Rev. Zool., vol. 9, Aug. 1846, p. 274 (mouth of Orinoco).

This beautifully marked bird was first seen on November 12 to the south of Parapara, Estado Guarico, where I shot one from the top of a low tree at the border of dense scrub. Several were found near El Sombrero in dense thorn scrub on November 18 and 19, and on the first of these days I secured another. In color these two agree with specimens from Ciudad Bolívar and Soledad on the Orinoco, except that the bills average heavier in the skins that I secured. Only one specimen from the Orinoco in a series of eight is equal to them in this

<sup>77</sup> See Hellmayr, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 9, 1936, p. 37.

<sup>78</sup> See Wetmore, A., Development of the stomach in the euphonias. Auk, 1914, pp. 458-461.

<sup>79</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 9, 1936, pp. 6-11.

respect. Apparently they show slight variation toward the large-billed *S. o. rufescens* found farther west. The two taken, both females, measure as follows: Wing 87.0, 91.9, tail 82.3, 85.5, culmen from base 18.2, 18.5, tarsus 22.6, 23.2 mm. In both there is a faint wash of buff across the breast, but the center of the abdomen is white.

**SALTATOR COERULESCENS BREWSTERI** Bangs and Penard

*Saltator olivascens brewsteri* BANGS and PENARD, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. 62, Apr. 1918, p. 91 (Caparo, Trinidad).

An adult female in partial molt was taken on November 16 near El Sombrero among fairly large trees in dense scrub. Others were observed on November 18.

**SALTATOR STRIATIPICTUS STRIATIPICTUS** Lafresnaye

*Saltator striatipictus* LAFRESNAYE, Rev. Zool., vol. 10, Mar. 1847, p. 73 (Cali, Cauca Valley, Colombia).

One was taken in scrub growth near Ocumare de la Costa on October 26.

**COCCOPSIS NIGRO-GENIS** (Lafresnaye)

*Nemosia nigro-genis* LAFRESNAYE, Rev. Zool., vol. 9, 1846, p. 273 (mouth of the Orinoco River, Venezuela).

On November 16 I shot an adult male as it flew out from dense scrub and three days later noted several more in thickets along the Río Guarico. This point seems to be the farthest north at which these birds have yet been recorded, though it is probable that they will be found to extend to the north to the vicinity of Ortiz.

After a further review of the subject I still feel that this species and its near relatives in more slender bill, less rounded culmen, less abrupt deflexure at the gape, more exposed nostrils and more rounded tail are generically distinct from the species typical of *Paroaria*, so that the genus *Coccopsis* should be recognized. In my original statement<sup>80</sup> through a slip of the pen I wrote "more strongly rounded culmen" when the reverse is what was intended. Unless actual, direct intergradation can be shown I see no reason for considering *nigro-genis* a geographic race of the black-throated *gularis*.

**TIARIS BICOLOR OMISSA** Jardine

*Tiaris omissa* JARDINE, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., vol. 20, 1847, p. 332 (Tobago).

At Ocumare de la Costa the Carib grassquit, an old friend from work in Puerto Rico and Hispaniola, was fairly common, two specimens, including adult and immature males, being taken on October 27 and 28. The birds were found in small flocks that fed on the

<sup>80</sup> U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 133, 1926, p. 400.

ground in openings in the scrub, and at any alarm flew immediately into dense cover. They were quite shy in such shelter. At Rancho Grande on November 10 I saw several males along the open roadway between 3,300 and 3,500 feet, and a few were recorded at El Sombrero, November 17 to 19, and near Hato Paya, November 21.

**SPOROPHILA NIGRICOLLIS NIGRICOLLIS (Vieillot)**

*Pyrrhula Nigricollis* VIEILLOT, Tableau encyclopédique et méthodique . . . , livr. 93, July 1823, p. 1027 (Brazil).

At Ocumare de la Costa I found little bands of half a dozen of these seed-eaters feeding in low, open scrub bordering pasturelands or on grass-grown slopes on hot hillsides. The birds flew quickly to cover when startled. An immature male was taken here on October 23. At Rancho Grande a few were found in small tracts of grass and weeds bordering the highway at elevations of from 3,000 to 3,500 feet. An adult male taken on November 3 is molting over the entire body. On November 12, an immature female was shot 2 miles south of Ortíz, Estado Guarico, and several were seen at El Sombrero on November 19. The species formerly was known as *Sporophila gutturalis* (Lichtenstein).

**SPOROPHILA BOUVRONIDES (Lesson)**

*Pyrrhula bouvronides* LESSON, Traité d'ornithologie, livr. 6, Feb. 1831, p. 450 (Trinidad).<sup>81</sup>

An adult taken on October 24 at 700 feet elevation above the Río Cumboto near Ocumare de la Costa was found at the edge of a thicket.

**VOLATINIA JACARINA SPLENDENS (Vieillot)**

*Fringilla splendens* VIEILLOT, Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat., vol. 12, June 1817, p. 173 (Cayenne).

In the grounds of the American Legation in Caracas I saw several blue-black grassquits on October 17. Near El Sombrero they were fairly common in weed-grown fields near the Río Guarico, where I shot one on November 19 but lost it from my game bag in some way while returning to town.

**SPINUS PSALTRIA COLUMBIANUS (Lafresnaye)**

*Carduelis columbianus* LAFRESNAYE, Rev. Zool., vol. 6, 1843, p. 292 (Bogotá, Colombia).

Near Rancho Grande I found small flocks of these little goldfinches ranging in open lands that when disturbed disappeared in the cover of vines or low trees. They were observed along the roadway as high as the hotel at 3,500 feet. An adult male taken on November 9 at 3,000 feet has the tail entirely black.

<sup>81</sup> Designated by Hellmayr, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 11, 1938, p. 211.

**SICALIS FLAVEOLA FLAVEOLA (Linnaeus)**

*Fringilla flaveola* LINNAEUS, *Systema naturae*, e. l. 12, 1766, p. 321 (Surinam).<sup>82</sup>

Two immature individuals molting into first fall dress shot at La Providencia near Maracay, October 21, were the first birds that I collected in Venezuela. As I entered a little pasture several flew from weeds into the top of a low tree, where they rested quietly. On November 11 I noted others in this locality and observed that on the ground they walked as readily as blackbirds. At Ocumare de la Costa, where I collected an adult female in worn plumage on October 26, they were common. Near my house at the beach I saw them in little companies of eight or ten, walking about in close company in the grass, or, inland, found them in openings in the brush or at the edge of the woodland. The song is high-pitched and squeaky. As immature and adult birds mingled there was much variation among them in depth of color. Between Maracay and El Sombrero on November 12 and 21 I found them abundant along the highway, and at El Sombrero from November 13 to 20 they were common.

**CORYPHOSPINGUS PILEATUS BREVICAUDUS Cory**

\* *Coryphospingus pileatus brevicaudus* CORY, *Field Mus. Nat. Hist., orn. ser.*, vol. 1, Aug. 30, 1916, p. 345 (Margarita Island, Venezuela).

This little red-crested sparrow was first seen on November 12, 9 miles north of Parapara, Estado Guarico, where an immature female was taken. From this point to El Sombrero these birds were common and in all six specimens were prepared, including adult and immature individuals. The birds fed on the ground at the borders of the thorny scrub in little flocks of six or eight that flew up with a flash of black from tail and wings contrasting with the gray and white of the body plumage to alight on twigs near the ground, and if alarmed again disappeared in heavy cover.

The northern race *brevicaudus* is rather indefinitely characterized by shorter tail on the average, and by very slightly darker dorsal color, when compared with *C. p. pileatus* of the south.

**ATLAPETES BRUNNEL-NUCHA XANTHOGENYS (Cabanis)**

*Buarremon xanthogenys* CABANIS, *Museum Heineanum*, pt. 1, 1851, p. 141 (Caracas, Venezuela).

On November 8, at an elevation of 4,000 feet above Rancho Grande, in heavy forest with fairly open undergrowth I watched one of these interesting birds for a short time as it walked and ran on the ground. The white underparts made a striking mark in the dim light and attracted the eye as the bird moved. In this remote forest, where men seldom penetrated, the bird seemed unafraid, far less shy than

<sup>82</sup> Designated by Berlepsch and Hartert, *Nov. Zoöl.*, vol. 9, 1902, p. 27.

I have found this species elsewhere. On skinning the specimen it proved to be an adult male.

There is no objection apparent to Hellmayr's proposal to unite the currently recognized genus *Buarremon* with *Atlapetes*.<sup>83</sup>

**ARREMONOPS CONIROSTRIS CONIROSTRIS (Bonaparte)**

*Arremon conirostris* BONAPARTE, *Conspectus generum avium*, vol. 1, 1850, p. 488 (Colombia).

Near Ocumare de la Costa these sparrows were found in dense growths of scrub, where they moved about among the branches near the ground. Specimens were taken on October 26, 27, and 30, the last being a female in molt.

**MYOSPIZA HUMERALIS HUMERALIS (Bosc)**

*Tanagra humeralis* Bosc, *Journ. Hist. Nat. (Choix de Mémoires)*, vol. 2, No. 17, Sept. 1, 1792, p. 179, pl. 34, fig. 4 (Cayenne).

On November 13, 12 miles south of El Sombrero, I flushed two of these birds in high grass in a little opening in the thorn scrub and collected one, an adult female. The specimen is molting from very worn plumage so that its characters of color are obscure. Identification as the typical form is made therefore principally on the basis of accepted range, though so far as can be told the bird resembles those from farther south.

<sup>83</sup> Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., vol. 13, pt. 11, 1938, p. 384.

