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UNIVERSITY.

ADDITIONS TO RECORDS OF BIRDS
KNOWN FROM THE REPUBLIC
OF PANAMÁ

By
ALEXANDER WETMORE
Research Associate
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(PUBLICATION 4523)

CITY OF WASHINGTON
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ADDITIONS TO RECORDS OF BIRDS KNOWN FROM THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMÁ

By ALEXANDER WETMORE

Research Associate, Smithsonian Institution

THE notes that follow, pertaining to recent studies on avian collections made in Panamá, include descriptions of two species and two geographic races not known previously. The two named from Darién are based on specimens received from the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory in Panamá and derive from recent field work directed by Dr. Pedro Galindo. Included with these are further records of birds from the little-known island of Escudo de Veraguas, located 18 kilometers at sea off the base of the Valiente Peninsula, Bocas del Toro, and report of two North American migrants not found previously in the republic.

I. ADDITIONAL RECORDS FROM ISLA ESCUDO DE VERAGUAS, WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF HUMMINGBIRD

In the course of a visit to Isla Escudo de Veraguas early in March 1958, I collected a thick-spined rat (genus *Hoplomys*), the first island record for this group, and a race that proved to be new to science (Handley, 1959, pp. 9-10). Following its description, Dr. C. O. Handley, Jr., of the U. S. National Museum, through cooperation of the U. S. Army, came to the island in 1962 and lived there in a shore camp from March 20 to 24. In addition to a series of the rat, and many bats, he preserved in formalin a number of birds caught in mist nets, and prepared a few others, shot for specimens, as study skins. The 41 birds collected have added considerably to earlier information on the avifauna, available from my own brief visit four years earlier (Wetmore, 1959, pp. 1-27).

Migrants recorded by Dr. Handley include several that had not been listed from the island previously. A belted kingfisher, taken March 21, is the eastern subspecies *Megaceryle alcyon alcyon*. Several eastern wood peewees (*Contopus virens*) were present and

in song on March 23, when one was taken for a skin. Several small groups of barn swallows passed on this same day, moving toward the north. On March 21 single purple martins were reported at intervals during the day in northward flight off shore. One was recorded on March 19 on the airstrip at Fort Sherman, Canal Zone, and another was observed March 20 at sea about 15 kilometers off the mouth of Río Belén, on the boundary between the provinces of Colón and Veraguas. Swainson's thrushes (*Hylocichla ustulata*), taken March 21 and 24, and a red-eyed vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), on March 23, are identified to species only, as they were placed in formalin. Other migrants, all in formalin, include the black-and-white warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), on March 22, and the prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*), worm-eating warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*), ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), and northern water-thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*), taken on March 21. A male summer tanager (*Piranga rubra rubra*) in full breeding plumage, prepared as a skin, was collected March 21, and another was recorded on the day following.

An immature yellow-crowned night heron, another addition to the island list, appears to be the resident race of Panamá, *Nyctanassa violacea caliginis*, while a single green heron (*Butorides virescens*), seen March 20 and 21, was believed to be a migrant. A pair of pygmy kingfishers (*Chloroceryle aenea aenea*) caught in mist nets set up near the lagoon March 24, form an interesting addition to the island residents. Men with me in 1958, and those with Handley, saw a small rail that was not collected, but from the description it may have been the white-throated rail (*Laterallus albigularis*) which is common on the mainland. George Barratt, with Handley, also reported a night bird with batlike flight that probably was a species of goatsucker.

Specimens in formalin of the endemic races of the manakin, *Manacus vitellinus amitinus*, bay wren, *Thryothorus nigricapillus odicus*, and blue-gray tanager, *Thraupis virens caesia*, all show clearly the decidedly larger size of the first two, and the heavier bill found in the tanager when compared to birds of the adjacent mainland. The same character of larger dimension is present in the island form of the thick-spined rat, described by Dr. Handley, and is in much greater evidence in the hummingbird, whose description follows.

AMAZILIA HANDLEYI, new species

Characters.—In general appearance similar to *Amazilia tzacatl* ¹ but much larger, and darker in color; bill decidedly heavier; feet larger; brown of tail, upper and under tail coverts, and lores, darker; back and wing coverts decidedly darker and duller.

Description.—Type, ♂ ad., U. S. Nat. Mus. 477282, from Isla Escudo de Veraguas, collected March 22, 1962, by C. O. Handley, Jr., and F. M. Greenwell (orig. no. 1188). Crown, hindneck, back, and wing coverts (except the primary coverts) deep green, with a sheen of dull bronze that changes on lower back and rump to a darker shade with an iridescence of dull russet; upper tail coverts liver brown; tail chocolate, edged and tipped with dull black; primaries, secondaries, and primary coverts dull black with a faint sheen of violet; a narrow line of chocolate on the lores; foreneck, sides of neck, upper breast, and sides clear bright green, with some of the throat feathers edged narrowly with dull white; a small tuft of white feathers on the upper line of the sides near center; lower breast and upper abdomen hair brown; lower abdomen and tibial tufts white; under tail coverts walnut brown; edge of wing lined narrowly with chocolate. Tips and sides of maxilla and tip of mandible dull black; rest of bill dull reddish brown; bare lower end of tarsus, toes, and claws dull black. (From dried skin.)

Measurements.—Males (4 specimens), wing 67.5-68.7 (68.1), tail 40.0-41.5 (40.6), culmen from base 24.4-27.6 (24.5) mm.

Female (one specimen), wing 67.1, tail 41.1, culmen from base 25.8 mm.

Type, male, wing 67.5, tail 40.0, culmen from base 27.6 mm.

Range.—Confined to Isla Escudo de Veraguas, off the base of Peninsula Valiente, Bocas del Toro, Panamá.

Remarks.—During my visit to Escudo de Veraguas early in March 1958 I had brief glimpses of hummingbirds at flowers among low bushes back of the beach, but none came sufficiently near to allow me to shoot any for specimens. As they turned in flight I had brief glimpses of brown in the tail as in Rieffer's hummingbird (*Amazilia t. tzacatl*) common on the mainland, and these Escudo birds were so identified and recorded (Wetmore, 1959, p. 6). During the work of Dr. Handley five were captured in mist nets set for bats, and with these in hand it was obvious immediately that while they

¹ *Trochilus Tzacatl* De la Llave, Registro Trimestre, vol. 2, no. 5, Jan. 1833, p. 48. (México.)

resembled Rieffer's hummingbird in color pattern, they were so much larger, especially in bulk of body and total length, and also so much darker colored, that they were examples of an unknown form. From careful examination the differences are of such a nature that they must be considered as representative of a distinct species. This is named for Charles O. Handley, Jr., in recognition of his continuing interest in the avifauna during his field work concerned with the mammals of Panamá.

The five birds taken by Dr. Handley were preserved in formalin and were prepared as skins by Mrs. Roxie Laybourne on their arrival at the U. S. National Museum. Their much greater size was obvious, but to make certain that the color differences were not due to the preservative I placed a recently taken study skin of *Amazilia tzacatl* in the same fluid in which the hummingbirds from Isla Escudo de Veraguas had been received. When dried after a month of such immersion this specimen showed no change of any kind. It is interesting to record that in this skin, and in the larger relative here described, the feathers along the side of the neck when wet were metallic reddish purple, a color that disappeared completely as the specimens dried.

Amazilia tzacatl as a species maintains uniform size, within the usual limits of individual variation, throughout a vast area from eastern México, Central America, and Colombia to western Ecuador and western Venezuela. The only variation apparent is in a buffy wash on the abdomen in that part of the population found in southwestern Colombia and Ecuador on which birds of that section are separated as a geographic race under the name *A. t. jucunda*. It has been noted above that the bird of Isla Escudo de Veraguas compared with *tzacatl* differs in decidedly darker coloration and in much larger size. It is clearly evident that the island group is of a stock similar to that of the mainland, so that on first consideration it would appear that they should be related as subspecies. The color differences, while considerable, would not militate against this. But the size difference in terms of bulk of body of the island bird is so much greater—over 50 percent more than that of the mainland group—with its complete isolation, make it reasonable to regard *handleyi* as a separate species.

As stated in my earlier paper (Wetmore, 1959, pp. 3-4) it is probable that the island had connection with the mainland during the fluctuations in sea level of Pleistocene time so that the present inhabitants among birds and mammals may have come to it during

such periods. It is interesting that the hummingbird, the manakin, the wren, and the rat all differ from present-day mainland relatives in definitely greater size. In the tanager this distinction is also evident but is restricted to the bill. Perhaps this species has come to the island more recently than the others.

II. DESCRIPTIONS OF A WOOD-QUAIL AND A TYRANT FLYCATCHER FROM THE SERRANÍA DEL DARIÉN

During part of June and July 1963, the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, under arrangements directed by Dr. Pedro Galindo, established three camps in the Serranía del Darién, in the vicinity of Cerro Tacarcuna, to serve as bases for the investigation of this little-known area. The birds collected included specimens of a beautiful wood-quail, related to Andean mountain forms to the south but unlike any of those known, and a flycatcher of a South American species not recorded before from Panamá. Descriptions of these follow.

Family PHASIANIDAE

ODONTOPHORUS DIALEUCOS, new species

Characters.—Generally similar to *Odontophorus strophium* (Gould)² but with crown black; back and scapulars without white shaft lines; entire upper surface olive, with rufous only as a band on the hindneck; foreneck similar in the two white bands above and below, with the space between mixed black and dull rufous; rest of lower surface olive rather than rufous and cinnamon, without shaft lines or a black collar below the lower white band; breast, sides, and flanks dull olive-buff, finely barred and mottled with slaty black.

Description.—Type, ♂, U.S. Nat. Mus. 483327, from 1,450 meters elevation, 6½ kilometers west of the summit of Cerro Malí, Darién, Panamá, taken June 7, 1963, by Pedro Galindo (orig. no., Gorgas Mem. Lab. 4-00384): Crown black with slight, partly concealed mottling of dull rufous, and tiny spots of white; a prominent white superciliary streak that extends back of the eye; a band of hazel mottled and lined with sooty black on the hindneck that laterally becomes cinnamon-buff as it extends around to meet the posterior end of the white superciliary; back, rump, and upper tail coverts brownish olive, finely barred and mottled with sooty black, with scattered faint spots and indistinct bars of cinnamon; wing coverts, inner secondaries, and

² *Ortyx (Odontophorus) strophium* Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, vol. 11, 1843 (March, 1944), p. 134. (Bogotá, Colombia.)

tertials snuff brown, barred and spotted finely with sooty black, and lined and spotted sparingly with small, irregular marks of buffy white; tertials with heavy, irregular markings of black, inner secondaries barred broadly with black; primaries fuscous, finely mottled with dull cinnamon-buff on outer webs; a band of white across the upper fore-neck extending at either side over the malar region beneath the eye, and on the lower eyelid; a broad band of black mixed with Mars brown and russet extending between the two white bands from the lower cheeks across the middle foreneck and upper throat, changing to dull black over the ear coverts; a broad band of white across the lower foreneck; rest of lower surface dull buffy brown to tawny-olive, heavily mottled with sooty black, spotted sparingly and indistinctly with buffy white, becoming Saccardo's umber, with slightly heavier markings of black and cinnamon-buff on the flanks and under tail coverts; under wing coverts fuscous, sparingly and indistinctly spotted with dull Saccardo's umber. Bill, tarsi, and toes black (in dried skin).

Measurements.—Male (type), wing 129.5, tail 44.3, culmen from base 19.8, tarsus 45.2 mm.

Female, wing 131.0, tail 46.7, culmen from base 19.6, tarsus 47.5 mm.

Remarks.—The male and female from which this bird is described were taken together. The adult female is very slightly browner than the male. This specimen has the lores and the superciliary area black like the crown, with only a fine spotting of white. The chin also seems to have had the white band considerably reduced by black (though this can not be ascertained clearly as some of the feathers of this area are missing.) The line of the culmen and the tip of the maxilla in this bird are partly brown.

The discovery of this beautiful wood-quail, isolated in the higher levels of the Serranía del Darién, adds another form to populations of this genus with prominent markings of white on the head and neck. It is most like *Odontophorus strophium* of the Bogotá region of Colombia, which has the foreneck similar, with a black center bordered broadly with white above and below. This species differs, however, in the presence of a narrow black collar on the neck below the border of the lower white band. Also *strophium* is rufous and cinnamon on the breast and sides, with prominent white shaft lines and spots, has the crown fuscous-brown, and the whole upper surface rufescent rather than olive, with heavier, more prominent markings. *Odontophorus columbianus* (Gould) of the subtropical zone of the mountains of northern Venezuela in general resembles *strophium* but has

the entire foreneck white above the narrow basal black collar. Also it is spotted along the sides with black, and heavily with white on the breast. *Odontophorus parambae* Rothschild, found in the tropical zone from west-central Colombia south to Ecuador, has a single white band across the lower area of the black foreneck. *Odontophorus leucolaemus*, more remote, in Costa Rica and western Panamá, has the entire upper foreneck white, with the lower area and upper breast jet black. And finally there may be noted *Odontophorus atrifrons* of the Andes of northern Colombia and *O. erythrops melanotis* found on Cerro Pirre and Cerro Azul in Panamá, in which the foreneck is solid black.

All these are similar in size, form, and, so far as known, in habits, so that it is reasonable to postulate common ancestry. Their present-day differences in pattern of markings, coupled with variations in color, may unite them in a super species, but these distinctions appear so fixed and so definite that to group them as subspecies under one specific name would conceal their interesting divergences.

The name for the species here described is from the Greek *dialeukos*, marked with white.

Family TYRANNIDAE

ELAENIA CANICEPS ABSITA, new subspecies

Characters.—Male, similar to that of *Elaenia caniceps parambae* (Hellmayr)³ but lighter, clearer gray above and across the breast; whiter on throat and abdomen; partly concealed white area of center of crown larger; white edgings on lesser wing coverts more extensive. Female, with pileum darker gray (around the white center); breast, sides, and abdomen decidedly paler, less deeply yellow.

Description.—Type, ♂, U.S. Nat. Mus. 483342, from the old Tacarcuna Village site, headwaters of the Río Pucro, 950 meters elevation, on the base of Cerro Malí, Serranía del Darién, collected by Pedro Galindo, July 4, 1963 (orig. no., Gorgas Mem. Lab. 3-00329). Crown deep neutral gray, with an extensive, partly concealed central area in which the basal two-thirds of each feather is pure white; a narrow line of grayish white across forehead and upper edge of lores; back, rump, and upper tail coverts neutral gray; wings black, with the wing coverts tipped, and the inner primaries, secondaries, and tertiaries broadly edged with white; tail feathers mouse gray edged with neutral gray, mainly toward base, and tipped narrowly with grayish white;

³ *Serpophaga parambae* Hellmayr, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vol. 14, Feb. 27, 1904, p. 54. (Paramba, elevation 3,500 feet, Provincia de Esmeraldas, Ecuador.)

a very narrow line of white on the edge of both eyelids; lores, side of head below eye, and anterior auricular feathers neutral gray at the tips and more or less white at the base; throat and upper foreneck very pale grayish white; lower foreneck, upper breast, and sides pallid neutral gray; flanks, abdomen, and under tail coverts pure white; edge of wing white with a slight spotting of neutral gray; inner wing coverts and edge of inner webs of primaries white; outermost wing coverts white mixed with neutral gray. Bill dull black, with the base of the gonys whitish; tarsus, toes, and claws black. (From dried skin.)

Measurements.—Male, type, wing 58.0, tail 49.4, culmen from base 10.5, tarsus 15.5 mm.

Female, wing 52.5, tail 42.8, culmen from base 10.2, tarsus 15.6 mm.

Range.—Known only from the upper Río Pucro, at 950 meters elevation on the base of Cerro Malí, Serranía del Darién, Panamá.

Remarks.—A female, U.S. Nat. Mus. 483341, was taken with the male at the same location, on July 4, 1963 (Gorgas Mem. Lab. no. 3-00328). This bird has the following colors: Crown slightly darker than in the male, with the same partly hidden white center; upper surface Krönberg's green; tail feathers blacker than in the male, edged lightly with dull green; light edgings on wing chartreuse yellow; side of head as in male; throat and upper foreneck duller white; lower foreneck, breast, and sides washed lightly with vetiver green; abdomen sea-foam green; under tail coverts chalcedony yellow; lighter part of under wing coverts, and inner webs of basal part of primaries like abdomen.

The male has been compared with the type of *Elaenia c. parambae* in the American Museum of Natural History. Through the kindness of James Bond I have examined a female and two males of that race in immature dress in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, taken on the Río Jurubidá, inland from Nuquí near the central coast of the Department of Chocó, northwestern Colombia. The two marked male in color are like the female. Compared with the female from Cerro Malí the three from Nuquí are very slightly clearer green on the back, with the base color of the crown faintly lighter gray. Below they differ decidedly as the throat and upper foreneck are duller, grayer, the lower foreneck, breast, and sides are much greener, and the rest of the under surface is decidedly deeper yellow.

The specimens from the Cerro Tacarcuna massif in Darién mark an interesting addition to the flycatchers known from Panamá. As a species, *Elaenia caniceps* ranges from Colombia and southern Venezuela to Bolivia, northern Argentina, and southern Brazil. With the present description four subspecies are recognized in this area.

The name of the present race, the most northern population known, is taken from the Latin *absitus*, in the sense of one living remote or distant from its relatives.

III. A WESTERN SUBSPECIES OF THE PLAIN-COLORED Tanager

The plain-colored tanager, in its subspecies *Tangara inornata languens* Bangs and Barbour, is a common bird of the tropical zone in Panamá from the central lowlands eastward into Colombia. Through recent work of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory at a field station in Bocas del Toro, I have received from Eustorgio Méndez three specimens from Almirante that mark a considerable extension of range. These prove to represent an undescribed race.

TANGARA INORNATA RAVA, new subspecies

Characters.—Similar to *Tangara inornata languens* Bangs and Barbour,⁴ but with throat, lower breast, abdomen, and under tail coverts light buff to pinkish buff; a faint wash of the same color on lower rump and upper tail coverts; lesser wing coverts decidedly darker blue.

Description.—Type, ♂, U.S. Nat. Mus. 483344, from Almirante (Milla 2), Bocas del Toro, Panamá, collected August 23, 1963, by Eustorgio Méndez (orig. no., Gorgas Mem. Lab. 6936). Dorsal surface from crown to upper tail coverts neutral gray; wings and tail sooty black; lesser wing coverts methyl blue to Paris blue, with a metallic sheen; sides of head like crown, with the feathers of the ear coverts with faint grayish white shaft lines; chin sooty gray; foreneck pale olive-buff; chest and sides pale neutral gray; center of breast, abdomen, under tail coverts, and axillars pale pinkish buff to pinkish buff. Bill, tarsus, toes, and claws black. (From dried skin.)

Measurements.—Male (one, the type), wing 69.7, tail 45.4, culmen from base 10.9, tarsus 17.8 mm.

Female (two specimens), wing 65.4, 68.0, tail 43.6, 43.7, culmen from base 10.9, 11.0, tarsus 17.1, 17.2 mm.

Range.—Western area of the Province of Bocas del Toro in the Caribbean lowlands of Panamá; probably extending on the Caribbean slope in Costa Rica.

Remarks.—The well-known race *Tangara inornata languens* of this tanager has been recorded in Panamá on the Pacific slope west through

⁴ *Tangara inornata languens* Bangs and Barbour, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., vol. 65, Sept. 1922, p. 227. (Lion Hill, Canal Zone, Panamá.)

the Canal Zone to Chorrera in the western sector of the Province of Panamá. On the Caribbean side I have taken it in the valley of the Río Indio west to El Uracillo, in northern Coclé, and Chilar in western Colón. In the American Museum of Natural History there is one from "Cascajal, Coclé" collected February 5, 1889. No collector is indicated, but the label and writing are those of Heyde and Lux, whose locality is believed to have been on the Caribbean slope on the Río Cascajal, a tributary of the Río Coclé del Norte.

The first specimen from Bocas del Toro, an immature female, taken in a mist net and prepared by Rudolfo Hinds, December 16, 1960, marked a considerable extension of range. The prominent buff of the under surface of this bird, which attracted immediate attention, was attributed at the time with some uncertainty to the age of the specimen, though this color did not agree with that found in other young birds of this species that I had seen. A second skin from Almirante, an adult female, taken September 25, 1962, was as deep buff as the first one, and with the receipt of an adult male secured August 23, 1963, it was apparent that a racial difference was indicated.

Approximately 75 skins of the race *languens* and 40 of *T. i. inornata* from central and eastern Colombia have been available for comparison. A faint wash of pale pinkish buff on the center of the abdomen and the under tail coverts is found in a number of these specimens, but in none is this color prominent as it is in the skins from Bocas del Toro. It is most evident in a few skins taken a hundred years ago by McLeannan in which this color seems due in part to discoloration from age as museum specimens. In all individuals in these long series the lesser wing coverts are light blue, with no approach to the darker color of this area in the birds from Bocas del Toro.

It is probable that the race described here ranges beyond the international boundary in the lowlands of the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica. While no specimens are available at this time, Dr. Paul Slud informs me that he has a few records of *Tangara inornata* (which he will publish in detail later) from that area.

The name is from the Latin adjective *ravus*, in the sense of tawny.

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE RECORDED LIST OF BIRDS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMÁ

Knot, *Calidris canutus rufa* (Wilson): Two immature males taken at Puerto Obaldía, San Blas, on September 12 and 22, 1934, by Hasso von Wedel are the only present report for this species. The specimens, originally in the Herbert Brandt collection at the Museum of the Uni-

versity of Cincinnati, are now in the U.S. National Museum. In the period of northern winter the knot, which nests in the far north, is found from eastern United States south to Tierra del Fuego. There are, however, few records of it in Central America.

Caspian tern, *Hydroprogne caspia* (Pallas): In the files of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service there is record of one banded by L. Tyler on South Limestone Island, in Georgian Bay, Lake Huron, Ontario, on June 11, 1955, that was found wounded at Aligandí, San Blas, on the evening of November 12 of that year. According to the report, forwarded by Dr. Alcibíades Iglésias, the bird died the following day. The occurrence on the San Blas coast is one to be expected, as this tern is reported as a migrant to the Caribbean coast of Colombia from Cartagena to the lower Río Magdalena.

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