

supposed species to the rank of geographical races or subspecies may be further carried is not yet known, but the material examined by Mr. Allen foreshadows still further reduction. For example, "the Cayenne form known as *C. guianensis*," says Mr. Allen, "probably will be found to grade into *C. viridis* through a paler race representing the species in northeastern Brazil, . . . for which Baird's name *ccarensis* (= *albiventris*) would be available. In short, it seems probable that the whole group centring about *C. flavipectus*, including not only its several recognized subspecies but *C. guianensis* and *C. viridis*, and possibly also *C. flaviventris* through its southern forms,* will be found, when ample material for the study of the genus has been gathered, to imperceptibly blend."

The article is supplemented by Mr. Allen's "present impressions of the status, relationships, and distribution of the various forms of *Cyclorhis*," concluding with an excellent key to the species. — R. R.

Allen's Descriptions of New South American Birds.—Eight new species and subspecies, belonging to various families, are described in this paper, † as follows: (1) *Thryothorus macrurus*, Bogota; (2) *T. longipes*, Ambato. Ecuador; (3) *Platyrhynchus bifasciatus*, Chapada, Matto Grosso, Brazil; (4) *P. insularis*, Tobago; (5) *Euscarthmus ochropterus*, Chapada, Matto Grosso; (6) *Sublegatus virescens*, Chapada; (7) *Empidonax lawrencei* (= *Octhaca flaviventris* Lawr.); (8) *Thamnophilus dolibatus mexicanus* (= *T. affinis*, Cab. & Heine, pre-occupied). The "remarks" on other species refer to the following: (1) *Thryothorus "mysticalis"*, of the Rusby Collection, which proves to be "probably a large, very strongly colored example of *T. genibarbis*, or else an undescribed form" somewhat intermediate between the latter and *T. mysticalis*; (2) *Porphyrospiza caerulescens* (Max.), this being the correct name for the bird usually called *P. cyanella* (Sparrr.); (3) *Mecocerculus uropygialis* Lawr., a specimen of which, "said to have been collected at a point thirty miles north of Bogota" is in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, "thus greatly extending the range of the species to the northward"; (4) *Euscarthmus pelzelni* Scl., a second specimen of which is in the collection, from Cuyaba, Matto Grosso; (5) *Habrura superciliaris* (Wied), being the species usually called *H. pectoralis* (Cab. & Heine); (6) *Habrura minima* (Gould), very generally synonymized with *H. pectoralis*, but restored to specific rank ‡; (7) *Phyllomyias incanescens* (Wied), which is now first referred to its proper genus, being the *Muscipeta incanescens* of Wied, of which *Phyllomyias berlepschi* Scl. is a synonym; (8) *Ornithion cinerascens* (Wied), being the bird usually called *O. obsoletum* (*Muscicapa obsoleta*

* Unfortunately we are not informed what these "southern forms" of *C. flaviventris* are!

† Descriptions of New Species of South American Birds, with Remarks on various other little known species. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. Vol. II, No. 3, June, 1889, pp. 137-151.

‡ In a "Note on the Type of the Genus *Habrura* Cab. & Heine," on p. 147, this species is shown to be the type, instead of *H. pectoralis*, as given by Sclater.

Temm.); (9) *Formicivora griseigula* Lawr., which proves to be "an immature *Thryothorus coraya* (Gm.)"; (10) *Peristera mondetoura* Bon., from Bogota.—R.R.

Allen on Individual and Seasonal Variation in the Genus *Elainea*.*—While the family Tyrannidae has been generally recognized as perhaps the most difficult to study of all the large distinctively American bird groups, the genus *Elainea* is admitted to be its most perplexing genus. In working up the very extensive 'Smith Collection' of birds from Chapada, Matto Grosso, Brazil, Mr. Allen found himself confronted by the not very pleasant or promising task of naming a series of 129 specimens "from an area of about five miles radius," representing several species, but how many only the most patient investigation could determine. The chief difficulty lay with specimens belonging to the *pagana-albiceps* group, of which, fortunately, no less than 116 specimens were present; but this richness of material for a while proved rather an embarrassment than an aid, a large proportion of the specimens being "referable to the true *E. pagana* of authors, and a still larger number to what is commonly recognized as *E. albiceps*, while the great bulk of the series" was "made up of specimens variously intermediate between these two forms." Mr. Allen found it desirable, "in order to satisfactorily determine the relationships of the puzzling birds represented in the Chapada series," to bring together as much material as possible; consequently, the *Elaineas* of the National Museum collection (numbering about 200 specimens), the Boston Society of Natural History, and the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy in Cambridge, were borrowed for the purpose. After patient study of this material Mr. Allen was enabled to reach definite conclusions, some of which were probably no less surprising to himself than to others who have read his excellent paper. "The Chapada series of *Elainea* referable to the *E. pagana-albiceps* group," says Mr. Allen "presents a wide range of variation, not only in size and coloration, but especially in the size and form of the bill. Were there fewer specimens, representing the same range of variation, but with most of the 'intermediates' left out, it would be quite easy to divide the series into several apparently well-marked species, and not hard to find names for them among the so-called species already described. Especially would this be the case were the specimens gathered from a wider geographical area, with the leading forms more or less localized. As the case stands, however, the specimens are all from a single very limited locality, and the gaps between the extreme forms are completely filled by specimens presenting every intermediate phase of variation. Besides, the variations in any other feature, — as in the form of the bill, in general size, the relative length of the outer primaries, or the relative length of wing to tail, — are found not to be correlated with varia-

* Remarks on Individual and Seasonal Variation in a large series of *Elainea* from Chapada, Matto Grosso, Brazil, with a Revision of the species of the restricted Genus *Elainea*. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. Vol. II, No. 3, Article XVIII, Oct. 1889, pp. 183-208.