

[74. *Tyrannus albogularis* *Burm.*

*Tyrannus niveigularis* ALLEN, Bull. Essex Inst., VIII, 1876, p. 79.

A typical male of this species was taken by Mr. Williams, July 25, 1883. This capture considerably extends the range of this species, which has before been known only from the interior of Brazil. Through the kindness of Mr. William Brewster, I have been enabled to examine at the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, a number of the Linden specimens on which Mr Allen's paper was based, and find the bird there recorded (l. c.) as *Tyrannus niveigularis* Scl. to be *Tyrannus albogularis* *Burm.*

In addition to the first example mentioned there are two other specimens collected by Mr. Williams; one mounted in Brown University, without indication of sex or date of capture, the other a skin of a male in Mr. Riker's collection, taken in June, 1883. These birds agree very closely with each other and differ so decidedly from *albogularis*, as represented by a series of 18 specimens, that for a time I had little doubt of their distinctness. Certain peculiarities in coloration, however, have led me to believe that these specimens may have been preserved in alcohol, and I therefore simply append a comparison with its nearest ally, leaving it to be decided by the acquisition of further material whether the bird is deserving of recognition. The male, taken in June, is in fresh, unworn plumage. It may be distinguished from *albogularis* at any season, by (1) the greenish olive-brown instead of olive-green back, (2) a brownish suffusion in the ashy color of the head (the crown patch remaining unchanged), (3) the hair-brown (not black or blackish) auriculars, (4) the brown in place of black wings. It is the coloration of the wings, however, which has aroused my suspicion, and while, as has been stated, the general color is brown, there is a peculiar blackish and lighter brownish mottling on some of the quills which suggests a chemical change having occurred in the coloration. This apparent abnormality is even more marked in the wings, and also the tail, of the mounted Brown University specimen. In both specimens the yellow of the underparts has evidently not been affected and agrees in color with that of *albogularis*.—F. M. C.]

75. *Milvulus tyrannus* (*Linn.*).—Common in lowlands and flooded tracts.

(*To be continued.*)

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

Ridgway on the Genus *Xiphocolaptes*.—Mr. Ridgway's 'Review'\* of this difficult genus is based upon the material of the National Museum, supplemented by that of the American Museum of Natural History, the Boston Society of Natural History, and the Museum of Comparative

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\* A Review of the Genus *Xiphocolaptes* of Lesson. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XII, 1889, pp. 1-20.

Zoölogy, and thus practically upon all of the material in this country available for study. "Somewhat to my surprise," says Mr. Ridgway, "the existence of a much greater number of clearly-defined forms than have been recognized by leading authorities soon became apparent; and a strict regard for the principles of geographical distribution and variation has left me no other resource than to describe a considerable number as new to science, even though by doing so the number of the latter exactly equals that of those which have hitherto been recognized as valid."

While he believes that more extensive collections, representing large areas in South America now practically unknown as regards this group, will considerably further increase the number of forms, it seems to him also probable "that more material will show that several of the forms now ranked as distinct species actually intergrade, thus being entitled only to trinomial instead of binomial appellations."

The range of the genus extends from southern Mexico southward to Bolivia, the Argentine Republic, and Paraguay. Of the 11 forms recognized by Mr. Ridgway the following are described as new: *Xiphocolaptes sclateri*, from southeastern Mexico; *X. emigrans costaricensis*, from Costa Rica; *X. virgatus*, habitat unknown; *X. ignotus*, from Ecuador; *X. cinnamomeus*, from Eastern Brazil; *X. major castaneus*, from Bolivia. Four additional species are included as "not seen" by the author, the exact status of which seems more or less in doubt. Several of the new forms are based on single specimens, in one case without locality, and in others on examples obviously immature. In view of our ignorance, through the absence of adequate material, of the variations dependent on age, sex, and season among Dendrocolaptine birds, Mr. Ridgway appears to have taken a rather bold position in reference to the present group.—J. A. A.

**Ridgway on the Genus *Sclerurus*.**—The equally difficult genus *Sclerurus* has also recently passed under Mr. Ridgway's critical notice.\* This genus has about the same geographical distribution as *Xiphocolaptes* and about the same number of forms, as determined by Mr. Ridgway, who recognizes, in the present paper, ten species of *Sclerurus*. Of these one (*S. lawrencet*, from "Bahia") is described as new, and a Maximilian name is revived for another, Wied's *Tinactor fuscus* being considered as in part (the female) referable to *S. umbretta* (Licht.), and in part (the male) to a new form, for which Wied's name is retained. Heretofore Wied's *Tinactor fuscus* has been synonymized with *S. umbretta* (Licht.). Mr. Ridgway gives the habitat of *S. fuscus* as "Upper Amazons," but there is apparently no good reason for supposing the locality of either of Wied's specimens to have been other than southeastern Brazil. In his MS. Catalogue the locality and source of both these specimens are given as "Brasilien, M. R." (= meine Reise).† The remarks made

\* A Review of the Genus *Sclerurus* of Swainson. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XII, 1889, pp. 21-31.

† Cf. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. 11, p. 242.