

- \* *Melospiza melodia inexpectata* Riley. Eliminated, because considered not separable from *Melospiza melodia morphna*. (Cf. Swarth, Condor, XXV, No. 6, December 20, 1923, p. 218.)
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## DESCRIPTION OF A NEW FLYCATCHER FROM ARGENTINA.

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE.

CONTINUED work on collections made in Argentina during 1920 and 1921 has shown a species of Tyrannidae not previously recognized by science. It may be known as

### *Suiriri improvisa*, sp. nov.

*Characters*.—Similar to *Suiriri affinis* (Burmeister)<sup>1</sup> but smaller; feet decidedly smaller; a distinct grayish band across chest; much darker above, and on sides of head; rectrices without yellowish at base.

*Description*.—Type, U. S. National Museum Cat. no. 284,899, female, taken at Tapia, Province of Tucumán, Argentina, April 9, 1921, by Alexander Wetmore (original number, 6435). Crown, hind neck, and sides of neck deep mouse gray, with a very faint wash of olive; back, scapulars, and upper tail-coverts deep grayish olive, rump faintly brighter; wings and tail dull black; lesser wing coverts tipped with deep grayish olive; median wing coverts tipped heavily, greater coverts more narrowly with olive-buff, forming two pronounced wing-bars; secondaries margined widely, primaries edged narrowly with pale olive-buff; primary coverts tipped slightly with same; outer web of outer rectrix pale olive-buff except at tip, other rectrices edged narrowly with deep grayish olive basally, lightening to olive-buff near tips; rectrices without distinct paler color at base; a faint whitish line at base of bill; lores blackish; a few white feathers on upper and lower eyelids; space below eye and auricular region deep mouse gray, with very narrow shaft streaks of white; chin and throat white, shading to light mouse gray on center of breast, this becoming mouse gray laterally; lower breast, abdomen and under tail-coverts primrose yellow; sides and flanks dull vetiver green; axillars, under wing coverts and edge of wing naphthalene yellow; outer under wing coverts clouded with grayish. Bill, feet, and tarsus black (in dried skin).

*Measurements*.—(In millimeters, of type): Wing, 68.5; tail, 61.7; culmen from base, 13.0; tarsus, 18.7.

*Range*.—Known only from Tapia, Tucumán.

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<sup>1</sup> *Elaeena affinis* Burmeister, Syst. Uebers. Thiere Brasiliens, 1856, p. 477. (Lagoa Santa, Brazil.)

*Remarks.*—The present species appears congeneric with *Suiriri suiriri* but has a decidedly larger bill. It combines the general appearance of *S. suiriri* with the coloration of *Sublegatus fasciatus* (Thunberg). It is also suggestive of *Suiriri affinis* from which it differs as outlined in the diagnosis. It is astonishing to find so distinct a species at such a well known locality as Tapia and for some time I have searched in literature for a name for it without success. Some doubt has attached to the identity of *Sublegatus frontalis* Salvadori,<sup>1</sup> but Dr. Hellmayr informs me that it is a synonym of *S. fasciatus*, and states further that he has not previously seen a bird like the type of *improvisa*.

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#### GENERAL NOTES.

##### **Apparent Nesting of the Hooded Merganser in Lancaster Co., Pa.**

—On May 18, 1924, my dog surprised a male Hooded Merganser under an overhanging bank of Hammer Creek some six miles from Lititz, Pa. The bird splashed to mid-stream, floated there for a second and then seeing me twelve yards away, he flushed and whipped out of sight around the projecting bushes. Clifford Marburger and I while making our Christmas bird census last December had caught a glimpse of a distant duck which we thought was a Hooded Merganser and as the winter had been exceptionally open the thought arose that possibly this bird had remained to breed.

On the morning of May 25, I was again on the Hammer Creek meadow, with my dog "Barley." The location is in northern Lancaster County fifteen miles from the Susquehanna River, and throughout its quarter mile course in this meadow the stream presses against an embankment well covered with an old growth of sycamores, white elms, white oaks and red maples, the other side being fairly open pasture land, very boggy in places with scattered clumps of alder, wild rose and swamp willow.

We beat cautiously up stream and a hundred yards above the overhanging bank there was a flutter and splash and "Barley" had run into the female Merganser. He watched her unusual actions with apparent amazement. There she was on the water not twenty-five yards away, her little brown crest fairly bristling with excitement. Something had given this shy bird courage. Even as I came up with the dog she swam boldly back toward him. Fifteen yards from us she wheeled and splashed heavily away along the water uttering as she went a guttural cackle. Coming

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<sup>1</sup> Boll. Mus. Zool. Anat. Comp. Torino, vol. 12, May 12, 1897, p. 14. (Caiza, Chaco Boliviano.)