

THREE NEW JAYS FROM EL SALVADOR.

BY A. J. VAN ROSSEM.

CRITICAL study of the Jays collected in El Salvador in 1927 necessitates the description of three new forms from the cloud forest (Upper Tropical Zone) regions of the interior or Cordilleran mountains. All of these are representatives of Mexican and Guatemalan highland species, two of which apparently reach their extreme southern limits at this point. Further comment on these and other members of the Family *Corvidae* will be made in our final report, now nearing completion.

As the region in question is on the Salvador-Honduras border it is to be expected that these races are not as local as might be inferred from their present known range. Northeastward from Los Esesmiles stretches a large area of high, broken, mountainous country in which most of the forms from the Upper Tropical Zone of El Salvador will very probably be found to occur.

Cyanocitta stelleri lazula subsp. nov.

SALVADOR CRESTED JAY.

Type.—Male adult, no. 18,353, collection of Donald R. Dickey; Los Esesmiles, Dept. Chalatenango, El Salvador; altitude 8,000 feet, 'cloud forest'; February 17, 1927; collected by A. J. van Rossem; original no. 11, 216.

Subspecific characters.—Nearest to *Cyanocitta stelleri ridgwayi* and *Cyanocitta stelleri suavis* Miller and Griscom of Volcan Fuego, Guatemala, and the Matagalpa region of Nicaragua respectively, in possession of white on both upper and lower eyelids, but coloration darker than either; crest comparatively still darker and more contrasted with back; light area on chin and upper throat restricted as in *suavis*.

Range.—Cloud forest areas in the interior (Cordilleran) mountains of El Salvador.

Remarks.—The new race of Crested Jay it will be noted, is not intermediate between the two geographically nearest forms, but like *Cyanolyca* and *Aphelocoma* has reacted to the local environment in the way of darker coloration.

In working over the series of *Cyanocitta* we are especially indebted to Mr. Ludlow Griscom, who with Mr. W. deWitt Miller described both *ridgwayi* and *suavis*.

Specimens examined.—*Cyanocitta stelleri ridgwayi*: Guatemala; series from Volcan Fuego (including the type) and Quetzaltenango. *Cyanocitta stelleri suavis*: Nicaragua: San Rafael del Norte, 5 (including the type). *Cyanocitta stelleri lazula*: Salvador; Los Esesmiles, 11.

***Aphelocoma unicolor griscomi*¹ subsp. nov.**

GRISCOM'S JAY.

Type.—Male adult, no. 18,181, collection of Donald R. Dickey; Los Esesmiles, Dept. Chalatenango, El Salvador; altitude 8,500 feet, 'cloud forest'; February 4, 1927; "breeding condition"; collected by A. J. van Rossem; original no. 11,044.

Subspecific characters.—Exactly intermediate in color between *Aphelocoma unicolor unicolor* (Du Bus) of southeastern Mexico and *Aphelocoma unicolor guerrenensis* Nelson of southwestern Mexico. Much darker and more purplish than *Aphelocoma unicolor coelestis* Ridgway of Chiapas and Guatemala.

Range.—Cloud forest regions of the Cordillera in El Salvador.

Remarks.—Although considered by Oberholser (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 32, 1919, 135) as not only specifically but subgenerically distinct from *unicolor* we cannot but believe that *guerrenensis* is only a strongly marked subspecies of the former. The last vestige of doubt in this connection is removed by the discovery of the Salvador race, which bridges the color gap between the two. Oberholser himself sometimes found the tail shorter than the wing in *guerrenensis* and therefore overlapping proportionately with *unicolor*. We consider the longer tail of *guerrenensis* nothing more than an average subspecific character.

Oddly enough the present case parallels a condition observed in the *Aphelocoma californica* group where two superficially very closely related forms (*immanis* and *hypoleuca*) are separated by races bearing no close resemblance to either.

Measurements.—Based on ♂♂ only.

				Culmen	Tarsus	Middle Toe Without Claw
	Wing	Tail		From Base		
<i>A. u. guerrenensis</i>	5 160-171 (166.2)	160-173 (168.0)		33.5-36.0 (35.1)	39.0-41.0 (39.9)	22.7-24.1 (23.3)
<i>A. u. unicolor</i>	5 158-166 (162.2)	153-166 (157.6)		31.4-32.5 (32.1)	38.0-41.2 (40.1)	22.6-24.0 (23.4)

¹ Named for Mr. Ludlow Griscom in appreciation of much helpful criticism of our work on Central American birds.

		Wing	Tail	Culmen		Middle Toe
				From Base	Tarsus	Without Claw
<i>A. u. coelestis</i>	3	165-167 (166.0)	155-158 (156.3)	32.8-34.1 (33.6)	40.7-42.2 (41.4)	23.1-24.0 (23.5)
<i>A. u. griscomi</i>	4	162-171 (166.2)	158-166 (160.0)	33.3-35.1 (34.3)	42.0-43.1 (42.5)	22.2-24.0 (23.3)

Specimens examined.—*Aphelocoma unicolor unicolor*:¹ Mexico:

¹ From Bureau of Biological Survey.

Vera Cruz, Jico, 7. *Aphelocoma unicolor coelestis*:¹ Mexico: Chiapas, San Cristobal, 4. *Aphelocoma unicolor guerrerensis*:¹ Mexico: Guerrero, Omilteme, 7. *Aphelocoma unicolor griscomi*: El Salvador: Chalatenango, Los Esesmiles, 7.

***Cyanolyca pumilo nigroregularis* subsp. nov.**

SALVADOR BLACK-THROATED JAY.

Type.—Male adult, no. 18,559, collection of Donald R. Dickey; Los Esesmiles, Dept. Chalatenango, El Salvador; altitude 7,800 feet, Upper Tropical Zone; March 7, 1927, breeding; collected by A. J. van Rossem; original no. 11,422.

Subspecific characters.—Resembling *Cyanolyca pumilo* (Strickland) of Mexico and Guatemala but lower throat glossy black, uniform with side of head and malar region, with posterior outline strongly convex and more sharply defined.

Range.—Upper Tropical Zone in the interior (Cordilleran) mountains of Salvador, from 7,800 to 8,700 feet.

Remarks.—Judging from the very few specimens we have been able to examine, there seems to be a decided increase in size from north to south. Chiapas specimens approximate the measurements given by Ridgway (Bull. 50, U. S. Nat. Mus., pt. 3, 1904, p. 321), while the three Salvador males range from 123.0 to 128.0 in wing, and 126.0 to 129.0 in tail. In color, Guatemala and Chiapas specimens appear identical.

Specimens examined.—*Cyanolyca pumilo pumilo*: Mexico: Chiapas, 3;¹ Guatemala, 2.² *Cyanolyca pumilo nigroregularis*: Salvador, 6.

514 Rosemont Ave.,
Pasadena, Calif.

¹ Bureau of Biological Survey.

² Dwight collection.