

REDISCOVERY OF CONOTHRAUPIS SPECULIGERA
(GOULD).

BY M. A. CARRIKER.

THIS rare Tanager was described by Gould from two males, which were collected by Hauxwell in 1852 supposedly on the Rio Ucayali, East Peru. The types are in the British Museum.

In 1856 Sclater (P. Z. S., 1856, p. 68) says: "Mr. Gould's types are the only specimens I have seen of this peculiar bird. They were collected by Mr. Hauxwell in August, 1852, upon the Ucayali and are marked Irides red. I rather doubt this being the true place (generically) of this species, but at present I am unable to indicate a better one."

Until 1880 nothing further was seen or heard of the species, when Stolzmann collected three specimens, all males, at Callacate, on April 20 and 22 and May 24. At this time Sclater erected a new genus to receive it, viz.: *Conothraupis* (Ibis. 1880, p. 252) and published a very good plate of the species.

As far as I have been able to learn, the above mentioned five skins (all males) are the only ones which have been taken up to April 1933, at this time I was engaged in collecting at Samne, Dept. de Libertad, West Peru, for the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and was fortunate enough to again encounter this rare species, and in more abundance, securing eight males and three females, all fully adult birds in breeding plumage. Samne is a small village and mining camp in the valley of the Rio Moche, on the road from Trujillo to Huamachuco, at an altitude of 5000 feet, on the west slopes of the western cordillera of the Andes. The birds were all taken in one small valley opening into the valley of the Rio Moche, in which there is a rather abundant growth of shrubbery and low trees. The males were in full song and thus easy to locate, but the females were very shy and hard to find. The first specimen (a male) was shot in a thick fog and I had no idea what it was until I examined it carefully at the hotel.

A laying female was flushed from a steep slope, thickly overgrown with rank grass and weeds, above an irrigation ditch, and although I searched carefully, I could not locate the nest. I

suspect, however, that the nest is placed on or near the ground since no nests were found in the shrubbery which the birds frequented.

I have worked both to the north and to the south of this region, at the same altitude, but never saw the bird, from which I judge that it is very local in its distribution. It is rather unusual to find a species of this kind occupying both the west and east slopes of the western Andes in Peru, although it is not improbable that it may have crossed the range at the Porculla Pass (7000 feet) at some remote period.

Callacate, where Stolzmann secured his three males, lies in the upper Marañon Valley, at about 4000 to 5000 feet, just east of Chota, Dept. of Cajamarca. What I cannot reconcile is the apparent fact that the types came from the Rio Ucayali. There must have been some error in the labeling of those specimens since all the other known skins, including mine, came from a very arid region, where little rain falls, and it is not conceivable that any bird of this type would inhabit both the humid tropical jungle of the Ucayali and the arid subtropical zone of both slopes of the western cordillera. It is not at all improbable that the types actually came from near Samne, for there has been a well travelled trail through there for many, many years, running from Trujillo over the range to Huamachuco, both old Inca towns, and any one travelling over this trail at that time would have to spend the night at a small road house, then existing, near the present sight of Samne. I would therefore suggest that the type locality of this rare Tanager be designated as Samne, instead of the Rio Ucayali, which is, in my opinion, obviously erroneous. I give below a description of the female which has now been taken for the first time.

***Conothraupis speculigera* (Gould)**

Diucopis speculigera Gould, P. Z. S. London, 1855, p. 69.

Female. Upper parts dark brownish olive, darker on the pileum, more greenish and paler on the rump, and more brownish on the upper tail coverts. The feathers of the pileum and mantle have dusky centers, not wholly covered by the olive tips, which are more apparent on the pileum than on the mantle; wings sooty black, coverts and remiges broadly edged with the color of the

back; tail about Medal Bronze, with a slight olive wash and edged on the outer webs with brownish olive; lores dull yellowish green; a narrow eye-ring of pale yellow; cheeks and auriculars dusky olive; throat pale yellowish, whiter on the chin, and with a dusky olive malar streak; chest yellowish olive brown, obscurely striped with yellow; breast, abdomen and under tail coverts rich sulphur yellow, paler on the middle of the abdomen; sides and flanks dusky olive; lining of wing white; under wing coverts sulphur. Iris red-hazel; bill black, horn blue below; feet leaden blue.

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