

NEW FORMS OF BIRDS FROM MEXICO AND COLOMBIA

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE

THE three forms, whose descriptions follow, have been separated during current work on collections recently received in the U. S. National Museum from the localities concerned.

Dendrocolaptes certhia hyleorus subsp. nova

Type, U. S. National Museum no. 369,011, male, taken at Caracolicito, Departamento de Magdalena, Colombia, March 25, 1941, by A. Wetmore and M. A. Carriker, Jr.

Characters.—Similar to *Dendrocolaptes certhia puncti-pectus* Phelps and Gilliard (Amer. Mus. Novit., no. 1100, p. 4, December 31, 1940: La Sierra, Río Negro, Perijá District, State of Zulia, Venezuela) but definitely paler both above and below; ground color of lower surface lighter buff; dark markings duller black; indistinct band across breast duller and lighter in color, with the black markings in it less heavy; wings paler, especially at the tips of the primaries; back, hind neck and rump slightly paler; bill broader and heavier.

Description.—Crown and upper hind neck varying from dull honey yellow to Isabella color, each feather tipped with dull black and crossed by one or two narrow, slightly semicircular bars of dull black; line from middle of eye back above auricular region more solidly honey yellow forming an indefinite superciliary streak; forehead dark grayish olive with indistinct tippings of dull honey yellow and barrings of black; loreal region dull deep grayish olive; side of head dull honey yellow, indistinctly banded with dull black; lower hind neck and upper back olive-brown, with a few scattered, short shaft-markings of honey yellow, and indistinct cross-barrings of black; lower back changing from bister, with more definite black bars, to russet, unmarked, on the rump and upper tail-coverts; scapulars bister; lesser and middle wing-coverts sepia, with indefinite shaft-markings and terminal spottings of honey yellow, incomplete semicircular barring and occasional irregular shaft-streakings of dull black; greater coverts with external webs sepia, and internal webs verona brown, the inner ones with an indistinct subterminal spot of black, followed by an equally indefinite spot of honey yellow; primaries and secondaries between russet and Mars brown, the primaries edged externally with sepia, becoming bister at tips; rectrices carob brown; throat deep olive-buff, with the feathers margined narrowly on sides and tip with dull black, and with irregularly outlined sub-basal, more or less U-shaped markings of dull black; fore neck changing to a somewhat brighter tone with the black markings much heavier and more prominent; upper breast with light markings dull chamois, the black markings heavier and the feathers edged broadly enough with light brownish olive to produce the appearance of an indefinite, fairly wide cross-band; lower breast dull chamois barred narrowly with dull black, becoming lighter, duller cream-buff on abdomen, and deepening again to chamois on under tail-coverts, the black bars continuing as above; outer under wing-coverts chamois, inner ones honey yellow, all barred with dull black; inner webs of inner primaries and secondaries sayal brown. Bill dull black, becoming fuscous at base; tarsus and toes hair brown; claws black (from dried skin).

Measurements.—One male (the type): wing, 132.8 mm.; tail, 109.9; culmen from base, 40.3; tarsus, 38.8. One female: wing, 127.8 mm.; tail, 118; culmen from base, 39.3; tarsus, 27.9.

Range.—Known from the valley of the Río Ariguani near Caracolicito, Departamento de Magdalena, Colombia.

Remarks.—The two specimens on which this form is based stand out at a glance from a considerable series of *D. c. sancti-thomae* because of the breast-band. In this the new form is like *D. c. punctipectus* of Venezuela, found along the eastern base of the Perijá range. I have made comparison with the type of *punctipectus* in the American Museum of Natural History to find, as indicated in the diagnosis above, that the two groups are quite distinct in depth of color, as would be expected from their separation by the intervening mountain range.

It is probable that *D. c. hyleorus* occupies the area lying between the Río Magdalena and the mountains to the east, south into Santander.

***Xiphorhynchus flavigaster saltuarius* subsp. nova**

Type, male, U. S. National Museum no. 135,161, from Altamira, Tamaulipas, México, taken November 19, 1894, by F. B. Armstrong (purchased from W. F. Webb).

Characters.—Similar to *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster eburneiostris* (Des Murs) (*Dryocopus eburneiostris* Des Murs, Icon. Ornith., livr. 9, pl. 52, with text, July, 1847: Realejo, Nicaragua) but paler, especially on the posterior region of the ventral surface; streaking below less sharply defined; light streaks on back much larger and more prominent.

Description.—Crown and hind neck dull black, each feather with the broad, elongated center cream-buff, producing a spotted appearance; the light markings above the eye becoming olive-buff, making a poorly defined superciliary streak; area in front of the eye, continuing back beneath eye over side of head, deep olive-buff, streaked more or less with dull black, these black markings heaviest in a line behind the eye; feathers of lower hind neck and upper back with broad central streaks of grayish cream-buff bordered by a narrow line of black, with an external margin of light brownish olive; on scapular area the light streaks becoming chamois externally, with the black bordering line heavier, and the outer margin Dresden brown; lower back changing to sayal brown, with indefinite indication of slightly brighter central streaks; rump slightly brighter than sayal brown; upper tail-coverts Mikado brown; external rectrices russet, central ones slightly darker; lesser wing-coverts clay color, with scanty, obscure spottings of cinnamon; middle and greater coverts Saccardo's umber, with faintly indicated central streaks of cream-buff, bordered with dull black; primary coverts snuff brown becoming Mikado brown internally; primaries and secondaries russet, the tips of the primaries becoming hair brown on the inner web; chin whitish; throat cream-buff, the lateral posterior feathers with a narrow lateral margin of dull black on the external side; general tone of under surface grayish olive to deep grayish olive, the feathers of the breast streaked broadly but obscurely with olive-buff, with indefinite bordering lines of grayish black; sides and flanks light hair brown to drab; under tail-coverts drab, streaked with olive-buff with an external margin of blackish bordering the

light streaks; under wing-coverts cinnamon-buff; edge of wing Saccardo's umber, lined with cream-buff; inner webs of primaries and secondaries cinnamon, except for the tips of the outer primaries, which, as indicated, are hair brown. Bill hair brown on sides, drab on basal half of culmen and gonyes, and deep olive-buff at tip; tarsus and toes fuscous (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Nine males: wing, 109–120 (115) mm.; tail, 93–106 (100.4); culmen from base, 40.4–44.9 (42); tarsus, 21.8–23.8 (22.9).

Three females: wing, 105–112 (109) mm.; tail, 88–100 (96); culmen from base, 39.8–44.0 (42.1); tarsus, 21.8–22.3 (22).

Type, male: wing, 117 mm.; tail, 100.2; culmen from base, 41.1; tarsus, 23.4.

Range.—Southern Tamaulipas (Altamira) to northern Veracruz.

Remarks.—The present form, definitely different in the characters indicated, marks the northern extremity of the species in northeastern México. Intergradation apparently comes to the north of the latitude of Vera Cruz City. Two specimens from Orizaba are definitely intermediate, combining the darker coloration of the more southern of the two forms under discussion with a tendency toward the more prominent light dorsal markings of the more northern one.

In explanation of the use of the subspecific name *eburneirostris* in the diagnosis above, van Rossem (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 52: 15, February 4, 1939) reports that he has found that the type of *flavigaster* Swainson, long accepted for the bird ranging from northeastern Mexico south into Central America, is an example of the race currently recognized as *X. f. megarhynchus* Nelson. The term *flavigaster* is thus transferred to the subspecies named by Nelson, leaving *eburneirostris* as the next available name for the other form mentioned.

Empidonax flavescens imperturbatus subsp. nova

Type, U. S. National Museum no. 359,904, male, gonads enlarged, taken at 3000 feet elevation on Volcán San Martín, Sierra de Tuxtla, Veracruz, México, April 16, 1940, by M. A. Carriker, Jr.

Characters.—Similar to *Empidonax flavescens dwighti* van Rossem (Auk, 45: 359, 1928: Los Esesmiles, Chalatenango, El Salvador) but duller and darker; abdomen lighter yellow; throat and breast-band duller gray; upper surface duller, less yellowish green; edgings on wing- and tail-feathers lighter, less clearly green.

Description.—Entire dorsal surface dark citrine, with faint edgings of citrine on the forward part of the crown, producing a slightly dappled appearance, the short feathers over the nostrils sulphine yellow; sides of head and sides of neck dull citrine; eye-ring primrose yellow, narrowed decidedly for a small segment on the upper margin; an indistinct mark of dull primrose yellow over the ear-coverts; remiges and greater middle wing-coverts chaetura black, the two series of coverts tipped with chamois to form two well-marked bars; primaries with a very narrow margin of dark olive-buff; secondaries and tertials with a slightly wider edging somewhat lighter than chamois; edge of wing changing from colonial buff at end to chamois mixed with light yellowish olive toward joint; axillars and inner under wing-coverts Marguerite yellow; outer under wing-coverts chaetura drab, edged

with deep olive-buff; rectrices slightly lighter than chaetura drab (apparently somewhat faded by wear), with an outer edging of buffy citrine that becomes broader toward base; center of throat and fore neck with feathers basally Marguerite yellow, overlain toward the side with light yellowish olive; breast light yellowish, olive with very faint and indistinct edgings of olive-yellow; abdomen dull citron yellow; flanks dull citrine; under tail-coverts reed yellow. Maxilla black, mandible flesh color, tarsus and feet leaden (from collector's notes on label).

Measurements.—Males, two specimens: wing, 69.9–72.2 mm. (type); tail, 56.5–57.5 (type); culmen from base, 13.5 (type); tarsus, 16.6–16.7 (type).

Females, two specimens: wing, 62.8–63.7 mm.; tail, 51.1–52.4; culmen from base, 12.3–12.7; tarsus, 16.1–16.2.

Range.—Known only on Volcán San Martín, Sierra de Tuxtla, Veracruz, where it is found from 3000 feet elevation across the summit.

Remarks.—The present form marks a considerable extension in range for the species which heretofore has been known only north into Chiapas. Carriker found these birds fairly common in the higher forests on San Martín, and collected four specimens. The differences that these offer from *E. f. dwighti*, the nearest form, which I have seen in life in the mountains of Guatemala, are easily evident. It is probable that the race occurs also on the other of the main peaks in this mountain range, the Cerro de Tuxtla.

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.