

A Sight Record of the Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia from Central Peru

Michael Gochfeld and G. Stuart Keith**

The Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia pyrrhophrys*) is known from northwestern Venezuela through the Colombian Andes to eastern Ecuador (Meyer de Schauensee, *The Species of Birds of South America*, Livingston, 1966). On September 23, 1972, at 6800 ft. (2060 meters) elevation on the northeast slope of the Carpish Mountains, Department of Huánuco, central-eastern Peru, Dan and Erica Tallman and the authors observed a pair of these

tanagers. The birds were moving slowly through the canopy along a ridge close to the Tingo María-Huánuco road, and we observed them at about eye level, from a distance of about 75 meters, through a 25 power telescope. We had ample opportunity to recognize the diagnostic features of the male as it perched for about two minutes on an exposed branch. We noted the

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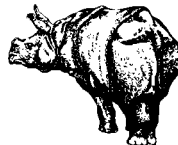
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green throat bordered by a narrow black band, the rusty central abdomen with yellow sides and flanks, and the green upperparts with bright blue crown and yellow rump. The female was generally duller, lacking the "chestnut" central abdomen and yellow rump, but possessing the blue crown. The authors were previously familiar with two other members of the genus, the Golden-browed Chlorophonia, *C. (occipitalis) callophrys*, and the Blue-naped Chlorophonia, *C. cyanea*. The former is known only from Costa Rica and Panama, while the latter is widespread in South America, and is the only Chlorophonia known from Peru (Meyer de Schauensee, 1966, *ot. cit.*). One additional South American species, the distinctive Yellow-collared Chlorophonia (*C. flavirostris*) is known from a very few specimens from southwestern Colombia and Ecuador.

We were shortly able to compare the male we observed with a colored plate in Meyer de Schauensee's *The Birds of South America* (plate 40). In examining skins of this and other species in the American Museum of Natural History, we further confirmed our identification. We did notice that there is individual variation in the extent of the "chestnut" color on the underparts of the males. Moreover, we remarked that the female of *Euphonia musica aureata*, the Peruvian race of the Blue-hooded Euphonia, has a pattern remarkably similar to that of the female Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia. Both of these birds lack the yellow rumps present in their respective males, and both have bright blue crowns (different in shade), with chestnut lores meeting above the bill. The female Chlorophonia is brighter green, particularly on the throat. The

males of the two species are, however, strikingly different.

This sight record is apparently the first report of this species from Peru, and extends its known range about 550 miles (880 kilometers) from its nearest known locality in eastern Ecuador. The occurrence of a pair together suggests that they were resident birds, rather than migrants or wanderers. Further field work is needed to document this record and determine the status of the species in central and northern Peru.

It is worth mentioning that in Colombia, this species is known from all three Andean ranges, but apparently not at all from the Pacific slope except in Nariño, (Meyer de Schauensee, *The Birds of Colombia*, Livingston, 1964). On April 11, 1973, Guy Tudor, Michel Kleinbaum, Robert Gochfeld, and one of the authors (M.G.) observed a pair of these chlorophonias on the crest of the western Andes, one kilometer north of the Cali-Buenaventura road, Department of Valle, Colombia, at an altitude of about 6600 ft. (2000 meters). Thus it would be no surprise to find that this species of subtropical and temperate elevations occurs elsewhere on the Pacific slope of Colombia. This is significant since, except for the Pacific slope, forests are rapidly being destroyed in Colombia.

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