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NOTES ON VENEZUELAN BIRDS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF SIX NEW SUBSPECIES

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Besides describing six new subspecies of birds from our collection in Caracas, we record, in this paper, the extension to Venezuela and British Guiana of the ranges of several forms and discuss some taxonomic matters.

We thank the Curators of the collections in the American Museum of Natural History, U. S. National Museum, Chicago Natural History Museum, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Carnegie Museum, Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences and the British Museum for access to their collections for pertinent research and listing.

Specimens listed are in the Phelps Collection, Caracas, unless otherwise specified. Names of colors are capitalized when direct comparison has been made with Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature," 1912. Wing measurements are of the chord.

*Calidris canutus rufus* (Wilson)

*Tringa rufa* Wilson, Amer. Orn., 7, p. 43, pl. 57, 1813. (Middle Atlantic States=New Jersey.)

Sucre: 1 ♀, Cumaná. Collected by G. H. H. Tate, May 20, 1925. Specimen in the American Museum of Natural History.

This is the only record we can find of the occurrence of the species in Venezuela. It had not been published.

*Otus aequatorialis venezuelanus*, new subspecies

*Type*: From Cerro Pejochaina, alto Río Negro, Sierra de Perijá, Zulia, Venezuela; 1700 meters. No. 54498, Phelps Collection, Caracas. Adult male collected March 10, 1952, by Ramón Urbano. (Type on deposit at the American Museum of Natural History.)

*Diagnosis*: Differs (brown phase) from the type (brown phase) of *O. a. aequatorialis* Chapman and the only other known specimen, also in the brown phase, by being paler throughout, with much white on forehead, sides of head and throat, which is lacking in *aequatorialis*. Wings and lower back buffy whitish instead of dark buff. Wings shorter.

*Range*: Known from four specimens from the Perijá mountains: Cerro Pejochaina, Cerro Tutare and Cerro Jeretaca, in the Subtropical Zone at altitudes of 1700 and 1800 meters.

*Description of type*: Crown Cinnamon-Brown, the feathers broadly banded with blackish and more narrowly so with buffy which merges

into the buffy whitish forehead, which is dully barred with dusky; the prominent dusky eyebrows are buffy whitish, making the whole frontal aspect very white; a white partially concealed nuchal collar, the feathers narrowly barred with dusky; back any uropygium Tawney-Olive with fine dusky vermiculations; scapulars more whitish with brownish vermiculations and with many feathers largely white, except terminally, making large white visible spots on each side of back; superciliary region whitish barred finely with brown; sides of head buffy, barred with dusky. Throat buffy dully barred with brown, more whitish posteriorly; breast and sides buffy white with heavy dark brown shaft stripes and narrow light brown barring; abdomen and flanks strongly striped as the shaft stripes are more prominent, and the bars are faint and far apart; under tail-coverts, thighs and feathers of tarsi immaculate, pale buffy. Primaries and secondaries dusky brown barred with pale buff with vermiculated tips, paler on under surface; tertiaries vermiculated uniformly with scapulars; upper wing-coverts also uniform with scapulars except on the shoulders which are dusky with dark buff barring; bend of wing white with adjoining coverts with large visible buffy white areas; under wing-coverts and axillaries Clay Color with slight dusky speckling at bend of wing. Tail dusky brown banded with buff, more whitish on outermost remiges; tips of rectrices and all of two median ones entirely vermiculated.

Bill (in life) "greenish yellow"; feet "sulphur"; iris "rose-brown." Wing, 187 mm.; tail, 105; culmen from base, 25; tarsus, 30.

Remarks: Sexes alike in the rufous phase. Size similar to *aequatorialis* but with shorter wing. Range of measurements: three adult males—wing, 187-196 (190) mm.; tail, 99-103 (101); culmen from base, 25-25 (25); one adult female—wing, 190; tail, 105; culmen from base, 25.5. Measurements of *aequatorialis*: one adult male (type)—wing, 200, tail, 102; culmen from base, 24; one specimen of undetermined sex—wing, 202; tail, 98; culmen from base 26.

Description of female (54499) in rufous phase: above Amber Brown, paler on forehead, wings and rump; crown with some dusky shaft streaks and occiput with some faint dusky barring; faint dusky markings on back and uropygium; dusky barring and speckling on wings and tail; a few whitish visible feathers on scapulars; buffy white nuchal collar partially concealed. Sides of head and throat Amber Brown with some indistinct dusky barring; breast, sides and flanks buffy with brownish shaft streaks and barring, more whitish on abdomen; thighs, tarsi and under tail-coverts draker buff than in brown phase; under wing-coverts and axillaries as in brown phase but immaculate; under surface of wings and tail as in brown phase but barring a darker buff.

The reasons why we do not consider *O. aequatorialis* a subspecies of *O. albo-gularis*, as suggested might be the case by Peters,<sup>1</sup> are given in a previous paper "Eight New Birds and thirty-three Extensions of Ranges to Venezuela."<sup>2</sup>

#### *Specimens Examined*

*O. a venezuelanus*.—VENEZUELA: Cerro Pejochaina, 1 ♂ brown

<sup>1</sup> Bds. World, 4, p. 108, 1940.

<sup>2</sup> Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 66, pp. 125-146, Aug. 10, 1953.

(type); 1 ♀ rufous; Cerro Jeretaca, 1 ♂ rufous<sup>3</sup>; Cerro Tutare, 1 ♂ rufous.<sup>3</sup>

*O. a. aequatorialis*.—ECUADOR<sup>4</sup>: Ambato, 1 (♀) brown (type); Río Sardinias, 1 ♂ brown.

*Glaucidium brasilianum medianum* Todd

*Glaucidium brasilianum medianum* Todd, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash, 29, p. 98, 1916. (Bonda, Santa Marta, Col.)

Hitherto the birds of the Tropical Zone of northern Venezuela have been called *G. b. phaloenoides* (Daudin), the type locality being Trinidad.

Comparison of 16 specimens in the American Museum of Natural History, 7 in the Carnegie Museum and 9 in the Phelps Collection, all in the brown phase, from the northern Venezuelan mainland, with 14 in the brown phase from Trinidad (*phaloenoides*) and 9 in the brown phase from Santa Marta (*medianum*) shows that those from Venezuela are *medianum* and not *phaloenoides*.

The Venezuelan specimens, in the brown phase, are decidedly different from those from Trinidad. The under parts are whiter with less and narrower striping. The upper parts are more grayish, less dark, rich brown. In the red phase they seem similar. They cannot be separated from the Santa Marta series either in the color of the upper parts, the streaking of the under parts or the barring on the rectrices.

*Glyphorhynchus spirurus integratus* Zimmer

*Glyphorhynchus spirurus integratus* Zimmer, Auk, 63, p. 569, 1946. (Puerto Boyacá, Territorio Vasquez, Col.)

Zulia: 1 ♂, La Sierra, Perijá. Táchira: 2 ♂, La Fría; 1 ♂, Santo Domingo. Barinas: 1 ♀, Santa Bárbara.

The Perijá specimen was identified in 1943 as nearest to *G. s. sublestus* Peters. Later, in 1946, Zimmer (Auk, 63, p. 569) described *integratus* from northeastern Colombia. Unfortunately, it is only now that we find that these specimens belong to the new race. In our "Lista de las Aves de Venezuela, etc.," (Soc. Ven. Cien. Nat., no. 75, 1950) we used the original identification of *sublestus* which Peters followed in his Check List of Birds of the World (7, p. 23, 1951).

This is an extension of range to Venezuela from northeastern Colombia.

*Xenops rutilans perijanus*, new subspecies

*Type*: From Cerro Pejochaina, alto Río Negro, Sierra de Perijá, Zulia, Venezuela; 1900 meters. No. 54765, Phelps Collection, Caracas. Adult male collected February 16, 1952, by Ramón Urbano. (Type on deposit at the American Museum of Natural History.)

*Diagnosis*: Differs from *X. r. heterurus* Cabanis and Heine by darker, more grayish olive, less brownish, under parts.

*Range*: The Perijá mountains from the Río Negro to the northernmost end at Cerro El Cedro, in the upper Tropical and Subtropical Zones from 450 to 2100 meters.

*Description of type*: Top of head dusker than Raw Umber, finely striped with pale buffy; back Argus Brown with dull stripes of buffy;

<sup>3</sup> Specimens in Pons Collection, Maracaibo.

<sup>4</sup> Specimens in American Museum of Natural History.