

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTIONS OF A NEW GENUS AND ELEVEN
NEW SPECIES AND SUBSPECIES OF BIRDS
FROM MEXICO.

BY E. W. NELSON.

The following descriptions are based upon material in the Biological Survey collection and mainly upon specimens obtained during a recent trip to the peninsula of Yucatan by Mr. E. A. Goldman and myself. I am indebted to Mr. Robert Ridgway and Dr. Chas. W. Richmond, Curator and Assistant Curator of Birds in the National Museum, for their usual kind assistance during the preparation of this paper.

All measurements are in millimeters.

Crypturus sallæi goldmani, new subspecies. Yucatan Tinamou.

Type No. 167,715, ♂ ad., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection, from Chichen Itza, Yucatan, Mexico. Collected February 1, 1901, by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Yucatan, Mexico.

Subspecific characters.—♂, smaller than typical *C. sallæi* with generally paler coloration; back grayer; the light transverse bars more strongly marked and extending farther forward on back and wings; underparts paler, more buffy (less rufous); ♀, paler and more strongly and extensively barred with light color on back and wings.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 152; tail 46; culmen 27; tarsus 44.

Remarks.—The males of the present form differ more from those of *C. sallæi* both in size and color than do the females.

Bubo virginianus mayensis new subspecies. Yucatan Horned Owl.

Type No. 167,727, ♀ ad., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection, from Chichen Itza, Yucatan, Mexico. Collected February 1, 1901, by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Peninsula of Yucatan.

Subspecific characters.—Most like *B. virginianus pallescens* but much smaller with less clear gray and more dingy fulvous suffusion on entire dorsal surface including tail; sides of body, flanks and under tail coverts rather regularly barred with narrow dark bands, not crowded near tips of feathers as usual in *pallescens*; sides of flanks with concealed suffusion of dull buffy; middle of breast and belly dull white; lower half of tarsus and feet dull white without markings.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 335; tail 178; culmen 44; tarsus 66.

Remarks.—This is the smallest of the subspecies of *Bubo virginianus* and is a pale race probably limited to the arid part of the peninsula of Yucatan.

Crax chapmani new species. Chapman's Curassow.

Type No. 167,370, ♀ ad., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection, from Puerto Morelos, Eastern Yucatan, Mexico. Collected March 28, 1901, by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Heavy forests of southern Campeche and southern and eastern Yucatan, Mexico; probably ranging thence into adjacent parts of Belize and Guatemala.

Description of type.—Head and throat dull white thickly and finely speckled with black on lores and around eyes; sides of crown more coarsely and sparingly black spotted; crest white with narrow black tips finely bordered with white; bases of crest feathers on front of crown with small black spots or incomplete bars; posteriorly crest feathers only marked at base with fine dark shafts or shaft streaks; neck all around from head to body strongly barred black and white—black bars broadest, and white bars on underside of neck more or less edged with buffy; shoulders, upper surface of wings and tail broadly and regularly barred with broad bands of blackish brown and slightly narrower bands of golden buffy; dark bars approaching black on shoulders and on outer half of tail; buffy bars with a decided grayish cast on outer half of tail; primaries mainly buffy, paler than same color on secondaries and more narrowly and irregularly barred and spotted with blackish and reddish brown; middle of back and rump narrowly barred with same colors as secondaries and tail; entire underparts including breast, abdomen, sides of body, flanks, thighs and undertail coverts uniform ochraceous buffy—a few narrow irregularly placed transverse blackish brown marks occurring on buffy feathers of fore breast; under side of tail black with narrow golden buffy transverse bars.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 380; tail 368; culmen 51; tarsus 116.

Remarks.—The discovery of this magnificent bird, one of the largest and handsomest of the genus, was a quite unexpected result of our work in Yucatan. Only a single specimen could be secured by us, although the feathers of others were seen about Indian camps in southern Campeche in December, 1900, by Mr. Goldman, and I came on a hunter in the forest in eastern Yucatan just after he had finished plucking one. They were evidently much less common than *Crax globicera*, though they frequent the same forests. Unfortunately we failed to secure a male so this sex remains unknown. The ovaries of the type were becoming enlarged showing that the breeding season was near, at the date of her capture.

The Maya Indians distinguish this species from the Cambúl (*Crax globicera*) and call it Bolonchan or Bolonchana.

It gives me pleasure to dedicate this fine bird to Mr. F. M. Chapman whose interesting 'Notes on Birds observed in Yucatan' (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., VIII, 271-290, 1896) is the best local paper we have on the birds of this region.

Nyctagreus* new genus.

Type.—*Caprimulgus yucatanicus* Hartert, Cat. Birds British Museum, XVI, 575, 1892.

Distribution.—Yucatan and Campeche, Mexico.

Generic characters.—Bill rather long and narrow; nostrils flattened oval, slightly tubular, situated well forward on bill and opening laterally; rictal bristles coarse, scarcely curved at tips; tarsus a little longer than middle toe without claw and bare of feathers except near proximal end, as in *Phalacroptilus*; second and third primaries equal and longest; fourth a trifle shorter; first about 10 mm. shorter than second and about equal to fifth, thus giving a formula very close to *Otophanes*; tail slightly rounded and a little shorter than wing; plumage and color pattern as in *Antrostomus*.

Nyctidromus albicollis yucatanensis new subspecies.

Yucatan Parauque.

Type No. 167,682, ♂ ad., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection, from Tunkas, Yucatan, Mexico. Collected February 17, 1901, by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Peninsula of Yucatan (including State of Campeche), Mexico.

Subspecific characters.—Larger and grayer than typical *N. albicollis*; a little smaller and darker grayish than *N. albicollis merrilli*; otherwise generally resembles latter in coloration but darker with smaller light

*νύξ=night; 'αγρεύς=hunter.

spots on wing coverts; distal half of outer web of next to outer tail feather white with border of dark brown or blackish, but never wholly or mostly dark as usual in the other forms of this species.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 176; tail 165; culmen 15; tarsus 28.

Remarks.—The broad band of white next to shaft on outer web of next to outer tail feather appears to be a constant character in this form and gives the readiest means of separating it from specimens of *N. albicollis* which approach it in color.

***Attila mexicanus* new species.**

Type No. 166,431, ♂ ad., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection, from Frontera, Tabasco, Mexico. Collected April 27, 1900, by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Tabasco, Eastern Mexico (Metlatoyuca, northeastern Puebla?).

Specific characters.—Similar to *Attila citreopygius* but larger: Crown and malar area streaked with black; top and sides of neck and back, to rump, dark russet brown; rump rich cinnamon brown shading into ochraceous on upper tail coverts; wing bars and edgings like back; upper side of tail slightly paler brown than back and darkest near tip; chin and throat grayish white streaked with blackish; fore breast flammulated with dull brown streaks edged with dull yellowish; abdomen white with pale rusty shafts; sides of breast like back; sides of body and flanks raw sienna, this color bordering and sharply contrasting with color of abdomen; under tail coverts chrome yellow.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 98; tail 82; culmen 28; tarsus 26.

Remarks.—The type of *Attila mexicanus* is from the coast forests of Tabasco and is the most strongly rufous of any species of the genus known north of Panama. A specimen in our collection from Metlatoyuca, Puebla, is equally large but is more like *A. citreopygius* in general appearance and probably represents a subspecies of *A. mexicanus*. A specimen from Palenque, Chiapas, is very near to typical *A. citreopygius* in size and color. Two males of the latter species in the National Museum from the Escondido River, Nicaragua, measure as follows viz.: No. 128,332: Wing 92; tail 72; culmen 26; tarsus 24. No. 128,333: Wing 91; tail 71; culmen 24; tarsus 24.

***Myopagis yucatanensis* new species. Yucatan Flycatcher.**

Type No. 167,552, ♀ ad., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection, from La Vega, Yucatan, Mexico. Collected March 22, 1901, by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Known only from type locality.

Specific characters.—Similar to *Myopagis placens* in coloration but much smaller, with entire crown dull broccoli brown overlying dull gray basal

color of feathers: concealed yellow crown patch very small and limited to part adjoining nape.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 62; tail 56; culmen 10; tarsus 17.

Pachyrhamphus major itzensis new subspecies.

Yucatan *Pachyrhamphus*.

Type No. 167,766, ♀ ad., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection, from Chichen Itza, Yucatan, Mexico. Collected January 29, 1901, by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Northern Yucatan.

Subspecific characters.—Smaller and paler than typical *P. major* from Jalapa, Vera Cruz. Compared with *P. major*: ♂, clearer white below, especially on throat and abdomen, with black area on back restricted or almost wanting. ♀, back duller, more grayish brown; underparts paler—a dingy primrose yellow.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 77; tail 57; culmen 14; tarsus 21.

Remarks.—The males show rather stronger differences than the females.

Icterus cucullatus duplexus new subspecies. Island Oriole.

Type No. 167,644, ♂ ad., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection, from Mujeres Island, Yucatan, Mexico. Collected March 24, 1901, by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Mujeres Island and occasional on adjacent shore of eastern Yucatan.

Description.—Male with close general resemblance to *I. c. nelsoni* but smaller with slightly paler and more chrome yellow underparts; broad frontal band of black bordering bill; decidedly less white on wings. Female: Dingy cadmium yellow like the female of *I. c. igneus*.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 86; tail 90, culmen 18; tarsus 23.

Icterus cucullatus cozumelæ new subspecies.

Cozumel Hooded Oriole.

Type No. 167,652, ♀ ad., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection, from Cozumel Island, Yucatan, Mexico. Collected April 11, 1901, by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Cozumel Island, Yucatan.

Subspecific characters.—Males similar in color to *Icterus cucullatus igneus* but rather smaller with larger bills. Females decidedly smaller than those of *I. c. igneus* with underparts paler, duller yellow; middle of back grayer; yellow on top of head and rump more greenish or olivaceous.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 74; tail 75; culmen 17; tarsus 23.

Remarks.—Both males and females of this form may be distinguished from *I. c. duplexus* by their deeper coloration.

***Stelgidopteryx ridgwayi* sp. nov.**

Ridgway's Rough-winged Swallow.

Type No. 167,947, ♂ ad., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection, from Chichen Itza, Yucatan, Mexico. Collected January 29, 1901, by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Yucatan and other parts of Mexico south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and probably adjacent part of Guatemala.

Description.—Lores with distinct grayish white spots just back of nostrils; rest of upper parts blackish brown, darkest on wings and tail and slightly paler on rump and tertiaries, latter narrowly edged with grayish white (color of upper parts much darker than in *S. serripennis*); throat, breast and sides of body grayish brown, palest on throat, rest of underparts of body white; under tail coverts white with broad black tips to longest coverts; size larger than *S. serripennis* and tail much more deeply emarginate.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 117; tail 57; culmen 9; tarsus 12.

Remarks.—This well marked species was common in Yucatan, living in the caves in the sides of cenotes or natural wells. They were also found about the foothills at Teapa, Tabasco. Its dark back and black tips to under tail coverts render it easily separable from its nearest relative, *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*.

***Troglodytes peninsularis* new species. Mangrove House Wren.**

Type No. 168,115, ♂ ad., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection, from Progreso, Yucatan, Mexico. Collected March 5, 1901, by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—The arid coastal belt of northern Yucatan.

Specific characters.—A pallid species with general resemblance to *Troglodytes aedon aztecus* but with heavier bill and feet; shorter wings and tail, and more reddish brown suffusion, especially on underparts. Upperparts dull bistre brown, becoming paler and more reddish on rump and tail; throat, middle of breast and abdomen white, lightly suffused with pale fulvous; sides of neck and body strongly suffused with dull reddish brown, darkest on flanks; under tail coverts whitish with narrow blackish bars narrowly bordered with dull reddish brown.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 50; tail 38; culmen 14; tarsus 18.

Remarks.—We found this wren very common among the scattered growth of mangroves over a broad salt flat bordering the lagoon back of Progreso. A few were seen in the brush-grown country adjoining the flats but the latter were apparently their home. They were in full song

the first of March and were about to breed. They were commonly seen probing for food in the clay mud on the flats and all the specimens killed had their feet and bills (to the angle of the gape) coated with dried mud.

Merula plebeia differens new subspecies. Forest Robin.

Type No. 142,532, ♂ ad., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection, from Pinabete, Chiapas, Mexico. Collected February 8, 1896, by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Known only from type locality in southern Chiapas.

Subspecific characters.—Entire upperparts including head, wings and tail decidedly browner than in *M. plebeia*; lower parts more uniform and darker brown; throat uniform with breast with scarcely a trace of dark streaks; feet and bill darker than in *M. plebeia*.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 141; tail 105; culmen 23; tarsus 35.

Remarks.—Seen only in the heavy forest above 7500 feet.



Nelson, Edward William. 1901. "Descriptions of a new genus and eleven new species and subspecies of birds from Mexico." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 14, 169–175.

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