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I.—*Notes on Embernagra platensis and its Allies, with the Description of a new Species.* By CHARLES CHUBB, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(Plate I.)

THE earliest recorded reference to this bird is that by Montbeillard in 1778, on which Latham based his description of the Plata Bunting in 1783; this was followed in 1789 by that of Gmelin, who latinised Latham's description under the title of *Emberiza platensis*.

Lesson in 1831 founded the genus *Embernagra* for two birds in the Paris Museum, one name, *Tanagra fabialatu*, being given without any description, the other described under the title of *Tanagra dumetorum* with the following description:—"Vert olivâtre en dessus, gris-brun sur la face et tout le dessous du corp. Du Bresil."

Bonaparte, having examined the specimens, placed *E. dumetorum* as a synonym of *E. platensis*, and introduced a new species, *E. viridis*, with which he synonymised the Lessonian *nomen nudum*.

In 1850 Cabanis introduced *Limnospiza* as a new genus to replace *Embernagra* for the sake of purism.

G. R. Gray in 1841 described a bird from Maldonado in Lower Uruguay under the name of *Emberizoides poliocephalus*; this has been regarded by most authors as a

synonym of *E. p. platensis* ; but after a careful comparison I have come to the conclusion that it differs sufficiently from that species to be allowed the status of a subspecific form.

I have, however, suggested a further division by the separation of the Paraguay and Rio Parana birds, the details of which are given below. With this the broad striped group ends, and is followed by an intermediate or narrow striped form, which is represented by two species, viz. : *Tanagra dumetorum* Lesson, 1831, and *Embernagra longicauda* Strickland, 1844.

The remaining group is the uniform or unstriped one, and consists of *E. olivascens* d'Orbigny, which was described in 1836, to which I propose to add *E. gossei*, n. sp.

These notes are based on material that has hitherto been regarded by authors as consisting of two species only, divided by the striped or uniform upper surface. The former, or striped bird, was known as *Embernagra platensis* (Gmelin), and the latter, or uniform bird, as *Embernagra olivascens* d'Orbigny. All other details relating to either appear to have been ignored and, consequently, many facts are obscure, as further research has proved : the most obvious one being that *E. longicauda* of Strickland has for many years been placed as a synonym of *E. olivascens* d'Orbigny, whilst it is a perfectly distinct species and must now be re-established and remain as such.

I have to thank the authorities of the University Museum of Zoology at Cambridge for sending the bird, that Strickland described, to the British Museum for comparison ; also Mr. Tom Iredale, for his valuable help in regard to the literature.

Key to the Species.

A. Back broadly lined with black.

a. Upper surface yellowish green ; buff
on under surface extended over the
abdomen.

a'. Abdomen and flanks uniform buff. *E. platensis platensis*, p. 3.

b'. Abdomen whitish in contrast to
the dark colour on the flanks .. *E. platensis poliocephala*,

[p. 4.

- b.* Upper surface darker green; buff on under surface much restricted; centre of abdomen white *E. platensis paraguayensis*, [p. 5.]
- B.* Back narrowly lined with black.
- c.* Throat grey; no supraloral streak .. *E. dumetorum*, p. 6.
- d.* Throat pale fawn-colour; a pale supraloral streak *E. longicauda*, p. 7.
- C.* Back uniform, not lined with black.
- e.* Upper surface olive-green; throat and breast silvery-grey; abdomen white; under tail-coverts isabel-line-buff *E. olivascens*, p. 8.
- f.* Upper surface olive-grey; throat, breast, and abdomen slate-grey, the last tinged with ochreous-buff; under tail-coverts ochreous-buff .. *E. gossei*, p. 9.

Embernagra platensis platensis.

L'Emberise à cinq couleurs Montb. Hist. Nat. Ois. iv. 1778, p. 364.

Plata Bunting Lath. Gen. Syn. ii. pt. 1, 1783, p. 210: Buenos Ayres—River Plata. Founded on Montbeillard.

Emberiza platensis Gmel. Syst. Nat. i. 1789, p. 886: Buenos Ayres—ad fluvium Plata. Based on Latham.

Tanagra fabialatu Less. Traité d'Orn, 1831, p. 465: Mus. de Paris; de la Plata—nomen nudum, *cf.* Bonap. Consp. Av. i. p. 483.

Embernagra viridis Bonap. Consp. Av. i. 1850, p. 483: La Plata; Burmeister, J. f. O. 1860, p. 256: La Plata.

Limnospiza platensis Cab. Mus. Hein. i. 1850, p. 136.

Embernagra platensis Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. 1888, p. 758, part; Sci. & Huds. Argent. Orn. i. 1888, p. 62; C. H. B. Grant, Ibis, 1911, p. 100: part, specimens *a-j*.

Adult male. Upper surface green, streaked with black on the head and more broadly on the back; sides of rump buff; short feathers round the eye blackish; throat slate-grey; breast very pale grey washed with buff, the buff becoming deeper in colour on the abdomen and under tail-coverts. "Iris brown; legs and feet light horn-colour" (*F. Withington*).

Total length 197 mm., exposed culmen 15, wing 86, tail 84, tarsus 28, middle toe with claw 26, hind toe with claw 20.

Adult female. Similar to the adult male, but smaller. Wing 80 mm., tail 77.

The specimens from which the descriptions are taken were collected by F. Withington near Buenos Aires in May 1886.

Female juv. Head and hind neck black, the feathers fringed with cream-white, the fringes becoming dull green on the back; lesser upper wing-coverts grass-green; bastard-wing, greater upper wing-coverts, and innermost secondaries blackish with cream-white edgings; outer webs of quills green; rump and upper tail-coverts ochreous, with black centres to the long ones; tail-feathers dull olive-green, edged with white at the tips; sides of face pale brown; throat and hinder cheeks white slightly tinged with sulphur-yellow; upper breast dull white, broadly marked with black, which fades off on the middle of the lower breast; sides of breast, flanks, abdomen, thighs, and under tail-coverts buff.

The specimen on which this description is based was collected by C. H. B. Grant at Ajo, Prov. of Buenos Aires, on December 21, 1908, and presented to the British Museum by Mr. E. Gibson.

Habitat. Eastern Argentina.

Embernagra platensis poliocephala.

Emberizoides poliocephalus Gray, Voy. 'Beagle,' iii. Birds, 1841, p. 98: Monte Video and Maldonado.

Embernagra platensis Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. 1888, p. 758: part, specimens *c*, *d*; Aplin, Ibis, 1894, p. 170.

Having examined four birds from Uruguay, including those that Gray mentions in his descriptions of this form, viz., Monte Video and Maldonado, I notice that the Maldonado differs from that of the Argentine bird in the somewhat darker grey on the face and throat, the white on

the middle of the abdomen, and the much darker flanks and under tail-coverts; the dark shaft-lines on the head are almost obsolete, and the measurements are larger.

Total length 198 mm., exposed culmen 14, wing 94, tail 90, tarsus 30, middle toe with claw 25, hind toe with claw 20.

This form can very well be separated subspecifically under the above title.

The Monte Video bird is much paler on the under surface, the grey on the sides of the face also paler.

The female, of the two birds which were collected by Mr. O. V. Aplin at Santa Elena, Soriano, on the 14th of March, 1893, is quite a different-looking bird from *E. platensis*, being more yellowish green on the upper surface; the black shaft-lines on the top of the head, so conspicuous in the Argentine bird, are scarcely discernible, and the shaft-streaks on the back very much narrower and inconspicuous. The under surface is almost entirely buff with only a tinge of grey on the throat, the buff becoming darker on the flanks.

Total length 208 mm., culmen 14, wing (imperfect) fourth primary 90, tail 93, tarsus 28, middle toe with claw 26, hind toe with claw 20.

The male, which was collected on November 3, 1892, is similar to the type from Maldonado, but inclining to grey on the thighs and somewhat paler on the under tail-coverts. "Bill orange, culmen dark horn-colour" (O. V. Aplin).

Total length 201 mm., culmen 14, wing 94, tail 88, tarsus 30, middle toe with claw 29, hind toe with claw 21.

Habitat. Southern Uruguay.

***Embernagra platensis paraguayensis*, n. subsp.**

Habia de Canado Azara, Apunt. i. 1802, p. 363, no. xc.

Embernagra platensis Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. 1888, p. 758: part, specimen *h*; Chubb, Ibis, 1910, p. 641: Paraguay; C. H. B. Grant, Ibis, 1911, p. 100: part, specimens *k-q*.

In the large series before me I notice that the birds from

Paraguay and the Rio Parana district are darker green, less buff on the under surface, and larger in measurements than those from Prov. of Buenos Aires.

Male. "Bill black above, orange-red below; feet and legs pinkish horn-colour; iris brown" (*W. Foster*). Total length 212 mm., exposed culmen 18, wing 91, tail 92, tarsus 34, middle toe with claw 28, hind toe with claw 22. *Female*. Wing 89 mm.

There is also a difference between the young from the two localities cited above—a young female, collected by *W. Foster* at Sapucay, Paraguay, in November, compared with the one described under *E. p. platensis*, which is about the same age, is not so heavily marked with black on the breast; under surface, for the most part, yellow with scarcely any buff. The edgings to the feathers on the upper surface are for the greater part fawn-colour like the rump and upper tail-coverts.

I have, therefore, decided to regard this form as distinct under the above title.

Habitat. Paraguay, Rio Parana, and north-eastern Argentina.

There are two specimens which have been in the British Museum since 1858. They belong to the Argentine group with broad stripes on the back and are said to have come from Chile, but as there has been no record of any others having been obtained since that date, it would appear that there may have been some mistake in the locality.

Embernagra dumetorum.

Tanagra dumetorum Less. *Traité d'Orn.* 1831, p. 465: Mus. de Paris. Du Bresil. "Vert olivâtre en dessus, gris-brun sur la face et tout le dessous du corp."

Embernagra platensis Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xii. 1888, p. 758: part, specimen *l*.

Adult. This bird very closely resembles *E. longicauda* on the upper surface, with the dark shaft-lines to the feathers rather more pronounced. It differs, however, in the absence of the fawn-coloured circle of feathers round the eye and

of the supraloral streak, and in having the throat slate-grey instead of fawn-colour. The ear-coverts are rust-brown, the breast is rather paler, and the abdomen is cream-white but lacks the pinkish isabelline wash; under tail-coverts, under wing-coverts, under surface of flight-quills, and lower aspect of tail similar to *E. longicauda*.

Total length 207 mm., exposed culmen 15, wing 94, tail 92, tarsus 30, middle toe with claw 27, hind toe with claw 20.

This bird may, or may not, be the true *E. dumetorum* of Lesson, which name was introduced for a bird from Brazil, but it differs from the other members of this group, and, as it is said to come from Brazil, it may as well bear Lesson's name until time and circumstances may afford us further information.

Habitat. Brazil.

Embernagra longicauda. (Plate I. fig. 1.)

Embernagra longicauda Strickl. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. xiii. 1844, p. 420 : South America.

Limnospiza longicauda Cab. Mus. Hein. i. 1850, p. 136.

Embernagra olivascens Sharpe (nec d'Orb.), Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. 1888, p. 759.

Adult. Head, back, and scapulars dull green with minute, almost obsolete, dark shaft-lines to the feathers; brighter and more yellowish green on the wings and tail; inner webs of flight-quills dark brown, the tail-feathers showing traces of obsolete cross-bars; a supraloral streak and the short feathers round the eye, as well as the throat, pale fawn-colour; lores blackish; cheeks, ear-coverts, sides of neck, and sides of breast dusky greyish brown, like the sides of the body; abdomen white tinged with pinkish isabelline, becoming buff on the lower flanks and under tail-coverts; under wing-coverts yellowish, more or less tinged with whitish; under surface of quills brown with buff inner edges; lower aspect of tail yellowish green.

The following characters separate this bird from all its congeners: the pale fawn-coloured supraloral streak and

throat, and the long tail compared with the short wing, which accounts for its name.

Total length 220 mm., exposed culmen 17, wing 77, tail 93, tarsus 27, middle toe with claw 23, hind toe with claw, 17.

Habitat. Unknown.

The type of this species is in the Strickland collection at the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge.

***Embernagra olivascens.**

Embernagra olivascens d'Orbigny, Voy. Amér. Mérid. iii. Oiseaux, 1836, p. 285 : Bolivia; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. 1888, p. 759.

Limnospiza olivascens Cab. Mus. Hein. i. 1850, p. 136.

Adult. Hind neck, back, scapulars, and upper tail-coverts olive-green with a hoary-grey tinge; brighter and more yellowish green on the wings; inner webs of flight-quills dark brown with paler edges, innermost secondaries margined with ochreous; sides of the lower back buff; middle tail-feathers brown fringed with yellowish green which increases in extent on the outer feathers; crown of the head rather darker than the back; fore part of the head and sides of the face grey; throat and breast also grey but paler and more silvery grey; abdomen cream-white; lower flanks and under tail-coverts pale isabelline-buff; thighs very pale grey; under wing-coverts yellow; under surface of quills pale brown, the inner edges isabelline; lower aspect of tail yellowish.

Total length 199 mm., exposed culmen 17, wing 98, tail 99, tarsus 35, middle toe with claw 26, hind toe with claw 20.

The above description is taken from an example collected at Tilotilo, Prov. Yungas, Bolivia, by the late Clarence Buckley, which appears to have just newly moulted and agrees fairly well with d'Orbigny's description. There are

* It is to be regretted that by some inadvertence this species was not included in Brabourne & Chubb's 'List of the Birds of South America.' Its number should have been 3897.

four other specimens in the British Museum from Bolivia, collected by P. O. Simons, one of which is almost identically the same as the bird described above. The other three are in very worn plumage.

Habitat. Bolivia and western Argentina.

Embernagra gossei, n. sp. (Plate I. fig. 2.)

Adult. Head, mantle, back, and scapulars olive-grey; rump and sides of the rump ochreous-buff; upper wing-coverts and outer webs of primary quills yellowish green, becoming ochreous on the outer edges of the inner secondaries; inner webs of flight-quills hair-brown, rather paler on the inner edges; tail yellowish green, darker on the middle of the central feathers and on the inner webs of some of the lateral ones, with obsolete cross-bars to the feathers; lores and feathers round the eye blackish; fore part of head, sides of face, throat, breast, abdomen, and thighs slate-grey, with a tinge of ochreous-buff on the abdomen, which is more pronounced on the under tail-coverts and extends on to the lower flanks; under wing-coverts yellowish green; under surface of flight-quills pale brown with paler inner edges; lower aspect of tail yellowish green, becoming grey on the apical portion.

Total length 215 mm., exposed culmen 16, wing 94, tail 99, tarsus 31, middle toe with claw 26, hind toe with claw 21.

Habitat. Lujan, Mendoza, Argentina.

This bird is allied to *E. olivascens* d'Orbigny, but differs in having the upper parts olive-grey instead of olive-green, and the under surface slate-grey tinged with ochreous-buff on the abdomen and under tail-coverts, instead of pale ash-grey on the throat and breast, white on the abdomen, and isabelline-buff on the vent and under tail-coverts.

The type, which is in the British Museum, was collected by Capt. Philip Gosse, R.A.M.C., who accompanied Mr. E. A. Fitzgerald on his expedition to the "Highest Andes," and in whose honour the species is named.

There are six other specimens in the British Museum

from Mendoza, which I have no doubt belong to this species, but they are in such worn and abraded condition that it is quite impossible to be certain. Five of them were collected by Herr Weishaupt in February 1871 and were catalogued by Dr. Sharpe as *E. olivascens*, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. p. 759—specimens *b-g*.

II.—*Index-List of the Coloured Plates of Birds in 'The Ibis,' 1859 to 1917.* By Dr. E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., M.B.O.U.

[NOTE.—The following is a list of the coloured plates of birds only, and does not include any others (eggs, anatomy, etc.), maps, or photographs.]

THE order followed is that of the British Museum in Sharpe's Hand-list of Birds, five volumes, published 1899, 1900, 1901, 1903, and 1909 respectively.

The figures after the names of the genera refer to the volume and page of the Hand-list; those preceding the specific names are the species-numbers of these volumes. Species (and on occasion genera) without these numbers are those described since the issue of the Hand-list and therefore not included therein. These can thus be distinguished at a glance by this absence of any numerical prefix, and are followed as well by the original describer's name. Where a second name, having any reference to the plate, appears in the Hand-list, it also appears here (in brackets) below the principal name.

Where the name used on or in the description of the plate differs from the Hand-list name, this difference, to facilitate reference, is shown by the inclusion of the original 'Ibis' name in inverted commas after the plate-reference.

Casuariidæ.

Casuarus (i. 3).

8. unipendiculatus. 1860, 402, Pl. xiv.

claudii (*Ogilvie-Grant*, 1911). New Guinea Supplement, 1915, 325, Pl. viii. ♂.



1. EMBERNAGRA LONGICAUDA.
2. EMBERNAGRA GOSSEI.



Chubb, Charles. 1918. "I. Notes on Embrenagra platensis and its Allies, with the Description of a new species." *Ibis* 6(1), 1–10.

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