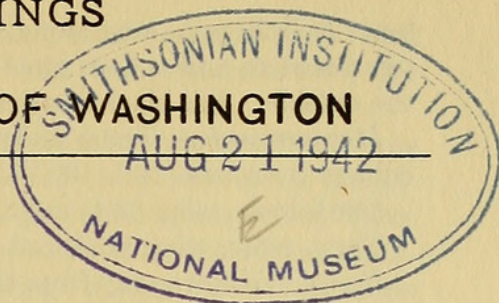


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE ADDITIONAL BIRDS FROM
SOUTHERN VERACRUZ.

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE.

The previously unrecognized birds described below add two more to the peculiar forms restricted to the isolated Sierra de Tuxtla, and include an interesting local subspecies of *Saltator atriceps*. The material is found in the collections resulting from work based at the archeological camp of the National Geographic Society-Smithsonian Institution Expeditions to Veracruz in 1939 and 1940.

FAMILY COMPSOTHLYPIDAE.

***Myioborus miniatus molochinus*, subsp. nova.**

Characters.—Similar to *Myioborus miniatus miniatus* (Swainson)¹ but decidedly darker on dorsal surface, including wings and sides of head and neck; crown patch brighter brown; breast and abdomen brighter red; under tail-coverts more extensively white; white markings on outer rectrices less in extent; tail shorter than wing, instead of longer.

Description.—Type, U. S. National Museum catalog number 360,161, ♂ adult, collected between 3,000 and 4,000 feet elevation on Volcán San Martín, Sierra de Tuxtla, Veracruz, México, April 17, 1940, by M. A. Carriker, Jr. (original number 759). Forehead and fore part of the crown black; rest of crown kaiser brown, with an obscure overwash of liver brown on the tips of the feathers; lores and sides of head to posterior margin of eye dusky neutral gray; rest of sides of head, hindneck and sides of neck, back and rump, dark neutral gray; longer upper tail coverts black, shorter ones dark neutral gray; lesser and middle wing coverts dark neutral gray edged externally with blackish; greater and primary coverts dusky neutral gray; remiges and rectrices dull black; throat, foreneck and a narrow obscure line along sides of upper breast black; breast and abdomen scarlet; sides and flanks dark neutral gray with an edging of Morocco red on some of the feathers; edge of wing deep neutral gray; under wing coverts dull white, grayish at base; under tail coverts dull white; outer web of outer rectrix white for a little more than half of length with the white spot on

¹ *Setophaga miniata* Swainson, Phil. Mag., vol. 1, May, 1827, p. 368 (Woods of Valladolid, tableland of México).

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inner web 20 mm. long along shaft; a lesser amount of white on the next two rectrices and a bare hint of white on the tip of the fourth one from the outside. Bill black; tarsus and feet brownish black (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Three males, wing 66–67.6 (66.7), tail 63.2–65 (64.2), culmen from base 12.1–13 (12.5), tarsus 17.8–18.8 (18.3) mm.

One female, wing 62.4, tail 61.5, culmen from base 12.5, tarsus 18.7 mm.

Type, male, wing 66.6, tail 65, culmen from base 13, tarsus 18.3 mm.

Range.—Known only from the upper levels (above 2,500 feet) on Volcán San Martín, Sierra de Tuxtla, Veracruz, México.

Remarks.—Carriker found this beautiful redstart only on Volcán San Martín where it ranged above 2,500 feet. Apparently it is absent from the nearby Cerro de Tuxtla, though on more intensive work it may be found there. Most of the differentiation in the species *Myioborus miniatus* comes in the coloration of the breast, the various forms marking steps in intergradation between the red-breasted style of México and the yellow-breasted bird of Venezuela. The differences in *molochinus* are more pronounced and varied, and it appears that it may represent a more ancient form in the species, preserved in the Tuxtla range through its isolation. The different proportion of the wing and tail is especially to be noted.

FAMILY FRINGILLIDAE.

Saltator atriceps suffuscus, subsp. nova.

Characters.—Similar to *Saltator atriceps atriceps* (Lesson)² but with throat brown instead of white.

Description.—Type, U. S. National Museum cat. no. 360,410, male, from Tres Zapotes, Veracruz, México, collected March 5, 1940, by M. A. Carriker, Jr. (orig. no. 367). Pileum black with a narrow line of gray extending back from the base of the bill at the nostril over the eye as a superciliary stripe, mixed with white above the eye; rest of dorsal surface bright yellowish olive-green, brighter than citrine; secondaries, primaries and primary coverts dusky, edged with the same bright color as the back; lores dark neutral gray; side of head neutral gray, mixed with blackish in the auricular region; throat, sides of neck and broad band across upper breast black, surrounding a large throat spot of auburn with the feathers white at base; auburn tipping reduced anteriorly so that the white shows indistinctly; breast, sides and upper abdomen light neutral gray; lower abdomen buckthorn brown; crissum and under tail coverts slightly browner than ochraceous-tawny; flanks washed with buffy citrine; under wing coverts ochraceous-tawny, becoming dull gray exteriorly, and bright yellowish olive green on the wing margin. Bill black; tarsus and toes blackish brown (from dried skin).

Measurements.—15 males, wing 115–125.5 (120.3), tail 114.1–125.3 (117.6),³ culmen from base 22.7–25.8 (24), tarsus 28–29.6 (28.9) mm.

8 females, wing 113.5–118.3 (116.3), tail 112.4–119.3 (115),⁴ culmen from base 23.1–25.1 (23.9), tarsus 27.8–29.5 (28.9) mm.

Type, male, wing 125.5, tail 125.3, culmen from base 24, tarsus 29.1 mm.

² *Tanagra* (*Saltator*) *atriceps* Lesson, Cent. Zool., 1832, p. 208, pl. 69 (México).

³ 14 specimens.

⁴ 7 specimens.

Range.—Confined to a limited area in southern Veracruz from Tres Zapotes across to Paso Nuevo, extending from those points toward the coast.

Remarks.—The present race is strikingly marked from other forms of *Saltator atriceps* by the deep brown instead of white color of the throat. This peculiarity has been noted rather casually in a few specimens by other authors, but for various reasons has been considered an individual variation. P. L. Sclater⁵ described *atriceps* as having "a large white (sometimes dark chestnut) guttural patch," remarking further that the "throat-spot, clear white in most specimens, is dark chestnut in some Mexican examples, and in others tinged with rufous." Salvin and Godman⁶ wrote that "a rarer form of variation is in the color of the throat, which in some specimens, usually Mexican, is of a rich chestnut instead of white; but intermediate forms occur connecting the two." Ridgway⁷ noted of *atriceps* that "this white throat patch is sometimes tinged with tawny or chestnut, and according to Dr. Sclater is even occasionally dark chestnut." I have seen no other statements on this subject.

The color of the throat is easily seen in these birds in life and the brown color is characteristic of them in the Tres Zapotes area. In our twenty-four skins from this point there is one male (no. 360,403) with the throat completely white, one female (no. 360,407) with the throat white except for a slight ticking of brown in two or three feathers on the lower margin of the patch, and one male (no. 360,404) with the brown suffusion covering the lower half of the patch with a brownish wash extending beyond. All others have the throat area deep brown. There are in addition in our collections two skins from Paso Nuevo near the Río San Juan about 35 miles southeast of Tres Zapotes that are typical *suffuscus*. A similar skin from the same locality is found in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. One in the National Museum from Buena Vista, about 15 miles farther up the valley of the San Juan, has the throat white as does another without certain locality that probably comes from near this same point. These two, with one from Frontera, Tabasco, are very slightly paler than *atriceps*, indicating intergradation toward the pale breasted *S. a. raptor* of the Yucatán Peninsula. The brown-throated *suffuscus* seemingly is restricted to a region between Tres Zapotes and Paso Nuevo, extending for an undetermined distance toward Catemaco, and so occupies a very limited range which remains to be outlined fully. In the collection of P. W. Shufeldt I have seen five specimens of *atriceps* from La Buenaventura, Acayucan, Veracruz, of which four are typical *atriceps*, while one, a female, has the throat brown, of a paler shade than typical *suffuscus*. It seems to represent an intermediate. In the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences there is one old specimen, no. 7816, with the brown throat of *suffuscus*, a female without locality from the Rivoli (Massena) collection presented by Dr. T. B. Wilson. We have one bird from Motzorongo that has a very slight suffusion of brown on the throat, the quantity being sufficient

⁵ Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., vol. 11, 1886, pp. 283-284.

⁶ Biol. Centr.-Amer., Aves, vol. 1, February, 1884, pp. 326-327.

⁷ U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 50, pt. 1, 1901, p. 661.

to be worth remark especially since this locality is near the area of the brown-throated birds.

In specimens throughout the range of *atriceps* occasional individuals show a little brown, usually in the lower margin of the throat patch. In the Tres Zapotes region this tendency becomes intensified to a point where the brown submerges the normal white color of the throat. The whole anterior part of the body tends to be more heavily pigmented also since the black breast band averages heavier than in other sections. This latter character, however, is one subject to much individual variation.

***Atlapetes apertus*, sp. nova.**

Characters.—Similar to *Atlapetes brunnei-nucha* (Lafresnaye)⁸ but with no black band across the breast, and without the paler bordering line along the sides of the brown pileum. Similar also to *Atlapetes inornatus* Sclater and Salvin)⁹ but with less white on the lower surface, the sides of the breast and of the abdomen being more extensively gray; brown of crown darker and extending farther back as in *brunnei-nucha* without the paler bordering line at the side; darker green above; and with the black on the side of the head extending farther posteriorly; slightly smaller.

Description.—Type, U. S. National Museum Cat. no. 360,425, male, taken at about 2,500 feet elevation on Cerro de Tuxtla, Sierra de Tuxtla, Veracruz, México, March 19, 1940, by M. A. Carriker, Jr. (orig. no. 519). Anterior third of crown and sides of head black; a narrow longitudinal white line extending back from the base of the culmen, and an elongated white spot above the loreal region on each side; remainder of pileum between chestnut and auburn; rest of dorsal surface olive-green; wings and tail fuscous; edge of wing strontian yellow; throat, foreneck, center of breast and abdomen white; sides neutral gray; flanks olive-green; under tail coverts dark greenish olive, tipped indistinctly with reed yellow; under wing coverts dull neutral gray, edged with deep olive buff. Iris brown; bill black; tarsus dusky brown (from collector's label).

Measurements.—2 males, wing 81–81.8 (81.4), tail 72.8–75 (73.9), culmen from base 16.8–17.4 (17.1), tarsus 28.2–28.7 (28.4) mm.

3 females, wing 76.8–78.2 (77.7), tail 70–72.9 (71.2), culmen from base 16.7–16.9 (16.8), tarsus 26.2–28 (27.3) mm.

Type, male, wing 81.8, tail 72.8, culmen from base 17.4, tarsus 28.7 mm.

Range.—Higher elevations of Volcán San Martín and Cerro de Tuxtla, Sierra de Tuxtla, southern Veracruz, México.

Remarks.—In the unbanded breast the bird here described resembles the far distant *Atlapetes inornatus*, which is restricted to the subtropical zone on the Chimbo and Chanchan River systems of Ecuador, so that we find two plain breasted forms lying at either end of the extended range of *Atlapetes brunnei-nucha*. The three are evidently of the same stock, and are representative of one group, but differ in such a manner that I incline for the present to treat them as species rather than as representative races. *Atlapetes apertus* is one of the most remarkable of the forms discovered by Carriker in the forests of the Sierra de Tuxtla.

⁸ *Embernagra brunnei-nucha* Lafresnaye, Rev. Zool., 1839, p. 97 (México).

⁹ *Buarremon inornatus* Sclater and Salvin, Ibis, 1879, p. 427 (Pallatanga, Ecuador).



1942. "Descriptions of three additional Birds from southern Vera Cruz."
Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 55, 105–108.

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