

"Manual of North American Birds" (p. 334), based largely on a perfect specimen obtained in northern Yucatan by Mr. G. F. Gaumer; the extremely worn plumage of the type and the other specimen obtained with it by Dr. Schott having precluded a clear perception of the specific characters. The following year Dr. Sclater also recognized it as a distinct species and gave it (Cat. B. Brit. Mus., XIV, 1888, p. 260) a clear diagnosis, based on additional specimens collected by Mr. Gaumer. He also admitted its relationship to *M. stolidus* (Gosse), first indicated in the key of my "Manual," stating that it "clearly belongs to the Antillean group of *M. stolidus*, with broad rufous margins to the inner webs of the rectrices."

The next year Messrs Salvin and Godman (*Biologia Centrali-Americana, Aves*, II, pt. 11, March, 1889, p. 93) also recognized it as a species, but assigned it to the group of *M. lawrencii*, and qualified their opinion of its validity by the statement that they could "see very little difference between these Yucatan birds [*M. yucatanensis* Lawr.] and the form of *M. lawrencii* found in eastern Mexico, from Vera Cruz northwards," though admitting that "compared with *M. lawrencii* from more southern localities, including Yucatan itself,* the amount of red in the tail of *M. yucatanensis* becomes a more conspicuous character, and the difference between the two is more obvious."

More recently, Mr. J. A. Allen seems to be suspicious of its specific distinctness, and says (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. IV, No. 1, Art. xvii, Dec. 29, 1892, p. 345) that "the two original specimens * * * are both in very worn plumage, and were these the only specimens known I should not hesitate to refer them to *M. lawrencii*." He further says that "while the types bear a strong resemblance in coloration to worn specimens of *M. tyrannulus* [a South American species not referred to in my "Manual"] in which the amount of rufous in the tail is below the normal, this is evidently not the species to which they bear the closest affinity."

These somewhat conflicting views have induced me to reëxamine the subject, although the number of specimens of *M. yucatanensis* accessible to me has not increased since the "Manual" was written, except that the type, not then examined, has been borrowed for the purpose from the American Museum of Natural History. This reëxamination and comparison of specimens fully confirms my reference of the species to the typical section of the genus, as indicated in the "Manual" and indorsed by Dr. Sclater in the British Museum catalogue, the form of the bill in *M. yucatanensis* being very different from that of *M. lawrencii*.

For comparison with the three specimens of *M. yucatanensis* I have selected all the National Museum specimens of the *M. lawrencii* type from Yucatan (*M. l. olivascens*, nobis, four in number) and five examples

* These Yucatan birds are *M. lawrencii olivascens*, nobis, those from Vera Cruz northward being true *M. lawrencii*.

of true *M. lawrencii* representing localities "from Vera Cruz northwards," and including Giraud's type, said to have been obtained in Texas. That the differences between them are really very considerable, the following tabulated statement of their characters will show:

*a*¹. Bill approximately cylindrical (*i. e.* as in typical *Myiarchus*).

1. *M. yucatanensis*. Wing, not less than 3.35 (average, 3.38); tail, not less than 3.32 (average, 3.34); tarsus, 0.85; middle toe, 0.48; inner webs of second to fifth rectrices with inner half rufous; top of head distinctly more reddish brown than back.*

*a*². Bill distinctly depressed (*i. e.*, as in type-species of the subgenus *Onychopterus*).

2. *M. olivascens*. Wing, not more than 3.10 (average 2.97); tail, not more than 3.05 (average 2.87); tarsus, not more than 0.76 (average 0.74); middle toe, not more than 0.42 (average 0.39½); inner webs of second to fifth rectrices without any rufous in adult (a narrow edging only in young); top of head same color as back.

3. *M. lawrencii*. Wing, 3.22-3.35 (average 3.30); tail, 3.05-3.28 (average 3.15); tarsus, 0.75-0.80 (average 0.78); middle toe, 0.40-0.42 (average 0.41); inner webs of second to fifth rectrices merely edged with rufous; top of head distinctly darker (not more reddish) than back. (Colors throughout much darker than in *M. yucatanensis*, the upper surface of the tail more strongly washed with rusty, and wing-coverts edged with brown or rusty instead of light grayish.

* This character is of course obvious or conspicuous only in fresh plumage specimens.

ON A SMALL COLLECTION OF BIRDS FROM COSTA RICA.

BY

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The specimens referred to in the following notes were kindly submitted by the authorities of the Costa Rica National Museum, through Mr. George K. Cherrie, the ornithologist of that establishment.

1. *Rhodinocichla rosea* (Less.).

An adult female from Buenos Aires (No. 3660, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, March 13, 1892, George K. Cherrie), is similar to 53900, U. S. National Museum, from Panama (J. McLeannan); but owing to its fresher condition the colors are rather purer, particularly the dark slate-color of the upper parts, which becomes browner with age. Its measurements are as follows: Length (skin), 6.60; wing, 3.20; tail, 3.15; exposed culmen, 0.79; tarsus, 1.07; middle toe, 0.72.

2. *Microcerculus lusciniæ* Salv.

An adult female from Burica, Costa Rica (No. 2593, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, December 15, 1891, George K. Cherrie), is similar to No. 53901, U. S. National Museum, from Panama (J. McLeannan), but differs in the following particulars: There are no dusky terminal margins to the feathers of the upper surface; the innermost greater wing-coverts, on the other hand, have indistinct blackish tips; the general color of the wings, particularly the remiges, is appreciably darker; the middle portion of the lower breast and belly is much paler, inclining to dull brownish white, slightly tinged with rusty, each feather showing a central irregular (usually V-shaped) mark of dark grayish; the sides are more strongly tinged with raw-umber or tawny-olive. Length (skin), 4.00; wing, 2.15; tail, 0.87; exposed culmen, 0.60; tarsus, 0.87; middle toe, 0.60.

Some of the differences of coloration, as for example the darker hue of the wings and tail, and the stronger rusty tinge on sides, are doubtless due to the fresher condition of the plumage.

3. *Buthraupis cæruleigularis* Cherrie, sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Similar to *B. arcæi* ScL. and Salv., but larger, sides and flanks extensively and uniformly bluish dusky, and chin and throat dull indigo-blue, scarcely darker than top of head.

Adult male (type, No. 128840, U. S. Nat. Mus.,* Buena Vista, Costa Rica, August 4, 1892; Castro y Fernandez): Head (all round), hind neck, sides of neck, entire upper parts, sides, and flanks, uniform dull indigo-blue, the larger wing-coverts, remiges, and rectrices, however, dull black except on edges; chest and breast (except laterally), belly, anal region, and under tail-coverts bright yellow, changing gradually from rich Indian-yellow on the chest to lemon-yellow on the under tail-coverts; axillars canary-yellow; under wing-coverts mixed primrose-yellow and white; inner webs of remiges dull brownish gray, paler on edges, these becoming whitish toward base of quills; thighs uniform dusky indigo-blue. Bill entirely black; legs dusky horn-color; feet dull blackish. Length (skin), about 5.60 (tail imperfect); wing, 3.42; exposed culmen, 0.60; depth of bill at base, 0.35; tarsus, 0.85; middle toe, 0.60.

Mr. Cherrie sent an excellent description of this bird, but it has unfortunately been mislaid and I have therefore been obliged to prepare a new one.

Although apparently very different from *B. arcæi* Scl. and Salv. in the extensively and uniformly dusky sides and flanks, it is so closely similar in other features of coloration that I strongly suspect it may only represent an extreme variation of that species. At any rate, additional specimens will be necessary to establish its validity.

4. *Tachyphonus rubrifrons* Lawr.

Although Dr. Sclater considers this to be the female of *T. xanthopygius*, two of the three specimens now before me are marked as males by their collectors (J. Carmiol and N. Carranza).

The pair collected by Señor Carranza (Nos. 7168 and 7169, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, Reventazón, Costa Rica, February 24, 1892), are almost exactly alike, and both very similar to No. 47454, U. S. National Museum, collected at Angostura, Costa Rica, January 8, 1867, by J. Carmiol. The two males differ from the female in the much stronger yellow tinge to the under tail-coverts, some of the middle feathers being, in fact, almost pure yellow, but no other difference of coloration is observable. The Carranza male differs from the Carmiol specimen in having the chin and throat purer gray, and the chest strongly tinged with yellowish olive.

If really referable to *T. xanthopygius*, the plumage represented by *T. rubrifrons* must, therefore, be that of the young male as well as the female.

According to the collector, the iris is reddish and the bill and feet black in both sexes.

* No. 8287, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica.

Measurements of the three specimens, together with a male of *T. xanthopygius*, are as follows:

TACHYPHONUS XANTHOPYGIUS SEL.

Mu- seum No.	Mu- seum.	Sex and age.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.	Tail.	Ex- posed cul- men.	Tar- sus.	Middle toe.
17875	U. S.	♂ ad.	Truando, Colombia.....	.....	3.80	2.80	.....	0.82	0.60

TACHYPHONUS RUBRIFRONS LAWR.

47454	U. S.	♂ ad.	Angostura, Costa Rica...	Jan. 8, 1867	3.25	2.43	.....	0.78	0.55
7169	C. R.	♂ ad.	Reventazón, Costa Rica...	Feb. 24, 1892	3.25	2.43	0.63	0.80	0.52
7168	C. R.	♀ ad.	.....do.....	.....do.....	3.15	2.37	0.60	0.80	0.50

Should this bird prove to be distinct from *T. xanthopygius* Sel., as I believe it will, we must, if the A. O. U. canons of nomenclature are adhered to, restore the name *Tachyphonus rubrifrons* Lawr., for which Mr. Lawrence substituted the name *T. propinquus* when he discovered that the red color on the forehead of the type specimen was an accidental stain. (See Canon XXXI, A. O. U. Code of Nomenclature.)

5. *Pachyrhamphus ornatus* Cherrie. (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIV, No. 855, 1891, 338.)

An apparently immature female belonging to the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica (No. 1472, San José, J. C. Zeledon), is much like the type (an adult female), but differs in having the back, etc., more grayish olive-green, which, instead of being quite the same hue from upper back to tail-coverts is much tinged posteriorly with light sandy brown or fulvous, this being especially marked on lower and posterior scapulars and longer upper tail-coverts; the pileum is lighter, rather russet than chestnut; the broad pale margins to wing-coverts and secondaries are much paler, those of the coverts being chiefly buff, those of secondaries pale olive-buff; the sides of the head are paler, and the upper throat is nearly white, like chin. The white frontal mark is much less tinged with buff near base of culmen; the black patch covering nape and sides of occiput is less sharply defined and less intense black, and the adjacent color of hind neck is decidedly paler than the back, producing an indistinct collar. Length (skin), 5.50; wing, 2.85; tail, 2.20; exposed culmen, 0.42; tarsus, 0.70; middle toe, 0.45.

6. *Pachyrhamphus cinereiventris* Sel.

Four adult males in the collection of the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica are typical of this form, all having the whole back intense blue-black, without any gray across the hind-neck. This is the case even in an immature male (same collection, No. 4432, May 3, 1890), in which the greater part of the rump is olive, instead of slate-gray, and the wings largely in immature plumage. The shade of color of under parts is very uniform (intermediate between slate-color and slate-gray),

some specimens showing a faint transverse freckling of a paler tint on the belly and other posterior portions.

Two immature females in the same collection differ from an adult (possibly a young male) in the collection of the U. S. National Museum from Greytown, Nicaragua (No. 40448, June 14, 1865, H. E. Holland), in the darker and richer color of the upper parts, the back being olive-brown in contrast with the olive-color of head and neck; wing markings rather deeper, especially the edges of secondaries; under parts considerably more richly colored, the prevailing hue being yellowish olive, clearing to olive-yellow on abdomen, under tail-coverts, etc., these parts in one specimen (No. 3465, Jiménez, August 12, 1889, A. Alfaro) being almost canary-yellow,* while the yellow covers nearly the whole anterior portion of the under surface.

7. *Platypsaris aglaiaë obscurus* Ridgw. (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., xiv, 1891, p. 474.)

An adult male (No. 5409, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica), obtained at the same time and place with the type of *P. a. obscurus*, is similar in color to the type on upper parts, but is paler beneath, especially on the throat, where there is not the slightest indication of the dusky spotting, so conspicuous a feature in the type. In fact, the whole throat, especially its lower portion, is considerably paler than any other part of the lower surface, except under tail-coverts and anal region, the color being a pale, slightly brownish, gray. The average hue of the under parts is very nearly the same as in the type of *P. a. hypophæus*,† and still more like another specimen of that form (No. 120294, U. S. Nat. Mus.). From all the males of the latter form, however, it may be distinguished by the decidedly smaller size, large white spot at base of inner web of outer primary, and correspondingly more extended white patch covering the basal portion of other primaries on the under surface. Measurements are as follows: Length (skin), 6.50; wing, 3.30; tail, 2.35; exposed culmen, 0.58; tarsus, 0.82; middle toe, 0.48.

Two additional females from the same locality agree essentially with the one originally described, and differ even more from the La Palma specimen doubtfully referred to *P. a. latirostris* (cf. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., xiv, 1891, p. 474). No. 5410 (Museo Nacional de Costa Rica), Jiménez, February 7, 1891, has the upper parts somewhat more intense chestnut-rufous, with none of the grayish-brown tinge seen on the back of the type female; the black of the pileum, however, is slightly mixed with dull rusty brown. The under parts are rather deeper ochraceous than in the type. Length (skin), 6.00; wing, 3.30; tail, 2.45; exposed culmen, 0.58; tarsus, 0.78. "Iris black; bill and feet, horn-color."

No. 3461 (Museo Nacional de Costa Rica), Jiménez, August 6, 1889, A. Alfaro, is still deeper in color, the upper parts tending more decidedly toward chestnut, and the lower surface quite uniform, deep

* This example is not sexed, and may be a young male.

† Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. xiv, 1891, p. 467. (Interior of Honduras.)



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