

my attention to some pertinent references; and to Ian Galbraith of the British Museum (Natural History), A. R. McEvey of the National Museum of Victoria, Raymond A. Paynter, Jr. of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, George E. Watson of the U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Laurence C. Binford of the California Academy of Sciences, and Mary LeCroy of the American Museum of Natural History, for assistance in locating Denton and/or Torres Straits specimens and checking for the presence of *Acanthagenys*. Facilities of the American Museum of Natural History were used through the courtesy of Wesley E. Lanyon.

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## The type locality and taxonomy of *Anisognathus flavinucha somptuosus*

by Thomas S. Schulenberg and Manuel A. Plenge

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The populations of the Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager *Anisognathus flavinucha* occurring from southeastern Ecuador south to central Peru represent the subspecies *somptuosus*, described by Lesson (1831). Chapman (1925) commented on minor differences between specimens from northern and central Peru, but considered his entire series to be referable to *somptuosus*. Later Chapman (1926) wrote that the northern population 'possibly . . . is separable'. Hellmayr (1936) could not detect the differences noted by Chapman. Both Zimmer (1944) and Parkes (in Storer 1970) felt that the northern birds were separable. However, the naming of a new form had to be delayed until it was known to which group the type of *somptuosus* belonged.

Lesson (1831) did not indicate a type locality when he described *Tachyphonus somptuosus* (= *Anisognathus flavinucha somptuosus*), but Hellmayr (1913, 1936) reported that it had been collected in Peru by Ajassou, about whom Zimmer (1944) was evidently unfamiliar when he discussed the taxonomy of *somptuosus*. Later, however, Zimmer (1953) in synonymising *Pica luteola* Lesson 1831 with *Cyanocorax yncas yncas* (Boddaert) restricted its type locality to Cajamarquilla, Department of Pasco, Peru, the designation of the type locality being based on information which Berlioz supplied to Zimmer. Berlioz, at Zimmer's request, had examined a specimen in the Paris Museum which was said by Pucheran (1853) to be the type of *Pica luteola*, and according



to Zimmer (1944) Berlioz found that the specimen Pucheran had referred to was presented to the Museum by Ajassou and bore the locality 'Caxamarquilla' (=Cajamarquilla).

Gerardo Lamas M. (pers. comm.) and Father Jaroslav Soukup (pers. comm.) kindly checked their files on collectors in Peru of butterflies and plants, respectively, but Ajassou is not cited; therefore, except for the locality mentioned above, nothing is known about him. It could well be that he was not a collector at all, but a traveller who had the opportunity to obtain some specimens. Vaurie (1972) places Cajamarquilla, with 'Ajasson' as collector, in the Department of Junin, probably the result of an oversight, since Zimmer (1953) had earlier located Cajamarquilla in the Department of Pasco. We can assume that Ajassou travelled in central Peru and collected at Cajamarquilla, Province and Department of Pasco, Peru, which becomes the type locality of *somptuosus*.

With the type locality of *somptuosus* thus designated, the northern population would now be available for description. We have come to the conclusion, however, that there is no justification for the subdivision of *somptuosus*. The supposed distinctive features of the northern form, compared to the population in central Peru, are (1) a slightly larger crown patch; (2) a deeper tone to the yellow underparts (Chapman 1925, 1926, Zimmer 1944); and (3) brighter, less greenish-blue margins to the rectrices and, to a lesser extent, remiges (Zimmer 1944). The difference in the colour of the rectrices and remiges exhibits only a weak pattern of geographic variation. Although the extremes in blue margination are found in some specimens from northern Peru (Cajamarca; Amazonas) and the specimens with the greenest margination are from the south (Junín; Ayacucho), a series from any single locality in the range of *somptuosus* shows considerable variation. In fact, in several cases in which a locality is represented by only a single specimen, the specimen exhibits the 'wrong' colour to the marginations, even if the specimen comes from a locality which is far removed from any area of potential intergradation between north and central Peruvian populations. The difference in the colour of the rectrix and remige margination appears at best to represent a weak trend with so many exceptions that this character cannot be used to differentiate populations.

The relative size of the crown patch is an equally unreliable differential character. Although the crown patch is slightly larger in specimens from northern localities, the difference is slight and there are exceptions. Also, we have been unable to recognise the supposed deeper colour of the underparts of the northern birds. No size differences are apparent between any populations.

Aside from the slight differences in these characters and the weak clinal variation they exhibit, there are still other reasons for questioning the validity of a proposed northern subspecies. The populations of northern Venezuela, *A. f. venezuelanus* (Hellmayr 1913) are very similar to *somptuosus*, *venezuelanus* being best separated by the greener, less brownish olive rump, though individual specimens of the two subspecies can in fact be matched. We feel that little can be gained by adding yet another marginally-definable taxon to what is already a complicated situation.

In addition to examining the entire series at the American Museum of Natural History that Zimmer worked with (see Zimmer 1944 for a list of



localities), we compared Peruvian specimens at the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology from the following Departments: Cajamarca (2 males), Amazonas (2 males), San Martín (1 female), Huánuco (4 males, 4 females), Huánuco-Loreto (1 male, 1 female) and Ayacucho (2 males, 2 sex undetermined). The four Ayacucho specimens are from Huanhuachayo ( $12^{\circ} 44'S$ ,  $73^{\circ} 47'W$ ) and represent the southernmost published record for the subspecies.

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## Relationship of white facial feathering to age and locality in Peruvian *Cinnycerthia peruana*

by G. R. Graves

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In a recent paper, Gochfeld (1979) draws attention to the intra-population variation in facial feathering in the Sepia-brown Wren *Cinnycerthia peruana*. He considered the presence of a buffy white forecrown patch in Peruvian populations as "intra-racial variation" and that as yet there was "no evidence on whether white feathering might be age related". Examination of Peruvian specimens of the Sepia-brown Wren in the Louisiana State University Museum



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