

THE LINEATED WOODPECKER

BY RICHARD R. GRABER

ESSENTIALLY a bird of tropical lowlands, the Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) also occurs as high as 5000 feet in Mexico and 3600 feet in El Salvador. In Tamaulipas and San Luis Potosi, I have seen it in scrubby growth, but fairly mature forest seems to be the favored habitat. It will be interesting to see how this species survives increasing deforestation in Mexico. Fortunately it has a broad range, from southeastern Sonora and southern Tamaulipas, Mexico, to northern Argentina.

Over this range it varies considerably in size, plumage, and color of soft parts. Bill and eye color also vary with age. Dickey and van Rossem (1938. *Zool. Ser. Field Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 28:311) noted the bill of a juvenile from El Salvador as "bluish-horn color, tip paler," and of adults as "ivory-white becoming bluish at the base of the maxilla and on basal third of mandible." The iris of the juvenile was "dark brown," and of adults "bluish white." A similar change in eye-color with age occurs in the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). In northern Argentina, Wetmore (1926. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 133:216) found the bill of an adult male Lineated Woodpecker to be "pale smoke gray" and the iris "dull white." Sexual dimorphism in this species also resembles that in the Pileated Woodpecker, males having the 'mustache' marks and entire crown red.

The loud, high pitched cries of Lineated Woodpeckers in Mexico are reminiscent of the Pileated. However the birds must be versatile vocally, since Wetmore (1943. *Proc. U.S. Natl. Mus.*, 93:272) "heard them uttering a chattering call that was not unlike that of a *Centurus*, while the drum was a loudly resounding, rapid roll, slowing slightly toward the end."

Dickey and van Rossem (*op. cit.*, 309) stated that pairs of the Lineated Woodpecker stay together throughout the year, and showed that the species bred in mid-winter in El Salvador. To the north, breeding occurs in, or at least extends to, April and May (see Sutton, Lea, and Edwards, 1950. *Bird-Banding*, 21:48-49; and Wetmore, 1943. *Proc. U.S. Natl. Mus.*, 93:272). This is further indicated by a Veracruz specimen in the Sutton Collection which was in postjuvenal molt on July 20. Dickey and van Rossem (*op. cit.*, 310-311) wrote, however, that the annual and postjuvenal molts may occupy three months or more. Juveniles are similar to adults. In the Veracruz specimen at hand, the outermost primary is conspicuously larger than in several adults, and the character may be good for aging specimens if it proves to correlate with dark eye and bill-color and buffy-tipped primaries. This reaffirms the point that collectors should be *especially* conscientious in noting colors of the fleshy parts.

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