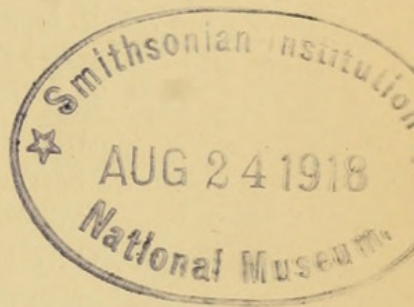


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XX.—*Remarks on the Hawks of the Genus Micrastur.*

By W. L. SCLATER, M.A., M.B.O.U.

(Plate VIII.)

RECENTLY, while recataloguing and rearranging the Accipitrine Birds in the Natural History Museum, I found a hitherto undescribed species of the genus *Micrastur* which was briefly characterized at a meeting of the B. O. C. in March last (Bull. B. O. C. xxxviii. 1918, p. 44). As the birds of this genus are not very well known and have not had much attention in literature of late years, I am now offering a few further remarks on the genus to accompany the coloured plate of the new form prepared by Mr. Grönvold.

Genus MICRASTUR.

Micrastur Gray, List Gen. Birds, 1841, p. 6.

Type, *Falco brachypterus* Temm., = *M. melanoleucus* (Vieill.).

A good discussion of the characters of the genus is given by Ridgway (Proc. Acad. Philad. 1875, p. 476).

The following key shows briefly the distinctions between the various species and subspecies in adult dress :—

- a. Larger; below uniform, unbarred.
 - a'. With a white collar on the nape *M. melanoleucus.*
 - b'. Without a white collar on the nape *M. mirandollei.*
- b. Smaller; under parts with transverse barring.
 - c'. Tail shorter; only one transverse white bar visible on the tail *M. plumbeus.*
 - d'. Tail longer; two or more transverse white bars visible.
 - c². Throat and chest rich rufous or, at any rate, traces of a rufous wash on the chest; barring becoming lighter towards the tail-coverts *M. ruficollis.*
 - d². Only the throat rufous-brown; black barring continuing heavy to the tail-coverts . *M. zonothorax.*
 - e². Throat and chest not washed with rufous.
 - f³. Barring of abdomen heavy throughout; back rufous or slightly washed with rufous *M. gilvicollis.*
 - g³. Barring becoming fainter or even obsolete towards the under tail-coverts; back plumbeous *M. guerilla.*

The four last-named forms appear to me to constitute a compact geographical group, and I have therefore treated them as subspecies.

Micrastur melanoleucus.

Sparvius melanoleucus Vieillot, N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. x. 1817, p. 327 : Paraguay [ex Azara].

Falco leucomelas Licht. Verz. Doubl. 1823, p. 62 : Paraguay [ex Azara].

Falco brachypterus Temm. Pl. Col. livr. 26, 1824, pl. 116 (juv.), pl. 141 (adult) : Brazil, Guiana, and Paraguay.

Carnifex naso Lesson, Rev. Zool. 1842, p. 379 : South America.

Falco percontator Cabot, Boston Journ. N. H. iv. 1844, p. 462 : Yucatan.

Micrastur amaurus Gurney, Ibis, 1879, p. 173 : Panama [founded on a melanistic variation].

The name used in the Catalogue, *Sparvius semitorquatus* Vieill. (N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. x. 1917, p. 322), as was first shown by Ridgway (Proc. Acad. Philad. 1875, p. 484), cannot be used for this species as the description is in no way applicable.

Hellmayr (Rev. Spix'schen Typen, p. 570) also rejected Vieillot's *S. melanoleucus* on the ground that another bird had been previously described under the same name on p. 319 of the same work; but this latter was not a new description, but merely a citation of Latham's *Falco melanoleucus*, and does not appear to invalidate the subsequent description of the new form.

Distribution. From the State of Sinaloa in Mexico southwards to Ecuador, but not farther south in the Andes, and to the Prov. Salta in northern Argentina and Paraguay, including Brazil and the Guianas.

Micrastur mirandollei.

Astur mirandollei Schlegel, Nederl. Tijdschr. i. 1863, p. 130: Dutch Guiana.

Micrastur microrhynchus Pelzeln, Novara Reise Vög. 1865, p. 11: Para State, Brazil.

Distribution. Costa Rica south to the basin of the Amazon and Guiana.

Micrastur ruficollis ruficollis.

Sparvius ruficollis Vieillot, N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. x. 1817, p. 322: South America [Rio Janeiro, apud Berlepsch & Hartert, Nov. Zool. xv. 1898, p. 290].

Falco leucauchen Temm. Pl. Col. livr. 52, 1824, pl. 306: Brazil [founded on a young bird of the rufous phase].

Falco xanthothorax Temm. Pl. Col. livr. 16, 1824, pl. 92: Brazil and Guiana [founded on an adult bird of the rufous phase].

Micrastur ruficollis jugularis Gurney, List Diurnal Birds of Prey, 1884, p. 118: Bahia [founded on an adult of the plumbeous phase].

This species has a rufous and a plumbeous phase; examples from Bahia show both extreme and intermediate stages of the phases, but all retain some traces of the rufous on the throat and chest. Birds from Rio Janeiro are all more or less in the rufous phase, while two from Parana State and Paraguay are in the plumbeous phase.

Distribution. The series in the British Museum show a range from Bahia in eastern Brazil south to Paraguay. It does not appear to extend into the basin of the Amazon.

Micrastur ruficollis gilvicollis.

Sparvius gilvicollis Vieillot, N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. x. 1817, p. 323: patr. ignot. [Cayenne, apud Hellmayr, Nov. Zool. 1908, p. 290; 1910, p. 410.]

Nisus concentricus Lesson, Traité, 1831, p. 60: Cayenne.

Micrastur pelzelni Ridgway, Proc. Acad. Philad. 1875, p. 494: Sarayacu, Peruvian Amazons.

This form seems never to have but the one plumbeous phase.

Distribution. Guiana and the Amazon valley from Para to the eastern slopes of the Andes.

Micrastur ruficollis guerilla.

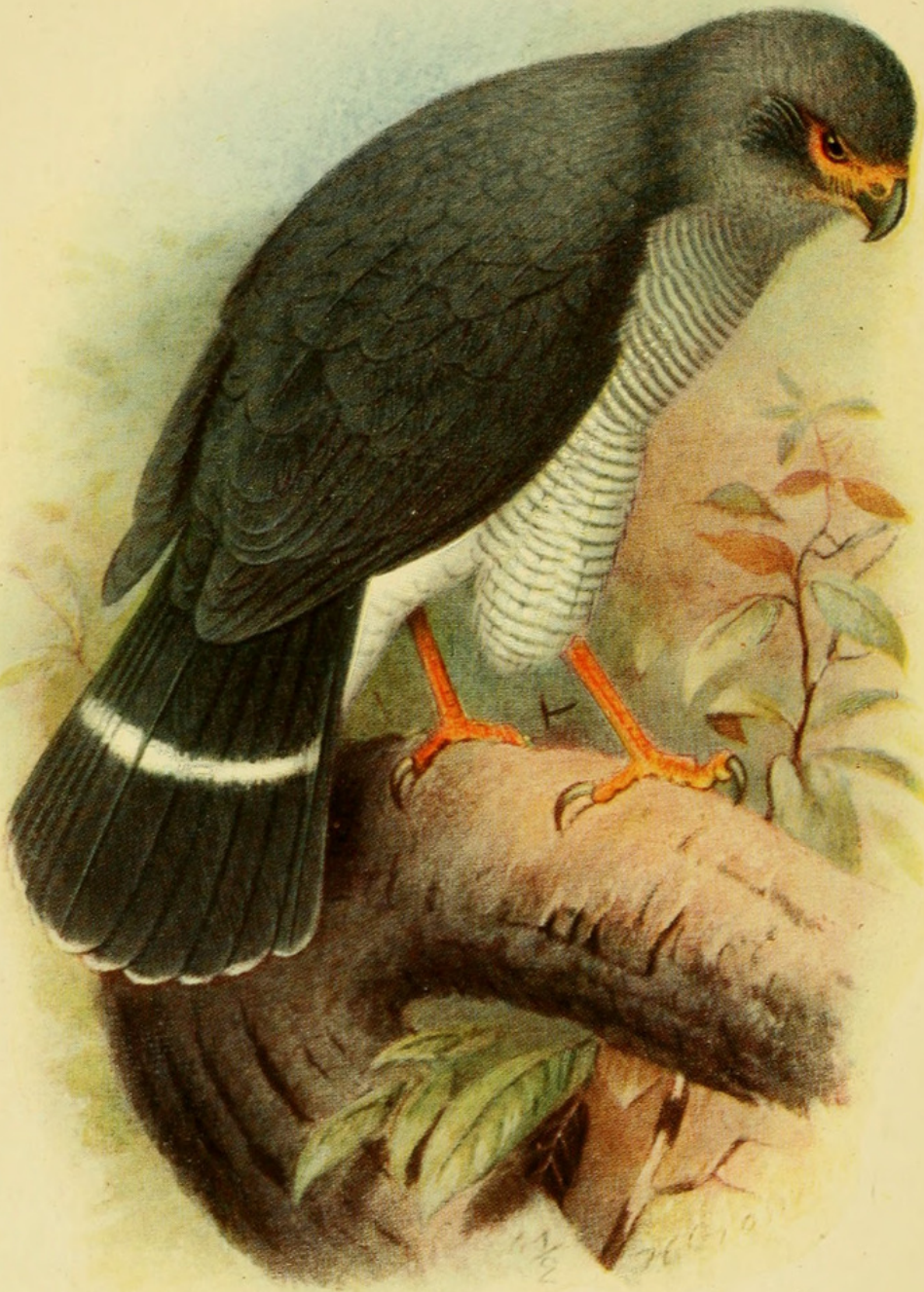
Micrastur guerilla Cassin, Proc. Acad. Philad. 1848, p. 87: Jalapa, Mexico.

Micrastur interstes Bangs, Auk, xxiv. 1907, p. 289: Costa Rica.

The rufous and plumbeous phases in this subspecies are much less differentiated than in *M. r. ruficollis*.

Distribution. From Vera Cruz State of Mexico south to western Ecuador, whence there are examples in the British Museum from Nanegal, 4000 feet, on the western slopes of Pinchincha, 10 leagues from Quito, and from the Balzar Mountains in the province of the same name in western Ecuador.

I have not examined the type of *Micrastur interstes*, but I am quite unable to distinguish examples from Costa Rica or southwards from those from Mexico.



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MICRASTUR PLUMBEUS.

***Micrastur ruficollis zonothorax*.**

Climacocercus zonothorax Cabanis, J. f. O. 1865, p. 406 :
Porto Cabello, Venezuela.

Distribution. Venezuela and possibly eastern Colombia.

***Micrastur plumbeus*. (Plate VIII.)**

Micrastur plumbeus W. Sclater, Bull. B. O. C. xxxviii.
1918, p. 44 : Prov. Esmeraldas, N.W. Ecuador.

The following is a reprint of the description :—

“ Resembling in general colour *M. gilvicollis* from the Amazon basin, but very much greyer above, the crown and mantle bluish grey, becoming blacker on the rump and tail; below, the transverse banding extends from the throat to the thighs, but not apparently to the under tail-coverts, and is composed of alternate bands of white and plumbeous rather than white and dusky; the throat and neck are unbanded plumbeous. The tail is very short compared with other species of the genus, and has only one cross-band of white about the middle of its length, though there are traces of another cross-band concealed by the coverts. In the other species of the genus there are always two, often three, such bands.

“ Iris light brown to yellowish grey, feet orange-red to yellow, bill blackish with a yellow cere.”

Type, a male from Carondelet, Rio Bogota, Prov. Esmeraldas, N.W. Ecuador, about 450 feet elevation. Collected by Messrs. Miketta and Fleming, 23/iii./1901. B.M. Reg. no. 1902/5/5/62.

Measurements of type : Length about 330 mm., wing 178, tail 125, tarsus 64, bill (without cere, measured straight with dividers) 15. In a female the wing is 167, the tail 120. The tail of *M. r. gilvicollis* averages 153 mm., against a wing of 180 mm.

There are in the British Museum two other examples from the same district, collected by Messrs. Miketta and Fleming. Another younger bird with only the breast transversely marked, in the Tring Museum, was obtained by the same collectors in the same region.



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