

evolution. The reading of local lists has been practically discontinued and papers illustrated simply by specimens have been restricted to technical sessions since the larger audiences make it impossible to demonstrate specimens satisfactorily. Still more marked are the improvements in illustration. Slides of mounted birds soon gave way to photographs of birds in the field, at first uncolored but now usually colored, then came moving pictures; until now an afternoon is usually devoted to the latest and best work of cinema artists and on the same screen under exactly the same conditions are shown the latest examples of work with the camera. On several occasions exhibitions of bird paintings and photographs have been held in connection with the meetings and have attracted unusual interest. In short every feature developed by any of the ornithological organizations has been adopted by the A. O. U. with the single exception of the extended camping outings arranged by our Australian confreres.

Looking back over the forty years the Union can well point with pride to its record in laying a firm foundation for still greater accomplishments in the future.

1939 Biltmore St., Washington, D. C.

A NEW RACE OF SPIZITORNIS PARULUS.

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE AND JAMES L. PETERS.

In a recent paper¹ the junior author referred specimens of *Spizitornis parulus* taken in the Gobernación de Rio Negro, Argentina to the subspecies *patagonicus* (described by Hellmayr from Neuquen) though at the same time it was noted that birds from Bariloche and Rio Colorado, Rio Negro, as well as specimens from Potrerillos, Mendoza did not quite agree with Hellmayr's diagnosis. We have recently assembled a representative series of *Spizitornis parulus* from various parts of its range, including several fine examples of the typical form from Chile, and two specimens from General Roca, Rio Negro which may be considered as topotypes

¹ Notes on some summer birds from northern Patagonia, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. 65, May, 1923, pp. 277-337.

of *S. p. patagonicus*. The material now before us leads us to revise earlier conclusions to the extent of referring Bariloche specimens to *S. p. parulus* (as, though not typical, they appear to be near that form) and to describe the bird from the eastern portion of Rio Negro as a new subspecies which we propose to call

***Spizitornis parulus curatus*, subsp. nov.**

Characters.—Similar to *Spizitornis parulus parulus* (Kittlitz)¹ but paler above, with two distinct light wing-bars; dark auricular patch less sharply defined; upper breast whiter, less yellowish. Similar also to *S. p. patagonicus* Hellmayr² but lower breast and abdomen distinctly yellowish; browner, less grayish above. Similar also to *S. p. aequatorialis* (Berlepsch and Taczanowski)³ but grayer above, with crown much more heavily streaked with white.

Description.—Type, Cat. No. 85664, Museum of Comparative Zoology, male, from Rio Colorado, Gobernación de Rio Negro, Argentina, collected August 10, 1920, by J. L. Peters (orig. No. 2342). Forehead black, the feathers edged with white; crown feathers somewhat elongated, black, narrowly bordered internally with white, gray at base; sides of crown between mouse gray and deep mouse gray, this color extended to include the entire cervical and anterior interscapular regions; nasal plumes white; lores black; a white anteoocular spot; anterior portion of upper eyelid black, this color prolonged posteriorly into a poorly defined line that borders the crown; posterior portion of the upper eyelid white, prolonged into a white line which loses itself on side of neck; lower eyelid white; auriculars black, edged on the outer web with white; lower back and rump paler than grayish olive; upper tail-coverts between grayish olive and deep grayish olive; wings hair brown externally, narrowly edged with whitish except on the outermost primary; proximal half of inner webs edged internally with tillul buff; primary coverts darker than hair brown; median and lesser series blackish, tipped with white to form two white wing-bars; outermost feather of the median coverts externally edged with whitish; bend of wing and under wing coverts pale chalcedony yellow; tail in general hair brown; central pair of rectrices chaetura drab with faint paler edges; outer web and tip of outer rectrix white, the terminal portion of the outer web clouded with hair brown; shafts of rectrices white on under side; throat, sides of head and breast white with black mesial streaks; flanks massicot yellow, with black mesial streaks that become obscured posteriorly;

¹ *Muscicapa Parulus* Kittlitz, Mem. Acad. Imp. Sci. St. Pétersbourg, vol. I, 1831, p. 190. (Concepcion and Valparaiso, Chile.)

² *Spizitornis parulus patagonicus* Hellmayr, Arch. f. Naturg., vol. 85, Nov., 1920, p. 51. (Neuquen, Gobernacion de Neuquen, Argentina.)

³ *Anaeretes parulus aequatorialis* Berlepsch and Taczanowski, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1884, p. 296. (Cechce, western Ecuador.)

abdomen straw yellow; under tail coverts marguerite yellow, the longest ones with dusky centers. Bill and feet black (in dried skin).

Measurements.—(In millimeters).—Males, 6 specimens: wing, 46.0–49.2 (47.5); tail, 49.0–56 (52.5); culmen from base, 10.0–11.5 (10.6); tarsus, 17.5–18.7 (18.1).

Females, 4 specimens: Wing, 45.0–48.2 (46.3); tail, 46.3–52.4 (50.0); culmen from base, 10.0–11.0 (10.4); tarsus, 17.5–18.7 (17.6).

Type, male, wing, 46.0; tail, 52.0; culmen from base, 10.5; tarsus, 17.5.

Range.—Argentina, from Mendoza to Córdoba and eastern Pampa, south into eastern Rio Negro, possibly to eastern Chubut.

Remarks.—In working out the distribution of this new form the most puzzling point that we have encountered has been the presence of *S. p. patagonicus*, a race with a white, or at most very pale yellow abdomen, apparently isolated in northwestern Rio Negro and southern Neuquen. From present information we believe that *patagonicus* is confined to the more arid portions of the upper Rio Negro and the lower Neuquen and Limay valleys. To the west and southwest it tends towards *parulus* and to the north and east it intergrades with *curatus*. A specimen from Victorica, Pampa with the abdomen very pale yellow is apparently intermediate between the two latter, while skins from Córdoba and Mendoza agree best with *curatus*. No specimens have been seen from San Luis. A skin collected by Durnford marked "Patagonia" may have come from eastern Chubut but this is uncertain.¹ In the arid central portion of Rio Negro *Spizitornis* is absent above an altitude of 1,500 feet, as it was not found during intensive work at Maquinchao and Huanaluan, but it appears again near Lake Nahuel Huapi, apparently from the westward, since skins from Bariloche, while not typical, are best referred to *S. p. parulus* of Chile.

U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

¹ See Ibis, 1877, p. 34.