

THE RACES OF AMAZONA LEUCOCEPHALA
(LINN.).

BY JAMES L. PETERS.

I have lately made a critical examination of the fine series of *Amazona leucocephala* in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy and am prompted to publish my results as being of interest to students of the ornithology of the West Indies.

AMAZONA LEUCOCEPHALA LEUCOCEPHALA (Linn.).

Psittacus leucocephalus Linn. Syst. Nat. ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 100. ("Habitat in America" ex Edwards Natural Hist. Bds. p. 166, pl. 166 = Cuba).

Psittacus paradisi Linn. Syst. Nat. ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 101. ("Habitat in America," ex Catesby Nat. Hist. Carolina 1, p. 10, pl. 10, Cuba.)

Amazona leucocephala palmarum Todd. Ann. Carn. Mus. 10. 1916, p. 228 (Los Indios, Isle of Pines).

Description: General color green becoming yellowish on the undertail coverts and bluish on the occiput, green feathers of the upper parts and of the breast with dusky edgings; forehead and anterior portion of crown white; throat and cheeks rose pink; a purplish-red patch on the abdomen. Primaries and secondaries blue or bluish on the outer webs, dusky on the inner; central pair of rectrices green, rest (except outermost) green on the outer webs, red on the basal half of the inner web, terminal half of the inner web yellow or yellowish green; outer pair of rectrices similar but with the outer webs blue.

I am unable to find any constant characters by which Parrots from the Isle of Pines may be distinguished from Cuban examples. The characters claimed by the original describer of *palmarum* are: general color darker green; abdominal patch averaging darker and more extensive, and the throat somewhat deeper red. Ridgway gives:—"size slightly larger, red of throat, cheeks, etc., deeper and somewhat more extended posteriorly, and abdominal patch also deeper and more extensive."

Barbour (Mem. Nutt. Orn. Cl. No. VI, 1923, p. 82) states that specimens from eastern and central Cuba are identical with specimens from the Isle of Pines and restricts the name *leucocephala* to eastern Cuba.

With a series of over thirty skins from nearly all parts of Cuba

and the Isle of Pines I am convinced that the characters enumerated are of no diagnostic value, but rest entirely on age or freshness of plumage, or both; neither can I verify any differences based on size, and unhesitatingly synonymize *A. l. palmarum* with *A. l. leucocephala*.

AMAZONA LEUCOCEPHALA CAYMANENSIS (Cory).

Chrysolis caymanensis Cory, Auk, 3, Oct. 1886, p. 497, p. 502. (Grand Cayman).

Subspecific characters:—Similar to *A. l. leucocephala* but averaging slightly larger; more yellowish green; dusky edging of the contour feathers less pronounced; green on the sides of the neck extended so as to separate the rose color of the throat from that of the cheeks; white forehead less extensive; red abdominal patch much reduced.

Range.—Grand Cayman.

AMAZONA LEUCOCEPHALA HESTERNA Bangs.

Amazona leucocephala hesterna Bangs. Bull. M.C.Z. 60, No. 7. Mar. 1916, p. 308. (Cayman Brac.)

Subspecific characters:—Similar to *A. l. leucocephala* but much smaller, more yellowish green; abdominal patch more extensive and more purplish red; throat and cheeks deeper red.

While the closest geographical representative of this well-marked race is found on Grand Cayman, *hesterna* more nearly resembles *leucocephala* of Cuba. There is, however, a tendency for green on the sides of the neck to encroach upon the throat as in *caymanensis*, but the amount is inconstant, and is not even symmetrical in the same individual.

Range.—Little Cayman and Cayman Brac.

AMAZONA LEUCOCEPHALA BAHAMENSIS (Bryant).

Psittacus collarius var. *bahamensis* Bryant, Proc. B.S.N.H. 11, Apr. 1867, p. 65. (Fortune, Acklin and Inagua Ids. Bahamas.)

?*Psittacus gutturalis* Müller, Nat. Syst. Suppl. 1776, p. 79 (Martinique, ex. Pl. enlum. pl. 549).

Subspecific characters:—Similar to *A. l. leucocephala*, but larger, the white crown more extended posteriorly; rosy throat patch more extensive; red abdominal area more restricted; red basal portion of the rectrices more restricted.

“Perroquet de la Martinique,” Plate 549 of Daubentons Planches Enluminees, the basis of P. L. S. Müller’s *Psittacus gutturalis*

may possibly represent the Bahaman race of *Amazona leucocephala* with the extended white crown and rosy throat and restricted abdominal patch. The amount of red in the tail of the figure is, however, characteristic of Cuban examples; besides, the chances are against Daubenton's having figured a specimen from the Bahamas, and for these reasons it is better not to make any change in the name of the Bahaman Parrot.

Amazona collaria (Linn.) of Jamaica and *A. ventralis* (Müll.) of Haiti are both doubtless of the same common ancestry as *leucocephala*, but have reached a point in their evolution where they are best regarded as specifically distinct. For instance, *collaria* has only a faint indication of dusky tips to the contour feathers and the white on the head is restricted to a frontal band, the abdominal patch has disappeared though the rosy throat persists; the auriculars are greenish or bluish instead of black.

Ventralis shows less of a departure, the most noticeable feature being the loss of the red throat while the red abdominal patch is retained.

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