

## A NEW HONEY CREEPER FROM THE AMAZON.

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WHEN the National Geographic Society Brazilian-Venezuelan Expedition was proceeding last year up the Amazon to its rendezvous at Manáos with the boundary commissions of Brazil and Venezuela, our steamer stopped for fuel early one morning at a wood station on the north bank. Advantage was taken of this break in the voyage to collect a few birds, and when the bag was examined, two of the specimens could not be identified. Reëxamination of these birds in the laboratory in comparison with congeneric material shows them to represent a species new to science—a remarkable fact when it is considered that this stretch of the Amazon has been for generations the highway of naturalists and commercial collectors. Because a complete report on the Expedition's extensive collections must be indefinitely deferred, this interesting find is here described as

***Ateleodacnis margaritæ*, sp. nov.**

*Type*.—No. 326560, U. S. National Museum, adult male with active gonads; north bank of Rio Amazonas at Ceo do Arary above Parintins, Estado do Amazonas, Brazil, September 20, 1930; Collectors' No. 3703, Holt, Blake, and Agostini.

*Characters*.—Closely allied to *Ateleodacnis bicolor* (Vieillot) and similar to it in size and in the absence of color pattern or markings, but differs from *bicolor* in the lighter, clearer, blue-gray of the upper parts, and in the pale bluish gray instead of brownish buff underparts.

*Description of the type*.—Upper parts uniform blue-gray, approximately between clear green-blue gray, and deep green-blue gray (of Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature," 1912); remiges blackish, margined externally with the color of the back, internally with whitish; under parts near light gull gray (though a trifle more bluish perhaps) becoming almost pure white on middle of belly and under tail coverts; upper surface of tail like back, under surface dusky grayish; bill dark horn color, lighter along the commissure; tarsi and feet reddish (in the dried specimen).

*Measurements of the type*.—Wing, 63; tail, 44; tarsus, 17; middle toe without claw, 11; exposed culmen, 11 mm.

*Remarks*.—Despite its general similarity to *bicolor*, *margaritæ* must be considered specifically distinct. Not only is the degree of difference considerable, but *margaritæ* was taken near the geograph-

ical center of the range of *bicolor*, and *bicolor*, though ranging from Colombia and French Guiana to southeastern Brazil, has not been shown to be subspecifically divisible.

The second specimen of *margaritæ* was not definitely sexed, but is apparently also a male, though somewhat immature. Nevertheless, except for slightly smaller dimensions, it is practically identical with the type.

This exquisite but modest bird is dedicated as a very paltry though peculiarly fitting tribute to one who, steadfastly refusing all credit, has long borne the full brunt of my ornithological activities—Margaret Lander Holt, my wife.

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