

ABSTRACT

Three species of Colymbidae were dissected and diagrams of the arrangement of the main arteries in the region of the neck and thorax prepared. Individual differences in arrangement-pattern were noted. Although a previous worker reported both "aves bicarotidinae normales" and "aves laevo-carotidinae" in the Colymbiformes, the species included in this study were "aves laevo-carotidinae." Both the ligamentum aortae and the right ligamentum botalli were present and prominent.

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TWO NEW BIRDS FROM THE ANDES OF COLOMBIA

BY F. C. LEHMANN V.

***Bubo virginianus colombianus*, subsp. nov.**

CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Bubo virginianus nigrescens* Berlepsch, from Ecuador, but with color pattern between this and *Bubo virginianus elutus* Todd, of the arid Caribbean coast of northern Colombia; facial disc paler than in *nigrescens* or *elutus*; upper parts rufous brown, paler than in *nigrescens*, but more uniformly colored than in *elutus*; barring on breast and abdomen different, with the bars broader and less in number.

TYPE.—Adult male from Peñablanca, western side of the Central Andes, east of Popayán, Colombia; elevation 2,900 meters. Collection of the Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad del Cauca, Popayán, Colombia, collected by F. C. Lehmann V., August 10, 1938.

DESCRIPTION.—Forehead and crown dark brown, densely spotted with yellowish white and buff on the forehead, and with yellowish buff at the base of the ear-tufts and on the hind neck; ear-tufts brownish black, with a narrow yellowish white margin on the inner side, this pale margin not reaching the tips of the feathers; hind neck, scapulars, greater wing-coverts, and rest of upper parts rufous brown, paler than the crown and lesser wing-coverts, spotted with yellowish white and buff; scapulars and greater and middle wing-coverts with conspicuous square-shaped white spots on their external webs, giving a spotted

aspect; some of the middle coverts with wide ochraceous bands sprinkled with brown; lesser wing-coverts darker and more uniformly colored than the rest of the wing; secondaries with wide reddish brown and buffy white bands, the latter sprinkled with reddish brown, and all tipped narrowly with whitish; primaries similar to the secondaries, but with the pale bands whitish; tail above reddish brown, crossed by four wide yellowish white bands, sprinkled with reddish brown, with whitish tip 14 mm. wide; facial disc white, washed with black and ochraceous below the eyes, whiter under the bill, the external feathers with black tips forming a black ruff; chin white; throat and sides of neck like the hind neck; chest with large spots of dark brown, barred with white, buff, and reddish brown; breast, flanks and abdomen white, washed with yellowish cream, and strongly barred with dark reddish brown bars which are lined with buff, the barring different from that in other races, the dark bars being less in number, but wider; crissum yellowish buff, unbarred; under tail-coverts white with a few widely separated reddish brown bars; under surface of tail dirty silvery white crossed by three brown bands, and with a wide pale tip; thighs yellowish buff dotted with reddish brown, forming bars; tarsi and toes well feathered, yellowish white, unmarked on the lower portion, but washed with light ochraceous on the hind toe, where dotted with reddish brown, less densely than the thighs, but forming bars. Bill horn black; cere lead color; claws black; eyes pale orange yellow. Wing, 355 mm.; tail, 216; culmen (without cere), 32; ear-tufts, 56.

RANGE.—This race of owl inhabits the Páramos and the Temperate Zone forests near the tree-line in the highest parts of the Central Andes in Colombia, from the Valle de las Papas in the south, at least to the Nevado del Tolima in the north, at elevations of 2,800 to 4,000 meters above sea level.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.—

B. v. colombianus: 1 ♂ ad. (the type); 1 ♀ ad. collected by F. C. Lehmann V, at the type locality May 13, 1937.

B. v. nigrescens: 1 ♂ imm., collection Colegio Militar, Quito, Ecuador, taken March, 1939; 1 ♀ ad., Santo Domingo de los Colorados, collected by Teodomiro Mena; 1 ♀ ad. without exact locality, Ecuador; 1 ♀ ad., Ecuador (these three specimens in the collection of Colegio Mejía, Quito); 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (??) adults, collection Colegio Bolívar, Ambato, Ecuador (without exact locality).

B. v. elutus: 2 ♀ ♀ adult, 1 ♂ juv., collection Lehmann, taken on the Río Ranchería, Ríohacha, Colombia, between April 8 and 10, 1941.

MEASUREMENTS.—

B. v. elutus:

♂, wing 353; tail 214 mm.

♀ ad., wing 370; tail 212 mm.

B. v. colombianus:

♂ ad., wing 355; tail 216; culmen (without cere) 32; ear-tufts 56 mm.

♀ ad., wing 370; tail 217; ear-tufts 60 mm.

B. v. nigrescens:

♂ wing 365; tail 210; ear-tufts 65 mm.

♀ wing 355–382; tail 215–217; culmen (without cere) 33–35; ear-tufts 65 mm.

REMARKS.—As will be seen from the description, this new race of *Bubo virginianus* is nearer to *nigrescens* than to *elutus*. It is also nearer to the northern races in the color pattern of the upper parts, the narrow, close barring of the under parts and the reddish facial disc. The coloring of the upper parts in old individuals, however, is less broken than in the northern races, approaching in this respect *B. v. nigrescens*.

In an earlier note in *Caldasia*, 2 (No. 9): 410, 415, 1944, I referred two specimens of this owl to the Ecuadorian form for lack of topotypical specimens for comparison. Later, during a visit to Ecuador, I was able to see several specimens of *nigrescens* that are supposed to be topotypical, and so noted the difference. Mr. K. von Sneidern has informed me of the presence of this owl in Nevado del Tolima, where he saw it on the páramos perching on the stumps of dead frailejones (*Espeletia*) where they were difficult to see. He observed that they were preying upon rabbits. Seemingly this is a favored food with this owl as with its northern cousins, and I noted the same food preference in the great horned owls taken by me on the Río Ranchería mentioned above.

They probably also take the big snipe (*Capella nobilis*), or the solitary snipe (*Chubbia jamesoni*). In the Temperate Zone rain forests they can easily procure small mammals such as squirrels, and possibly birds. This owl hunts by day; the one selected as type I met with at noon when it was eating a black coati (*Nasua olivacea*) that it had killed.

Strange to say, among the specimens of *B. virginianus nigrescens* that I examined in Ecuador, which is supposed to be a race inhabiting only the higher mountains of western Ecuador, I saw an adult female taken by Teodomiro Mena in Santo Domingo de los Colorados in the Pacific drainage at an altitude of only 500 meters above sea level.

I was unable to detect any difference between this bird which is in the collection of Colegio Mejía, and another taken at the tram station in Quito, where it had struck an electric rod and so was killed. In the note in *Caldasia* referred to above, on p. 416, I have recorded the report of a *Bubo* on the Anchicayá River, Dept. Valle, Colombia, at a place called Monos, at an elevation of 300 to 400 meters above sea level. This bird I was unable to find though I made careful search for it.

Rodolphe Meyer de Schauensee (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 97: 2, 1945), reports a female *nigrescens* taken by K. von Sneider on Volcán de Chiles, Nariño, Colombia, at an elevation of 11,000 ft., that is now in the Academy's collection.

It is probable that another race, possibly *B. virginianus scotinus* Oberholser, is found in eastern Colombia. During a recent trip to the Llanos east of San Martín, not far from the Río Umadea, I was informed that during the dry season considerable numbers of eared owls, which the natives call "*Buturucu*" (pronounced boo-too-roo'-koo), come to nest in the moriche palms (*Mauritia*). The description of the bird and the vernacular name from the hooting call lead me to believe that this is a *Bubo*. I may add that this name sounds like the Brazilian *nacurutu* given to another race of this species. I am more inclined to believe that the Llanos bird mentioned is *scotinus* rather than *nacurutu* of Brazil, as the Venezuelan form is recorded from Caicara on the Orinoco. However, the Amazonian form may be found eventually in Colombian Amazonia.

***Oxyura jamaicensis andina*, subsp. nov.**

CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Oxyura j. jamaicensis* (Gmelin) but smaller; also smaller than *Oxyura ferruginea* (Eyton) of extreme southern Colombia, Ecuador, Perú and Bolivia, differing from this last species in having the sides of face white as in *jamaicensis*, and being paler below.

TYPE.—Adult male from Lagunas del Páramo de Boca-Grande, north of Nevado de Sumapaz, Cundinamarca, Eastern Andes of Colombia; elevation 4,000 meters. No. 113 in the collection of the Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional, Bogotá, collected by F. C. Lehmann V. September 14, 1942.

DESCRIPTION.—Forehead, crown, sides of head to below the eye, and nape black; lores, sides of head, including post-auricular region, a narrow line at the base of bill and across the chin white; upper throat black with white margins to the feathers; throat and neck all around, upper parts, breast, flanks, upper tail-coverts and thighs bright glossy chestnut or kaiser brown; rest of lower parts silvery white, washed

with buffy, basal half of the feathers burnt umber, giving a broken, barred appearance; under side of tail, and under wing-coverts white; wing-coverts, primaries, and tail blackish brown; bill pale bluish gray; tarsus and webs greenish blue gray; toes washed with dusky. Wing, 149 mm.; tail, 78; culmen, 46; tarsus, 31; width of bill at base, 18.5; greatest width, 29.

RANGE.—Andean lakes of the Central and Eastern Cordilleras in Colombia, from the Puracé region, Dept. of Cauca, to Laguna de Fúquene, Cundinamarca and Boyacá.

MATERIAL EXAMINED.—♂ ad., Laguna de Tota, Boyacá, Colombia, altitude 3,070 meters, collected by J. I. Borrero, August 27, 1945. In this specimen, which is not fully adult, the throat has the same color as the upper parts, but the chest is much darker burnt umber, with the rest of the under parts washed with light ochraceous buff; the under tail-coverts washed with apricot buff; white sides of head sprinkled with black dots below the eyes. The wings are paler than in the type. Wing 139 mm.; tail 76; culmen 48; tarsus 29; broader part of bill 25.

♀ ad., No. 237 B, same data as the preceding. Forehead and crown blackish brown finely spotted with reddish; neck all around grayish brown, with fine reddish margins to the feathers; chin and throat paler reddish buff, slightly darker below the eyes; lores similar to crown; upper parts grayish brown spotted with chestnut red; chest strongly spotted with dark ferruginous, the feathers at base dusky black; abdomen paler; under tail-coverts white; wings as in the male; bill dusky brown; feet dusky. Wing 122 mm.; tail 44; culmen 44.5; tarsus 28.

♂ ad., in the collection of the Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad del Cauca, Popayán, Colombia, collected by K. von Sneidern at Laguna de San Rafael, Páramo of Puracé, Central Andes, altitude 3400 meters. This specimen has the white area of the face not fully developed but in other aspects is similar to the type.

Duckling, unsexed, collected by Lehmann at Laguna de Fúquene, Boyacá, Eastern Andes, February 3, 1939, altitude 2,500 meters. Forehead light brown; crown dark brown; sides of head brownish gray; chin yellowish white; upper parts dusky with two conspicuous spots at the sides of the back and on wing tips; shafts of tail feathers with only a few soft barbs; under parts whitish gray; base of lower mandible yellow; maxilla dusky; feet dusky.

A younger duckling, collected by Borrero at Laguna de Tota, August 27, 1945, is slate black on the forehead, crown and upper parts, with a line of this color extending backwards on nape and neck; chin,

sides of face and sides of neck whitish, washed with grayish brown; throat and chest light brown; breast and abdomen whitish; the two white spots of sides of back well developed.

REMARKS.—This is a common bird in the cool waters of the lakes and lagoons of the páramos of the Central and Eastern Andes, and during winter it comes to the Savanna of Bogotá, at altitudes varying from 2500 to 4000 meters.

Ducklings have been taken February 3, 1939, at Fúquene; September 14, 1942, at Boca-Grande, Eastern Andes; and August 27, 1945, at Tota. At Laguna San Rafael Lake, Puracé, Cauca, I have taken ducklings at several other dates.

In Caldasia, 9: 408, 1944, I have referred Colombian specimens of this duck to the southern race *ferruginea*, but later study of specimens of *ferruginea* leads me to describe the Colombian Ruddy Duck as a new race of *jamaicensis* on account of its white face and paler under parts. *Oxyura ferruginea* (Eyton) has been taken at Cumbal, Nariño, Colombia, by von Sneider. (*See Caldasia, loc. cit.*).

I wish to express my gratitude to Professor Gustavo Orcés V. of Quito, for his kind advice and help extended to me during my recent visit to that country, and also to Dr. Alexander Wetmore, of Washington, who has read this account in manuscript and also has examined the proofs.

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ORNITHOLOGICAL RESULTS OF THE BAFFIN ISLAND EXPEDITIONS OF 1928-1929 AND 1930-1931, TOGETHER WITH MORE RECENT RECORDS

(Continued from Page 24)

BY J. DEWEY SOPER

20. *Buteo lagopus s.johannis* (Gmelin), AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK. Eskimo: *Kin'zwā''yoūauk'*.—Breeds sparingly along the south coast from at least Lake Harbour to Foxe Channel. At present it is not known to occur elsewhere on the island. None was seen on the 1928-1929 expedition to southwest Baffin Island. At Lake Harbour it was first noted on June 2, 1931; thereafter, individuals were observed in the district on four occasions up to early July—in one instance about fifteen miles up Soper River. The bird is far from common, but the Eskimos assert that it breeds there regularly in small numbers. Shortt (1942: 342) observed examples at Lake Harbour during the Eastern Arctic Patrol in 1938.