

Gymnoris xanthocollis occidentalis, new subspecies

TYPE: Adult male; Abulhassan, near Sar i Dasht in Bakhtiari, western Persia; April 28, 1940; W. Koelz, collector. (Type on deposit in American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.)

DIAGNOSIS: Similar to *G. x. xanthocollis* from India, and *G. x. transfuga* from Sind and Baluchistan, but paler than either, and with a slightly more slender bill.

MEASUREMENTS OF THE TYPE: Wing, 86.0 mm.; tail, 54.0; length of the bill from the skull, 14.0; width of the bill at the level of the nostrils, 5.5.

RANGE: Western Persia, from Fars westward into Bakhtiari and Khuzistan. The birds that breed in the neighboring plain of Mesopotamia will probably be found to belong to this new race.

REMARKS: The new race represents the end of a westward trend in a general reduction of pigmentation. In *occidentalis* the whole of the upper parts are sandy and the lesser wing-coverts are the color of rust. The eastern populations of India (*xanthocollis*) are much darker, light earth brown above and with chestnut lesser wing-coverts. The coloration of the intervening populations of Baluchistan and Sind (*transfuga*) is exactly intermediate.

The thickness of the bill is the same in *xanthocollis* and *transfuga*; in *occidentalis* the bill is a little more slender. The difference, at the level of the nostrils, amounts to only five per cent of the total length of the bill, but this difference, though small, is appreciable to the eye.—WALTER KOELZ, c/o American Consul, Bombay, India.

The status of *Synallaxis sclateri* Cabanis.—After receiving from Dr. A. Döring an "authentic specimen" of *Synallaxis sclateri*, collected near Córdoba, Argentine Rep., Sclater declared this name to be a synonym of his *Synallaxis hudsoni*, which he had described in 1874 (see Sclater, P. Z. S. London, 1879: 461; and Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., 15: 70). Hellmayr (Cat. Birds Americas, 4: 150, 1925) accepted this view without examining the type of *Synallaxis sclateri*, described by Cabanis in 1878 (Jour. f. Orn., 26: 96) and kept in the Berlin Museum (No. B. 15006). Its original label reads: "*Synallaxis sclateri* Doer. N. 5 ♂ Sierra de Cordova. Selten."

Comparison with *hudsoni* undertaken by the writer at once showed *sclateri* to be quite another species; the former differs by its pale yellowish instead of cinnamon gular spot, spiny tail feathers with pale and rigid shafts, pipit-like juvenal plumage and many other points.

The nearest relatives of *sclateri* are *S. anthoides* King (Chile and southern Argentina) and *S. humilis* Cabanis (Perú and western Bolivia). In fact, *sclateri* in some way bridges the wide gap separating the two other species. All three seem to depend on rocky country (whereas *hudsoni* lives in the pampas). Yet they have so many distinctive characters of their own that they all should be kept as separate species. All three have been removed by Hellmayr (1925) from *Synallaxis* and included in the genus *Asthenes*.

Regarding the markings of the upper side, *sclateri* stands between *anthoides* and *humilis*; the contrast between the dark centers of the feathers and their paler margins is far less pronounced in *sclateri* than in *anthoides*, but not nearly as obsolete as in *humilis*. The central rectrices of *sclateri*, dark brownish throughout, are devoid of the pale margins so conspicuous in *anthoides*, and in this respect approach *humilis*. The rusty pattern of the four outer rectrices is of almost the same extent in *sclateri* and *anthoides*, but of a much darker shade in the former; in *humilis* it is as dark as in *sclateri*, but considerably reduced in scope. The tail feathers are acuminate in *anthoides*, less so in *humilis* and bluntest in *sclateri*. Below, *sclateri* resembles

anthoides, both in adult and juvenal plumage, but *sclateri* is of a considerably darker shade, this being most apparent in the juvenal plumage which in *sclateri* has a mottled throat and in *anthoides* a white, unspotted one. *Humilis* differs from both by having, in the adult plumage, a strongly mottled throat instead of a plain one. The wing pattern is different in all three species. The rusty speculum formed by the color of the primaries is largest in *sclateri*, smallest and darkest in *humilis*. The coverts of the secondaries have a blackish center with sharply contrasting pale margins in *anthoides*, while they are almost uniformly colored in *humilis*. This difference is linked by *sclateri*.

All three species are of almost the same size, but *sclateri* seems to have by far the longest tail. Measurements are:

<i>S. anthoides</i>	♂ ad.	wing	76 mm.	tail	73 mm.
	♂ juv.	wing	69 mm.	tail	66 mm.
<i>S. sclateri</i>	♂ ad.	wing	76 mm.	tail	in molt
	juv.	wing	75.5 mm.	tail	90 mm.
<i>S. humilis</i>	ad.	wing	74 mm.	tail	70 mm.
	ad.	wing	73 mm.	tail	61 mm.

Asihenes sclateri seems to be restricted to the Sierra de Córdoba, where it has been found by Dr. Döring to live only among rocks. It is, as emphasized by its discoverer, "a true mountain species." The two Berlin specimens (the type and a bird in juvenal plumage, sent in 1882 from the Sierra de Córdoba by the well-known naturalist Fritz Schulz, No. 27155) are apparently the only ones so far collected.

MATERIAL EXAMINED.—*A. anthoides*: ARGENTINA: Chubut, 1 ♂ ad.; Bariloche (Gob. Río Negro), 1 ♂ juv. *A. sclateri*: ARGENTINA: Sierra de Córdoba, 1 ♂ ad. (type), 1 juv. *A. humilis humilis*: PERÚ: Maraynioc (Dept. Junín), 2 ♂ ♂ ad. (cotypes). *A. hudsoni*: ARGENTINA: Buenos Aires, 1 ad., 1 juv.—ERWIN STRESEMANN, Zoological Museum, Berlin, Germany.

A new name for *Xiphorhynchus spixii similis* Zimmer.—Mr. James L. Peters and Mr. W. E. C. Todd have both kindly called my attention to the fact that in describing this form from Buena Vista, Colombia, I obviously overlooked the earlier *Dendroplex similis* Pelzeln, a synonym of *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus obsoletus* (Lichtenstein). In view of the decided priority of Pelzeln's usage, I propose to rename the north-east Colombian bird as follows:

Xiphorhynchus spixii buena-vistae, new name for *Xiphorhynchus spixii similis* Zimmer (not *Dendroplex similis* Pelzeln, Orn. Bras., 1: 46, 1868), Amer. Mus. Novitates, no. 756: 9, Nov. 30, 1934.

My thanks are due to Mr. Peters and Mr. Todd for advising me of my blunder.—JOHN T. ZIMMER, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.

Eastern Goldfinch feeding on June berry.—There are only a few scattered records in ornithological literature of fruit-eating by the Eastern Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis tristis*). On July 2, 1947, the writer and Ernest Limes, Jr. spent several hours in the Oak Openings, Lucas County, Ohio, observing the birds that came to feed in a very large June berry tree (*Amelanchier laevis*) heavily laden with fully ripened fruit. One of the most common visitants to this tree was the Eastern Goldfinch. As we observed these birds, of which there were never less than eight or ten in the tree at one time, it was clearly determined with the aid of binoculars that they were feeding on the fruits, pulling them off and crushing them in their beaks, then evidently consuming both seeds and pulp. Other birds which fed on the fruits during our observa-