

**What is *Amazilia microrhyncha*?**—Ever since its description, *Cyanomyia microrhyncha* Elliot (Ibis, 316, 1876) has puzzled ornithologists. Those who did not see the specimen had to rely on Elliot's statement that it possessed "every indication of being an adult individual." Peters (Check-list of birds of the world, 5: 68, 1945) still recognized it as a distinct species from "Honduras? Known only from the unique type." Most recently Monroe (Ornithol. Monogr., 7: 184, 1968) placed it in the hypothetical list for Honduras because "the unique type. . . as admitted by Elliot" was not certainly from Honduras. He remarked on its "small, slender bill . . . 13.5 as opposed to 18.2 for the smallest *cianocephala* that I have measured . . . as Eugene Eisenmann (personal communication) pointed out to me, many characters are not typical . . . The tail is bronzy with no greenish tinge and the feathers of the sides and under tail-coverts, in addition to lacking whitish edgings, are more rufous than is usually the case in *cianocephala*. After careful examination of the type, however, I feel that this individual is most likely an aberrant example of *A. cianocephala*. Regardless of what disposition is made of the specimen taxonomically, its place of origin is certainly in doubt."

During a recent check of the specimens of *A. cianocephala* in the American Museum of Natural History, made possible by aid from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund, I examined this moot type specimen. Curiously, its most revealing characteristic has never been noted: all of the longer under wing coverts (clearly displayed because the bird was mounted with the wings slightly spread) are conspicuously sheathed at their bases. The type also shows distinct lighter brown tips to the bronzy brown feathers of the rump and upper tail coverts, and less obvious pale tips on the crown feathers, as well as the bronzy or dull brownish (to my eye) flanks and crissum noted by Eisenmann, which are of course juvenal feathers. I found some loose sheathing material under the median upper tail coverts which, from its large size, must have come from (presumably median) rectrices sheathed at the time of collection; and the bird still shows sheathing at the base of one outer primary. In fact, the outer primary is, in each wing, shorter than the next, being about the length of the following (eighth); it is not only the tiny bill that is not full-grown. A somewhat similar juvenile (though marked "ad.") *cianocephala* now in AMNH is No. 766,688 from extreme south-western Chiapas, Mexico.

In color the type of *microrhyncha* is not unlike San José de Santa Bárbara, Honduras, skins of *A. cianocephala guatemalensis* and doubtless belongs to that subspecies (distinguished primarily by its more bronzy, less greenish, tail). The type's bronzy tail is, in fact, definitely though slightly glossed with greenish at certain angles to the light, at least along the outer margins of the rectrices, *contra* Monroe. I thus see no good reason to question its provenience from Honduras. The name *Microrhyncha* will therefore repose harmlessly in the synonymy of *guatemalensis* (Gould, 1861), which fortunately has ample priority.—ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México, D. F.* Accepted 26 Jan. 71.

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**Correction.** In the Frank Bellrose paper in the April issue the last line on page 420 should be the last line on page 422.—Ed.