

**A FURTHER SPECIMEN OF THE FINE-BARRED PICULET  
(*PICUMNUS SUBTILIS*) IN THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

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When the Fine-barred Piculet *Picumnus subtilis* was described by Stager (1968), it was only known from 12 specimens. A further specimen of this rare piculet has been received by the Bird Collection of the Vienna Museum of Natural History in 1986 when the collection of Count Josef Seilern was acquired. It is a male (now NMW 84.825), collected 7 March 1913 in Sangaban = Rio Sangaban, Puno, Peru (13°24'S, 70°17'W) at an altitude of about 800 m by H. & C. Watkins (No. 973; number 6860 in Seilern Collection), with the iris red-brown, feet dark brown and bill black. It had not been identified to species on the original label by Watkins but was labelled *P. castelnaui* in the Seilern Collection. Our specimen agrees very well with the type illustrated by Stager (1968), clearly showing the diagnostic white-spotted nape, ventral and dorsal barring and more orange-red tone of the crown. The type specimen kept in the Field Museum of Natural History was collected at Hacienda Villacarmen in the Department of Cuzco in southeastern Peru at 980 m, whereas the first specimen known to Stager had also been taken by H. Watkins, but at Candamo in the

Department of Puno at only 302 m.

Short (1982) pointed out the similarity with *P. castelnaui* and noted that one specimen identified by Stager as *P. subtilis* either represents *castelnaui* or a hybrid of these two species, which are known to occur together in the upper Ucayali Valley. Winkler *et al.* (1995) classified *P. subtilis* as apparently still rare, inhabiting only humid tropical forests from the lowlands to the Andean foothills at about 1000 m (see also Parker *et al.* 1982). The Watkins collection was acquired for the Zoologische Staatssammlung in Munich through W. F. H. Rosenberg in London between 1911 and 1914. At about the same time, Count Josef Seilern acquired birds collected by the Watkins brothers directly from Rosenberg.

Count Seilern's private collection was mostly housed in his castle in Lesna in an area which became part of the newly formed Czechoslovakia after the end of World War I but part of the collection was also kept in another castle in Litschau (northern Lower Austria). Our specimen of *Picumnus subtilis* was not mentioned by Hellmayr (1912). In a later paper, Hellmayr (1919) included the majority

of the birds acquired by Count Josef Seilern but he may have not seen the specimen now identified as *Picumnus subtilis* or he did not find it interesting enough to be mentioned (the only *Picumnus* listed by him being a specimen of *Picumnus rufiventris* from Chaquimayo on p.118). Only later on, Seilern (1936) listed this woodpecker among *Picumnus castelnaui* when discussing several species from southeastern Peru not included in Hellmayr's previous paper (1919). He also pointed out differences between his specimen and the description and known specimens of *P. castelnaui*.

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