

GENERAL NOTES

Additions to the list of birds recorded from Colombia.—The following forms, identified recently in collections made in Colombia by M. A. Carriker, Jr., for the Smithsonian Institution, appear to be first records of occurrence in that Republic.

Coccyzus americanus occidentalis Ridgway.—The eastern race of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*C. a. americanus*) is well known as a winter migrant to South America where it is found widely from Colombia and Venezuela to Argentina and Uruguay. The western subspecies *occidentalis* with a total population far less than that of the typical form correspondingly is little known away from its breeding grounds. In the collections made by Carriker I have identified two males, taken at Villa Artiaga, northwestern Antioquia, 27 April 1950, and at Simití, near the Río Magdalena in southern Bolívar, 30 March 1947. From the dates, they may have been in northward migration, and so do not afford wholly definite data on the winter home.

The western race of this species differs from nominate *americanus* in the slightly grayer brown of the entire dorsal surface. The crown especially is grayer. While the western birds as a whole average slightly larger than those of the east, size alone is not a valid criterion for identification as there is broad overlap between the two.

Otus ingens venezolanus Phelps and Phelps, Jr.—A male of the Rufescent Screech Owl taken 12 April 1942, at 6,000 feet (1,830 meters) elevation, above the Indian village of Hiroca on the western slope of Sierra de Perijá, agrees in its color characters with the type of this race, described from a similar elevation on the eastern side of this mountain range in Venezuela. The bird has been known only from a few specimens from Venezuelan Perijá and from Cerro El Teteo, Burgua, Táchira, to the south. The male from above Hiroca has the following measurements: wing 197, tail 103.7 mm.

Chordeiles acutipennis aequatorialis Chapman.—Three males, well-marked examples of this light-colored race of the Lesser Nighthawk, were collected at Unguía in northern Chocó on 9, 12, and 17 March 1950. All were shot during night hunting with head lamps in search of goatsuckers. Carriker noted that the nighthawks were not in breeding condition. The race, described from western Ecuador, is here recorded at a point far distant to the north. Whether it is resident or a wanderer in the northern Chocó is not certain.

Podager nacunda nacunda (Vieillot).—A male *Nacunda* Nighthawk taken at Camperucho, Magdalena, 10 July 1945, with the wing 239 mm in length, agrees in size with the larger southern race. It represents a migrant away from its breeding grounds far to the south. Two others, male and female, collected at the same time are the smaller northern form *P. n. minor*. The three were shot at night, with the aid of a hunting light. While this is the first report, the typical race should be found as a migrant from the south with some regularity.

The two forms of this species differ in size and slightly in color. Nominate *nacunda*, which breeds from Paraguay and southern Brazil to central Argentina, averages darker, grayer, and less buff on the upper surface. Measurements are as follows: males, wing 236–242, tail 104.3–119.4 mm; females, wing 229–235, tail 101.4–104.5 mm. The subspecies *P. n. minor* is somewhat paler, more buffy above, and is smaller: males, wing 223–230, tail 89.7–101.0 mm; females, wing 204–212, tail 96.6–98.5 mm.

Anthracothorax prevostii viridicordatus Cory.—This race of the Green-breasted Mango, described from the Río Auraré, southeast of Altigracia in northern Zulia, Venezuela, was fairly common in the valley in the Serranía de Macuire at Nazaret, Guajira, north-eastern Colombia. There Carriker and I collected three males on 27, 28, and 29 April

1941, and I saw one other on 1 May. They were found feeding at flowers. From 15 to 27 March 1945, Carriker encountered them again near El Conejo in western Guajira, where he took three adult and two immature males, and two females. The race is found locally in northern Venezuela from Zulia through Carabobo and the Distrito Federal to Sucre.

Aulacorhynchus prasinus cognatus (Nelson).—A male and two females of this race of the Emerald Toucanet in the American Museum of Natural History were collected by Harold E. Anthony and D. S. Ball, 30 March and 4 April 1915 at the head of the Río Cutí, Chocó, on the eastern slope of Cerro Tacarcuna. The presence of these blue-throated birds there is not remarkable since they are common on the Panamanian side of the boundary on this mountain. The distinct gray-throated *A. p. griseigularis* is found in the western Andes in Antioquia on the opposite side of the great valley of the Río Atrato.

Veniliornis dignus baezi Chapman.—In 1952 Carriker collected a male of this race of the Yellow-vented Woodpecker at Belén, 21 March, and a female at La Candela 16 May, in the Department of Huila. These two, compared with our series of *V. d. dignus*, are distinguished clearly by heavier dark barring of the breast, the bars being broader and also deeper blackish olive. The race *baezi*, named from northern Ecuador from an area drained by a tributary of the Río Napo, has been known previously only from the Andes in central Ecuador.

Conirostrum leucogenys cyanochrous (Todd), White-eared Conebill.—Four specimens of this honeycreeper taken by Carriker 7 kilometers east of the Río Sardinata, near Petrólea, Norte de Santander, represent this race, described from the Sierra de Mérida, and recorded elsewhere along the eastern base of the Sierra de Perijá in Zulia, Venezuela. Males are distinguished from typical *C. l. leucogenys* by the lesser extent of the white patch over the auricular region. Females appear darker than those of the typical race, but males while dark are equalled in this by some individuals of the nominate subspecies.

It should be noted that the race *C. l. panamensis*, named by Griscom from Darién, Panamá, with a range extending into northwestern Colombia, is not separable in the more extensive material now available. This name is to be listed as a synonym of *C. l. leucogenys*.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, 25 July 1967.*

Copulatory behavior of the Red-necked Grebe on open water.—All species of grebes usually copulate on a nest platform or similar object (Palmer, 1962. *Handbook of North American birds*. Vol. 1:62–112), but to my knowledge no descriptions of copulation on open water have been reported. It was hypothesized by McAllister and Storer (1963. *Wilson Bull.*, 75:166–173) that copulation on open water is possible only in species with an intromittent organ i.e., the Anatidae.

An apparent copulation on open water by a pair of Red-necked Grebes was observed on 1 May 1965 at Spenard Lake, Anchorage, Alaska. One pair of birds were present on a small bay, approximately 30 yards from the nearest shore. One bird (presumably the male) had more brightly colored plumage than the other. The male was seen to emerge from a dive with a piece of vegetation in its bill. The plant material was then dropped and picked up several times. Suddenly the male seemed to become alert, picked up the weed, and began swimming toward the female, who was approximately thirty feet away. The two came together with necks arched, until their bills appeared to touch. Several times the male turned to the side and then back and again presented