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*Wilson Bull.*, 99(4), 1987, pp. 719-721

**Rediscovery of the Rufous-crested Coquette (*Lophornis delattrei brachylopha*) in Guerrero, Mexico.**—The occurrence of the Rufous-crested Coquette (*Lophornis delattrei*) in Mexico has been questioned ever since Moore (1949) described a new race of the species based on two males collected in San Vicente de Benitez, Guerrero, by Chester C. Lamb in May 1947 (type specimen in Moore Collection, Occidental College, Los Angeles, California).

Because it is otherwise unknown north of central Costa Rica (four specimens from the San Jose region), where it is at best a vagrant (AOU 1983), the Rufous-crested Coquette is believed to be "accidental (?)" (Peterson and Chalif 1973) in Mexico. The species occurs regularly from western Panama (Veraguas) to the Magdalena valley of Colombia and in eastern Peru and east-central Bolivia (Friedmann 1950, Blake 1953, Wetmore 1972, Ridgely 1976, AOU 1983). The AOU Check-list (1983) omits all mention of Mexico in the distribution of *L. delattrei*. Here I report the rediscovery of this species in Guerrero, Mexico, based on the collection of three specimens. These specimens indicate that the species is resident, and they validate Moore's (1949) description of the race *brachylopha*.

In the course of field work in Guerrero in 1986, expeditions of the Ornithological Collection (COIBUNAM) collected 3 specimens of *L. delattrei*, one male and two females, at Arroyo Grande, 13 km NE of Paraiso, on 23 January, 29 April, and 1 May. All specimens were collected in mist nets in evergreen subtropical forest at an elevation of 1350 m (see vegetation in Miranda and Hernández 1963). The two specimens collected April and May were molting and had much breast fat and undeveloped gonads.

At the same locality, the following species of hummingbirds also were present: Long-tailed Hermit (*Phaethornis superciliosus*), White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*), Berylline Hummingbird (*Amazilia beryllina*), White-tailed Hummingbird (*Eupherusa poliocerca*), Amethyst-throated Hummingbird (*Lampornis amethystinus*), Long-billed Starthroat (*Heliomaster longirostris*), Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird (*Tilmatura dupontii*), Bumblebee Hummingbird (*Atthis heloisa*), and Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). This is the only locality in Mexico that *L. delattrei* has been recorded, except for the type locality.

The male specimen has the same characteristics described by Moore (crest much shorter, about half as long, with no spangles on the tips of the feathers) (Table 1). Hardy and Webber (1975) compared the only two known specimens of *L. d. brachylopha* and agreed with Moore's description, except that "the alleged shorter crest of *brachylopha* is entirely a result of wear . . ." Female specimens differ from previous descriptions in the literature (Blake

TABLE 1  
MEASUREMENTS OF *LESSONI* AND *BRACHYLOPHA* SUBSPECIES (MM)

	Wing	Tail	Culmen <sup>a</sup>	Crest <sup>b</sup>
<i>lessoni</i> from Panama and Colombia (Wetmore 1972)				
♂ (N = 12)	38.1 (37.1–40.2) <sup>c</sup>	21.6 (20.0–22.9)	11.4 (10.7–12.8)	20.3 (17.9–21.5)
♀ (N = 6)	36.9 (35.8–37.9)	18.9 (18.0–20.2)	11.8 (10.7–12.7)	
<i>brachylopha</i> from Guerrero, Mexico (Moore and the author)				
♂ (N = 3)	41.0 (39.9–41.9)	24.6 (23.8–25.4)	12.7 <sup>d</sup>	11.1 (10.5–11.7)
♀ (N = 2)	43.8 (42.4–45.2)	23.8 (22.7–25.0)	12.9 (12.8–13.0) <sup>d</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Measured from base to the tip.

<sup>b</sup> The length of the crest was measured from the base of the anterior long crest feathers to the tips of the longest one.

<sup>c</sup> Mean (range).

<sup>d</sup> Measured differently from Wetmore (1972).

1953, Peterson and Chalif 1973) in throat coloration. A better description could be “lacks crest, but crown rufous, throat completely white, lateral rectrices rufous-tipped, and with a broad black subterminal band, belly grayish brown, and crissum cinnamon.” The three specimens agree with Moore’s description of *brachylopha* and show that both males and females differ noticeably from those of *lessoni*, the nearest race (Table 1).

Other species (e.g., *Ornithion semiflavum*, *Rhodinocichla rosea*, *Sporophila schistacea*) have similar discontinuous distributions, with populations in Mexico and Costa Rica or Panama (Slud 1964, Wetmore 1972). Such distributions may be a result of the isolation of southern Mexico as a forest refuge during the last Pleistocene interglacial period (F. G. Stiles, pers. comm.).

*Acknowledgments.*—I thank F. G. Stiles, J. V. Remsen, K. L. Bildstein, R. Raitt, R. B. Waide, and J. W. Hardy, who gave me information and commented on this paper; J. Arriola, N. Chávez, E. Díaz and A. Espinosa de los Monteros, who participated on this project; L. Navarrijo for her interest; and CONACyT for support.

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*Wilson Bull.*, 99(4), 1987, pp. 721-722

**Abnormally colored juvenile Black-capped Chickadee molts to normal basic plumage.**— On 29 July 1986, at Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota, I netted, banded, and photographed (VIREO accession numbers V06-2-003, V06-2-004) an aberrantly plumaged Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*). In general appearance, the bird was brown where normal birds are gray, a condition known as "leucism" (see discussion in Campbell and Lack, eds., *A dictionary of birds*. Buteo Books, Vermillion, South Dakota, 1985). The bird resembled a Boreal Chickadee (*P. hudsonicus*), but its throat was not black and its back was pale mouse-brown, characteristics that are typical of "leucistic" plumage. Close examination of the crown and throat, which were chestnut, revealed a few scattered black feathers molting into the plumage. The underparts were white except for some buff just below the bend of the wing (similar to that found in Black-capped Chickadees). The lower flanks were white. The remiges and rectrices were pale mouse-brown with white edges; the bases of these feathers were gray (the gray area was longest on the tail, comprising 37 mm of the 64 mm tail; and on the primaries, where 34 mm of the 68 mm were brown). The lesser secondary coverts were gray. The cheeks were completely white. The eyes and other softparts were typical for Black-capped Chickadees. The bird's skull was incompletely ossified, indicating a first-year bird. The bird appeared to be in the company of several normally plumaged Black-capped Chickadees that I banded during that week.

The bird was subsequently trapped and released 5 times. On 24 August 1986, the bird was well into prebasic molt. At this time, the crown and throat were largely black, with only a broad chestnut superciliary stripe and postocular region. The brown stripes nearly, but not quite, met at the back of the crown. Scattered brown feathers remained at the edges of the black throat. The bird's flanks were buffy. The back was a normal gray, as were all the secondary coverts (although the alula, primary coverts, and tail were as before). The flight feathers remained unmolted, except for the secondary nearest the body on each side, which were now normally colored. No remiges or rectrices appeared to be missing. On 14 September, all that remained of the chestnut on the head were postocular spots and a few preocular feathers. On the right wing, a gray second secondary to the body was appearing. The corresponding secondary on the left side was still brown and seemed exceptionally worn; otherwise the bird was similar to its August appearance. On 8 October, the 3 inner right secondaries and the innermost left secondary had been molted and were normally colored. By 18 January 1987, the wing molt situation had not changed. The left third and fourth secondary to the body were now becoming excessively worn, as were the 2 left outer tail feathers. The third to the outside left rectrix, however, was a newly molted and normally colored feather.