

ADDITIONAL DATA ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF SOME COLOMBIAN BIRDS

By ALDEN H. MILLER

In the year 1958 and in early 1959 the author had the opportunity to engage in field work in Colombia through the kindness of the Colombian authorities and particularly through the aid of Professor F. C. Lehmann V., the Universidad del Valle, and the Guggenheim Foundation. Grateful acknowledgment of this assistance is made. Incidental to principal field studies in the Subtropical Zone of the Western Andes, specimens were obtained in other areas which add some data on the distribution and taxonomy of the following birds.

Laterallus exilis (Temminck)

This small rail of Central America and northern South America is reported specifically from Colombia only in Atlantico and Cundinamarca, and on the east side of the Eastern Andes (see de Schauensee, The Birds of the Republic of Colombia, p. 430). On January 14, 1959, 8 kilometers southwest of Buga, 975 meters, Valle, I collected a male of this species as it fluttered from marsh vegetation 50 cm. high where the water was 10 to 15 cm. deep. The bird was a male, with testes 5 mm. long and it weighed 28.0 gm. The bill in the fresh specimen was greenish basally and the feet were dull yellow.

Columbigallina minuta elaeodes (Todd)

Lehmann (Novedades Colombianas, N^o 3, 1957, pp. 142-143), has shown

that clearing of forest in the upper Cauca Valley has resulted in extension of ranges of several open-land species into this area. Possibly for this reason *Columbigallina minuta* also has invaded the Cauca Valley. Heretofore (de Schauensee, op. cit., p. 131) it had been known only from northern Colombia and east of the Eastern Andes. On October 9, 1958, one of these small doves was discovered along the edge of a plowed field 10 kilometers west of Santander, 1000 meters, Cauca. It was a female with an ovum 1 mm. in diameter, large enough to suggest that the bird was adult and could have undertaken breeding in the near future; weight 36.8 gm., iris cream, feet pink.

This specimen has been compared with examples of *Columbigallina minuta minuta* and *C. m. elacodes*, and it proves to belong to the latter form which is typical of Central America and which occurs in northern Antioquia (Dabeiba), Colombia. Thus the extension of range into the Cauca Valley appears to have been from the north rather than from the range of *C. m. minuta* east of the Andes.

Picus rivolii brevirostris (Taczanowski)

De Schauensee (op. cit., p. 631) reports this race of the Rivoli woodpecker on the west slope of the Central Andes in the vicinity of Volcán Puracé. It is not surprising therefore that a specimen from the east slope at this latitude is also of this race rather than *P. r. quindiana* of the Quindío section farther north. The example of *brevirostris* which I obtained is from Tijeras, 2450 meters, in the Moscopán area. It was a female, not breeding, taken on May 19, 1958; weight 106.5 gm.

Donacobius atricapillus nigrodorsalis Traylor

This dark-backed race of the mockingthrush clearly is recognizable among material of the species of comparable age which Dr. John Davis and I have examined recently; we had available new specimens from Surinam and Colombia. De Schauensee (op. cit., p. 91) hesitated to assign birds from eastern Colombia to *nigrodorsalis*, but examples I have taken at Puerto Asís, 300 meters, Putumayo, on November 15, 1958, and at 6 kilometers east of Florencia, Caquetá, February 20, 1949, definitely belong to this form and add it to the list of Colombian birds.

Leistes militaris militaris (Linnaeus)

Lelmann (loc. cit.) has already reported the extension of range of this icterid into the upper Cauca Valley. It is worth noting additionally that specimens of males I took on October 9, 1958, 10 kilometers west of Santander, 1000 meters, Cauca, had testes 6 mm. long, thus indicating that the species is not just a vagrant but is breeding in the valley. On this date one adult (worn plumage) and one immature (incomplete skull ossification; fresh plumage) showed this degree of gonad development whereas two other immatures had testes only 2 mm. long. Incidentally my observations of the activity and notes of this species suggest closer affinity to *Agelaius* than to *Sturnella*.

Atlapetes tricolor (Taczanowski)

This species of atlapetes is very poorly known in Colombia and this fact coupled with its great individual variability makes its taxonomy especially difficult (see de Schauensee, *op. cit.*, p. 1103; Hellmayr, *Cat. Birds Amer.*, pt. II, 1938, p. 406; von Sneider, *Novedades Colombianas*, N° 2, 1955, p. 44). An additional locality is represented by a specimen I took on September 17, 1958, in the drainage of the Río Anchicaya, at 1160 meters, along the Buenaventura-Cali highway. It had the skull of a distinctly young bird but the plumage is postjuvinal. The crown is almost lacking in dull gold although traces of gold in the crown-patch area are hidden beneath black feather tips. This specimen is close in appearance to no. 118185 of the American Museum of Natural History from Ricaurte, 760 meters, Nariño. The applicability of the name *crassus* to a race of *tricolor* still seems dubious, we did not encounter *tricolor* or *crassus* in the year spent near San Antonio whence the unique type of *crassus* was obtained in 1907 in the Subtropical Zone at 1770 meters.

Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California, February 14, 1960.