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A RACE OF THE BLUE-HOODED EUPHONIA  
FROM SONORA

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AMONG the novelties secured during a recent collecting trip to the mountains of southeastern Sonora was a series of eight *Tanagra elegantissima* which show marked departure from the nominate race of eastern and southern Mexico. As a name for these birds I propose

*Tanagra elegantissima viscivora*, new subspecies

TYPE.—Female adult in fresh, unabraded plumage, No. 31953 Dickey collection; San Francisco Cañon, extreme southeastern Sonora, Mexico, May 29, 1937; collected by A. J. van Rossem.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Males (as compared with *elegantissima*) with upper parts more steely (less violaceous) blue; blue of hood of about the same shade but duller. Females with upperparts much duller and grayer, greenish olive or grayish olive instead of bright olive green; hood, as in males, distinctly duller blue; underparts duller and darker (less yellowish) green, particularly on the flanks; throat darker and duller (more brownish) orange.

RANGE.—Arid Tropical and Upper Sonoran Zones in the mountains of southeastern Sonora. Detected from 1500 to 5000 feet altitude.

REMARKS.—Female *viscivora* is about the same relative dark-

ness, as compared with *elegantissima*, as is *T. elegantissima vincens* of the mountains of Central America, but the latter is a richer green both above and below than *elegantissima*, whereas *viscivora* is duller and very much grayer dorsally. Although no differences of note are apparent in the underparts of the males of the three races, *viscivora* seems to average a little duller, darker, and less yellowish on the pectoral region. Dorsally, males of *elegantissima* and *vincens* are practically identical save for the darker blue hood of the latter. While the three races may be identified in most cases regardless of the state of plumage it is obvious that females become progressively duller and grayer with wear. Young females are definitely grayer than are adults. One-year-old males may be distinguished by a shorter wing and narrower rectrices, but I can see no color differences between them and adults.

It is hardly likely that the pale birds mentioned by W. Miller<sup>1</sup> from Mt. Lisiarraga in southern Sinaloa belong to the Sonora race; likewise the two specimens recorded from Chihuahua by me<sup>2</sup> several years ago are *paler* and grayer than is *elegantissima*, according to my notes.

It seems remarkable that no one has previously taken this species in Sonora. Frazer found no trace of it at Hacienda de San Rafael at so late a date as May 22 and only a few miles from Rancho Santa Barbara where we found it actually abundant during the first week in June. I can only conclude that *viscivora* is migratory and only appears in Sonora with the advent of the rainy season, a characteristic movement common to several other species. Its local movements are almost certainly governed to a considerable extent by the crop of mistletoe berries, upon which it subsists almost entirely.

I wish to thank Dr. George Sutton for sending me representatives of *elegantissima* in comparable plumage from Hidalgo.

<sup>1</sup> "List of Birds Collected in Southern Sinaloa, Mexico, by J. H. Batty, During 1903-1904," *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 21 (1905): 366.

<sup>2</sup> "Critical Notes on Middle American Birds," *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, 77 (1934): 477.



