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A RACE OF WOODHEWER FROM THE
ALTO PARANA

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THE University of Michigan has recently received a series of six skins of the pale-billed woodhewer from Puerto Gibaja, on the Alto Paraná, Paraguay, a locality which is in a different faunal area several hundred miles beyond the recorded range of the species. These birds show certain differences from the neighboring forms, and I propose to call them

Dendrocolaptes picumnus extimus, new subspecies.

TYPE.—University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, No. 109757; male, testes enlarged; Puerto Gibaja, Paraguay; July 26, 1940; collected by Alberto Schulze, original No. 9163.

DIAGNOSIS.—Nearest to *Dendrocolaptes picumnus pallascens* Pelzeln, but differs by being paler and less tawny; pileum and upper back Buckthorn Brown instead of Tawny; rump and upper tail coverts paler rufous; belly, flanks, and crissum Clay Color instead of Ochraceous-Tawny.

Much paler and more rufescent throughout and with the dark markings less distinct than those of *Dendrocolaptes picumnus olivaceus* Zimmer, and without the decided olivaceous cast to the plumage which that race has.

Size about the same as in the two above forms. Wing, 127.5–134; tail, 111.5–120.5; culmen from base, 36–38.5 mm. Since there seems to be no sexual difference in size, the measurements given represent both sexes, three males and three females.

REMARKS.—Zimmer¹ has treated *pallescens* as a race of *Dendrocolaptes picumnus*. If *pallescens* is kept as a separate specific unity, as it ordinarily is, the form *extimus* must be treated as a race of *pallescens* rather than of *picumnus*.

A specimen of *pallescens* from the Riacho Negro in the Paraguayan Chaco was collected in the same month and only a year previous to the date of the type and other skins of *extimus*. Since this bird presents the same characters as a Matto Grosso series of *pallescens*, collected in 1913, it proves that the less rufescent coloring of *extimus* is of taxonomic value and not due to season or "foxing."

Bertoni² described *Dendrocolaptes tarefero* from Asunción and from latitude 25° 40' on the Alto Paraná. The latter locality is at the mouth of the Río Monday, where Puerto Gibaja is situated. However, reference to Bertoni's description shows conclusively that his name must be referred to the black-billed *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*, rather than to the pale-billed form herein described. He said that it is exactly identical in coloration with *Xiphocolaptes paranensis* Bertoni [= *X. albicollis* Vieillot], a comparison which is true enough of *platyrostris* but certainly not of *extimus*. Hellmayr³ has already synonymized *tarefero* with *platyrostris*. I hereby restrict the type locality of *tarefero* to the mouth of the Río Monday, Paraguay, since the principal part of Bertoni's description was based on birds from that locality. Incidentally, as far as present information shows, this is the only place where the two species, *picumnus* (in the broader sense) and *platyrostris*, meet.

¹ "Studies of Peruvian Birds. XIV," *Amer. Mus. Novit.*, No. 753 (1934): 5–7.

² *Aves Nuevas del Paraguay* (Asunción, 1901), p. 69.

³ "Catalogue of Birds of the Americas," *Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Zool. Ser.*, 13, Pt. 4 (1925): 265.

Dendrocolaptes picumnus australis Carriker,⁴ type locality Santa Ana, Río Coroico, Dept. La Paz, Bolivia, would seem to be a synonym of the earlier *olivaceus* Zimmer,⁵ type locality Incachaca, Bolivia, since Carriker made no reference to *olivaceus* and included material from Incachaca in the range of *australis*.

MATERIAL EXAMINED.—*D. picumnus olivaceus*—Bolivia (Incachaca, 1). *D. p. pallescens*—Matto Grosso (Urucum, 5; Belvedere de Urucum, 1) and Paraguay (Riacho Negro, 1). *D. p. extimus*—Paraguay (Puerto Gibaja, 6).

The Bolivian and Brazilian skins belong to the American Museum of Natural History and were loaned through the kindness of Mr. J. T. Zimmer.

⁴ "Descriptions of New Birds from Bolivia. with Notes on Other Little-Known Species," *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 87 (1935): 329.

⁵ *Op. cit.*, p. 5.

