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NEW BIRDS FROM THE DISTRICT OF  
SOCONUSCO, CHIAPAS

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DURING the summer of 1937 I made a collection of birds in the state of Chiapas, Mexico. The forms new to science are described here in advance of a report on the entire collection. All the localities mentioned are on the Pacific slope less than fifteen miles inland from the town of Escuintla in the district of Soconusco. Thanks are due to the authorities of the American Museum of Natural History, the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and the United States National Museum for the loan of material necessary for comparative purposes.

*Chaetura nubicola*, n. sp.

TYPE.—U.M.M.Z. No. 94083, adult female, Mount Ovando, Chiapas, altitude, 2000 meters, September 1, 1937, P. Brodkorb, original number 13785.

Above unglossed *Chaetura* drab, slightly darker on pileum, a little paler (light hair brown) on rump; a spot of *Chaetura* black at anterior angle of eye; upper tail coverts and tail fuscous black, the latter with a slight bluish gloss; renewed secondaries and inner primaries *Chaetura* black with a slight bluish gloss, the old outer primaries somewhat faded; below, including axillars, crissum, and under surface of tail, hair brown, more sooty on chin and throat; under wing coverts *Chaetura* drab; bill and feet blackish.

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Wing, 125 mm.; tail with spines, 46 mm.; spines alone, 2.5 mm.; exposed culmen, 6.5 mm.; tarsus, 12 mm.; middle toe, 8 mm.

REMARKS.—Although only a single example of this bird was obtained, an adult in breeding condition, it is so very different from all other American swifts that I have no hesitation in describing it as a full species. It may be distinguished at a glance from the Central American members of this genus by the large size, sooty throat, unglossed back, and dark rump. Two South American species, *Chaetura brachyura* (Jardine) and *C. chapmani* Hellmayr, have dark throats, but both of these forms have glossy backs and pale gray rumps. The tail spines of the Chiapas bird are shorter than in any species except *brachyura*.

No *Chaetura* has previously been known from the subtropical zone of Central America.

*Hylomanes momotula chiapensis*, n. subsp.

TYPE.—U.M.M.Z. No. 94147, adult male, Mount Ovando, Chiapas, altitude, 1900 meters, September 1, 1937, P. Brodkorb, original number 13792.

CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Hylomanes momotula momotula* (Lichtenstein) of the Caribbean slope of northern Central America, but bill shorter (culmen from base, 25.5–27 mm. in male, 27 mm. in female); pileum darker chestnut; underparts and sides with less bluish wash.

Differs from *H. m. obscurus* Nelson of Panama and Costa Rica in the same respects, except that *obscurus* also has a dark cap.

REMARKS.—In *Hylomanes m. momotula* the culmen from base measures 27.5, 29, 29, 29.5, 30 mm. in males; females, 27.5, 29.5 mm.

The species was heretofore unknown from the Pacific slope north of Costa Rica and has been recorded only from the tropical zone. The form described here was found in both the upper tropical and the subtropical zones, at altitudes between 900 and 1900 meters.

MATERIAL.—*Hylomanes momotula chiapensis*: Chiapas (Mount Ovando, 1; Finca Juárez, 2). *H. m. momotula*: Guatemala (Uaxactun, 7; unspecified, 1).

*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii matudae*, n. subsp.

TYPE.—U.M.M.Z. No. 94190, adult male, Finca Esperanza, Chiapas, altitude, 150 meters, July 8, 1937, P. Brodkorb, original number 13312.

CHARACTERS.—Agreeing with *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii compressus* (Cabanis) in narrow streaking of upperparts, but back darker; throat and streaks on underparts average more buffy; ground color of underparts, especially of abdomen, more vinaceous, less isabelline.

Similar also to *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii insignis* (Nelson), but back darker; streaks on pileum and upper back narrower; ground color of underparts more vinaceous.

REMARKS.—Birds from the Pacific slope of Honduras and Guatemala are really more or less intermediate between *insignis* and *compressus*, but in my opinion they appear to be nearer the latter race.

I am unable to confirm *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii decoloris* Austin from British Honduras.

I am happy to dedicate this new form to my host at Finca Esperanza, Señor Eizi Matuda, well known for his botanical and other researches on the island of Formosa.

MATERIAL.—*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii insignis*: Vera Cruz (Pasa Nueva, 1), British Honduras (Sabune district, 1; Toledo district, 1), Guatemala (Finca Chama, 1; Uaxactun, 1), and Honduras (Ceiba, 3; Tela, 1; Lancetilla, 1). *L. s. matudae*: Chiapas (Finca Esperanza, 7). *L. s. compressus*: Guatemala (Finca Cipres, 1; Escuintla, 1), Honduras (San Lorenzo, 4), Costa Rica (Bolson, 7; Miravalles, 1; Pozo Azul, 1; Bebedero, 1, Pozo del Río Grande, 1), and Panama (Almirante, 2; Divala, 3).

*Thamnophilus doliatus crepitans*, n. subsp.

TYPE.—U.M.M.Z. No. 94240, adult female, Finca Esperanza, Chiapas, altitude, 150 meters, July 25, 1937, P. Brodkorb, original number 13482.

CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Thamnophilus doliatus intermedius* Ridgway of the Caribbean slope, but female with back darker; throat heavily streaked with dusky; ground color of underparts deeper ochraceous-rufous; breast, thighs, and crissum more or less barred with dusky. Male not with certainty distinguishable, but throat usually more heavily streaked with black.

Differs from *T. d. pacificus* Ridgway and *T. d. yucatanensis* Ridgway in the same manner but to a greater degree.

The barring on the breast of the female is not a character of immaturity, since adults are much more heavily marked than a bird of the year, the age of which was determined by the degree of ossification of the skull.

MATERIAL.—*Thamnophilus doliatus intermedius*: Vera Cruz (Mirador, 2), British Honduras (Cayo, 3), and Honduras (San Pedro Sula, 4). *T. d. yucatanensis*: Yucatan (Chichen Itzá, 3). *T. d. crepitans*: Chiapas (Finca Esperanza, 9; Finca Juárez, 1). *T. d. pacificus*: Costa Rica (Boruca, 2; Las Cañas, 1).

*Catharus dryas ovandensis*, n. subsp.

TYPE.—U.M.M.Z. No. 94409, adult male, Mount Ovando, Chiapas, altitude, 1775 meters, August 25, 1937, P. Brodkorb, original number 13679.

CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Catharus dryas dryas* (Gould) of Guatemala, but wings and tail longer; upperparts, sides, flanks, and spots on breast buffy citrine-drab rather than slate color; bill and eyelids orange instead of dull red.

Wing, 103–108 mm. (female, 100.5–102.5 mm.); tail, 77.5 mm. (female, 74.5–76.5 mm.).

REMARKS.—It is well known that the yellow color of the underparts of this species is exceedingly fugacious. Fortunately, I have been able to examine a Guatemala skin taken fairly recently. This bird, No. 396399 in the American Museum, was collected in 1928 and is already several shades lighter below than the birds from Chiapas. According to a notation on the label in the handwriting of Ludlow Griscom,

the underparts were apricot yellow of Ridgway. In the ten years intervening the color has faded to maize yellow. Specimens taken in the seventies are buffy white below. The sides and flanks also lose their primuline yellow wash in very old specimens, but the color of the upperparts does not seem subject to post-mortem change.

*Catharus dryas dryas* has the following measurements (in mm.): wing, 96–102 (female, 92–93); tail, 71–75.5 (female, 61–65).

MATERIAL.—*Catharus dryas ovandensis*: Chiapas (Mount Ovando, 7). *C. d. dryas*: Guatemala (Barranco Hondo, 1; Cobán to Clusec, 1; Volcán de Agua above San Diego, 1; San Lucas, 1; unspecified, 1).

*Cyanerpes cyaneus striatipectus*, n. subsp.

TYPE.—U.M.M.Z. No. 94458, adult female, Finca Juárez, Chiapas, altitude, 900 meters, August 5, 1937, P. Brodtkorb, original number 13551.

CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Cyanerpes cyaneus carneipes* (Sclater), but bill much longer (exposed culmen, 19 mm.); upperparts darker, less yellowish green; throat almost white; breast more slaty olive, heavily streaked with grayish white down to the abdomen.

REMARKS.—In *Cyanerpes cyaneus carneipes* the exposed culmen varies, regardless of sex, from 15.5–17.5 mm. (average of twelve specimens, 16.3 mm.).

MATERIAL.—*Cyanerpes cyaneus carneipes*: Vera Cruz (Mirador, 1), Oaxaca, 1, Guatemala (Coban, 1), Nicaragua (Río Siqui, 4), and Panama (Barro Colorado, 5). *C. c. striatipectus*: Chiapas (Finca Juárez, 1; Finca Esperanza, 1).

*Tanagra affinis esperanzae*, n. subsp.

TYPE.—U.M.M.Z. No. 94526, adult male, Finca Esperanza, Chiapas, altitude, 200 meters, July 27, 1937, P. Brodtkorb, original number 13500.

CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Tanagra affinis affinis* Lesson, but throat and upperparts (except forehead) steel blue with some

violet wash on the anterior portion in certain lights; remaining underparts average lighter yellow with less of a tawny cast; size averages somewhat larger.

Wing (males) 53, 53.5, 54, 54, 55, 55, 55 mm. These measurements will probably run greater in larger series for the three smallest birds are young of the year and therefore possibly not full grown.

REMARKS.—*Tanagra affinis affinis* has the whole upper surface, except the forehead, and the throat strong metallic violet, deepest on the pileum. In *esperanzae* the back is about the color of *T. minuta humilis*, but the pileum is even bluer. The yellow crissum, of course, immediately separates *esperanzae* from any of the forms of *minuta*.

Wing measurements of adult male *affinis* are as follows (in mm.): 49.5, 50, 50, 50, 52, 52, 52.5, 52.5, 53, 53, 53, 54.

MATERIAL.—*Tanagra affinis esperanzae*: Chiapas (Finca Esperanza, 8). *T. a. affinis*: Yucatan (Chichen Itzá, 3; unspecified, 2), British Honduras (Belize, 1; pine ridge near Manatee Lagoon, 3; unspecified, 2), and Costa Rica (Tenorio, 1; Bolson, 1).

*Melozone biarcuatum hartwegi*, n. subsp.

TYPE.—U.M.M.Z. No. 94610, adult male, Finca Esperanza, Chiapas, altitude, 150 meters, July 4, 1937, P. Brodkorb, original number 13274.

CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Melozone biarcuatum biarcuatum* (Prévost) of Guatemala, but pileum much darker chestnut, concolor with upper portion of auricular spot; upperparts darker, chestnut to russet rather than hazel or kaiser brown; flanks on the average more deeply and dully colored; median underparts purer white; crissum brighter ochraceous.

REMARKS.—Griscom has pointed out that there is some seasonal variation in plumage in specimens of *biarcuatum* from Guatemala. Worn birds are a little grayer on the back and flanks than freshly molted material, but there is no approach to the Chiapas form.

The birds from Chiapas were all taken about 1500 feet below

the lowest altitude at which *biarcuatum* has been found in Guatemala.

This form is named for my companion in Chiapas, Dr. Norman E. Hartweg, Assistant Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians in the Museum of Zoology.

MATERIAL.—*Melozone biarcuatum hartwegi*: Chiapas (Finca Esperanza, 4; Finca Jalapa, 1). *M. b. biarcuatum*: Guatemala (Dueñas, 2; Lake Atitlán, 1; unspecified, 3).

*Melozone occipitalis grandis*, n. subsp.

TYPE.—U.M.M.Z. No. 94605, adult male, Finca Juárez, Chiapas, altitude, 900 meters, August 5, 1937, P. Brodkorb, original number 13552.

CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Melozone occipitalis occipitalis* (Salvin) of Guatemala, but larger; upperparts much grayer; crissum lighter, more buffy.

Wing, 85 mm. (female, 80.5 mm.); tail, 78.5 mm. (female, 74 mm.); culmen, 17.5 mm.

REMARKS.—*Melozone occipitalis occipitalis* has the following measurements (in mm.): wing, 77–82.5 (female, 76); tail, 69–73.5 (female, 68); culmen, 16.5.

MATERIAL.—*Melozone occipitalis grandis*: Chiapas (Finca Juárez, 2). *M. o. occipitalis*: Guatemala (Barranco Hondo, 2; Savanna Grande, 1; unspecified, 1).

