

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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ON SOME RARE AND NEW BIRDS FROM BRITISH  
HONDURAS.

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The following short descriptions of four new birds from British Honduras and records of a few others so rare as to be worthy of special notice are here given in advance of a complete list of the birds of British Honduras soon to be published by Mr. Peck.

The specimens upon which these notes are based were collected by Peck in the last year or two and from time to time were sent with many others to Bangs for comparison and identification.

Mr. E. W. Nelson of Washington has most kindly compared many skins for us with Mexican material under his charge in the collection of the Bureau of Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

***Rallus pallidus*** Nelson.

One adult female, apparently referable to this distinct form of Clapper rail, was taken at Ycacos Lagoon, May 14, 1907.

This specimen (No. 19,747 Bangs coll.) is we believe the second recorded example of *Rallus pallidus*, the type from Rio Lagartos, Yucatan, collected in April, 1893, by W. W. Brown, Jr., being in the Field Columbian Museum. The under tail-coverts in our bird differ a little from those of the type, being white blotched and barred with dusky, whereas the type had white under tail-coverts with narrow shaft streaks of dusky brown. We find, however, considerable individual variation in the under tail-coverts of Clapper rails generally, and do not consider this a difference of any great importance.

Another specimen was taken, and several seen, in 1900, in a swamp at the mouth of Manatee River, and the bird is not uncommon, but inhabiting the thick, low mangroves is very difficult to secure.

***Limnopardalus maculatus insolitus*** subsp. nov.

*Type* (and only specimen) from Ycacos Lagoon, British Honduras, adult (sex not determined), No. 16,029, Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, taken in June, 1907 (by a friend of Peck's who sent it to him).

*Characters*.—Similar to true *L. maculatus* (Bodd.) of South America,

but slightly smaller, with smaller feet and bill; wings much less marked with white; the brown portions of plumage—wings, back, rump, etc., much darker (seal brown in the new form, mummy brown in true *L. maculatus*).

*Measurements.*—Type (sex not determined). Wing, 121; tail, 43; tarsus, 40; middle toe, without claw, 39.5; culmen, 48.

*Remarks.*—Although the type is the only example of the spotted rail from Central America that we know of, there can be no doubt that it represents a form well differentiated from the South American bird. The much darker color of the brown parts is very striking. Our skin is in worn summer plumage, and all the white markings are reduced in size from wearing away of the tips of the feathers, so that it is difficult to tell what real differences there are in this respect, but certainly the wings are much less marked with white.

A rail of this sort occurs in Cuba and in Jamaica, but just what these island birds are like remains to be seen.

***Bubo magallanicus mayensis* (Nelson).**

A young male, with some traces of the downy first plumage still remaining, was taken in the Manatee District May 20, 1906. This appears to be the second known example of this small pale race of the Great horned owl, the range of which is thus extended from Yucatan to British Honduras. The skin (No. 19,913 Bangs coll.) was carefully compared with the type by Nelson.

***Antrostomus badius* sp. nov.**

*Type* (and only specimen) from the Toledo District, British Honduras. ♂ adult, No. 19,990, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected January 2, 1907, by Morton E. Peck.

*Characters.*—In general resembling *A. salvini* Hartert of Yucatan, but entire body much more reddish or rusty-buff; chin and throat more heavily barred—the barring dark rusty-buff; abdomen and crissum paler; a broad band, from lores, through eyes, across ear coverts and forming a collar around hind neck dark, rich golden buff—much brighter and more strongly marked than in *salvini*; tips of outer rectrices narrowing to a blunt point instead of broad and rounded as in *salvini*, and with much narrower, or smaller, buffy tips.

*Measurements.*—Type, ♂ adult. Wing, 165; tail, 120; tarsus, 17.5; exposed culmen, 15.5.

*Remarks.*—This bird, of which a single adult male was taken, represents a species apparently quite distinct from *A. salvini* though more nearly related to it than to any other Mexican or Central American form. Besides differing in the details of color, markings, etc., pointed out above, the general coloration of *A. badius* is very decidedly rusty or reddish brown, whereas *A. salvini* is of a grayish-brown general coloration.

***Pachyrhamphus major itzensis* Nelson.**

A young male in a plumage similar to that of the adult female was taken in the Toledo District, January 24, 1907.

This specimen is even smaller and paler than the type, and the range of the form must be extended to include British Honduras.

**Terenotriccus erythrus fulvicularis** (Salv. & Godm.).

Several specimens of this little tyrant-bird, which until Mr. Dearborn's recent record \* from Los Amates, Guatemala, had been traced no farther north than San Pedro Sula and Santa Anna, Honduras, were taken in the Toledo District. These were all found along the banks of the Tunach River, near the Guatemala border, where about two dozen individuals were seen.

Upon comparing this series with numerous skins from Costa Rica and Chiriqui, slight differences can be seen. British Honduras specimens while in other dimensions averaging equal to more southern ones appear to have smaller bills, and the forehead back to the centre of the crown is constantly strongly suffused with buff-cinnamon, there being usually but a faint trace of this in specimens from Costa Rica and Chiriqui.

**Heleodytes zonatus restrictus** Nelson.

Some perfectly typical examples of this well-marked race were taken in the Toledo District, thus extending its range to British Honduras.

**Pheugopedius maculipectus** (Laf.).

The Spotted breasted wren from the Toledo and Manatee districts of British Honduras, represented by a fine suit of skins, is interesting as being exactly intermediate in every character between subspecies *cano-brunneus* and *umbrinus*.

**Troglodytes irrequies** sp. nov.

*Type* from Sittee River, British Honduras. ♂ adult, No. 19,802, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected April 22, 1907, by M. E. Peck.

*Characters*.—Similar to *T. penninsularis* Nelson of the coast of Yucatan, with large bill and feet as in that form; but even smaller in other measurements; darker brown above; breast and sides more buffy; posterior flanks and under tail-coverts much darker, more reddish brown, and more strongly barred with dusky (in this latter respect approaching the form found in the interior of Chiapas and Guatemala—*Troglodytes musculus hyaëpdon* (Sclater)).

MEASUREMENTS.

| No.    | Sex.  | Locality.                  | Wing. | Tail. | Tarsus. | Exposed Culmen. |
|--------|-------|----------------------------|-------|-------|---------|-----------------|
| 19,802 | ♂ ad. | B. H. Sittee R. . . . .    | 48.5  | 35    | 18.     | 14.             |
| 19,846 | ♂ ad. | B. H. Toledo Dist. . . . . | 46.   | 34    | 17.5    | 14.             |
| 19,803 | ♀ ad. | B. H. Sittee R. . . . .    | 47.   | 35    | 17.     | 13.5            |

*Remarks*.—The three specimens from British Honduras, listed above, represent a well-marked form related to *T. penninsularis* which in the absence of intermediates seems to require full specific rank.

**Coturniculus savannarum cracens** subsp. nov.

*Type* from Ycacos Lagoon, British Honduras. Adult ♂, No. 19,770, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected March 10, 1907, by M. E. Peck.

\* Catalogue of a Collection of Birds from Guatemala, by Ned Dearborn, Field Museum of Natural History, Publication 125, Vol. 1, No: 3, November, 1907, p. 104.

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*Characters.*—Most like *C. savannarum obscurus* Nelson of the coast of Vera Cruz, Mexico, but with all the characters of that form carried to a still greater extreme—about as different from *C. savannarum obscurus* as that bird is from *C. savannarum passerinus*. Similar to *C. savannarum obscurus*, but smaller in all measurements; colors (sexes alike in color) darker—whole upper parts with dusky greatly predominating and with scarcely any rusty-brown mottling; chest, sides and flanks very dark—dull tawny-ochraceous.

MEASUREMENTS.

| No.    | Sex.  | Locality.               | Wing. | Tail. | Tarsus. | Exposed Culmen. |
|--------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------|---------|-----------------|
| 19,770 | ♂ ad. | Ycacos Lagoon B. H. . . | 53.   | 38.   | 18.     | 9.              |
| 19,771 | ♀ ad. | do. . .                 | 50.   | 35.   | 18.     | 10.             |
| 19,772 | ♀ ad. | do. . .                 | 50.5  | 37.5  | 17.5    | 9.5             |
| 19,773 | ♀ ad. | do. . .                 | 52.   | 38.   | 18.     | 9.              |

*Remarks.*—The breeding grasshopper sparrow of British Honduras is the most extreme form yet described, in point of small size and dark coloration; the upper parts being almost solid blackish, broken only by the median crown stripe and some slight grayish edges to the feathers of the hind neck and back. One skin only among the four examined has slight rusty-brown markings on nape and rump.

*Coturniculus savannarum passerinus* occurs in the same general region in winter, an adult male having been taken in the Toledo District December 3, 1906. This specimen (No. 19,886 Bangs coll.) affords the following measurements: wing, 62; tail, 45; tarsus, 19.5; exposed culmen, 11.

***Aimophila rufescens discolor* Ridg.**

In his *Birds of North and Middle America*, Ridgway relegates *A. rufescens discolor* to the synonymy of *A. rufescens rufescens*, still having but the original series from Segovia River, Honduras, in much abraded condition of plumage.

Three specimens in fine spring plumage collected in March, 1907, at Ycacos Lagoon, British Honduras, are identical with the Segovia River birds and differ from true *A. rufescens* in smaller size—much shorter wing and tail—heavier bill, in the color of the breast and flanks being decidedly paler and less brownish, and in the sides of the head being darker, clearer gray.

*Aimophila rufescens discolor* therefore has a wide range, being now recorded from places so distant as Segovia River, Honduras, and Ycacos Lagoon, British Honduras, and is a subspecies well worthy of recognition.

The three specimens give the following measurements:

| No.    | Sex.  | Wing. | Tail. | Tarsus. | Exposed Culmen. |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-----------------|
| 19,782 | ♂ ad. | 66.   | 68.   | 25.     | 16.5            |
| 19,783 | ♂ ad. | 68.   | 69.   | 24.5    | 17.             |
| 19,784 | ♀ ad. | 63.   | 66.   | 23.5    | 16.5            |