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OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF THE MUSEUM OF
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BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

DISTRIBUTIONAL NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF PERU,
INCLUDING TWELVE SPECIES PREVIOUSLY
UNREPORTED FROM THE REPUBLIC*By* JOHN P. O'NEILL

During eight years of participation in Louisiana State University Peruvian expeditions my field companions and I have collected a number of specimens that represent extensions of known range for the species involved. Two of the specimens here reported are in the American Museum of Natural History in New York. All the others were collected by personnel of the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology and deposited in that museum. Sub-specific determinations have been made with the use of comparative material at these two institutions. Extensions of range represent departures from previously known status as given by Meyer de Schauensee (1966).

Most of the specimens here reported came from two localities: (1) Balta, a Cashinahua Indian village on the Río Curanja (at the point where the streams known to the local Cashinahuas as the Xumuya and the Inuya enter the Río Curanja, lat. 10° 08' S, long. 71° 13' W, elevation *ca.* 300 m), Depto. Loreto; (2) Yarinacocha, an oxbow lake about 15 km by road NNW of Pucallpa, Depto. Loreto. Other localities are identified in the accounts of the species under discussion.

Dean Amadon of the American Museum of Natural History kindly permitted me the use of collections in his care. Charles E. O'Brien of the same institution and Rodolphe Meyer de Schauensee of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia supplied information pertaining to the status of certain species in Peru.

ZEBRILUS UNDULATUS (GMELIN)
ZIGZAG HERON

1965: 1 ♀, Yarinacocha, 24 February.

This small, secretive heron has not heretofore been reported from the Ucayali River drainage of central Peru, although it was to be expected there. The specimen was collected on the grass-choked border of a small forest pond.

CATHARTES BURROVIANUS (CASSIN)
LESSER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURE

1964: 1 ♀, Yarinacocha, 3 September.

Earlier Peruvian records supposedly of this vulture properly pertain to the larger species, *C. melambrotos*. According to Wetmore (1964), the tail in *C. burrovianus* should be less than 240 mm long and the central rectrices should be less than 52 mm wide, but in *C. melambrotos* the length of the tail is 250-280 mm and the width of the central rectrices is 59-70 mm. The Yarinacocha bird has a tail 224 mm in length and central rectrices 44 mm in width, measurements falling well within the limits for *C. burrovianus*. A bird from "Chyavetas" (=Chayahuitas?) mentioned by Taczanowski (1884) under *Oenops urubitinga* (= *C. burrovianus*) has a tail length of 270 mm, which places it well within the size range of *C. melambrotos*. The Yarinacocha bird, which was collected by J. Alan Feduccia, was perched with individuals of *C. aura* along the well-vegetated border of the lake. *C. melambrotos* is a common species in the area and is primarily a bird of the forest.

BUTEO NITIDUS LATHAM
GRAY HAWK

1961: 1 ♀, Yarinacocha, 15 August.

Meyer de Schauensee (1966) reports this species as occurring in Peru but cites no specific locality. The specimen here reported was one of a pair that was perched in the crown of an emergent tree in the disturbed forest near the lake. It belongs to the nominate subspecies.

ARAMIDES CALOPTERUS SCLATER AND SALVIN
RED-WINGED WOOD-RAIL

1968: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Balta, 9 and 25 July.

These two specimens were collected by Alfred L. Gardner in steel traps set for large mammals. The only other Peruvian locality listed for this species, the Río Tigre, is in extreme northern Peru near the Ecuadorian border. At

Balta this species does not frequent the low-lying floodplain habitats, as does *A. cajanea*, but is found only in the vicinity of clear forest streams.

LIMOSA HAEMASTICA (LINNAEUS)
HUDSONIAN GODWIT

1968: 1 ♂ (breeding plumage), Playa Mamacona along Carretera Panamericana south of Lima, Depto. Lima, 18 May.

The Hudsonian Godwit migrates through eastern South America, there being only one other published record of its occurrence in Peru, a bird taken at Ica in November (Meyer de Schauensee, 1966). The specimen I collected was feeding in a flooded, newly planted cornfield with *Charadrius vociferus*, *C. semipalmatus*, and *Erolia melanotos*. The record is the first for this migrant in the Department of Lima.

COLUMBINA PICUI (TEMMINCK)
PICUI GROUND DOVE

1966: 1 ♂, Balta, 7 July.

The only other Peruvian record of this small dove is a female from Quitún in the Department of Puno (Bond, 1955). The Balta specimen probably represents a vagrant, since this species does not normally inhabit tropical forests. It is referable to *C. p. picui* (Temminck).

ARA COULONI SCLATER
BLUE-HEADED MACAW

1927: 1 ♀ (AMNH 239753), Santa Rosa, Alto Ucayali, Depto. Loreto, 26 November.
1963: 1 ♀ (AMNH 781783), Luisiana, Apurimac River, Depto. Cuzco, 17 July.
1967: 1 ♀, Balta, 14 July.
1968: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Balta, 12 July.

The range of *A. couloni* is presently given by Meyer de Schauensee (1966) as "Eastern Peru in the Huallaga Valley from Loreto to Huánuco," but the species does occur also in the Ucayali, Apurimac, and Purús river drainages, as demonstrated by the specimens here listed. The Santa Rosa bird was collected by "Olalla y hijos" in 1927. The species almost assuredly also occurs in western Brazil. At Balta it is seen in pairs or groups of three and does not associate with the more common *A. severa*.

TOUTI HUETHI (TEMMINCK)
SCARLET-SHOULDERED PARROTLET

1967: 5 ♂, 6 ♀, Santa Elena, ca. 35 km NE Tingo María on Carretera Central, elevation ca. 1,000 m, Depto. Huánuco, 6-11 June.

Little seems to be known of this small, brightly colored parakeet. Maria Koepcke (pers. comm.) has encountered it only once. She found a pair near Pucallpa silently climbing among the branches in the understory of the forest. At Santa Elena, James J. Hebrard and I discovered that a flock of about 50 birds frequented large fruiting trees in the area and roosted in the thickest portion of the crown of a somewhat smaller tree across a narrow valley from the house in which we were staying. While in a tree the birds were never heard to utter a sound, but in flight they called softly, the notes resembling the pronunciation of the generic name. The flock was always tightly compact when in flight. Upon alighting the birds moved about by climbing and were almost undetectable.

GLAUCIDIUM MINUTISSIMUM (WIED)

LEAST PIGMY OWL

1966: 1 ♀, Balta, 9 August.

The nearest region to Balta where this tiny owl, new to the avifauna of Peru, is known to occur is in Mato Grosso, Brazil. The specimen was caught in a mist net by John J. Morony. No other evidence of the presence of the species at Balta was obtained. This specimen is referable to *G. m. minutissimum*.

CICCABA VIRGATA (CASSIN)

MOTTLED OWL

1968: 1 ♀, Balta, 22 June.

The occurrence of the Mottled Owl in Peru has been suspected for some time, although this specimen is apparently the first to be reported. Mary Ann Gardner first called my attention to the bird when she heard an unfamiliar catlike call of low volume that was repeated at intervals of approximately 30 seconds. The specimen is referable to *C. v. supercilialis* (Pelzeln).

RHYNOPTINX CLAMATOR (VIEILLOT)

STRIPED OWL

1964: 1 ♀, 1 ♀ downy yng., Yarinacocha, 2 and 6 September.

The Striped Owl is a widespread species, but it is not often encountered anywhere. At Yarinacocha an adult was flushed from a nest in a thicket of acacialike trees in a cattle pasture. The nest, a shallow hollow in the grass beside a fallen tree, contained two young, the larger of which I collected.

Four days later John Farrand, Jr., procured the adult female. The specimens belong to the nominate subspecies.

CHAETURA CHAPMANI HELLMAYR

CHAPMAN'S SWIFT

1966: 1 ♂, Balta, 15 July.

The Balta specimen of this large, dark swift has been reported from Peru in a footnote by Collins (1968) in his recent publication on the biology of the species. It was collected from one of the large concentrations of swifts that usually congregate to feed over the airstrip at Balta during light rains. The specimen has been identified by Collins as *C. c. viridipennis* Cherrie, and represents the first example of the species taken in Peru.

CHAETURA EGREGIA TODD

PALE-RUMPED SWIFT

1964: 3 ♂ ♂, Balta, 17 and 24 September.

The three males here reported were collected by J. Alan Feduccia from a flock such as that mentioned under *C. chapmani*. Meyer de Schauensee (1966) questions the occurrence of the species in Peru. At Balta it associates with *C. cinereiventris sclateri*, *C. chapmani*, and *C. brachyura*.

NONNULA SCLATERI HELLMAYR

FULVOUS-CHINNED NUNLET

1963: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Balta, 28 June and 17 July.

1964: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Balta, 20 and 21 September.

1966: 2 ♂ ♂, 3 ♀ ♀, Balta, 15 June - 6 August.

This species has not previously been recorded in Peru, although it is one of the most frequently encountered puffbirds at Balta. It is principally an inhabitant of open forest understory, usually 3-10 feet above the ground.

EUBUCCO TUCINKAE (SEILERN)

SCARLET-HOODED BARBET

1963: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Balta, 12 July.

Although this apparently uncommon barbet has been reported only from the Marcapata Valley, the present record shows that it ranges at least 365 km to the north. The two birds, presumably a mated pair, were caught in a mist net in the young second growth of an old, nearly abandoned Indian garden plot.

CELEUS SPECTABILIS SCLATER AND SALVIN
RUFIOUS-HEADED WOODPECKER

- 1963: 1 ♂, Balta, 13 June.
1964: 1 ♀, imm., Kusú, Río Comaina (4°27'S, 78°15'W), Depto. Amazonas,
13 August.
1965: 1 ♀, Balta, 20 March.
1966: 2 ♂ ♂, 1 ♀, Balta, 28 July and 9 August.
1967: 1 ♀, Balta, 16 July.
1968: 1 ♀, Balta, 17 June.

Only when one spends a considerable length of time in an area does he usually see many individuals belonging to the genus *Celeus*, and *C. spectabilis* is no exception. At Balta I have most often found this woodpecker by hearing the tapping of one or two birds as they carefully go over a limb or palm leaf in search of food. Although the Kusú specimen is an immature, it exhibits the heavily marked under parts and barred back of the nominate subspecies. The Balta series possesses large cordate spots on the back and has the flanks almost immaculate, with small spots on the belly, characters ascribed to *C. s. exsul*. The Kusú specimen differs further from the Balta series by having its ground color an orange-buff rather than a yellow-buff. According to Meyer de Schauensee (1966) these specimens add two more Peruvian localities to the range of this species and bring the total to four.

UPUCERTHIA ALBIGULA HELLMAYR
WHITE-THROATED EARTH CREEPER

- 1964: 1 ♀, Arequipa, Depto. Arequipa, 11 November.

This poorly known species has been taken in Peru only once, at Tacna. This second reported record for the species was obtained by John Farrand, Jr., in low desert scrub about 20 km outside the city of Arequipa on the road to Puno.

AUTOMOLUS MELANOPEZUS (SCLATER)
BROWN-RUMPED FOLIAGE-GLEANER

- 1966: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Balta, 30 July and 9 August.
1968: 1 ♀, Balta, 29 June.

This small *Automolus* does not seem to have been taken heretofore in Peru. The one bird that I shot was a member of a large furnariid-formicariid flock that was moving through the vegetation on the banks of a small forest stream. The bird was about eight feet above the ground, in the middle understory of the forest.

MYRMOTHERULA SCLATERI SNETHLAGE
SCLATER'S ANTWREN

- 1966: 1 ♂, Balta, 2 July.

This specimen, the first to be reported from Peru, was collected by Alfred L. Gardner from a mixed forest flock. The flock, which passed through a certain area each day, usually contained the very similar and common *M. brachyura*.

MYRMOTHERULA LEUCOPHTHALMA (PELZELN)
WHITE-EYED ANTWREN

- 1964: 1 ♀, Balta, 22 September.
1966: 2 ♂ ♂, 1 ♀, Balta, 24 June - 1 August.
1967: 1 ♂, Balta, 25 July.
1968: 1 ♂, Balta, 26 June; 1 ♂, Camisea, Río Urubamba, Depto. Cuzco, 10 August.

This species was previously known in Peru only from the Department of Puno. The seven specimens here reported belong to the subspecies *dissita*.

GERCOMACRA NIGRICANS SCLATER
JET ANT BIRD

- 1964: 1 ♂, Balta, 28 September.

This specimen represents a surprising range extension for this species, which is here reported from Peru for the first time. It was collected by J. Alan Feduccia.

MYRMECIZA GOELDI (SNETHLAGE)
GOELDI'S ANT BIRD

- 1966: 1 ♀, Balta, 20 July.

This specimen, the third known example of the species and the first recorded from Peru, matches perfectly the description given by Hellmayr (1924:266). It was caught in a mist net in thick forest understory near a small pond.

GYMNOPITHYS LUNULATA (SCLATER AND SALVIN)
LUNULATED ANT BIRD

- 1965: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Yarinacocha, 2 and 9 April.
1968: 2 ♂ ♂, 1 ♂ imm., 1 ♀, Yarinacocha, 11 June - 7 August.

Willis (1968) has recently discovered in the vicinity of Pucallpa that this species, though of restricted range, is not uncommon. In three months in

1968 David L. Pearson captured fourteen individuals in his 22-acre study plot at Yarinacocha and marked and released ten of them.

SCYTALOPUS MACROPUS BERLEPSCH AKD STOLZMANN
LARGE-FOOTED TAPACULO

1967: 1 ♀, E slope Cordillera Carpish, Carretera Central, elevation ca. 2,400 m, Depto. Huánuco, 25 June.

1968: 3 ♂ ♂, 2 ♀ ♀, same locality, 14-21 August.

This uncommon Peruvian endemic is listed by Meyer de Schauensee (1966) as known only from the departments of Amazonas, Junín, and Libertad. Although rarely seen, the species was heard throughout most of each day near our camp on the eastern slopes of the Cordillera Carpish in the Department of Huánuco. Four of the six specimens were taken in traps set for mammals. The birds inhabited the thick moss-covered vegetation along the banks of the rushing mountain stream that crosses the highway at approximately 2,400 meters. They occasionally came out onto the bare rocks or the bank to feed but when disturbed fled quickly on foot back into the thicket. The most common call is a "kek," similar to the sound made by *Aulacorhynchus prasinus* but repeated over and over again without pause and with a slightly more musical quality.

MUSCISAXICOLA MACULIROSTRIS D'ORBIGNY AND LAFRESNAYE
SPOT-BILLED GROUND-TYRANT

1968: 1 ♀, Puerto Viejo, Lagunas de Chilca, elevation sea level, Depto. Lima, 18 May.

This specimen was collected from a flock of *M. macloviana* at the edge of a cotton field. According to Johnson and Goodall (1967), this species does descend to the seacoast in Chile. Koepcke (1964), however, reports it in the Department of Lima only at elevations above 2,000 meters.

RAMPHOTRIGON FUSCICAUDA CHAPMAN
DUSKY-TAILED FLATBILL

1963: 1 ♂, Balta, 11 July.

1966: 1 ♂, 3 ♀ ♀, Balta, 7 July - 13 August.

Although there is only a single Peruvian record for this flycatcher, previously known from only three examples, it is not too uncommon at Balta. There it occurs side by side with *R. ruficauda* and *R. megacephala* and therefore should probably best be retained as a valid species. A pair I collected

was sitting about eight feet above the ground in the relatively thick forest understory of the floodplain of the Río Curanja.

RAMPHOTRIGON MEGACEPHALA (SWAINSON)
LARGE-HEADED FLATBILL

1966: 1 ♂, Balta, 2 August.

1967: 1 ♂, Balta, 13 July.

1968: 1 ♂, Balta, 22 July.

These records of the Large-headed Flatbill appear to be the first for Peru. At Balta the species inhabits the leafy crowns of bamboo thickets, usually perching on exposed or leafless stems. The specimens are referable to the western subspecies, *R. m. boliviana* Zimmer.

LOPHOTRICCUS EULOPHOTES TODD
LONG-CRESTED PYGMY-TYRANT

1967: 1 ♂, Balta, 20 July.

The five other existing specimens of this small flycatcher have all come from Brazil. I collected this specimen from the leafy crown of a bamboo thicket, where it perched well within the foliage. It and several others of the species were calling loudly, but I made no record of the call.

WETMORETHRAUPIS STERRHOPTERON LOWERY AND O'NEILL
ORANGE-THROATED TANAGER

1963: 1 sex?, Río Cenepa, near Chavez Valdivia, Depto. Amazonas, July (type specimen).

1964: 1 ♂, 2 ♀ ♀, 1 ♂ imm., 3 ♂ ♂ skeletons, 43 sex?, Depto. Amazonas, Río Marañón (Chiangkús, lat. ?, long. ?; Chicais, lat. 4° 39'S, long. 78° 12'W; Chipi, lat. 4° 48'S, long. 78° 18'W; Kusú, lat. 4° 45'S, long. 78° 16'W; Nazaret, lat. 5° 09'S, long. 78° 19'W; 2 mi W Urakusa, lat. 4° 42'S, 78° 03'W); Río Cenepa (Tutium, lat. 4° 33'S, 78° 12'W; Suwa, lat. ?, long. ?); Río Comaina (Kusú, lat. 4° 27'S, long. 78° 15'W; unspecified locality); Río Kangka (Bashuim, lat. 4° 33'S, long. 78° 16'W); Depto. Amazonas, no specific locality. April - September.

Although originally described on the basis of a single specimen from the type locality, this recently discovered tanager seems to be a common species, being found chiefly at elevations of more than 600 meters. In July 1964 John Farrand, Jr., and I watched several feeding in a mixed flock of tanagers in the canopy of mature tropical forest near the Aguaruna Indian village of

Tutinum on the Río Cenepa. The song is a repetition of deliberate phrases almost perfectly matching the Aguaruna name Inchítuch (i. e., a repetitive in-chí-tuch). Several times birds were seen to hover and then, presumably, pick a hanging fruit off the tip of a branch. The sexes have proved to be identical except for the slightly larger size of the males. The immature differs from the adult only in having the orange throat much duller (more yellowish) in color.

SPOROPHILA CAERULESCENS (VIEILLOT)

DOUBLE-COLLARED SEEDEATER

1962: 1 ♂, 1 ♂ imm., 1 ♀, Yarinacocha, 1, 2, and 5 August.

1963: 2 ♂ ♂, 1 ♀?, Balta, 30 June - 21 July.

1966: 2 ♂ ♂, 1 sex? (= ♂), 2 ♀ ♀, Balta, 25 June - 25 July.

Sporophila caerulescens has not previously been reported from Peru. Since all the Balta specimens were taken in June and July and all the Yarinacocha specimens were taken in August, the species is very likely a migrant from the southeast. The specimens belong to the subspecies *caerulescens*.

PHRYGILUS ERYTHRONOTUS (PHILIPPI AND LANDBECK)

WHITE-THROATED SIERRA FINCH

1964: 1 ♀, 1 sex?, 168 km SW Puno on road to Arequipa, Depto. Arequipa, 22 November.

The only other Peruvian locality reported for this apparently uncommon finch is Tacna. J. Alan Feduccia collected the two specimens in puna grassland at 13,900 feet.

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